THE GIBBS FAMILY
OF RHODE ISLAND
AND SOME
RELATED FAMILIES

GEORGE GIBBS



NEW YORK
PRIVATELY PRINTED
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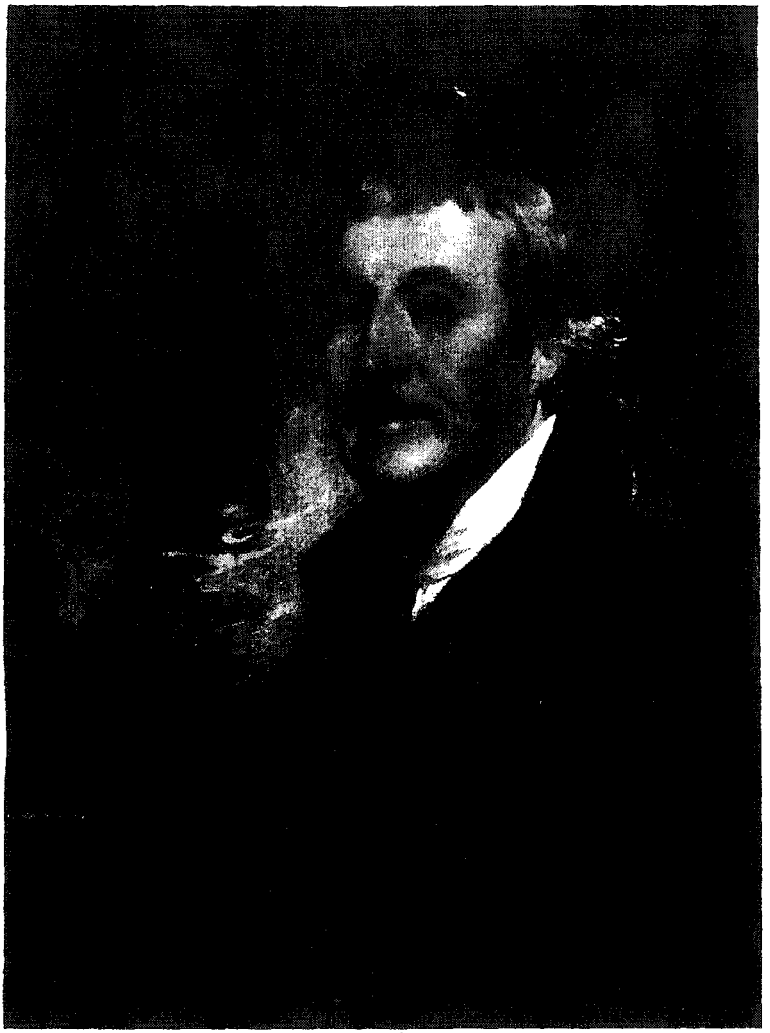

GEORGE GIBBS II

FROM GILBERT STUART PORTRAIT

ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY COPIES OF

THE GIBBS FAMILY OF RHODE ISLAND

HAVE BEEN PRINTED BY EUGENE V. CONNETT

AT THE DERRYDALE PRESS

DEDICATED

TO

COMING GENERATIONS

OF THE

GIBBS FAMILY

WHO MAY FIND INSPIRATION

IN THESE PAGES

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The oil portraits are from photographs furnished by courtesy of The Frick Art Reference Library

INTRODUCTION

A person of proper sentiment desires to know something of his family origin, and to trace the ramifications of relationships. In England, by the laws of primogeniture, certain property is kept intact and transmitted from generation to generation; a lineage is thus preserved and is guarded with jealous care. An American has no such ready means of ascertaining his lineage, but may have other and worthy motives to make him desire to know of his family background and those who compose his kin; he can take a pardonable pride in an ancestry which has produced men and women who have been of use in the development of their country in successive generations, and the knowledge of respectable extraction must have an effect in maintaining good character. It is hoped that the present generation will learn from the brief account following that it has reason to be proud of the character and accomplishments of its forebears.

It was the purpose of the writer, in undertaking this Record, to gather and preserve family data which was being rapidly dispersed and lost among the many branches and descendants in a way that was making a connected story increasingly difficult. Members of the

present generation were, furthermore, personally acquainted with prominent figures and events in their grandfathers' time which are well worthy of preservation from first-hand knowledge and which, in the natural course, will pass away with them. It was intended to make the story very brief and to confine it to a narration of the sequence of persons appearing in the direct line of descent. It appeared desirable, however, to mention some collateral relationships which should add to the interest of the story. No attempt has been made to set down all relationships involved through marriages in the various successive generations,— a procedure which would bring in, probably, the greater number of names composing the list of New England Colonists; nor was it practicable to mention children of parents in the present generation. Those who receive and value this book as a record will, however, find blank pages bound in, on which they can enter details they are personally interested in, and thus continue the story.

It will be noted that the treatment of the subject is of a very personal character, and that certain of our ancestors and certain of the events recorded are given, perhaps, undue space. This was done partly because of the relative abundance of data accessible, and partly because of the writer's personal inclinations.

THE GIBBS FAMILY
OF
RHODE ISLAND

Chapter I

THE GIBBS FAMILY IN ENGLAND

EARLY records of the name in England, and the conditions leading to the emigration of members of the family to America, and their settlement here may be briefly reviewed.

The ancient family of Gibbs, also spelled Gibb, Gibbs and Gibbes, is supposed to have been derived from the Norman personal name "Gislebertus" or "Gilbert." The ancestors of the family are said to have come into England, in William the Conqueror's time (11th Century), from Brittany or Normandy. The members of the family, afterwards separating, settled in the counties of Devon, Kent, Warwick and Somerset; also in Ireland. Several of the Gentry families of this name, those of County Somerset, County Herts and County Cork, Ireland, are descended from two brothers Gibbs or Gibbes in the time of Richard II, one of whom settled at Honington, County Warwick, and the other at Fenton, County Devon. Jenkin Gibbes, in the time of Henry VII, a scion of the House of Fenton, whose descendants were of Elmerstone, County Kent, possessed an ancient roll deducing the family from Normandy, where they were resident long before the conquest of England.

The Norman origin of the family seems fairly well

authenticated, and is referred to in some detail in a Report of Columbus Smith, Esq., made in 1848 for the "Gibbs Association of Vermont," of a search made in England for a property reported to belong to the Gibbs in America. He quotes Betham in his "Baronetage" and Sir William Pole in his collection of documents on the history of Devonshire as definitely fixing such origin.

In England many distinguished men have descended from the family, which is a prominent one there at the present day, both under the name and by titles and through intermarriages.

We are, however, especially interested in determining the beginnings and descent of the family in America. All came originally from English emigrants. The earliest arrived here in the 17th Century, prior to 1660. The successful colonization of Virginia dated from 1607; colonies along the New England coast were established in 1620, the date of the arrival of the "Mayflower." Certain colonists of the name of Gibbs, but not our branch apparently, arrived in New England as early as 1628; others arrived in the South about the same time. No successful attempt seems possible to fix the exact date of arrival of my particular ancestor and it is not intended here to trace the growth and distribution of those of the family name now in America; at the present time it is not an uncommon one in many states, notably in Massachusetts, Vermont, Maine, the Carolinas and throughout the Middle States and on the

Pacific Coast. "The Gibbs Family Association" publishes a bulletin more or less regularly giving information of interest regarding the family branches in the various States.

It is probable that Gibbs came to America at different times during the 17th and 18th Centuries — and have continued to arrive up to the present time. Also, that they came from different parts of the British Islands, and were only distantly related there. Hence, the relationship between persons of the name in America is even more distant and cannot be traced. Many of the Gibbs here claim the same Coat of Arms as our branch, but this claim in itself is, of course, not sufficient to establish common ancestry.

