

THE CRAIGIE HOUSE, CAMBRIDGE,

DURING ITS OCCUPANCY BY ANDREW CRAIGIE AND HIS WIDOW.

BY SAMUEL SWETT GREEN.

[Full titles of books referred to in the Notes will be found in a list at the end of the paper.]

SAMUEL FOSTER HAVEN, for so many years our accomplished librarian, gave to this Society several packages of papers which are known in our library as the Craigie manuscripts. They consist mainly of business letters from the correspondents of Andrew Craigie, the buyer and occupant of the house in Cambridge which bears his name.

Mr. Haven's mother was the daughter of Andrew Craigie's sister, Mrs. Bossenger Foster. Her children were heirs of Mr. Craigie and the papers which Mr. Haven gave to this Society naturally fell into the hands of his father, the late Judge Samuel Haven of Dedham, and afterwards came into his possession. It appeared probable that an examination of the Craigie manuscripts might bring to light some interesting facts in regard to the famous house owned by Mr. Craigie. I have gone through them to see what could be found.

While it has been pleasant to look over the letters and accounts, very little material has been secured on the subject in which I had an especial present interest. I shall give in this paper most of the items found, and add anecdotes gleaned from the literary productions of well-known authors who have written about the Craigie House, confining myself, however, mainly to such remarks as relate to the history of the house while occupied by Mr. Craigie and his family.

When Andrew Craigie bought the estate on which the Craigie House stands, it comprised between one and two hundred acres, probably more than one hundred and fifty acres,¹ and included the celebrated Batchelder House² on Brattle Street, nearly opposite Mason Street. The latter house was the first residence in Cambridge of the elder Colonel John Vassall, the first of the family of that name to live in Cambridge.

He bought the house from Mercy, widow of John Frizzle, Jr., July 26, 1736.³ Our late associate, Mr. George Dexter, and others, have thought that Mr. Vassall built the house.⁴ That is a mistake. There is no evidence, even, that it was built by the Frizzles. It appears that they left the old house standing, but much enlarged, altered and modernized it. In fact, this house seems to be one of the most ancient, if not the oldest house existing in Cambridge.⁵

Colonel Vassall sold the Batchelder house in 1741 to his younger brother, Major Henry Vassall.⁶ The latter died there in 1769, but his widow continued to occupy the house until the Revolution. The house had an interesting history during the Revolution. It was not confiscated,⁷ however, and after passing through other hands came into the possession of Andrew Craigie in 1792.⁸

The house now becomes of especial interest to us, for soon after its purchase by Mr. Craigie, the grandfather of Mr. Samuel F. Haven, Mr. Bossenger Foster, moved from Boston and lived there with his family.⁹

Mr. Foster was a merchant in Boston, a patriot during our war for independence, and, it will be remembered, a brother-in-law of Mr. Craigie.¹⁰ After the latter's death,

¹ S. Longfellow in *Life of H. W. Longfellow*, v. 1., p. 259; Curtis in *Homes*, p. 177; Drake, p. 291.

² Mrs. Isabella James in "Cambridge of 1776," p. 101.

³ Isabella James, p. 97.

⁴ *Harvard Book*, v. 2, p. 427; I. James, p. 98.

⁵ I. James, p. 93. ⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 99. ⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 100. ⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 101. ⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ N. Paine, "Sketch," p. 39.

in 1819 or 1821, "on the division of his estate that was not subject to dower lot No. 1, the seven acres of Major Henry Vassall, and his house, fell to Elizabeth Foster," Mr. Haven's mother, "then the wife," as intimated before, "of Judge Samuel Haven¹ of whom" Samuel Batchelder "purchased it in 1841."²

The first Colonel John Vassall, several years after he sold the Batchelder house and grounds to his brother, bought the land on which the Craigie House stands,³ and his son, the second Colonel John Vassall, built the house. "A strong belief prevails in Cambridge," writes Mrs. Isabella James, "that a subterranean passage connects" the Batchelder House with the Craigie House,⁴ "and that it was constructed to enable the two Vassall families to visit each other without exposure to the outside world." Mrs. James, after having made a progress, with other explorers, through the cellars of the two houses in search of enlightenment, discredits the belief.

All visitors to Cambridge are familiar with the Craigie House. Painted in yellow and white, and built in the style of an English country house of a hundred and fifty years ago, it stands in quiet dignity and respectability far back from Brattle Street, on the right as one goes from Harvard Square to Mount Auburn. This house has, perhaps, more historic interest than any other house in New England; and with the exception of Mount Vernon is very likely the best known residence in our country.

The poet Longfellow, who lived there so many years in recent times, playfully claims great antiquity for the house. In writing to his friend George W. Greene, he says: "If you have forgotten it, you will be pleased to be reminded that Horace mentions the Craigie House in Ode XXI. of the First Book. He speaks of it as the *Viridis Cragi* in which *Diana* takes delight,—that is, on which the

¹ Married May 6, 1799.

² *I. James*, p. 101.

³ *Ibid.*, p. 98.

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 100.

moonlight lingers.”¹ The common opinion, however, is that the mansion was erected in 1759 by, as stated before, the second Colonel John Vassall. George William Curtis supposes it to have been built earlier and by the first bearer of that name and title. He writes: “This Colonel John Vassall,” meaning the one who died in 1747, “is supposed to have built the house towards the close of the first half of the last century. Upon an iron in the back of one of the chimneys, there is the date 1759—which probably commemorates no more than the fact of its own insertion at that period, inasmuch as the builder of the house would hardly commit the authentic witness of its erection to the mercies of smoke and soot. History capitulates before the exact date of the building of the Craigie House as completely as before that of the foundation of Thebes. But the house was evidently generously built.”²

Drake’s mind, or that of his editor, seems to have been in a state of confusion. He writes: “The house was probably erected in 1759 by Colonel John Vassall, the same at whose tomb we have paid a passing visit.”³ The tomb referred to, as evidently appears from the connection, is that of the first Colonel Vassall, who died in 1747, and consequently could not have built a house in 1759. Drake mixes up the two colonels in other ways in the paragraphs in which he speaks of the Vassalls.

Reverend Samuel Longfellow is right when he says that “the accepted date is 1759,”⁴ and Mr. George Dexter is probably correct when he states that the house was built by the John Vassall who graduated from Harvard College in 1757.⁵ In corroboration of the statements of Longfellow and Dexter, our late associate, Mr. Justin Winsor,

¹ S. Longfellow’s *Final Memorials of H. W. Longfellow*, p. 193.

² Curtis, pp. 273, 274.

³ Drake, p. 292.

⁴ S. Longfellow’s *Life of H. W. Longfellow*, v. 1., p. 259.

⁵ *Harvard Book*, vol. 2, p. 427.

writes: "It is thought that the house was erected by Colonel John Vassall in 1759."¹

The Vassalls were an important family in Old England early connected with the settlement of New England. In the early part of the eighteenth century a John Vassall had emigrated to the West Indies, where the family owned large estates from which they derived great wealth. The social position of the family, which can be easily shown in other ways, was indicated by the positions of the names of the three sons of Leonard Vassall—Lewis, John and William—who graduated respectively in 1728, 1732 and 1733, in the Triennial Catalogue of Harvard College.² The Vassalls also owned several fine estates in Boston and its vicinity. Members of the family resided in Cambridge less than forty years, but the impression they made upon the age yet survives.³

The Vassall (or Craigie) House was in Tory row. The proprietors of the estates on which these houses stood "were aristocratic in their habit and manner of living and were nearly all Churchmen. * * * Most of them were forced to leave the country when the Revolution approached. John Vassall was among the most prominent and bitter of the dwellers in Tory row against the Whigs." "He is said to have carried his loyalty to the King so far as to refuse to use the family motto: 'Sæpe pro rege, semper pro republica.'"⁴

Curtis says that after Vassall withdrew from Cambridge and from his country, the estate was purchased by the provincial government.⁵ This was not the case. It was taken possession of by the government, however, and at a later period confiscated.

Drake learns "from the records of the Provincial Congress * * that Joseph Smith was the custodian of the

¹ Winsor's Mem. Hist. of Boston, v. 3, p. 113.

² Harv. Book, v. 2, p. 427.

³ I. James, pp. 98, 99.

⁴ Harvard Book, v. 2, p. 428.

⁵ Curtis, in Homes, p. 274.

Vassall farm, which furnished considerable supplies of forage for our army.”¹

“The mansion house,” writes Mr. Dexter, “was occupied by Colonel John Glover’s Marblehead regiment, when Cambridge became a camp. The house was assigned to the use of the Committee of Safety in the Spring of 1775, and on the 26th of May it was ordered to be cleared of the ‘souldiers now lodged there.’ There is no evidence, however, that the committee ever occupied the house. It was certainly not thoroughly cleansed, for Washington himself paid in July for cleaning it.”² * * * After a short stay in the President’s (also called the Wadsworth) house, the Vassall house was prepared for him. It remained the headquarters of the army for eight or nine months.

