NOTED MEN AND HISTORICAL NARRATIONS OF ANCIENT MILTON

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Noted Men and Historical Narrations of Ancient Milton by A. K. Teele

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A. K. TEELE

NOTED MEN AND HISTORICAL NARRATIONS OF ANCIENT MILTON



NOTED MEN

AND

HISTORICAL NARRATIONS

Ancient Milton.

With regards of

A. K. TEELE.

STATEMENT.

The contents of this little book have, in part, appeared in the *Milton News* and elsewhere. They have been gathered into the present form for the purpose of compactness and permanence.

The reader will come up against numerous dates, probate references and statistics of various forms, which make hard and dull reading. But these figures and references, if accurate and reliable, make up the chief value of the various articles.

It follows that this collection is not for easy and popular reading, but rather for the use of those of our citizens and others who delight in, and are seeking after, the venerable and antiquated men and things of our ancient town.

To all such earnest searchers, everywhere, it is heartily inscribed.

A. K. TEELE.

MILTON, MASS., JULY, 1900.

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BRIEF MEMORIALS OF ANCIENT CITIZENS

PRESENTED AT THE

TOWN HALL BEFORE THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE AND SCHOOLS OF MILTON, OCT. 18, 1895, BY ALBERT K. TEELE.

Ladies and Gentlemen of the School Committee:

At your request I have prepared brief statements respecting those of our early inhabitants whose names you propose to affix to our common schools.

The mcn whom you have selected were in their day, without exception, representative men. They were men of stalwart character, strong, wise, God-fearing men; earnest in purpose and decided in action, who could be safely trusted with the affairs of Church and State.

. Such are the individuals whom you have selected, from the vast number of their compeers, to give names to the schools of Milton, whose rare qualities of heart and mind, in many particulars, all our sons and daughters may well emulate.

Never were more truthful words uttered than those of Governor Stoughton, in his Election Sermon, 1668:--

"God sifted a whole nation that he might send choice grain over into this wilderness."

BELCHER SCHOOL.

It is proposed to name the East School the Belcher School. Jonathan Belcher was born in Cambridge, Mass., Jan. 8, 1681, and graduated at Harvard College in 1699, in a class of twelve. After leaving college he spent several years abroad, travelling over England and various countries of Central and Northern Europe.

On his return he became partner in business with his father and acquired an ample fortune. He also became deeply interested in public affairs. He was a member of the Council, 1722–23 and 1726–27.

In 1728 he was authorized by the General Court of Massachusetts to represent the State at London in the settlement of a matter of important public interest; and at the same time he was appointed by the State of Connecticut as counsel in the famous suit of Winthrop versus Lechmore. He accepted the trusts and arrived in England early in 1729.

Soon after his arrival Governor Burnet died, and as Belcher was on the spot and was supported at Court by many friends, he secured the appointment as Governor Burnet's successor in the government of Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

During his residence in Europe Belcher formed an intimate acquaintance with Dr. Isaac Watts, the poet, who commemorated the appointment of his friend to this honorable position by a very beautiful odc, which we copy in full from the New England Weekly Journal of Aug. 3, 1730:—

To his EXCELLENCY JONATHAN BELCHER, Esq., in LONDON.
Appointed by his Majesty King George II, to the government of New England on his return.

Go, favorite man; spread to the winds thy sails; The Western ocean smiles; the Eastern gales, Attend thy hour. Ten thousand vows arise, T' ensure for thee the waves, for thee the skies, And waft thee homeward. On thy native strand, Thy Nation throngs to hail thy Bark to Land. She sent thee envoy to secure her Laws

And he loved Freedom. Heaven succeed the cause, And make thee ruler there. Thy name unites Thy Prince's honors, and thy People's Rights. Twice has thy zeal been to thy Sovereign shown In German Realms, while yet the British Throne, Sigh'd for the House of Brunswick; there thy knee Paid its first tribute to future Majesty, And owned the Title ere the crown had shed It's radiant Honors round the Royal Father's head.

Long has:thy nation:loved titee; sage in youth, In manhood nobly bold and firm to:truth; Shining in arts of Peace; yet midst a Storm Skillful t' advise, and vigorous to perform; Kind-to the World and duteous to-the skies, Distress and want to thee direct their eyes; Thy life a public good. What heavenly Ray, What courteous Spirit pointed out the way, To make New Albion blest, when:George the Just Gave the Joyful Nation to thy Trust? Great George rewards thy zeal in happy hour With a bright Beam of his Imperial Power.

Go, Belcher, Go! Assume thy glorious sway;
Faction expires, and Boston longs to obey.
Bencath thy rule may Truth and Virtue spread,
Divine Religion raise aloft her head,
And deal her Blessings round. Let India hear
That Jesus reigns, and her wild Tribes prepare
For Heavenly Joys. Thy Power shall rule by Love;
So reigns our Jesus in his Realms above.
Illustrous pattern! Let him fix thine Eye
And guide thine Hand. He from the world on high
Came once an Euroy and returned a King:
The Sons of Light in throngs their Homage bring,
While Glory, Life and Joy beneath his Sceptro Spring.

I. WATTS.

MARCH 31, 1730.

'Governor Belcher was sent home on the man-of-war-frigate "Blanford." He arrived at Castle William (now Fort Independence) Saturday night, Aug. 8, 1730. He attended