The late Professor Josiah Willard Gibbs of Yale College published in 1879 a "Memoir of the Gibbs Family of Warwickshire, England, and the U.S.A." in which he gives much interesting information regarding his family. He deduces that in the time of Richard II two brothers, John and Thomas Gibbs, lived in England — the former in Devonshire and the latter in Warwickshire. He believed he was descended from Thomas and that the Gibbs of South Carolina are descended from the Devonshire stock (John Gibbs) from whom our branch seems also to have sprung. Prof. Gibbs remarks that "the close resemblance of the arms borne by the various families of Gibbs and Gibbes, in England, indicates identity of origin." Although wanting in positive proof, we may reasonably assert that the

arms were originally a field argent charged with three pole or battle axes, sable, but without a crest, a device which was not generally adopted until after the reign of Edward III, anno 1377.[1] The motto "Tenax propositi" appears closely associated with the name — but this is a matter of taste; mottoes are regarded only as appendages, not parts of heraldic insignia.

No claim should be made for the *noble* origin of our family in England; but we can trace descent on all sides from respectable people who emigrated and founded a stock in the new country from which, in successive generations, many able and distinguished men appeared. In fact, practically *all* of the first American immigrants were people of the lower classes — farmers and the like; some were holders of landed property in a small way; nearly all emigrated to escape religious persecution, or to better their lot. Those coming later may have had other motives, one of which, doubtless, was the incentive of the reported great opportunities in the new country. There was also a sprinkling of venturesome spirits among the emigrants and not a few disreputable members of society. By 1640 probably over 65,000 English people had left their homes for the New World. In the North they spread from Massachusetts to Rhode Island and into Connecticut; my ancestors on the Gibbs, the Wolcott and the Hosmer sides selected either Rhode Island or Connec-

[1] As described in "Burke": Arms: Azure. Three poleaxes in pale, argent, garnished, or. Crest: An arm embowed in armour, garnished or, holding in the gauntlet a poleaxe, argent.

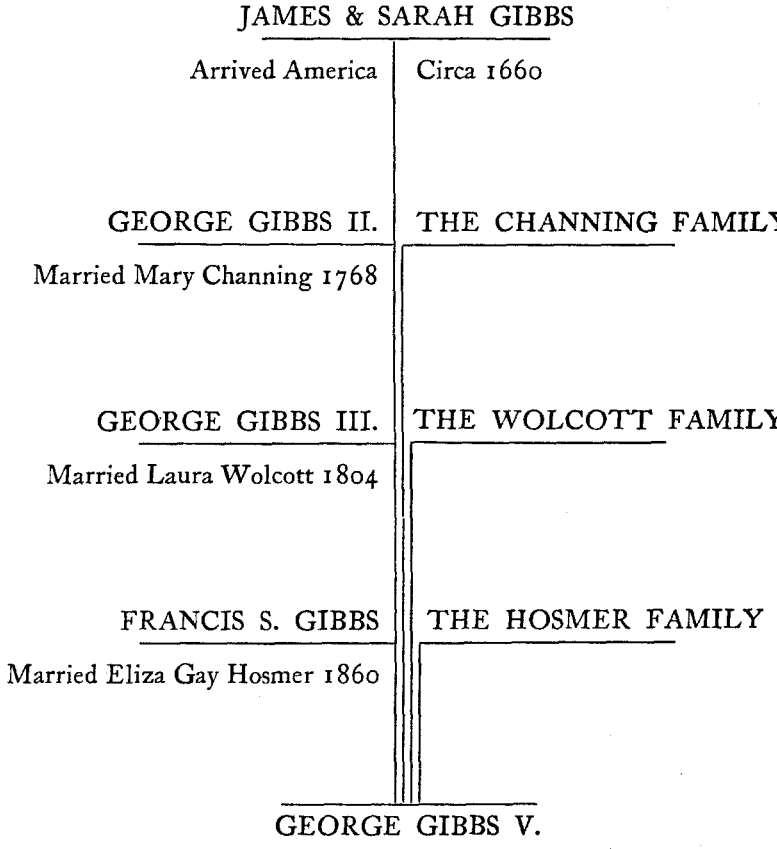
ticut. It is interesting to note that in my direct lines of descent for many generations no names appear from continental European families, even up to the present; in other words, we are of pure New England descent.

Dr. Wolcott Gibbs published in 1894 a "Family Record of James and Sarah Gibbs of Bristol, Mass." It gives the result of his careful investigation of our family origin, and states that the Gibbs ancestors were "probably originally from Bristol, England." My uncle was not prone to make deductions from data of the truth of which he was not absolutely certain; so he gave practically no detailed information as to the family in England and did not give the date of the arrival of the first immigrant into America. He was convinced, however, that our first American ancestor was James Gibbs, who came from England and settled in Rhode Island about 1660. I shall start my chronological Record of our family with the assumption that this is a fact.

TABLE NO. I.

CHRONOLOGY OF THE GIBBS FAMILY

(Showing dates when other families joined the main stem.)



CHAPTER II

THE GIBBS FAMILY OF RHODE ISLAND

OUR FAMILY has been identified with the history and growth of Newport, R. I., from the earliest times,— dating from a few years after the purchase of the Island of Aquidneck, as it was called, in 1638, from the Indians by Governor Coddington. The first members to arrive there were those who introduce our Gibbs family Record, viz:

JAMES (I.) AND SARAH, his wife (maiden name unknown), who emigrated from Bristol, England, probably about 1660, and settled in Newport. Later (in 1720) they moved to Bristol, R. I., where James died in 1731. They had six children, who married into the families of the Champlins, Giddings, Ingrahams, Chaloners, Malbones, Gladdings and Finneys — well known names in Rhode Island. Many references to the Gibbs and their connections with the names above mentioned will be found in the Town Records of Bristol, but they for the most part relate to marriage and death announcements, or to unimportant events in a small community. Some interesting and quaint extracts from the records will be found in Chapter XI.

GEORGE GIBBS(I.), second son of James(I.) and Sarah, was born in Newport, 1695. His first wife was Hannah Claggett (born 1709). The issue of this mar-

riage was one child, Hannah, who married Jabez Champlin and left issue. His second wife was Ruth Hart (born 1709, died 1784). By her he had eight children.

Ruth Hart was a granddaughter of Isaac and Elizabeth George, of Newport; a fact which explains our connection with the George family, and, probably, the tradition that the Gibbs came from Frome, England. The name of Gibbs cannot, however, be found in the Church Records of that place; but the Georges came from Frome, Somersetshire, and the name is there a common one at this day. I have an old silver sugar bowl, inherited from my great-aunt Sarah Gibbs, on which is engraved:

ISAAC & ELIZABETH GEORGE
TO
JAMES & SARAH GIBBS
ARRIVED IN
AMERICA, 1667,
ETC.

On the bottom of the bowl occur the initials "I.E.G."

Very little of George's (I.) life is of record; he apparently followed the trade of grain dealer and baker in Newport, living in a large house on Thames Street, corner of Sherman's Wharf, where Covell's store now stands. This "Mansion House," as it was known, was once owned by Governor Coddington, and was afterwards occupied by George Gibbs (II.).

George Gibbs (I.) and his wife, and one or two



MRS. GEORGE GIBBS II (MARY CHANNING)
FROM GILBERT STUART PORTRAIT

children, are buried in the old town burial-ground in Newport. Two upright slate stones mark the graves. The inscriptions are:

IN MEMORY OF MR. GEORGE GIBBS,
WHO DIED AUGUST 6, 1755,
IN THE 60TH YEAR OF HIS AGE.