“Mrs. Washington came to Cambridge in December, and many other ladies of the families of the Continental officers joined the camp.”³

“If tradition is trustworthy,” writes Samuel Longfellow, the drawing-room “remembers the gayety of a Twelfth-night party given by” Mrs. Washington.⁴ Miss Alice M. Longfellow is quoted as saying that Washington, while occupying the Craigie House, very seldom “allowed any merriment at headquarters, or took any part in revelry himself. * * * * Mrs. Washington,” she adds, “came to visit her husband during his residence in” Cambridge. “She arrived in great ceremony with a coach and four black horses, with postillions and servants in scarlet livery. During her visit she and her husband celebrated their wedding anniversary, though the general had to be much persuaded by his aides.”⁵

The southeastern room, afterwards Longfellow’s study, was used as an office by Washington, and “according to the testimony of one of” Washington’s “aides, as the dining-

¹ Drake, p. 294.

² Harvard Book, v. 2, p. 428.

³ *Ibid.*, p. 429.

⁴ S. Longfellow’s Life of H. W. Longfellow, v. 1, p. 260.

⁵ *The Cambridge Tribune*, April 21, 1900, p. 4, “The Craigie House.”

room.”¹ The northeastern room was occupied by the General’s “family” or aides. The chamber over the office was “Washington’s private room.

‘Yes, within this very room,
Sat he in those hours of gloom,
Weary both in heart and head,’—

wrote the poet when he had made that chamber his (first) study. Yet, serious as were those days and often weary with the weight of cares, we are glad to know that they were not without their enlivenment. Among the traditions of the house are two stories of ‘Washington’s laughter.’”²

General Washington left Cambridge in April, 1776.³

“We have not been able,” writes Mr. Dexter, “to discover what use, if any, was made of the mansion during the years immediately after his departure.”⁴

Several years after Washington removed from the Vassall house it was confiscated. It “was sold by the Commonwealth for £4264 and passed into the possession of Nathaniel Tracy of Newburyport, 28th June, 1781.”⁵ In that seaport he and his brother “had carried on, under the firm name of Tracy, Jackson and Tracy, an immense business in privateering. Martin Brimmer was their agent in Boston.”⁶ “The first privateer fitted out in the United States,” it is stated, “sailed from” Newburyport, “and was owned by Nathaniel Tracy, Esq.”⁷

The numerous armed vessels owned wholly or principally by Mr. Tracy took vessels which “with their cargoes,” writes Mrs. E. Vale Smith, in her *History of Newburyport*, “sold for *three million, nine hundred and fifty thousand specie dollars* (one hundred and sixty-seven thousand two hundred and nineteen dollars, Mr. Tracy

¹ S. Longfellow’s *Life of H. W. Longfellow*, v. 1, p. 260.

² *Ibid.*, pp. 260, 261.

³ *Harvard Book*, v. 2, p. 429. ⁴ *Ibid.* ⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ *Drake*, p. 308.

⁷ E. Vale Smith, *Hist.*, p. 106.

devoted to the army and other public demands) ; and with these prizes were taken 2,225 men prisoners of war."¹

Mr. Tracy enlarged the Vassall estate, "notably by the purchase of Henry Vassall's, on the opposite side of" the Watertown road, that is to say on Brattle street. "He is said to have built a summer-house on the summit of the hill where the observatory now stands."²

Of Mr. Tracy's "wealth and luxury there are fabulous tales."³

"The Marquis of Chastellux visited Newburyport in 1782," before Mr. Tracy occupied the Vassall house, and with his party "was entertained by" him. He lived there "in great style."⁴

"Mr. Tracy also exercised large hospitality in his house at Cambridge."⁵

"He carried himself" there, says Mr. Curtis, "with a rare lavishness."⁶

In 1789 we find him again an entertainer in Newburyport. There "he received Washington, then on his triumphal tour ; and in 1824 Lafayette, following in the footsteps of his illustrious commander, slept in the same apartment he had occupied."⁷

"In 1786, the" Vassall "estate was sold to Thomas Russell, a rich merchant of Boston, afterwards the first President of the United States Branch Bank. He resided in Boston and, we presume, used the Vassall house as a summer seat."⁸

This merchant prince was "accredited by the vulgar with having once eaten for his breakfast a sandwich made of a hundred dollar note and two slices of bread."⁹

¹ E. Vale Smith, Hist., p. 107.

² Harvard Book, v. 2. p. 430.

³ S. Longfellow's Life of H. W. L., v. 1, pp. 260, 261.

⁴ Harvard Book, v. 2, p. 430.

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ Curtis, in Homes, p. 276.

⁷ Drake, p. 309.

⁸ Harvard Book, v. 2, p. 430.

⁹ Drake, p. 309.

Thomas Russell, writes Mr. George Dexter, sold the Vassall house, "1st January, 1792, to Andrew Craigie, from whom the mansion gets the title, Craigie House, by which it has since been known. * * * For the whole estate, about one hundred and fifty acres, including the Henry Vassall house, he is said to have paid £3,700 lawful money."¹

Our late associate, Dr. Lucius R. Paige, gives the same date for the transfer of the house.²

Drake states that the sale of the estate occurred in March, 1791³.

Justin Winsor writes that the house became the property of Dr. Andrew Craigie in 1791.⁴

Samuel Longfellow, in the life of his brother, the poet, says that Mr. Craigie purchased the house and grounds on the first of January, 1793.⁵

A few extracts from the Craigie papers will throw some light upon the date.

Under date of June 30, 1791, Bossenger Foster writes from Boston to Andrew Craigie in New York:—

"My Dr. Bro^r., * * * Mr. Lowell has not yet rec^d an answer from Mr. Lane respecting the Vassall house. I told him a day or two since the £500 stlg was ready for him."

July 17, 1791, Mr. Foster writes to Mr. Craigie:—

"* * * Mr. Lowell yesterday shew me a Ltr from Mr. Lane; he says, 'have applied repeatedly to Mr. — respecting the Vassall house, but to no purpose. So there remains no impediment to that part of Mr. C's purchase—So I shall say nothing further to Mr. Codman on the subject, nor to Mr. Lowell—have paid him the £500 stlg., but was obliged to go to Roxbury to do it, having offered it to him again and again in Boston—to no purpose."

October 18, in a letter written from Boston to Mr. Craigie, apparently by Mr. Foster:—

"Have begun to wash and paint—hope tomorrow to be able to

¹ Harvard Book, v. 2, pp. 430, 431.

² Paige, Hist., p. 183. Note.

³ Drake, p. 310.

⁴ Memorial Hist. of Boston, vol. 3, p. 113.

⁵ S. Longfellow's Life of H. W. L., v. 1., pp. 261, 262.

be there, & that what may be done will please you on your return."

Oct. 24, Mr. Craigie writes to Mr. Foster from Philadelphia:—

"My Dear Brother, * * * I shall be pleased on my return to find the House at Cambridge painted &c."

November 30, Mr. Foster writes to Mr. Craigie:—

"* * * Sarah Gooch at Cambridge—the house sweetening inside."

It will appear later that things needed in housekeeping were stored at the house in Cambridge in the latter part of the year 1791. Indeed, we find in a letter of Aaron Dexter, Boston, to Andrew Craigie, dated *May 4, 1791*, the following passage:—

"* * * I was last week at Cambridge. Your Paradise looks delightfully."

It would appear from the passages quoted from the Craigie manuscripts that July 17, 1791, it was practically settled that Mr. Craigie was to have the Vassall house, and that arrangements were so far completed that his brother-in-law, in the later months of the year made preparations for the occupancy of the house by the new owner. It would appear also that Mr. Craigie had had his eye upon the house at an earlier date than June 30. Perhaps he had it in mind to buy the estate as early as May 4, 1791, or at an earlier date. The date of purchase given by Drake seems to be too early; that of Mr. Longfellow too late. Very likely the date given by Paige and Dexter is correct, namely, January 1, 1792, although the possession of the house was evidently practically assured to Mr. Craigie soon after the middle of 1791.

At that time, too, Mr. Craigie visited Boston. June 28, 1791, he had written to Mr. Foster from New York:—

"* * * I am really very anxious to return, and shall certainly be on my way home by the middle of July."

July 21. Messrs. Horace and Seth Johnson, New York agents for Mr. Craigie, write to Mr. Foster:—

“Mr. Craigie will leave Town tomorrow for Boston either by land or by way of Providence.”

They write again, July 24, to Mr. Foster:—

“ * * * * Mr. Craigie left town yesterday for Boston by way of Providence.”

Mr. Craigie had been urged to come to Boston owing to the serious illness of “Mama” Craigie. Very likely, also, he was glad to be there at the time when the negotiations were closing for the purchase of the Vassall estate.

Early in 1792 he shows eagerness to be in Cambridge.

January 16, he writes to Mr. Foster from Philadelphia:

“ * * * * I am determined in future to employ agents and not make the sacrifice I must do by being absent from my friends and from Cambridge.”

January 29, Mr. Foster writes:—

“ * * * * we are all pretty well & hope to see you by the middle of Feb^y—we have had the severest winter I ever knew; the frost has ravaged our Cellars both here and at Cambridge, notwithstanding keeping a fire in both.”

Mr. Foster to Mr. Craigie:—

“ * * * * Expect you daily * * * * hope * * * * that nothing will hinder your being in Cambridge before this has time to reach you.”

