

researches, that they have carried hence to their widely-scattered homes and their different communions so many of the moral and religious traits which marked the faith and practice of our Puritan ancestors. In political life I accepted the teachings of my father (see sketch 158). Was a Whig; am now a Republican. I have ever taken an active interest in all elections, from a president down to a school visitor or grand juror, and am still ready to "stand up and be counted" with others engaged in the enforcement of the laws against the illegal traffic in intoxicating liquors, and have practiced "total abstinence" for more than half a century. Most of my school days were spent at the district school at Haydens. Two winters, with other brothers, I attended the academy at Windsor, three miles away, walking the distance daily, and making a record of attendance equal to the best. One winter I attended school elsewhere, and was then longer absent from the old home than at any other time in my life, and was more awfully homesick. I find that many of the Haydens, here and elsewhere, have, for longer or shorter periods, been engaged in the laudable work of teaching school. I, too, was a schoolmaster, and "boarded round." But soon after reaching my majority I entered the employ of the Connecticut Silk Manufacturing Company at Hartford, and remained with them three years, then (1838) I came to Windsor Locks, and engaged in the manufacture of sewing-silk, the only silk goods we at first had skill enough to make. Under our firm name, Haskell & Hayden, I conducted the silk business forty-three years, and until I reached the age of "three score years and ten," when I retired from business, with an income sufficient for a moderate support. I then anticipated much satisfaction in pursuing my genealogical work, with little interruption, and hoped to have published my collections within two years; but six have already passed, and (March 1st) the printer has only made a beginning. If the hours I have devoted to antiquarian and genealogical work were divided into days of ten hours each, they would amount to two or three years of my life. I am located but two and one-half miles from Haydens, the neighborhood where all my Hayden ancestors have lived since the primeval forest fell before them, where stands the old house in which I was born and my father before me, with the brave old oak, which, for one