IN MEMORY OF MRS. RUTH GIBBS,
THE WIDOW OF MR. GEORGE GIBBS,
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE JUNE 4, 1784,
IN THE 76TH YEAR OF HER AGE.

The stones and inscriptions were put in order many years later by their grandaughter, Miss Sarah Gibbs. The inscriptions on two small stones which mark children's graves, are illegible.

GEORGE GIBBS (II.), born 1735, was the son of George Gibbs and Ruth Hart. He may be regarded as the founder of the family and was an eminent citizen of Rhode Island. At his death in 1803 he left a fortune estimated at £700,000, a very large sum for those days. He followed the trade of his father and was originally a flour merchant, but this occupation was gradually merged into that of a shipping merchant in trade with the West Indies. In this business he was at one time a partner of Captain Joseph Anthony, a well-known merchant of Philadelphia. Anthony, who had been originally captain of a sailing vessel was, it is interesting to note, a nephew of Gilbert Stuart, who painted

his portrait. Anthony's portrait, a very fine example of Stuart's art, has been handed down in the Gibbs family and was left by my Uncle Wolcott Gibbs, in his will, to the Philadelphia Academy of Fine Arts, where it is now hung.

Before the War of the Revolution Gibbs's shipping business appears to have been mainly with the West Indies, as before stated, and perhaps was not very extensive; during the war all commercial shipping business at Newport seems to have come to a standstill, while the British occupied the town. When they left, however (in 1779), Gibbs returned and actively resumed business, forming in 1792 a partnership with his brother-in-law, Walter Channing of Newport,[1] and he so extended his business and conducted it with an enterprise so intelligent that at the height of his activity no less than seventy-five sailing vessels belonging to his firm sailed from Newport for all parts of the world. His trade was chiefly with China, the West Indies, St. Petersburg, and the Mediterranean. In the chief parts of Europe and Asia, then so much more remote than at present, his name was known and respected, and in America no merchant stood higher and carried on a more extensive and venturesome business than he. Added to the dangers of the sea, in those days of small sailing vessels, were the risks of war and piracy. A character, well-known at the time, was "Gibbs the Pirate." He was, in fact, a mate on one of

[1] See Chapter XI, page 175.

George Gibbs's vessels who assumed the name of Gibbs, organized a mutiny, turned pirate and committed numerous depredations. Our war for independence with England, the wars following on the French Revolution, and the aggressions of the Barbary pirates, all levied toll on Gibbs's fleet and all added to the difficulties of his career. One of his ships had been absent and unheard of for more than three years, and insurance upon her had been paid, when she sailed into Newport harbor with a good cargo and a strange tale of adventure.

The aggressions of the French upon commerce on the high seas after their Revolution caused especially great losses to American merchants, and Gibbs suffered severely. For example, the ship "Russell," owned by him, was captured by a French privateer on August 8, 1799; this was at the time when commercial intercourse had been suspended between the United States and France and her dependencies. Out of such acts as these arose the controversy known as the "French Claims," a settlement for which was afterwards made by the French Government and a lump sum paid over to the United States Government to be distributed by it to the rightful owners of property destroyed. The money received is still, for the most part, retained by our Government; the Gibbs heirs a few years ago received a small reimbursement for the loss of one particular vessel, but the greater part of the sum went to the lawyers, and the main claims cannot to this day be collected from our Government.

George Gibbs's family belonged to the Church of England, and he was a staunch supporter and a vestryman of old Trinity Church in Newport. The Gibbs pew here is worthy of a visit; it has been occupied continuously by the family up to the present time. The last owner was Mrs. Theo. Kane Gibbs; it was left by her to the Church, to be made a free pew. In the churchyard, close to the edifice, stand the tombstones of himself and some of his family. Two of these monuments, carrying the Gibbs Coat of Arms, are notable for their beauty and were made, I believe, in England.

In the real estate in Newport owned by George Gibbs, or afterwards purchased by his widow, was included the fine colonial house in Mill Street and the land adjoining, now occupied by Truro Park in which the Mill stands. This house was built prior to 1770 by John Tillinghast. It was afterwards the home of the younger son, William Channing Gibbs, three times Governor of Rhode Island. During Nathaniel Greene's residence in Newport he occupied the house and was visited in it by such Revolutionary time celebrities as Kosciusko, Baron Steuben and Lafayette.[1] About 1760 the Truro family came to live in Newport. They were Jews of Portuguese extraction — probably from South Carolina. Isaac became priest of the small synagogue which still stands on Truro Street. His son Abraham became a prominent and highly regarded merchant; he purchased from Governor Gibbs the Mill lot, which

[1] From Mason's book, "Reminiscences of Newport."

he gave to the town to be used as a park. He and his brother, Judah, endowed the Jewish cemetery, which is located at the top of Truro Street. With the decline of Newport as a seaport, the Truro family removed to New Orleans, but both brothers lie buried in the Newport Jewish cemetery. It is interesting to add something about the "Old Mill," which stands in the centre of the park above mentioned. This is a circular stone building of a type not uncommon in England and used there as a grist mill driven by wind-power. In "Notes"[1] I have given an account of the controversy which arose a few years ago as to the origin of a structure of the kind in America.[1]

The extensive Gibbs property in Newport included the whole of Easton's Point, between First and Second Beaches, and about one hundred acres within the town of Newport, roughly speaking, between Rhode Island Avenue and the pond back of the First Beach.

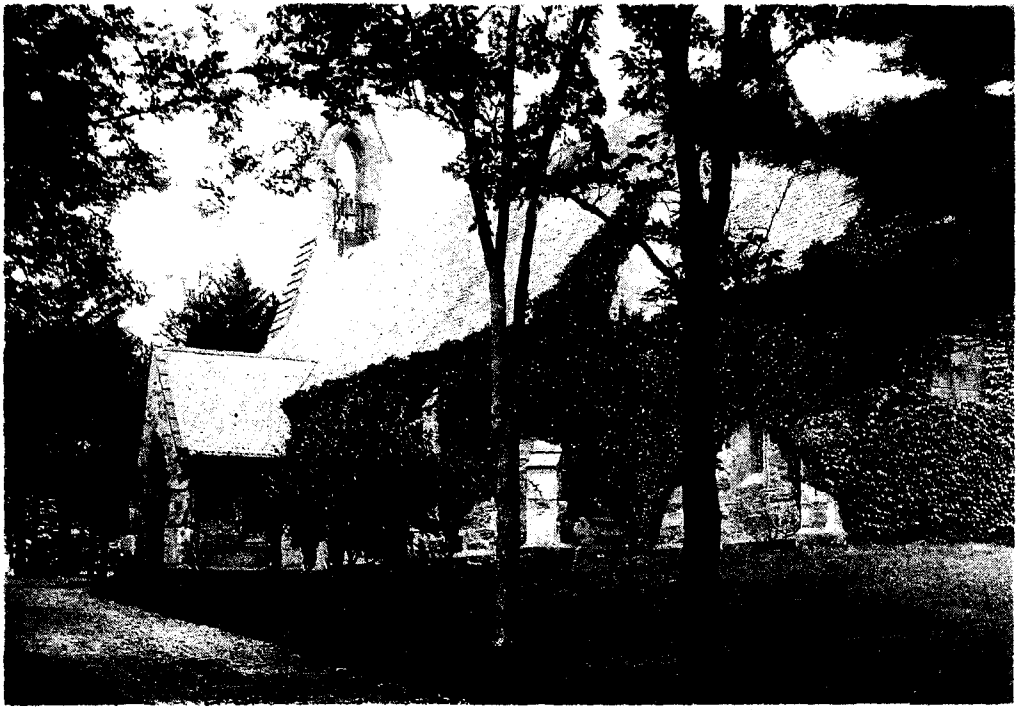
The Easton tract was purchased by Mrs. Gibbs in 1808 from Jonathan Easton for $22,000; it comprised about 135 acres. The Smith farm tract, comprising 100 acres, was purchased about the same time for $21,000. Several other small plots were purchased by her in 1814 from various owners. Much of this large property was retained in the family, up to my father's time, but was then gradually sold and now the various parcels are included in the residential district of the City. There was also the farm called "Oakland" at

[1] See page 153.