It has been generally stated that Andrew Craigie was Apothecary-General of the Continental Army. He was certainly Apothecary-General of the Northern Department of the Revolutionary Army, September 5, 1777, when the Council of Massachusetts granted him supplies for the General Hospital.¹ He was at the Battle of Bunker Hill, “and assisted in the care of the wounded there. He was at Cambridge during the siege of Boston * * * * He was with the Northern Army, under General Gates, in 1777 and 1778, and was the confidant of Wilkinson, Gates’s adjutant-general, in his correspondence with Lord Sterling, growing out of the Conway imbroglio.”²

¹ Paige, p. 183. Note.

² Drake, p. 310.

In his service in the army Mr. Craigie is said to have acquired a large fortune. Josiah Quincy, son of President Quincy, says that "he had made a large fortune by buying up government promises, and by other speculations during the Revolution."¹

There is a long and continuous series of letters in the Craigie papers which show that Mr. Craigie dealt constantly in government securities about the time he went to Cambridge to live and after he had removed to that place. He was a member of the Ohio Company and, as will appear later, was largely engaged in speculations in lands at Lechmere Point, now East Cambridge. He was also a director and large proprietor in the company which built Canal (usually known as Craigie's or Craigie) bridge, between Boston and East Cambridge.

Mr. Craigie is said to have made important additions to the Vassall house. "It is believed," writes Mr. Samuel Longfellow, that he "built the western wing of the house, with its kitchen and dependences; and being a giver of dinners, enlarged the square northeastern room to its present spacious dimensions, and adorned it with columns, to serve as a grand dining-room."²

"Cambridge was celebrated for her gardens and the ornamental culture of her grounds even before the beginning of the present century. Andrew Craigie * * * laid out the grounds around his house in the taste of" the "period. On the western side of" the "mansion, the tall hedges and clumps of lilacs are all that remain of this early garden. Mr. Craigie had a greenhouse on the grounds, where the dormitory of the Episcopal Seminary now stands. This structure was burned about 1840."³

Mr. Craigie relied on his Philadelphia correspondents to procure a gardener for him. Nalbro' and Jn^o Frazier write to Andrew Craigie, New York, June 14, '92: "Have not yet seen the Gardner."

Aug. 28 they write to Mr. Craigie, Boston: "* * * The

¹ *Figures of the Past*, p. 25.

² *Life of H. W. Longfellow*, v. 1, p. 262.

³ *Winsor's Memorial Hist.*, v. 4, p. 627.

Gardner has not yet called to execute the agreement, as soon as he does we will inform you."

Sept. 27, the correspondents write:—

"We have omitted mentioning to you that the Gardner will probably be with you in about 8 or 10 days from this time, enclosed we send the agreement made with him by us on your behalf. We could not get him to come on earlier, and he will now be in time to make the arrangements which may be necessary for the ensuing Spring."

Late in 1791 there is a letter regarding an ice-house. Bossenger Foster writes Dec. 18 to Andrew Craigie, New York:—

" * * * I shall not make a new Ice house, but as soon as can get the boards up to Cam: shall repair the old one, which is in fact build^d a new house on the old Cellar—it will hold a good many Tons, and if proves right will be all sufficient for this year—believe I have wrote you of my recv^d everything you have sent from Phila."

Mr. Craigie, says the late Marshall P. Wilder, quoting another writer, "had an ice-house, an almost unknown luxury in those days.

Some people thought a judgment would befall one who would thus attempt to thwart the designs of Providence by raising flowers under glass in winter, and keeping ice under ground to cool the heat of summer; which now seem to have been the forerunners of two great institutions in Cambridge—ice in summer and flowers in winter."¹

Mr. Craigie wished his correspondents in Philadelphia, the Messrs. Frazier, to get him a plan for a malthouse. This reminds us that Harvard College had a Brewhouse. Mr. Samuel A. Eliot gives in an "Explanation of Plan of the College Enclosure":—

"6, is what was called the Brew House in the early part of the last century. It was afterwards included in the College Wood Yard."²

Our late associate, Thomas C. Amory, writes:—

"Behind Harvard and Stoughton"—old Stoughton—"was the brewery; beer in those benighted days, when tea and coffee were not known, certainly at Cambridge, being regarded as a wholesome beverage."³

¹ Winsor's Memorial Hist., v. 4, pp. 627, 628.

² Sketch of the Hist. of Harvard College, p. 190. ³ Old Cambridge and New, p. 12.

Mr. Craigie had bought a house; he must furnish it. Much correspondence took place.

July 26/91, Nalbro' Frazier writes to Andrew Craigie, Boston:—

“ * * * Inclos'd you will find a Bill of the China, the amount of which my Brother will thank you to send on as soon as convenient, it will be ship'd on board the Brig^t Maria, Capt. Hopkins, who will leave this on Thursday next, 28th instant.”

Aug. 28/91, Seth Johnson writes to Andrew Craigie, Boston:

“ You may expect your Sofa &c. by the first vessel.”

Sept. 3/91, N. & J. Frazier to Andrew Craigie:—

“ Inclosed you will find Bill of lading for 2 doz. arm Cane Back Chairs, which we hope are finished in that way as will be approved by you. Our J. Frazier has received the amount of the China sold you, for which he Returns you his Thanks. The Bill of the Chairs you have inclosed. They came a little higher than was mentioned to you when here, owing to the manner of their being finished. We presume the trifling amount over what you expected they would come to, you will not object to—We shall pay this Bill which, with some other little Things that we have paid for your account, we shall call upon Doct. Caldwell for, agreeably to your Directions given us, the particulars of which we shall furnish you.”

Plate was needed in a “ princely establishment.”

Oct. 18/91:—

“ * * * Have purchased the plate of Mr. Cabot Lawful for Sterling—the looking glasses have bot also. They are safe at Cambridge.”*

* “ Weight of Plate bout for And. Craigie, Esq^r—:

	a Bread Basket of Deverell,	21oz. 18dwt.
	an Epergne Stand,	59 “ 3 “
	the Baskett,	26 “ 5 “
	the Branches,	12 “ 4 “
	the Plates,	23 “ 5 “
	a Tankard,	29 “ 18 “
Of Mr. Cabot.	2 pair Sauce Boats,	51 “ 3 “
	2 pr. Candle Sticks,	43 “ 2 “
	2 pr. Salts,	9 “ 18 “
	Snuffers pan,	3 “ 18 “
	Mustard Pott, ladle & salt ladles.	
	Silver mounted Snuffers.	

Reverse.	{	12 Table Spoons,	28oz. 15dwt.
		a Soup ladle,	6 " 4 "
		12 Desert Spoons,	13 " 6 "
		12 Tea Spoons,	7 " 17 "

Dec. 14/91. Bossenger Foster to Mr. Craigie :—

" * * * —have also received the blue paper, 16 Rolls—"

Mch. 7/92. N. & J. Frazier to A. C., Boston :—

"When you was here, you talk'd of having a carpet made at the Carpet Manufactory at this place, a set of Furniture for a Room," &c., "but for neither of these did you leave any directions."

June 14/ 92. N. & J. F. to C. :—

"Maps not yet ready to be dl^d; expect them this day or tomorrow."

June 16/92. N. F., Phila., to C. :

"Inclosed is the Small Map; the large one shall be sent you as soon as it can be procured."

June 19/92. N. & J. F. to A. C. :—

"Our Fr'd Cutting left this place yesterday morning for New York; by him we wrote you and sent you the Small Map. The large one not being yet out we were prevented from sending it."

July 5/92. S. J. to A. C., Boston :—

" * * * Mr. Trumbull has selected from Barrow's prints a few for you, which, I have no doubt, will not" only "please you, but every one who may see them."

July 8/92. Seth Johnson to Andrew Craigie :—

"Your prints I shall send by first good opportunity, they consist of

1 Shipwrecked Sailor Boy, cost	£2. 2.
2 from Shakespear's Much ado about nothing,	4. 10
2 Dancing Dogs & Guinea pigs,	3. 0
2 farmer's visit to his Daughter & return,	1. 16
2 Angry farmer,—& Boys robbing an orchard,	1. 16
2 Henery & Emma & Angelica & Sacriponte,	1. 10
2 going to School & returning,	" 16—
2 first Bite and just breeched,	" 12—
1 Thoughts on Matrimony,	" 6
	£16. 4. 0

They are really a very handsome collection of prints. Mr. Atkinson will go in a day or two, and by him, if possible, I will send them."

Aug. 28/92. N. & J. F. to A. C., Boston :—

“Enclosed you will find receipt for the large Map which you left us a mem^o of.”

Under date of July 9/93, there is an account of Nalbro' & Jn^s Frazier against Andrew Craigie, Esq^s which is endorsed: “Bill of furniture of Mr. Craigie's Drawing Room, \$1034.14, beside the carpet.”

The items are as follows :—

“Dr.
1793.

Jan. 9th. To amount of G. B — 's¹ Bill for Furniture made for you,” Craigie, “viz :—

4 Window Curtains, as per particulars ren ^d you at £34. 3. 4 each, £136. 13. 4	\$364.45
12 Arm Chairs, 88. 18	237.07
2 Settees, 40. 6. 10	107.58
82 yds. green & white Damask, 96. 7	256.93
Boards for making boxes, 6. 10	
32 lbs nails, 1. 12	
Making 10 Boxes, 3. 15	
8 yds coarse linen to pack the window curtains in 12	
12. 9	33.20
To 56 yds fancy Chintz Furniture for coverings for the Settees & Chairs, 12. 12	33.60
Porter ^s of Furniture to Vessel, /10	1.32
£387. 16. 2	\$1034.14

Philadelphia, July 9, 1793,

Errors Excepted,

NALBRO' & JN^s FRAZIER.”

