

# **THE KEY OF LIBBERTY**

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The Key of Libberty by William Manning

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**WILLIAM MANNING**

**THE KEY  
OF LIBBERTY**



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*Key of Libberty  
Manuscripts*





*THE MANNING MANSE*



*THE MANNING FARM-*



*THE THEOPHILUS MANNING HOUSE*



*THE JOEL BALDWIN HOUSE.*

## Key of Libberty Manuscripts

THE "Key of Libberty" manuscripts came to the Manning Manse (built in 1696) from the Manning Farm, the estate of the late William Manning, whose father, Theophilus, was born at the manse and was a brother of the author.

Theophilus was a farmer who never kept his children from school a day, and whose favorite expression was "Attend to your work and you will not get into mischief."

His three sons, William (born 1823), Theophilus and Asa P., originated the pop-corn and molasses candy business as school boys in their Billerica home, from which their product was sold in large loaves in Lowell, Reading and Wakefield, Mass. As these loaves were found inconvenient to retail from, they were followed by corn-balls up to 1862, then by corn-cakes and by patented cocoanut corn-cakes. William was constantly devising special methods and equipment to replace hand labor, and to utilize such by-products as the "old maids" that would not pop. Original models, containers, many documents, and the first big hand corn-poppers are now in the Manning family collection at the manse in Billerica, Mass.

In 1846, William Manning married Mary Ann Baldwin from the nearby Joel Baldwin homestead, built as was his father's home, early in the last century.

In 1849, he acquired his own Manning farm in East Chelmsford near Lowell, where he soon built his home, his first factory, and grew seed for farmers in New England and as far west as Michigan to grow, on some hundreds of acres, the 5,000 bushels or more of pop-corn required yearly.

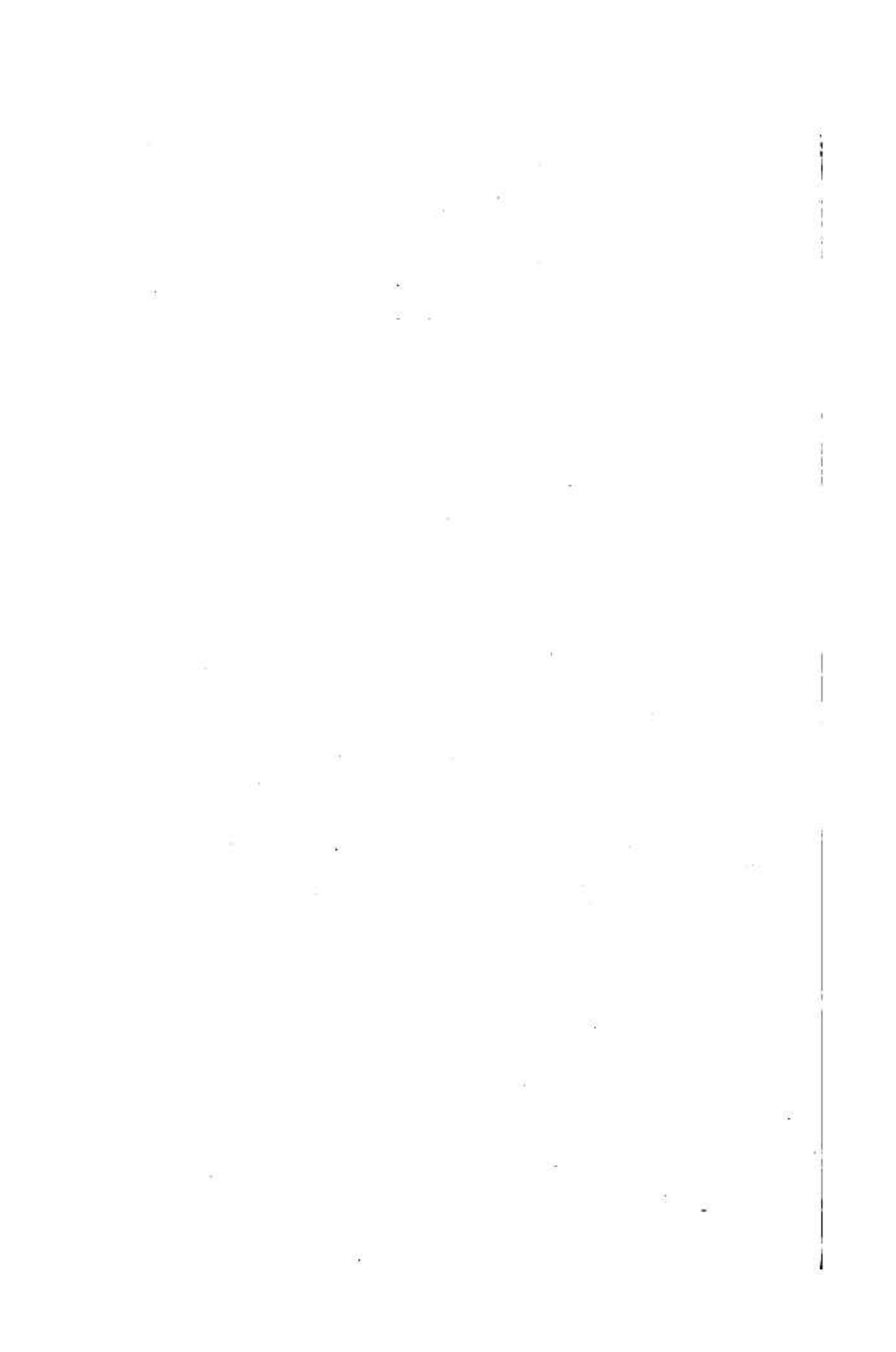
Island of Mayaguez molasses was found to be so superior that 100 hogsheads per year were used for 25 years, nearly half the total Island product.

In 1867, a big factory was erected on an acre of land purchased in Lowell, on Broadway, at School Street, to meet demands from all states. The brothers had passed out of the business long before this, and a young man who had fought his own way up to success became the principal assistant, married the only daughter, and now presents this book as a tribute to his wife and to his friend, William Manning.

To *University of California*  
From *Erastus A. Bartlett*  
Manning Farm, East Chelmsford Mass.

**THE KEY OF LIBBERTY**





UNIV. OF  
CALIFORNIA

THE  
KEY OF LIBBERTY

*SHEWING THE CAUSES WHY A FREE  
GOVERNMENT HAS ALWAYS FAILED,  
AND A REMIDY AGAINST IT*

Written in the year 1798 by  
*WILLIAM MANNING*  
of Billerica, Massachusetts

With notes and a foreword by  
*SAMUEL ELIOT MORISON*  
*Lecturer on History, Harvard University*

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