South Portsmouth, the country home of the family for many years, and more particularly referred to below.

George Gibbs's (II.) first wife was Susannah Scott, by whom he had one child who lived but eleven weeks. His second wife was *Mary Channing*, sister of his partner, Walter Channing. By her he had had ten children. His widow, two sons and five daughters survived him. The eldest daughter, Mary, married Luther Bradish, afterwards Governor of New York State; Ruth married her first cousin, the Rev. William Ellery Channing, eminent clergyman and founder of the Unitarian denomination in America. Ruth long outlived her distinguished husband, dying in Boston at the age of ninety-one. Through the Channings we trace our relationship to the Eustis family of Boston and the Wisters of Philadelphia. (See "The Channing Family.")

George Gibbs's daughter, *Sarah*, born 1784, also lived to an old age and never married. She was spoken of in the family as "Aunt Sarah." She occupied the fine estate at South Portsmouth (six miles from Newport), known as "Oakland;" this had been purchased in 1796 by her father from John Faxon and comprised about 80 acres. After her death, the house and farm were sold to August Belmont. He, in turn, sold the estate to Cornelius Vanderbilt, from whom it descended to his son Alfred G., who built in 1907 a large structure to be used for an interior ring and exercising track for his horses. On Alfred Vanderbilt's death (he was lost on the Steamship "Lusitania"), the estate became the



ST. MARY'S, SOUTH PORTSMOUTH, R. I.

property of his son, Wm. H. Vanderbilt, who now lives there with his young family.

Miss Gibbs built and endowed a beautiful little church at "Oakland" in memory of her parents, known as "St. Mary's." The cornerstone was laid September 2, 1847. It is of stone, similar in design to the old English parish churches and was designed by Upjohn, a famous English architect; this building with its setting of lawn and fine trees, makes a scene of beauty rare in this country. Within the church is a carved mural monument, extending from floor to ceiling, erected as a memorial of George and Mary Channing Gibbs; it was designed by Washington Allston and bears an inscription written by Dr. Channing.[1] The churchyard of St. Mary's is now the family burial-place. In order that Miss Gibbs might proceed from her house to the church unobserved from the public road, she planted a spruce hedge extending from one building to the other. This hedge has grown to large size and is of itself a beautiful feature of the park.

The "Oakland" house was furnished with rare and valuable objects brought from Europe and the East by the ships of Gibbs & Channing. When Miss Gibbs died, in the closets and bureau drawers were found an accumulation of laces, gloves, scarfs and silks, which she enjoyed gathering, but seldom used.

Of the two sons of George Gibbs (II.), the younger, *William Channing Gibbs* married Mary Kane, of the

[1] See "Notes," page 184, Chapter XI.

well-known New York family of that name; his son, Theodore Kane Gibbs, was a major in the Civil War and for many years treasurer of Grace Church, New York. See page 57, on which will be found record of our Governor Gibbs's Cousins.

GEORGE GIBBS (III.). Eldest son and fourth child of George (II.) and Mary Channing, was born in Newport, R. I., in 1776. He was educated at Yale College and married Laura Wolcott (born 1794), daughter of Oliver Wolcott, Jr., of Litchfield, Conn., and Elizabeth Stoughton. Laura was but fifteen years of age at the time of her marriage. Extended reference to this remarkable woman will be found beginning on page 21. For account of the Wolcott connection through my grandmother, see "The Wolcott Family."

George Gibbs in early life was sent to China as supercargo in one of the ships of Gibbs and Channing, as his father intended that his son should succeed him in his business. However, a life of cultivated leisure attracted the young man strongly and upon returning from China he went to Europe, where he spent some years in study. While in France he had the opportunity of meeting many important and interesting people of the Directoire, among whom may be mentioned Mme. Recamier. He returned with a very fine collection of minerals, derived from the purchase of two noted European cabinets. The whole comprised over 10,000 specimens, making it, at the time the largest collection in America. With additions he made later it now

amounts to 20,000 specimens. Col. Gibbs, as he was known, deposited his collection at Yale College. Through his friend, Professor Benjamin Silliman, that Institution purchased it, in 1825, for $20,000. He continued throughout his lifetime to add to the collection and to engage in geological work to develop new mineral localities. Colonel Gibbs was the first to geologize systematically in the White Mountains. In 1816 Dr. Bigelow and his party found and followed the path cut through the thickets by Gibbs some years earlier.

On his marriage to Laura Wolcott in 1810, he purchased from the Delafield family a large estate, comprising about 40 acres, and a fine Colonial house, named "Sunswick," on Long Island near what was then called Hallett's Cove, and is now known as Astoria. The place was about opposite the northern end of Blackwell's Island (Welfare Island now). It is difficult today to picture this locality as a desirable residence district, but 125 years ago it was in fact a beautiful shore and a favorite spot for the fine country places of New York families, easily reached by the ferry or by sailing boats from the Battery, where the City was then clustered.[1] Here Colonel Gibbs devoted himself with great ardor and success to horticulture, and especially to the introduction and testing of new varieties of fruit. Meantime he kept up his scientific studies, accumulated a noble library, and exercised an abounding hospitality. For many years he offered prizes at Yale for superior

[1] See page 161 and photograph of the house, taken many years later.

attainment in mineralogy and for services rendered to science by useful discoveries and observation, and first suggested to Professor Silliman the publication of the well-known "American Journal of Science." Two of his sons as will be seen, inherited his scientific tastes.

Col. Gibbs's various activities and interests should be further mentioned.

He was elected Vice-President of the New York Lyceum of Natural History in 1822, and contributed many articles to the American Mineralogical Journal and to the American Journal of Science. He received the degree of M.A. from Brown University in 1800, and from Yale in 1808.

He was appointed Aide-de-Camp by the Governor of Rhode Island in 1804. His Societies were:

Member of the Royal Institution (England), 1807.
American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, 1810.
American Antiquarian Society, 1813.
American Academy of Arts and Sciences, 1813.
American Academy of Fine Arts, 1816.
Mineralogical Society of Dresden, Germany, 1816.
Newport Marine Society, 1819.
Agricultural Society of Florence, Italy, 1821.
Imperial Agricultural Society of Vienna, 1824.
New York Horticultural Society, 1824.
Linnean Society of Paris, 1826.
Massachusetts Horticultural Society, 1830.

His great interest in art induced a strong friendship with Gilbert Stuart; the acquaintance was made while Stuart was painting the portrait of Gibbs's father, about 1798.[1]

[1] See "Family Portraits," Chapter VIII.

When George Gibbs (III.) died in 1833, his widow, for the sake of improving educational facilities for her children sold "Sunswick" and moved to New York City.