Under date of January 4/93, N. & J. F. had written to Mr. Craigie, Boston :—

“We wrote you 20th ult and advised you your furniture was finished. We have at last met with an opportunity of sending it to you, &c.” Shpd on a vessel going to Boston.

July 5/93, four days before the date of the account copied above, the same firm writes that it encloses “Bill

¹ Could not make out the full surname in MS.—S. S. G.

of Lading of ten boxes containing Furniture" sent by vessel to Boston.

The profuse hospitality of Mr. Craigie called for the purchase of more plate.

In a letter from Thos. Mullett & Co., London, dated August 14, 1795, is a copy of an earlier letter of Thos. Mullett to Andrew Craigie: London, May 29/95.

" * * * Your order for Plate & Glass sent us by Horace & Seth Johnson in theirs of 1 ult^o is in Execution and may be accomplished in about a month, we hope in time for the earliest of your fall ships. We have given it all that attention which its variety demands."

In the letter of August 14, Thos. Mullett & Co. write:—

" * * * Our chief object in this letter is to inform you that we have ship'd in the Parkman, D^l. C. Deshon, for Boston your order of plate & glass."

Aug. 18, the same firm writes:—

" * * * We now enclose you Bill of Lading & Invoice of Plate & Glass to your debit £360. 3. 4. In the execution of this order we flatter ourselves we shall afford you entire satisfaction as we have selected of the best; and in taste adhered to that elegance of design as well as in completeness of finish, which we think cannot be excelled by any of our Artists * * *"

One of the first things that Bossenger Foster did for his brother-in-law, after the Craigie House had been secured, was to lay in a supply of fuel. Nov. 30/91, he writes to Mr. Craigie, New York:—

" * * * Outside there is a Wood house and thirty or forty cord of wood in it so that when you return you will have a good fire and your own domestics only—have not yet got Mr. Brattle any wood—altho' have used all my endeavors—it is 25/ a Cord here—I got all yours up in Lighters—if you live another year you will not fail to get it up in the summer—to save money & the trouble, which is worse—"

Dec. 7, Mr. Craigie writes from New York to Mr. Foster:—

"I am glad to hear of the provision of wood you have made at Cambridge—I hope you will be able to procure some for my friend Brattle as I fear he depended on what I said to him for his being supplied"

Dec. 17, Mr. Foster writes to Mr. Craigie (care of Messrs. Johnson, New York) :—

“ * * * be tranquil on your Friend Brattle’s acct as have procured him one Lighter load of wood with which he is much pleased—believe he will not neglect that matter another year.”

What a flood of pleasant thoughts arise in the memories of graduates interested in olden times at Harvard College as they read of wood being brought up the Charles to Cambridge. James Russell Lowell writes :—

“ Cambridge has long had its port, but the greater part of its maritime trade was, thirty years ago” (i. e. about the year 1825). “ intrusted to a single Argo, the sloop Harvard, which belonged to the College, and made annual voyages to that vague Orient known as Down East, bringing back the wood that, in those days, gave to winter life at Harvard a crackle and a cheerfulness, for the loss of which the greater warmth of anthracite hardly compensates. * * * What a vista of mystery and adventure did her sailing open to us! With what pride did we hail her return! She was our scholiast on Robinson Crusoe and the Mutiny of the Bounty.”¹

In speaking of the attractions of Commencement at Harvard College, many years ago, John Holmes writes :—

“ The College sloop, that shadowy craft which floats in time indefinitely, always arrived in time for the floodtide on Tuesday,”² so as to be on hand for the festivities of the next day.

“ The Watertown lighter,” he writes again, “ was uniformly drawn ashore Tuesday evening by the perils of the seas, that is by the strong current that prevailed in the river about Commencement time. The Captain and crew, like judicious men, made it a point to improve their minds while detained, and always attended the literary exercises on the Common.”³

“ Our fuel,” writes Josiah Quincy of the class of 1821, “ was wood, which was furnished by the College; it being cut from some lands in Maine which were among its possessions, and brought to the wharf in the college sloop the ‘ Harvard.’ This arrangement was supposed to cause a great saving, and the authorities naturally prided themselves upon the sagacity which made this Eastern property so productive. It was not until Dr. Bowditch, the great mathematician, was given a place in the government that this arrangement was quietly abandoned. This eminent gentleman—perhaps from his natural aptitude for

¹ Lowell’s *Fireside Travels*, pp. 40, 41.

² In the paper “ Harvard Square ” in the *Harvard Book*, v. 2, p. 36. ³ *Ibid.*

figures—succeeded in demonstrating to his associates that it would be much cheaper for the college to buy wood from the dearest dealer than to cut it on its own lands and transport it in its own sloop.”¹

To show the change that has come about, let me give another quotation from Mr. Quincy:—

“My classmate, Otis, had ornamented his mantelpiece with two curious black stones, which excited great interest in his visitors. He had made a journey to Washington, to see his father, who was a senator, and had brought these rarities home as special memorials of his travels. He had a strange tale to tell concerning them. It seemed that the people in Baltimore actually burned just such stones as these; and, wonderful to relate, there was no smoke in their chimneys. I believe that these singular minerals have become so popular in Harvard College that they are now brought there in considerable quantities. The only change is that they are no longer displayed on the mantelpiece, but just below it—in the grate. They will be recognized under the name of anthracite coal.”²

Mr. Craigie laid in a store of wine while making preparations to live in Cambridge and continued to buy it after becoming settled there.

Aug. 28/91, Seth Johnson writes to Andrew Craigie, Boston:—

“You may expect your wine * * * by the first vessel. Mr. Jackson arrived here yesterday from Georgia—he says the wine is not yet sold—& that there are many waiting to purchase it—he supposes it will not sell under 300 Dolls. a pipe—you may be assured he will procure it if possible.”

Sept. 1/91, Seth Johnson to Andrew Craigie, Boston:—

“By the first vessel you shall receive the wine.”

March 18/92, Seth Johnson to Andrew Craigie, Boston:—

“* * * By Barnard I shall send you a pipe of wine, between 7 & 8 years old, which I am sure will please you. I wish you to examine the pipe—the Bung is leaded and there is not a spilt hole in the cask—when you receive it you must fine it down with a little milk.”

¹ *Figures of the Past*, p. 41.

² *Ibid.*, pp. 41, 42.

Aug. 23 / 92, Horace Johnson to Andrew Craigie,
Boston :—

“ * * * If the wine from Georgia arrives here it shall be shipped to you * * * I shall also send you a box of excellent Havannah Segars rec'd a few days since from Charleston.”

Sept. 20/92, Seth Johnson to Andrew Craigie, Boston :

“ * * * By Cap Barnard I have sent you 2 pipes wine—a box of Spanish Segars &c.”

March 7/92, Nalbro' and Jn^o Frazier, of Philadelphia, write to Andrew Craigie, Boston :—

“ When you were here, you talk'd of * * * speaking to Henry Hill respecting Madeira wine for your own use.”

June 14/92, the same firm writes to Mr. Craigie :—

“ The Ale, Cyder, &c., will be ready to go with your other Things which will be ship'd tomorrow for Boston.”

June 16/92, Nalbro' Frazier to Mr. Craigie :—

“ P. S. All the Things left in our care were ship'd yesterday, and to the list we have added 4 cases Claret and some best Havannah Segars. The Ale and Cyder also was sent from Morris's.”

Mch. 16, 1819. Thomas Parkin, Fayal, to Mr. Andrew Craigie :—

“ * * * He says you wish to have a Sample of our best wine. I send you two bottles by Capⁿ Shepard who is so kind as to take charge of them. They are prepared exactly in the same manner as such Wines are in Madeira, a very expensive and tedious process and always picked Wines. I have lately seen Madeira of £60 not so good as ours of £36, say four dollars to the pound strg. I would take American produce in payment, by which means they would become reasonable.”

Mr. Craigie buys horses through his correspondents in Philadelphia.

July 26, 1791, Nalbro' Frazier writes to Andrew Craigie, Boston :—

“ Jo has arrived with the horses in good order. They appear to be sound and probably will be serviceable horses. * * * Upon the whole, I think you will be pleas'd with them. I have written our Fr. Johnson that they are here and ready to go on by any person he may send for them. Jo will leave this with the other horse sometime today or early tomorrow morning.”

Aug. 28/91, Seth Johnson writes to Mr. Craigie from New York:—

“ * * * One of them,” speaking of the horses, “ is an excellent Saddle Horse—and indeed both—I hope they will please you.”

In 1792 there is more correspondence regarding horses.

June 14/92, N. & J. Frazier write to Mr. Craigie:—

“ Nothing further done about the Horses,” (a memorandum had been left with the Fraziers to buy horses if found good on trial and not too high in price).

June 18/92, to Andrew Craigie, New York:—

“ Our J. Frazier will try the Horses this afternoon with Mr. Lewis.”

June 19. To Andrew Craigie, New York:—

“ Mr. Lewis being engaged yesterday cl'd not go with our J. Frazier to try the Horses, but they intend doing it this afternoon.”