LAURA WOLCOTT GIBBS. It is fitting that an extended reference be made to his wife, our grandmother, who was a remarkable woman and one who extended a wide and beneficent influence during a long life passed in New York. My recollections of her are, of course, only those of a child who lived in her house in Winthrop Place. I was naturally somewhat in awe of her but could not fail, even in my very early years, to feel that she was a wonderful personality. When she died in 1870, Dr. Henry W. Bellows, the great Unitarian clergyman thus wrote of her:

"One of the last links binding the present with the early and heroic period of our national history has parted. The daughter of Oliver Wolcott, a member of the cabinet of Washington, will carry into her tomb a store of vivid recollections of the men and the times when our national life was young and earnest, anxious and devoted — after having given in her own person and life one of the best illustrations of the spirit and character of the fathers. . . . Her earliest years were too thoroughly steeped in the memories and traditions of the great struggle that made us a nation, to allow her character to escape the most shaping and permanent effects from it. . . . The ancestral home for three generations must have been the resort of all the chief friends of the country and the cause, and Oliver Wolcott's daughter, the heiress of his vigorous intellect and decisive will, motherless from childhood, and taking her place in her early teens at the head of her father's table, must from very infancy have been more accustomed to the discussion of public questions and the sight of public men than to the prattle or the playthings belonging to the nursery. So fresh and active were these impressions that it was im-

possible to be in the company of Mrs. Gibbs for the shortest time without feeling that public questions, public interests and duties were her natural or inherited concern. . . . I always felt, in the presence of Mrs. Gibbs, as if I were talking with Oliver Wolcott himself, and saw in her self-reliant, self-asserting and independent manner and speech, an unmistakable copy of a strong and thoroughly individual character, forged in the hottest fires of national struggle. The intense individuality of her nature set her apart from others. You felt that she was a piece of the original granite on which the nation was built. It was very easy, from such a sample of the old stuff, to understand how the Revolution was accomplished. . . . Mrs. Gibbs brought down to our times in rare perfection these marks of our heroic age. She stood amid feeble, impressionable and plastic people, of which every society must be largely composed, like a rock that had been grooved and sculptured in some grander time. Nobody went to her for echoes of their own opinions or repetitions of the current notions of the day. But if you wanted to hear the truth plainly or even severely told,— if you wanted a strong independent judgment, — to feel the force of a vigorous nature, full of observation and reflection and common sense, brought to bear upon the matter in hand, where could you so certainly find it as in her presence? . . . Rectitude, veracity, a simple, natural faith and trust in great verities, with a noble scepticism for sentimental make-beliefs, self-reliance, with a fund of dry humor and sharp satire, marked her character. In the Civil War, she had the passionate patriotism of a young soldier. She lived in the news from day to day, and stimulated all about her to ceaseless labors and services. It was not unusual for her to rebuke, even as she went along her outdoor visits to the butcher or the grocer, any expressions of an unpatriotic character that chanced to meet her ear. And thus she exercised, through her genuine earnestness of conviction, a positive political influence among the working-class in her own neighborhood. They respected, after long acquaintance, her strength of judgment and reason, her uprightness and downrightness, her simplicity of manners and courage of deportment and speech, and treated her like that almost extinct personage, the Lady of the Manor.

"It must not be inferred, from the emphasis laid upon the strong points in her character, that Mrs. Gibbs was deficient in tenderness and gentleness of heart. She had been a devoted and affectionate wife; she was a fond mother and warm friend. Those who knew



MRS. GEORGE GIBBS III (LAURA WOLCOTT)

FROM A MINIATURE

her most intimately would probably insist that the largeness, depth, and self-sacrifice shown in her heart was her most striking grace and glory. To all, a certain magnanimity and grandeur of feeling must have been apparent. Constant and persistent in her friendships, painstaking and wise in her charities, she was an excellent woman, doing good as she had an opportunity, in an unostentatious and secret way. Few people, I heard one say who had the best opportunities of knowing, have made as good a use of a long life in the way of steady, quiet service to the poor and the sick and the unfortunate, or in the exercise of sound and restraining counsel. It was not merely her strength of mind and her play of wit that drew so large a circle of friends about her, but her essential goodness of heart, reliableness of friendship, and the worth and weight of her sympathy.

"Widowed at an early period of her life, she brought up her family in such a way that her strong will neither hampered their independence nor weakened their union. It was delightful to see how rigorously she kept her house and home upon the footing on which her husband left it — a centre for all her children, ever the resort of the best and most marked people, herself always the jealous head of the family; hospitable, able, and wise in her administration, and the object of a venerating and yet a most companionable intercourse with her children. I rarely entered her doors without finding some interesting visitor there. She seemed to exercise to the last a powerful attraction for all superior spirits.

"I have thought it a duty to take this brief public view of the feelings aroused by the death of this strong woman, who represented so much of the past history of the country. I beg seriously to commend her example to the consideration of those who think the home and the family a small sphere for a woman to occupy. She proved how large, how decisive, how excellent may be a woman's sway who merely improves her domestic and social opportunities. She was one of the heirs of the great women who matched our Revolutionary sires, and who did their full part in achieving and consolidating our liberties, without once deserting the woman's place, or imagining her sphere to be contracted. May her death add a fresh sense to the lesson her worthy and vigorous life inspired."

It is necessary to make only a few additions to the admirable characterization of my grandmother made

by Dr. Bellows. He has referred to her intense interest in the Civil War; tales of her special interest in the welfare of the sick and wounded might be cited from the recollections of members of the family. She was a strong abolitionist and used to hide negro slaves in her cellar at 261 Greene Street (renamed Winthrop Place). Even in New York City it was the custom to hunt down these refugees, and houses where they were suspected of being concealed were marked by a cross in chalk; Mrs. Gibbs, when she found such a mark would go down at night and remove it. Her love of beautiful objects and her own artistic gift should be enlarged upon. She drew with pencil and charcoal and also painted in water colors extremely well. Partly from memory, partly from the study of other pictures, notably those of Trumbull, she executed in water color a portrait of Alexander Hamilton, which, having been engraved, remains one of the most generally admired portraits of Hamilton, and widely used for the illustration of books. It represents him in early manhood, with an expression of much vigor and liveliness, in every way in his happiest moments. I do not know what became of the original, but the engraving from it is frequently met with and bears the name, "L. W. Gibbs, pinxit."

The furniture and paintings of the house in Winthrop Place, where Mrs. Gibbs lived so long, made a collection such as is rarely seen. Almost everything was an heirloom and recalled colonial times or the early

days of the Republic. In the dining-room was Clevenger's bust of Oliver Wolcott, his portrait and that of his wife by Trumbull, and the portraits of Laura Wolcott by Stuart and of Elizabeth Wolcott Gracie by Trumbull. Also, there were four Gilbert Stuarts,— of George Gibbs (II.); his wife, Mary Channing; his partner Captain Anthony; and one of Colonel George Gibbs. In the drawing-room hung one of the two sets of Stuart portraits of the first five presidents of the United States. The drawing-room furniture was bought, at the time of Gibbs's marriage, from Col. Humphrey, our first Minister to Spain, who disposed of much of his collection upon his return to America. This furniture, which is very beautiful, is Spanish Louis XVI; the set is now owned by Mrs. J. West Roosevelt. Among the many memorials of the Wolcott and Gibbs families, and of Washington and Hamilton, was Wolcott's commission as Secretary of the Treasury, signed by Washington and Randolph, and a silver wine-cooler given to him by Washington when he retired from the presidency. There was also a gold locket containing a lock of Washington's hair. This was cut by Mrs. Washington and presented to Mrs. Wolcott, from whom it has descended to George Gibbs (V.). This interesting collection has been dispersed among the descendants of George and Laura Wolcott Gibbs.

George Gibbs (III.) and Laura Wolcott Gibbs had seven children, as follows:

George (IV.), born July 17, 1815, died April 9,

1873; married Mary Kane Gibbs, his cousin, daughter of Gov. Wm. Channing Gibbs.

Mary, died in infancy.

Elizabeth Wolcott, born July 8, 1819; died August 25, 1906, married Lucius Tuckerman, April 2, 1844.

Oliver Wolcott, born February 21, 1822; died December 9, 1908; married Josephine Mauran.

Alfred, born April 22, 1823; died December 26, 1868; married Peggy Forshee Blair, of Richmond, Va.

Laura Wolcott, born August 12, 1827; died December 1, 1908; married Marie Theophile d'Oremieulx.

Francis Sarason, born June 24, 1831; died December 27, 1882; married Eliza Gay Hosmer.

These children should be referred to at length:

GEORGE GIBBS (IV.), the eldest, was born in "Sunswick," Astoria, N. Y. He was educated at the Round Hill School at Northampton, Mass., then in charge of George Bancroft, the historian, and Joseph S. Cogswell, who was afterwards librarian of the Astor Library. He graduated in law at Harvard in 1838, and practiced his profession in the office of Prescott Hall in New York City. But literary and scientific tastes led him in other directions. He acted as librarian of the New York Historical Society from 1842 to 1848. In 1848 he accompanied the Mounted Rifles in their march across the continent. Resident at Olympia, Washington Territory, he was appointed in 1854 Collector of the Port of Astoria by President Fillmore, and was also attached as geologist to the United States

Boundary Commission. In connection with this assignment he was engaged, under Capt. George B. McClellan, Commanding the Western Division of the "Northern Pacific Railroad Expedition," to make a geological survey of the Cascade Mountains and the Olympian peninsular country. In 1857 he was appointed a member of the Boundary Commission. While in the Far West he studied intensively the Indian dialects and manners and was considered an outstanding authority in these subjects; his reports and papers are now in the Smithsonian Institution. He returned to the East to become Secretary to the Hudson Bay Commission at Washington. Civil War broke out in 1861 and he helped to defend the national capital and to suppress the draft riots in New York. He aided the Smithsonian Institution in arranging manuscript reports on the ethnology and philology of the Indian tribes, largely made up of his own contributions to the Institution. Receiving from his mother the custody of the papers of Oliver Wolcott, he wrote the Memoirs of the "Administrations of Washington and Adams," edited from the papers of his grandfather, Oliver Wolcott (1846). Among his other published papers are "Instructions for Research Relative to the Ethnology and Philology of America" (1863); "A Dictionary of the Chinook Jargon or Trade Language of Oregon" (1863); "Comparative Vocabularies" (1863); and "Suggestions Relative to Objects of Scientific Investigation in Russian America" (1867). He was married late in

life (in 1871) to Mary Kane Gibbs, his cousin, daughter of Governor William Channing Gibbs and Mary Kane. After his death in New Haven, Conn., in 1873, our Cousin Mary married the Rev. Mr. Brewster, of New Haven. She had possessed many fine old Gibbs and Wolcott family relics — furniture, silverware, books, etc. These she left at her death in 1876 to Mr. Brewster, but after his death his children returned the heirlooms to our family.

The following gives additional facts of interest regarding George Gibbs's (IV.) life, and is abstracted from a paper by John Austin Stevens, read before the New York Historical Society, October 7, 1873.

In the account Stevens gives, will be noticed some amplified statements of facts already briefly set down in this Record, but the historical value of his paper, and its interest, remain.

"George Gibbs, so long familiar to the members of this Society as its unwavering and faithful friend, and for many years its Librarian and Custodian, has passed from the scenes of his busy and useful life.

"The son of Colonel George Gibbs, of the Newport, R. I., family of that name, and of Laura Wolcott, he was born on the 17th of July, 1815, at Sunswick, Long Island, near the village of Hallett's Cove, now known as Astoria. His father was a man of singular culture and talent. Brilliant in conversation, polished in manners, and of large and various experience of men and life, Colonel Gibbs was one of the marked men of his day, and his large mansion at Sunswick was the seat of a broad and elegant hospitality rarely to be met with in this country at that time. As an instance of the extent of this hospitality, it may be stated that during the cholera summer of 1832, several families found refuge here and at the lodge during the whole time of the pestilence. The beautiful mansion, with its front upon

the East River at one of its most picturesque points, and its rear opening upon a broad inward landscape of fertile farm-fields, was then one of the landmarks of the river. And its stone descent from the terrace to the shore still marks the old house, which is now occupied as the Convent of the Sacred Heart. In Colonel Gibbs's day fine horses and dogs were always to be found about a gentleman's residence. Passionately fond of field sports, he was constantly at the south side of Long Island, where deer and small game were then the certain reward of the day's hunt, and his son was often his companion. For access to the city he had for years a small yacht which he styled the 'Laura.' His gardens were celebrated for the character and abundance of their splendid crops. To these, as to all that he touched, Colonel Gibbs brought the resources of his well-stored mind. Within was his fine library, abounding in the works of the best authors, and in many tongues. These incidents in the life of the father are alluded to here as having a direct bearing upon the career of the son.

"The mother of George Gibbs was Laura Wolcott, daughter of Oliver Wolcott, the Secretary of the Treasury under Washington and the elder Adams, one of the fathers of the country. It is not needful in this city, where her true, brave character, her well-stored and independent mind are still fresh in remembrance, to dwell upon the influence of such training upon her rising family. The original purpose of Col. Gibbs was to give his son a West Point education and to fit him for an army career; — this and the navy were at that time considered as the only true occupations for the sons of gentlemen. As a preliminary step he was sent to the Round Hill school, at Northampton, Massachusetts, then kept by Mr. George Bancroft, the historian, and Mr. Cogswell, the late learned and distinguished Superintendent of the Astor Library. At seventeen, it having been found impossible to secure for the youth an appointment to the Military Academy — political favor then, as now, being indispensable to success — he was taken to Europe by his maiden aunt, Miss Sarah Gibbs, and for two years enjoyed the advantage of foreign travel.

"On his return to New York he entered the law office of the late Prescott Hall, and by degrees attached himself to his profession and engaged in such practice as he could obtain. With this agreeable and genial gentleman he continued the most friendly and intimate relations until his death. A great part of his time, however, he passed in the country. His early taste for an outdoor life always clung to him.

Shooting and fishing were his favorite amusements, diversified with a practical and useful attention to geology and natural history.

"He loved politics also. Ardent in all that he engaged in, he soon found himself occupied in a history of the times of Washington and Adams, and a vindication of the policy of his grandfather as Secretary of the Treasury and a member of the cabinet of John Adams. The hot feud between the Federalists and the Republicans had not died out, and the young polemic took up the 'burning brand,' which in those days was indeed passed on from sire to son as thoroughly as ever by Scottish partisan in Scottish feud. To use his own words, Mr. Gibbs 'felt himself not only the vindicator, but in some sort the avenger of a bygone party and a buried race.'

"This work occupied a great part of his time. He embraced in it the correspondence of Oliver Wolcott, and it stands today as text-book of the history of the day — as an unquestioned authority upon the personages and the politics of that stirring period. It is written in strong nervous style, with great clearness and simplicity. This publication, under the title of 'The Memoirs of the Administration of Washington and Adams, edited from the papers of Oliver Wolcott, Secretary of the Treasury,' was printed in 1846, in two volumes octavo.