Aug. 28/92. To Andrew Craigie, Boston, Mass.:—

“ As soon as we send forward the * * * Horses to you,” &c.

Sept. 27/92. To Andrew Craigie, Boston:—

“ The Horses shall be sent you shortly.”

Mr. Craigie buys a stallion and mare.

May 18/92, John Coles, London, to Mr. Craigie:—

“ I now advise you of my having made a purchase for your account of a Stallion and a Mare, and which will both be shipped * * * for Boston.”—William Gibbs, a young man of good character, had been engaged to go with the horses. The pedigree of the stallion was enclosed. The mare had a foal.—“ I gave one hundred guineas” for the stallion. “ I gave the same price for the mare with a foal at her foot six weeks old. My engagement for the passage of the Horses and Man Servant is forty guineas, but the ship finds nothing but water.”

Following are some extracts from letters regarding carriages owned by Mr. Craigie:—

Nalbro' Frazier writes to Andrew Craigie, Boston, July 26/91:—

“ Clarke has not yet quite finished your riding chair; as soon as it is fit to send it shall be ship'd round to New York. I shall

pay attention to having the Chair finish'd in the neatest manner possible, and sent round to you when done."

Aug. 28/91, Seth Johnson to Andrew Craigie, Boston :

"Mr. Frazier informs me your Chair will be shipped by the Brig Maria, Capt. Hopkins, which was to sail in a few days."

Sept. 3/91, N. & J. Frazier to Andrew Craigie :—

"Your riding Chair we ship'd by the Brig^t Maria, Capt. Hopkins, who sailed this day week."

Sept. 5.

"Enclosed you will find Clark's Bill of Chair he has been paid by us, Doct^r Caldwell being absent at the Time, 16 dollars, and since by Caldwell 84 dolls., which leaves a balance due him of £8.5/ which will be paid him if you approve the Bill—The amount being greater than we expected we shall delay the payment of the Balance till we hear from you."

July 26/91, Nalbro' Frazier to Andrew Craigie, Boston :

"Hunter & Caldwell had agreed with Mr. Pemberton for his light waggon at £75, but when they call'd to receive it they found he had taken away the Boot with some other things which belong'd to it, and refused to Deliver them with the waggon, altho' he contracted so to do. They therefore tho't it best to decline the purchase—they are now about the one which you saw belonging to Mr. Pleasants; he has offer'd it at £100—at that price I think it is cheap, and in the course of the day I think they will strike with him for it, if they cannot get it under. They have offer'd £90."

Dec. 17/91, Bossenger Foster writes to Andrew Craigie, New York :—

" * * * * In Expectation of a deal of snow and that you would want Convenient Carriage here this winter, I have building for you a pair of runners (which doubt not will please you) on which to hang the Coaches. They will be the thing and will cost you 25 Dollars."

Jan. 14/92, N. & J. Frazier to Andrew Craigie, New York :—

"Phaeton not yet finished."

Jan. 18/92, The same firm writes to Mr. Craigie :—

"When the Phaeton will be finish'd is impossible for us to say."

Jan. 26/92, The same firm to Mr. Craigie :—

“Your Phaeton will be completed this day. We shall have the same carefully put up & ship it to you by the first opportunity which offers for Boston, unless we receive your directions to the contrary.”

“1792.

Andrew Craigie, Esq^r to Robt. Fielding, Dr.

To new phaeton & harness, £235.0.6”

“Tradition avers,” writes Mr. Samuel Longfellow, that when the Duke of Kent had left Boston—and of his visit something will be said later—“Mr. Craigie purchased his carriage and horses.”¹

Speaking of the latter, Mr. Drake states that the Duke of Kent “drove a handsome pair of bays with clipped ears, then an unusual sight in the vicinity of Old Boston.”²

Mr. Craigie imported fowls from Philadelphia; did his mouth water as he thought of the capons he had eaten in that city?

November 30/91, Nalbro’ & Jn^o Frazier to Bossenger Foster, Boston :—

“Inclosed you will find receipt for eight Fowls, say two Cocks and six Hens, which you will please to take charge of for our mutual Fr’d Andrew Craigie, Esq^r.”

Dec. 5/91, N. & J. Frazier to Andrew Craigie, New York :—

“The Fowls we sent by the Brig^t Ceres,” which “sail’d last Thursday for Boston. The receipt for them was inclos’d to Mr. B. Foster; we hope they” arrived “there safe.”

Dec. 14/91, Bossenger Foster to Mr. Craigie :—

“Have received the fowls from Philadelphia, all in good order, except the old Cock—but like to have lost them all by severity of weather—shall take great care of them—they are a fine brood.”

In the middle of 1792, a cook was engaged for Mr. Craigie in Philadelphia.

¹ S. Longfellow's *Life of H. W. L.*, v. 1, p. 262.

² Drake, p. 311.

June 14/92, N. & J. Frazier write to Mr. Craigie :—

“ * * * We have seen the Cook, who has promised to give us an answer on Saturday. We shall at any rate endeavor to get him on & let him make trial of the place, which if we can persuade him to do, we think he will not be dissatisfied with his Situation, his ostensible reason for not going was that the Wages were too low.”

June 16/92, the cook was not yet engaged.

June 18/92. To Andrew Craigie, New York :—

“The Cook wd not consent to go on unless you wd allow him 15 Dolls pr month which we have assured him he shall receive, and if upon his being with you 6 weeks or two months, and you do not approve of him, you have a right to discharge him, paying him at that rate, he leaves this place this day week, and we shall consign him to our mutual Friends, H. & S. Johnson & Co.”

June 26/92, N. & J. Frazier to Mr. Craigie :—

“The Cook takes this letter to you whom we have engaged shall receive fifteen Dollars p' month * * * P. S. It is also agreed that if the Cook sh'd not continue with you, that expenses to & from Phila shall be allowed exclusive of the fifteen dollars p' month.”

New York, July 7/92,

“Dear sir, We have advanced the Cook Sixteen Dollars.
H. & S. JOHNSON & CO.”

July 8/92, Seth Johnson to Andrew Craigie, Boston :—

“ * * * Your Cook will leave this on Monday * * * he goes by water to Newport.”

So much as to the preparations for opening the Craigie mansion. But something more was needed. There was as yet no mistress of the house.

March 11/92, Seth Johnson writes to Andrew Craigie, Boston :—

“That you may soon find in some worthy woman that wife whose qualities will tend to increase your happiness, and make the residue of your days glide smoothly on in uninterrupted felicity is the sincere wish of your affectionate S. JOHNSON.”

Six months later, Sept. 20/92, Mr. Johnson writes to Mr. Craigie :—

“T is said here that Miss F——r has dismissed her lover and

that you are to become the happy one! How is it, if I may ask the question—”

In the previous year, May 31/91, Mr. John Brown Cutting had written from London:—

“I am still not without hopes of taking you by the hand and felicitating you on your new state of domestication at Cambridge—before the Summer closes.”¹

Now, Nov. 11/92, Mr. Cutting writes to Mr. Craigie from the “ship *Mary*, off Boston Light House”:—

“ * * * I wish you entirely happy; pray marry and be so, and presenting me most affectionately to Miss Shaw and the whole of your Brother’s family accept my adieus and thanks and blessings.”

Matters develop naturally, and January 21/93, Mr. Horace Johnson is able to write to Mr. Craigie, Boston:—

“Permit me to felicitate you on your marriage—and to assure you that no circumstance can afford me more real pleasure than a knowledge of your happiness—that you may ever enjoy it undisturbed is my most fervent prayer. I will thank you to make my congratulations to Mrs. C—, for whom I feel the highest respect. * * * ”

Mr. Craigie married a daughter of the Reverend Bezaleel Shaw (Harvard College, 1762) of Nantucket.²

Mr. Samuel Longfellow says:—

Mr. Craigie’s “wealth and style won the hand if not the heart of the beautiful Miss Shaw of Nantucket, whose young lover had gone to seek his fortune on the seas, and came back only to find her married.”³

Josiah Quincy, whom I have quoted before, tells the following story:—

Mr. Craigie “kept a princely bachelor’s establishment at” his * * * “house, and was in the habit of exercising a generous hospitality. A curious story relating to his marriage was current among his contemporaries, and there can be now no harm in giving it as I have heard it from their lips.

A great garden party had been given by Mr. Craigie, and

¹ June 19, '92, N. & J. Frazier to Andrew Craigie, New York:—

“Our Fr’d Cutting left this place yesterday morning for New York; by him we wrote you.”

² Harv. Book, v. 2, p. 431.