"In 1848 an event occurred which strangely affected the minds of all those restless spirits who chafed under the confinement of city life, and yearned for the freedom of nature. Gold fields were discovered in California. Dissatisfied with the dull routine of a sluggish practice, and urged on by his unwearied taste for practical scientific research, Mr. Gibbs took advantage of an occasion which the march of the Mounted Rifles overland from St. Louis to California afforded him, and accompanied them to Oregon, where he established himself at Columbia.

"When Mr. Fillmore succeeded to the Presidency of the United States, Mr. Gibbs received, in 1854, the appointment of Collector of the port of Astoria, which he held during his administration. Later he removed from Oregon to Washington Territory, and settled upon a ranch a few miles from Fort Steilacoom, at a small settlement called by the same name. Here he had his headquarters for several years, devoting himself to the study of the Indian languages, and to the collection of vocabularies and traditions of the north-western tribes. During a great part of the time he was attached to the United States Government Commission in laying the boundary as the geol-

ogist or botanist of the expedition. Each Commission in turn sought eagerly for the aid of his practical experience, his varied and extensive acquirements, and the comfort of his brave, cheerful, genial nature. He was specially attached as geologist to the survey of a railroad route to the Pacific under Major, afterwards General Stevens. His associates on this expedition were Drs. George Suckley and S. G. Cooper, as naturalists, to whose reports Mr. Gibbs made large contributions.

"In 1857 he was appointed to the northwest boundary survey, under Mr. Archibald Campbell as commissioner, with General J. G. Parke, as chief engineer, and after the close of the survey prepared an elaborate report on the geology and natural history of the country.

"In 1860 Mr. Gibbs returned to New York, not intending to remain permanently. The outbreak of the war, however, brought with it other occupations and other duties. Too uncertain in health for continuous service, and even then laboring under the painful disease which finally brought him down, he threw himself with his strong character, his great perseverance, and his abundant energy, into the service of the Union in another form. He was an early and active member of the Loyal National League, which did so much to crystalize public opinion in the second year of the war, and also of the Loyal Publication Society, which distributed such masses of tracts and healthy patriotic literature over the whole country. Of great personal bravery, he was always ready to expose life in defence of principle. In Washington, during the dark hours of March and April, 1861, he took his musket and went upon duty to guard the Capitol at the first sign of danger. And in the New York riots he sought the place of greatest peril, and volunteered for the defence of the house of General Fremont, when a night attack was threatened.

"Later he resided in Washington, and was mainly employed in the Hudson Bay Claims Commission, to which he was secretary. He was also engaged in the arrangement of a large mass of manuscript bearing upon the ethnology and philology of the American Indians. His services were availed of by the Smithsonian Institution to superintend its labors in this field, and to his energy and complete knowledge of the subject it greatly owes its success to this branch of service.

"He published, some years since, a series of the vocabularies of the Clammal, and Lummi and Chinook languages, and of the Chinook jargon, besides other tracts of a similar kind; and at the time of his

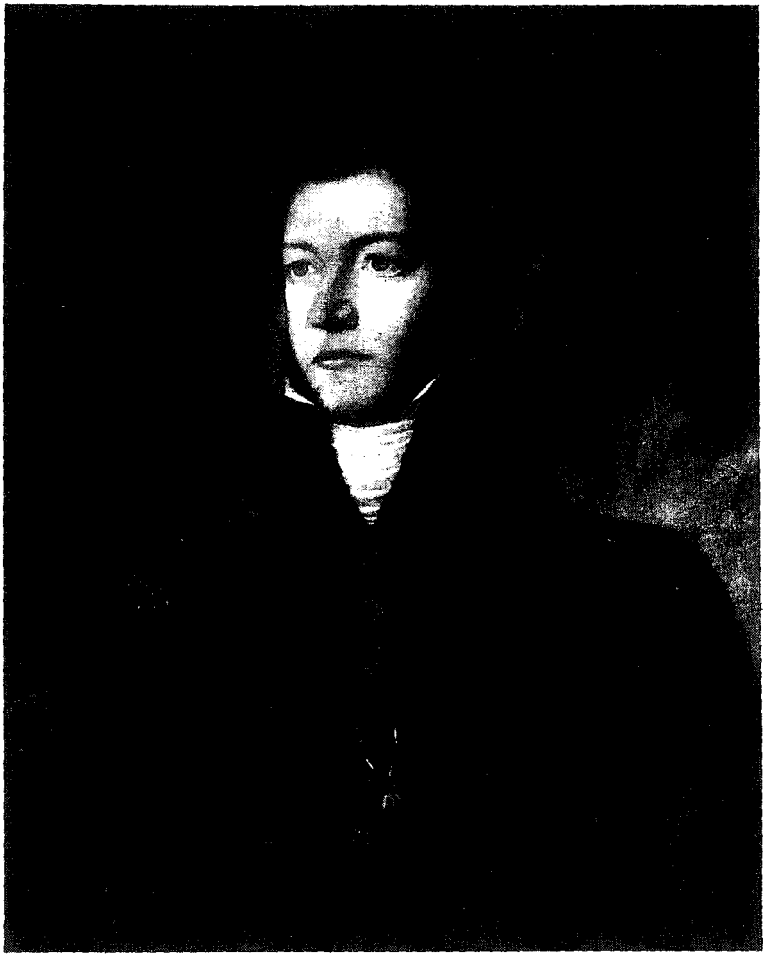
death was engaged in superintending the printing for the Smithsonian Institution of a quarto volume of American Indian vocabularies, and had fortunately arranged and carefully criticized many hundred series before his death. His large collection of papers on the Indian languages, of translations of many and curious legends, all of incalculable value to science, has been bequeathed to the Smithsonian Institute; his numerous maps and charts to the Geographical Society, and such of his books as were suitable for the purpose to this Society.

"To whatever work Mr. Gibbs was engaged he devoted his whole heart and every energy he possessed. This Historical Society owes its present prosperity as much to his aid as to that of any person. Its revival, in 1840, was largely owing to his determined efforts,— its Librarian for six years, from 1842 to 1848, and long a leading member of the Executive Committee and Library Committee, he never wearied in his efforts to promote its prosperity."

ELIZABETH WOLCOTT GIBBS was born at Sunswick in 1819. She married Lucius Tuckerman, a well-born young Bostonian, the son of Rev. Joseph Tuckerman, a well-known Unitarian clergyman of that town. In early life Lucius Tuckerman came to New York, and rose to be a successful business man and well-known patron of art. Lucius Tuckerman and Aunt Eliza had nine children,[1] of whom only one, Paul, is now living.

The Tuckermans, who had lived in New York City for many years, left 220 Madison Avenue in 1887 to take up residence in Washington, D. C., where they had built a beautiful house at 1600 I Street; this for many years was a center of social activities. During the summers they lived in Stockbridge, Mass. (from 1870), where they bought a large estate which they

[1] See genealogical Table, Chapter X, for list of the children.



GEORGE GIBBS III

FROM JOHN VANDERLYN PORTRAIT

called "Ingleside;" this was a fine place and contained beautiful and extensive gardens. Upon Aunt Eliza's death in Stockbridge, my cousin Emily Tuckerman sold Ingleside and bought in 1908 the old Dwight house, which she restored and furnished in exquisite taste; since her death this place has passed out of the family.

My aunt was a sweet and cultivated woman who devoted her life to her husband and children. As a boy and young man I was frequently a guest in her house in New York, at Stockbridge and in Washington; they were an unusual family of representative old-school ladies and gentlemen of the best type.