³ Life of H. W. Longfellow, v. 1., p. 262.

all the fashion and beauty of Boston were assembled in his spacious grounds. The day was perfect, the entertainment was lavish, and the company were bent on enjoying themselves. Smiles and deference met the host upon every side, and newcomers were constantly arriving to pay that homage to wealth and sumptuous liberality which from imperfect mortals they have always elicited. 'Craigie,' exclaimed an intimate friend to the host during one of the pauses of compliment, 'what can man desire that you have not got? Here are riches, friends, a scene of enchantment like this, and you the master of them all!' 'I am the most miserable of men!' was the startling reply. 'If you doubt it, you shall know my secret. Do you see those two young ladies just turning down the walk? Well, they are both engaged, and with one of them I am desperately in love.' There was no time for more, for the crowd again surged round the host, and the friend was left to meditate upon the revelation which had been made. One of the ladies who had been pointed out was a great beauty of the time, and it so happened that Mr. Craigie's confidant was on very intimate terms with her family. It was well known that the match she was about to make did not gratify the ambitious views of her relations. Now, whether Mr. Craigie's friend betrayed his secret to the father of this young person cannot certainly be known; but the current report was that he did so. At all events, shortly after the garden party, he broke in upon the Cræsus of Cambridge with an exultant air, exclaiming, 'Craigie, I have come to tell you glorious news; the coast is clear; Miss — has broken off her engagement!' 'Why, what the deuce is that to me?' was the disappointing reply. 'Good heavens, man, don't you remember telling me that you were desperately in love with one of the young ladies you pointed out at the garden party?' 'To be sure, I did,' sighed Mr. Craigie, 'but, unfortunately, I referred to the other young lady.' Now * * * "it happened—or was said to have happened—that 'the other young lady' subsequently found good reason to break off her engagement, and, as Mrs. Craigie, came to preside over all future garden parties."¹

¹ Quincy. Figures of the past, pp. 25-27.

In *The Cambridge Tribune* of April 21, 1900, the following version of this story is given as having been in a paper read before the Cantabrigia Club, the day before, by Miss Alice M. Longfellow:—

"There was a party at" Mr. Craigie's "home one evening, and during the course of the merriment, some one asked, 'Why don't you get married, Mr. Craigie?' 'I would,' he replied, 'if I could have one of those young ladies on the sofa.' The young ladies to whom he referred were a Miss Foster and a Miss Nancy Shaw. They overheard the remark, and shortly after Miss Foster dismissed her devoted lover in anticipation of the good fortune which seemingly awaited her. But it was Miss Shaw to whom the happiness came. To make the story more romantic, the joy turned to sorrow. At Miss Shaw's house, where young men were taken into the family and prepared for college, there came a young Southerner one day who early began to take an interest in his teacher's daughter. The interest changed to

"Shortly before her death," says Mr. Henry W. Longfellow, as quoted by Mr. Samuel Longfellow, Mrs. Craigie "burned a large quantity of papers which she had stowed away in an upper chamber, and among them the letters of her young lover."¹

The darts of cupid struck two other persons in whom we have become interested.

July 5/92, Seth Johnson writes to Andrew Craigie, Boston:—

"I have a letter for you from Bossenger, Jun^r—which I will send by some favorable conveyance—poor fellow, I am afraid Miss S's charms have made an impression on him."

Sept. 23/96. N. & J. Frazier to Mr. Craigie:—

"* * * * Our Nalbro' Frazier is happy to announce to you his marriage, which took place Saturday evg., 13 inst. Our respects to Mrs. Craigie. * * *"

Mr. Craigie, as has already been stated, exercised a generous hospitality at Cambridge. Mr. Amory says he was fond of display.² Mr. Curtis, after speaking of the oriental lavishness of Nathaniel Tracy, a former occupant of the Craigie House, as we have seen, writes of Mr. Craigie:—

"Tradition is hard upon him. It declares that he was a huge man, heavy and dull; and evidently looks upon his career as the high lyric of Thomas Tracy's,³ muddled into tough prose."⁴

admiration and then to courtship. Mr. Shaw was not ignorant of Cupid's flutterings and, consequently, he wrote the young man's father. The boy was called home, the maid put aside her feelings and that was, apparently, the end of it. Then came the marriage with Mr. Craigie, which both families hailed with delight. Several pleasant years followed, until one day Mrs. Craigie received a letter. Upon opening it she found it was from her former lover, for such he had been, stating that his father was now dead and he was free to do as he pleased. He wrote that he was coming north, hoping to find her as faithful as he had always thought her. That was the end of Mrs. Craigie's happiness. From that hour she lived apart from her husband, serving him and managing his household as a faithful wife, but always remote in her thoughts and her feelings. After her husband's death she lived a lonely life, apart from the world, having dismissed all but two of her twelve servants and living in the rear portion of her house, the front of which she let."

It appears from the story told by Miss Longfellow that it was Miss Foster who was referred to by Seth Johnson in his letter to Mr. Craigie of Sept. 20, '92, quoted above, in which he wrote: "T is said here that Miss F——r has dismissed her lover."

¹ Life of H. W. Longfellow, v. 1, p. 265.

² Amory, p. 27.

³ The name is Nathaniel and not Thomas.

⁴ Curtis, in Homes, p. 277.

Whatever truth there may be in these statements, Mr. Craigie's hospitality was profuse and seems to have been generally accepted.

Tradition, says Mr. Curtis, mentions a dinner party as given by him every Saturday.¹

Mr. Josiah P. Quiney states that he "sometimes entertained over a hundred guests at the brilliant Commencement festival."²

Samuel Longfellow writes :

Mr. Craigie "entertained the merchant-princes of Boston; and once, according to tradition, a prince of diplomats, Talleyrand, with whom Mrs. Craigie, much better educated than her husband, could converse in his native French."³

Mr. Curtis's words are :

"Tradition * * * on one occasion, points out peruked and powdered Talleyrand among the guests. This betrays the presence in the house of the best society then to be had."⁴

Talleyrand, it will be remembered, in 1793,—

"was ordered by Pitt to quit the island" of Great Britain "in twenty-four hours, and, as he had been proscribed by Robespierre, he took refuge in the United States. By the agency of Chenier, he obtained permission to return to France in September, 1795."⁵

Prince Edward, afterwards the Duke of Kent, the father of Queen Victoria, also visited the Craigies.

Drake says :—

"In December, 1794, the Duke of Kent, or Prince Edward, as he was styled, was in Boston, and was received during his sojourn with marked attention. He was then in command of the forces in Canada, but afterwards joined the expedition under Sir Charles Grey, to the French West Indies, where he so greatly distinguished himself by his reckless bravery at the storming of Martinique and Guadaloupe that the flank division which he commanded became the standing toast at the admiral's and commander-in-chief's table * * * The prince was accom-

¹ Curtis, in Homes, p. 277.

² Winsor's Memorial Hist. of Boston, v. 4, p. 15.

³ Life of H. W. Longfellow, v. 1, p. 262.

⁴ Curtis, in Homes, p. 277.

⁵ Thomas, under "Talleyrand-Périgord."

panied to Boston by his suite. He was very devoted to the ladies, especially so to Mrs. 'Thomas Russell,' wife, it will be remembered, of a former owner and occupant of Craigie House. "He 'attended' her to the Assembly at Concert Hall. He danced four country-dances with her for a companion, but she fainted before finishing the last, and he danced with no one else, at which every one of the other eighty ladies present was much enraged."¹

Was it not at the close of the year 1793, or early in 1794, that Prince Edward visited Boston? The following passages would seem to make such a correction necessary.

"At Gibraltar" the Duke of Kent "was put in command of the 7th regiment of foot (royal fusiliers). He at once showed himself a thorough martinet, and became so unpopular with his men that in May, 1791, he was sent to Canada." Late in 1793 he "received, at his own request, orders to join Sir Charles (afterwards Lord) Grey's force in the West Indies. The navigation of the St. Lawrence being interrupted, he travelled by land at considerable risk from Quebec to Boston, and there took ship for Martinique, where he arrived 4 March, 1794. On the close of operations he returned to Canada."²

Following are one or two extracts from letters relating to the hospitality of Mr. Craigie.

Sept. 20/92, Seth Johnson to Andrew Craigie, Boston :

" * * * Mrs. Sands and family speak highly of your polite attentions to them."

I have already quoted from a letter of Mr. John Brown Cutting, sending his "adieu and thanks and blessings" in November, 1792.

¹ Drake, p. 310.

² The following passage from the *Columbian Centinel*, Boston, of February 8, 1794, given by Dr. Samuel A. Green in Groton Historical Series, vol. 2, p. 361, fixes the date of Prince Edward's arrival in Boston as February 6, 1794:—

"On Thursday last, Prince Edward, son of his Britannic Majesty, arrived in this town from *Quebec*. We are told that his highness has lately been promoted to the rank of Brigadier-General, and is to have a command in the army in the *West-Indies*."

Doctor Green gives (pp. 360, 361) in the article quoted, some interesting particulars of Prince Edward's journey from Quebec to Boston.

"Edward Augustus, Duke of Kent and Strathearn, prince, fourth son of George III., by Queen Charlotte, was born on 2 Nov., 1767," (J. M. Rigg).

July 29/97, William Bennett, after expressing gratitude for courtesies extended during a visit to Mr. Craigie, writes to him:—

“On board the Schooner Roebuck, Captain Crowell, bound for Boston, is 2 Mocking Birds, which you will oblige me by presenting with my most respectfull compliments to Mrs. Craigie * * *”

Mr. Craigie continued active in business after going to Cambridge to live. His name appears in the Philadelphia Directory for 1793 as a Director of the first Bank of the United States.¹ The Craigie manuscripts show that requests were made to Mr. Craigie by gentlemen living in Boston or the vicinity to secure for them shares in the stock of that bank.

It will be remembered by persons familiar with the history of Cambridge that at about the time Mr. Craigie took up his residence there, there was a great speculation in lands going on in Cambridgeport. Mr. Craigie soon started another great land movement.

“While the measures adopted for the improvement of Cambridgeport were in the ‘full tide of successful experiment,’” writes Dr. Paige, the historian of Cambridge, “a similar enterprise was undertaken at Lechmere Point, in which the prime mover was Andrew Craigie. The earliest transactions were conducted by Mr. Craigie with much skill and secrecy. His name does not appear in the records until the whole scheme was accomplished.”²

In purchases and other transactions the familiar names of Seth Johnson, Bossenger and Mrs. Foster and Samuel Haven appear. Purchases began as early as January 31, 1795, and lasted, certainly, to May 5, 1807. At the latter date Mr. Craigie—

“owned about three hundred acres of land in two parcels nearly adjoining each other; the easterly parcel included almost the whole of East Cambridge.”³

May 12, 1808, the Governor of Massachusetts signed

¹ Letter of James G. Barnwell to Samuel S. Green.

² Paige, p. 183. ³ *Ibid.*, pp. 183, 184.

an act which completed the legislation sought by Mr. Craigie and his associates in enabling them to build Canal (or Craigie) Bridge from Lechmere Point to Boston.¹

"As nearly as can be ascertained from the records, Mr. Craigie paid less than twenty thousand dollars for the whole estate. Reserving sufficient land and flats for the construction of the bridge and the location of a toll-house, he put the remainder on the market at the price of three hundred and sixty thousand dollars. * * * The bridge was completed in 1809 and roads were opened to Cambridge Common, to Medford and elsewhere, to attract travel from the country to Boston over this avenue."²

Mr. Craigie and his associates were incorporated March 3, 1810, by the General Court, as the Lechmere Point Corporation.³ This corporation laid out streets and lots. But the records show that the sales of lands were few. "The first deed of a house lot entered on record is dated Aug. 20, 1810, and conveys to Samuel S. Green the lot on the northwesterly corner of Cambridge and Second streets, where he resided more than three-score years and where he died Sept. 8, 1872."⁴ "The records exhibit only ten deeds of lots given by the corporation until Sept. 20, 1813, when a sale of land was made which, March 16, 1814, came into possession of the 'Boston Porcelain and Glass Company.'⁵

"But the 'crowning mercy' to the whole enterprisc was the agreement approved by the corporation Nov. 1, 1813, and by the Court of Sessions at the next December Term," to give land to the County of Middlesex and build a "Court House and jail satisfactory to the Court, at an expense to the Corporation not exceeding twenty-four thousand dollars, on condition that as soon as the edifices were completed they should be used for the purposes designed."⁶ That agreement was carried out and the public buildings mentioned still occupy the same grounds. From this time the success of the Craigie land speculation was assured.

"Not only the River Street and Western Avenue bridges," writes Dr. Paige, "but most of the thoroughfares through the city" of Cambridge "which were opened during many years, were constructed for the benefit of West Boston or Canal bridge."⁷

¹ Paige, p. 186. ² *Ibid.* ³ *Ibid.* ⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 187. ⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 203. ⁶ *Ibid.* ⁷ *Ibid.*

“When Andrew Craigie had completed his purchase of the Lechmere or Phips’ estate, and was ready to bring it into the market by building Canal bridge * * * a sharp rivalry between him and his associates on the one hand, and the proprietors of West Boston Bridge and the Cambridgeport residents and landowners on the other, for several years kept the town in constant excitement and turmoil. * * * The severest contest between the two parties was in regard to Mount Auburn Street and Cambridge Street.”¹

Canal bridge was opened to the public on Commencement Day, August 30, 1809.² The Commencement festivities at the Craigie Mansion must have been unusually brilliant and the guests jubilant on that occasion.

Mr. Craigie was a warden at Christ Church, Cambridge, in 1796.³

But after a time Andrew Craigie’s glory waned and he had to live as well as he could in reduced circumstances. As George William Curtis puts it, his “‘spacious times’ came to an end. A visitor walked with him through his large and handsome rooms and, struck with admiration, exclaimed, ‘Mr. Craigie, I should think you could lose yourself in all this spaciousness.’ ‘Mr. ——’ (tradition has forgotten the name), said the hospitable and ruined host, ‘I *have* lost myself in it,’ and we do not find him again.”⁴

“At the headquarters of Washington once,” writes James Russell Lowell, in 1855, “and now of the muses, lived C——, but before the date of these recollections”—about 1825—“here for seven years (as the law was then) he made his house his castle, sunning himself in his elbow-chair, at the front door, on the seventh day, secure from every arrest but death’s.”⁵

“Mr. Craigie,” says Samuel Longfellow, “having, as he said, ‘lost himself’ in his house, its grounds, greenhouses, equipages and hospitalities (not to mention outside speculations, such as the bridge which still bears his name)—departed this world, leaving to his widow a life interest in the estate.”⁶

¹ Paige, p. 203.

² Winsor’s Memorial Hist., v. 4, p. 27.

³ Paige, p. 310.

⁴ Curtis, in Homes, pp. 277, 278.

⁵ Lowell, p. 72.

⁶ Life of H. W. Longfellow, v. 1, p. 262.

Mr. Craigie died September 19, 1819, writes Dr. Paige;¹ in 1821 says Mrs. Isabella James.²

He was not the only one of the persons in whom we have become interested in this paper who became pecuniarily embarrassed. The lavish Mr. Tracy, who bought the Vassall House when sold under the act of confiscation, tradition states, lost most of his property.

Bossenger Foster writes in August, 1798, from Cambridge:—

“My Dr Bro! * * * I have given security to the bank and that Debt is to lye for 12 m^o Shall be able, I hope, to do the same with the Union bank, but what shall I do for present money; have not wherewith to send a man & horse any way—the Sheriff is in possession of the furniture, &c.; believe all will do well at last.”

Mch. 23/99, Tho. Mullett & Co., London, write to Andrew Craigie:—

“We were favor^d with yours of 12th Oct. the last day of November, and were extremely Concerned at your Confirmation of the reports we had heard relative to our friends at New York. Yours was the first positive information we had receiv^d” regarding, apparently, the embarrassment of the Messrs. Johnson.

Before we leave Mr. Craigie, a romantic incident connected with his life must be described. It will be remembered that Saxe Holm³ wrote an interesting little story entitled “Esther Wynn’s Love Letters,” that “Uncle Jo found these letters on the cellar stairs” and that “mysterious terrors gathered round them until it was discovered that they slipped through a crack in the upper stairs where they had been nailed” up “for safe-keeping. This is a true anecdote.”⁴ The letters were discovered by Henry W. Longfellow after he came to live in the Craigie House.

¹ Paige, p. 183. Note.

² I. James, p. 101.

³ In John Foster Kirk’s “Supplement to Allibone’s Dictionary,” vol. II., Phila., 1891, the following statement is made under the name of Mrs. Helen Maria Fiske Jackson (H. H.): “The stories published under the pseudonyme of ‘Saxe Holm’ in ‘Scribner’s Monthly,’ and afterwards in book form, were attributed to her pen, but their authorship was never acknowledged.”

⁴ R. H. Stoddard and others. *Poets’ Homes*, pp. 13, 14.

They were written to Mr. Craigie and "placed by him in their hiding-place," for what reason no one knows. "They were not such love letters as Esther Wynn's." It is said that Mr. Longfellow had intended making them the subject of a poem before he was frustrated by Saxe Holm in her story.¹

Samuel Longfellow, in his biography of his brother, makes the following remarks:—

"Whether or not" Mrs. Craigie, who occupied the house a number of years after her husband's death, "knew of the letters hidden away in the back staircase, which many years afterwards came mysteriously dropping one by one upon the cellar stairs below, history does not record. These proved to be letters—not of love, but of duty—from a young girl, a ward of Mr. Craigie, absent at school. Why one of the stairs should have been made into a box for holding them, it is not easy to see; probably it was originally constructed for some other purpose."²

Mrs. Craigie, as just intimated, long outlived her husband.

"Left alone in the large house, with a very small income," she "reserved certain rooms for herself and let the others to various occupants."³

The distinguished statesman and scholar, Edward Everett, was one of her lodgers. He married in 1822; and soon after, while serving as a professor in Harvard College, carried his bride to Mrs. Craigie's mansion to live. We remember Mr. Everett with especial regard in this society, for he was our third president and held the position for twelve years—from 1841 to 1853.

President Jared Sparks also carried his bride to Craigie House. "On the 16th of October, 1832," he "married Miss Frances Anne, daughter of William Allen, Esq., of Hyde Park, N. Y.,"⁴ and the following spring took up his abode with Mrs. Craigie.

Following is an extract from his journal:—

"This day began to occupy Mrs. Craigie's house in Cambridge.

¹ R. H. Stoddard and others. *Poets' Homes*, pp. 13, 14.

² S. Longfellow's *Life of H. W. Longfellow*, v. 1., p. 215.

³ *Ibid.*, pp. 262, 263.

⁴ Geo. E. Ellis. *Memoir of Jared Sparks*, p. 50.

It is a singular circumstance that, while I am engaged in preparing for the press the letters of General Washington which he wrote at Cambridge after taking command of the American army, I should occupy the rooms that he did at that time."¹

Mr. Sparks was for nearly twenty years the Secretary for Foreign Correspondence of this Society, and was loved and revered by the members who were his contemporaries.

Soon after Mr. Sparks, came Henry W. Longfellow. He shall talk to us about Mrs. Craigie :—

"The first time that I was in the Craigie House," he writes, "was on a beautiful summer afternoon in the year 1837. I came to see Mr. McLane, a law student, who occupied the south-eastern chamber." * * * He "left Cambridge in August, and I took possession of his room, making use of it as a library or study, and having the adjoining chamber for my bedroom. At first Mrs. Craigie declined to let me have rooms. I remember how she looked as she stood, in her white turban, with her hands crossed behind her, snapping her grey eyes. She had resolved, she said, to take no more students into the house. But her manner changed when I told her who I was. She said that she had read 'Outre-Mer,' one number of which was lying on her sideboard. She then took me all over the house and showed me every room in it, saying as we went into each, that I could not have that one. She finally consented to my taking the rooms mentioned above, on condition that the door leading into the back entry should be locked on the outside."² As cold weather came on "I remained alone with the widow in her castle. The back part of the house was occupied, however, by her farmer. * * * The winter was a rather solitary one and the house very still. I used to hear Mrs. Craigie go down to breakfast at nine or ten in the morning and go up to bed at eleven at night. During the day she seldom left her parlor, where she sat reading the newspapers and the magazines—occasionally a volume of Voltaire. She read also the English Annuals, of which she had a large collection. Occasionally, the sound of voices announced a visitor; and she sometimes enlivened the long evenings with a half-forgotten tune upon an old piano-forte. During the following summer the fine old elms in front of the house were attacked by canker-worms, which, after having devoured the leaves, came spinning down in myriads. Mrs. Craigie used to sit by the open windows and let them crawl over her white turban unmolested. She would have nothing done to protect the trees from these worms; she used to say, 'Why, sir, they are our fellow-worms; they have as good a right to live as we have.'"

¹ Geo. E. Ellis. *Memoir of Jared Sparks*, p. 51.

² S. Longfellow's *Life of H. W. Longfellow*, v. 1, pp. 263-265.

"Mrs. Craigie was eccentric to the last. In matters of religion she was a 'free-thinker.' She used to say that she saw God in nature, and wanted no Mediator to come between Him and her. She had a passion for flowers and for cats, and in general for all living creatures. * * * She had a great hatred for the Jews; and when Miss Lowell said to her, 'Why, Mrs. Craigie, our Saviour was a Jew!' she answered, 'I can't help it, ma'am.'"¹

In reading this account of Mrs. Craigie, one cannot help thinking how ordinary were the views of canker-worms held by Oliver Wendell Holmes, compared with those of this sympathetic woman. Says Dr. Holmes, in an account of the Gambrel-roofed House in which he was born:—

"The soil of the university town is divided into patches of sandy and of clayey ground. The Common and the College green, near which the old house stands, are on one of the sandy patches. Four curses are the local inheritance: droughts, dust, mud, and canker-worms. I cannot but think that all the characters of a region help to modify the children born in it. I am fond of making apologies for human nature, and I think I could find an excuse for myself if I, too, were dry and barren, and muddy-witted and 'cantankerous,'—disposed to get my back up, like those other natives of the soil."²

Lowell remembers Mrs. Craigie:—

the "turbaned widow, studious only of Spinoza, and refusing to molest the canker-worms that annually disleaved her elms, because we were all vermicular alike. She had been a famous beauty once, but the canker years had left her leafless, too, and I used to wonder, as I saw her sitting always alone at her accustomed window, whether she were ever visited by the reproachful shade of him who (in spite of Rosalind) died broken-hearted for her in her radiant youth."³

Reverend Samuel Longfellow knew Mrs. Craigie:—

He "remembers very well visiting" her "in his early college days, to beg some autograph letters of Revolutionary personages, of which she had a store. She sat in her southeastern⁴ parlor, in white muslin turban and gray silk gown, with the sun shining among her window-plants and singing-birds; and as often as he took his leave she said, 'Be good; I want you to be good.'"

¹ S. Longfellow's *Life of H. W. Longfellow*, v. 1, pp. 263-265.

² *The Poet at the Breakfast-table*, pp. 23, 24.

³ *Fireside Travels*, p. 73.

⁴ A mistake for "southwestern," is it not?

There was an awful whisper in Cambridge circles that she read Voltaire in the original. At any rate, her copy of his works remained in the library of Craigie House."¹

I fear that these dreadful suspicions were well founded.

I find in the Craigie manuscripts, Nalbro' and Jno. Frazier writing to Mr. Craigie July 21/94, when speaking of a third party,

"that he had not received the remaining numbers of the Encyclopædia in French. We pray you to make our respectful compliments to Mrs. Craigie * * * ."

Mr. Henry W. Longfellow speaks of Mrs. Craigie's "old piano-forte."

In the manuscripts, August 4/91, John Coles, London, writes to Andrew Craigie, New York:—

"* * * will with much pleasure attend to your request respecting the purchase of the most approved musical instrument."

Here is an agreement, dated at Cambridge, Dec. 6/92:

"The Subscriber contracts to give Eight Lessons on the piano-forte to the Ladies in Mr. Craigie's family—two Lessons each week—for which Lessons is to be paid three pounds twelve shillings * * * —the half of which £3. 12 has been paid this day to Hans Gram."

A day or two before her death, Mrs. Craigie said to Mr. H. W. Longfellow:—

"You'll never be married again; because you see how ugly an old woman looks in bed."²

This pathetic little scene has great dramatic possibilities in it. See what a little rhetoric will do for it. Mr. George William Curtis thus described it nearly fifty years ago, in his days of comparative exuberance. Speaking of Mr. Longfellow, he says:—

"as he entered her room, and advancing to her bedside, saw her lying stretched at length and clutching the clothes closely around her neck, so that only her sharply-featured and shrunken face was visible—the fading eye opened upon him for a moment and

¹ S. Longfellow's *Life of H. W. Longfellow*, v. 1, p. 263.

² *Ibid.*, p. 265.

he heard from the withered lips this stern whisper of farewell—
‘Young man, never marry, for beauty comes to this.’”¹

The eminent lexicographer, Joseph Emerson Worcester, was one of the well-known personages who occupied rooms in Mrs. Craigie’s house. Just before her death he bought the property.

The poet Longfellow, as has appeared in a statement by himself, quoted a few pages back, first went to live in Craigie House in the summer of 1837, sixty-three years ago. He afterwards “shared the house with Dr. Worcester, and, finally, in 1843 became the owner of the mansion and the adjacent land.”²

“The one hundred and fifty or two hundred acres of Andrew Craigie had shrunken to eight. But the meadow land in front, sloping to the river, was secured by the Poet, who thereby secured also the wide and winning prospect, the broad green reaches and the gentle Milton Hills.”³

Several of the beautiful elm trees which stood in front of the house when Longfellow first went there to live have disappeared.

As our associate, Thomas Wentworth Higginson, has stated, Longfellow wrote in 1839 of “ten magnificent elms.”⁴ But, as Mr. Higginson also tells us: the Poet “greatly improved the appearance of the grounds by the low-fenced terrace.”⁵

It is not my purpose, however, to speak of the Craigie House during its occupancy by Mr. Longfellow, or as the present home of a member of his family. Enough to say that it has continually grown more famous since the eminent and kind-hearted poet took up his residence in it, and is still an object of interest to an army of visitors, largely because it was his dwelling-place.

In conclusion, let Mr. Higginson discourse to us about this matter:—

“Craigie House,” he says, “has played a much larger part in

¹ Curtis, in *Homes*, p. 272.

² *Harvard Book*, v. 2, p. 431.

³ Curtis, in *Homes*, p. 283.

⁴ “*Old Cambridge*,” p. 125. ⁵ *Ibid.*

Cambridge tradition than the houses which were also the birth-places of Holmes and Lowell. Those who have spent summers in Cambridge during the last ten years must know well—such is certainly my own experience—that twice as many strangers inquired the way to Craigie House as to Elmwood and the ‘Gambrel-roofed House’ put together; and though this might be partly due to associations with Washington, yet I am confident that these made but a small portion of the whole interest in the abode. I have seldom felt so keenly the real worth of popular fame as when, one summer day, in passing Craigie House, I found a young man, of somewhat rustic appearance and sunburned look, eagerly questioning two other youths as to the whereabouts of the ‘Spreading Chestnut Tree’ mentioned in ‘The Village Blacksmith.’ Coming to their relief I explained to him that the tree in question was never at that point and had now vanished altogether, but offered to show him where it once was, and where the blacksmith shop of Dexter Pratt had stood. Walking down the street with him, I won his confidence by telling him that I was one of the Cambridge-bred boys who had ‘looked in at the open door’; that the blacksmith’s wife, Rowena Pratt, had been my nurse, and that I had, in later life, heard her daughter sing. He told me, in return, that he was a young Irishman, arrived in the country but the day before, that the first poetry he had ever quite learned by heart at school was ‘The Village Blacksmith’; and that he had resolved that his first act on reaching Boston should be to visit the Chestnut Tree. ‘This,’ I said to myself, ‘is fame.’”¹

Following is a list of the principal books which, in addition to the Craigie manuscripts, have been used in preparing this paper:—

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