OLIVER WOLCOTT GIBBS, best known as Wolcott Gibbs, fourth child and second son of George and Laura (Wolcott) Gibbs, was the most distinguished of their sons, and is spoken of in the "American Journal of Science" as "the most commanding figure in American Chemistry." Many accounts of his life by men able to estimate his work are to be found published; certain of these are given in Chapter IX, and a bibliography of the many papers and press notices will also be there found. He was graduated at Columbia, A.B. 1841, A.M. 1844, and at the College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1845. Then he studied chemistry at the University of Berlin in the laboratories of Rose and Rammelsberg and subsequently spent five months with Liebig in Giessen, and attended

courses of lectures on physics in the College of France in Paris. Returning to America he was lecturer on chemistry at Delmore College, Newark, Delaware, 1848; professor of chemistry and physics at the New York Free Academy (afterwards the College of the City of New York) (1849-63); Rumford professor and lecturer on the application of science to the useful arts, Harvard, 1863-87; and was made professor emeritus in 1887. He was a member of the executive committee of the United States Sanitary Commission in New York during the Civil War, and was a founder of the Century and Union League Clubs, New York City (see page 154). Dr. Gibbs was elected an honorary member of the American Chemical Society; first American honorary member of the Royal Academy of Sciences of Berlin; a charter member of the National Academy of Sciences (American), and served as its foreign secretary, vice-president, and later as its president; vice-president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1866, and president in 1896. In 1873 he was appointed United States Commissioner to the Vienna Exposition, which was held that year. He received the honorary degree of LL.D. from Columbia in 1873 and from Harvard in 1888. Shortly before his death, at the time when age prevented his leaving home, he received the degree of LL.D. "in absentia" from the University of Pennsylvania. The list of the honors he had received is well covered in Dr. Richter's paper (Chapter IX.). It should also

be mentioned that on the fine bronze doors of the new National Academy building at Washington his portrait will be found as representing the National leader in "Chemistry," with the figure of Rowland representing "Physics," Dana "Geology" and Newcomb "Astronomy" in adjoining panels. His many contributions to the American Journal of Science, the American Chemical Journal and the Proceedings of the Academy of Arts and Sciences include papers on various subjects, both in chemistry and physics.

He was for a number of years engaged upon a remarkable series of researches on "Complex Inorganic Acids" (1877 to 1890) and was a pioneer in this field. After his death his old students, his friends and his family, raised a fund to build and endow the "Wolcott Gibbs Memorial Laboratory" at Harvard University. This fine building was opened in January, 1913.

I shall not further here enlarge upon Wolcott Gibbs's career and attainments, as these are covered in the references to him to be found later, especially in the admirable paper by Dr. Richter, and the one by Miss Powel.[1]

My attachment to my uncle was as close as that of a son to his father; he was my mentor throughout my mature life. I cannot here give an adequate estimate of this great man's personal qualities; these and his professional work have been set forth elsewhere by his associates, but some indication of the extent of his

[1] See Chapter IX.

scientific attainments may be drawn from them. I would wish, however, to mention the sweetness and unselfishness of his character, his modesty and dislike of sham and self-advertising which were outstanding characteristics of the man; he especially scorned to attach his name to certifications or testimonials which had a commercialized object; for this reason, perhaps, his name was not widely known among laymen, who are influenced in their estimates of men by newspaper publicity.

Wolcott Gibbs married in 1853, Josephine Mauran, who died 1887, leaving no issue. They adopted her nephew and niece — Cornelius Grinnell Betton and Elizabeth Lane Betton, who lived with them as far back as I can remember, and whom I regarded as my beloved cousins. Elizabeth Betton is living; Neil died in May, 1901. My aunt, known in the family as Aunt Phine, was one of the most brilliant, talented and fascinating women of her day. She was a passionate music lover and herself a beautiful singer and fine pianist. To the day of her death, when she had been almost blind for years, she could play the most difficult music from memory. It was part of the delightful daily routine at her house, both in Cambridge and at Newport, for her to accompany Neil Betton at the violin and also Sally Norton (daughter of Prof. Norton) when she was available. This lovely woman I regarded as a second mother during the many years when it was my good fortune to spend much time in her house.

ALFRED GIBBS, third son of George Gibbs(III.), was born at Sunswick. He was educated at White Plains, N. Y., and afterwards passed a year or two at Dartmouth College, entering West Point in 1842 and graduated in 1846. His first appointment was Brevet Second Lieutenant of Mounted Rifles. He served in the war with Mexico, 1846-1848 and fought in the siege of Vera Cruz and in the battles of Cerro Gordo, Contreras, Churubusco, Chapultepec, and the City of Mexico. He was breveted First Lieutenant April 18, 1847, and Captain, September 13, 1847, for gallant conduct at Garita de Belem, City of Mexico. After the Mexican War he was chiefly stationed in New Mexico, and was severely wounded in a campaign against the Apaches. July 8, 1861, he was captured by Texas insurgents and paroled until exchanged August 27, 1862. Having served during the War of Secession from 1862 to 1866 as Colonel of the 130th New York Volunteers and First New York Dragoons, and having taken part in a great number of engagements, he was breveted Major June 11, 1864, for gallant and meritorious services at the Battle of Winchester, Va. He received subsequently four more brevets for conduct and services, became in succession, Brigadier-General of Volunteers, Brevet Colonel U.S.A., Brevet Brigadier General U.S.A., March 13, 1865. After the war he served chiefly on the frontier.

A few years before the Civil War he married Peggy Forshee Blair, member of a large and distinguished

Richmond, Va., family. Many of her male relatives were in the Confederate Army, and she found herself obliged to live in the North whilst her husband, known to them as "Bridge-burning Gibbs," was raiding the country where he had courted her. She was a very lovely person, and during these four terrible years of the war lived in perfect harmony with her in-law relatives.

I have no recollection of ever having seen Uncle Alfred; during the war he was, of course, away from New York City, and afterwards was stationed in the West until his death. My aunt I was very fond of and made long visits at her home in New Brunswick, N. J., where my two favorite cousins grew up to manhood. General Gibbs died at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, December 26, 1868, leaving two sons. Mrs. Gibbs, born 1831, died February 25, 1908, in Richmond, Va.

Alfred W. Gibbs, the eldest son, was born October 27, 1856, and died at Philadelphia, May 9, 1922. He graduated at Stevens Institute of Technology, Class 1878, as Mechanical Engineer. For his entire professional life he was engaged in the machinery and motive power department of various railways, but for the last thirty years of his life, with the Pennsylvania Railroad Company as Master Mechanic, Mechanical Engineer, General Superintendent of Motive Power, and, lastly, Chief of Motive Power of the entire system. Of exceptionally sound judgment, he was a valuable official and a man of fine character, universally beloved by a

host of friends. I was very close to him personally and professionally; his death was a great blow to me. He married in 1890 Marianne Skelton of Richmond, Va., who is living. They had one child, a daughter, who married Lee L. Layton, of Dover, Del.

John Blair Gibbs, younger son of General Gibbs, was born in 1858. He was graduated from Rutgers College in 1878, and then took the medical course at the University of Pennsylvania. After graduating he spent two years at Vienna, under Bilroth, a great surgeon. Returning to New York City, he became house-surgeon at Bellevue Hospital and acquired a successful private practice. A man of great modesty and a keen sense of humor, he was beloved by his patients and large circle of friends. Blair, as he was known, never married. When the War with Spain broke out he was among the first to volunteer and to be sent to the front, landing at Guantanamo with the advance expedition. His tent, unfortunately, soon became a mark for the enemy. While arranging his instruments and supplies within, bullets pierced the canvas. Saying, "I am not going to be shot in here," he stepped outside and stood facing the line of attack, and in another moment fell mortally wounded, the first officer, if not the first man, to fall in the war. In New York, the desire for a fuller expression of sympathy, not only among his friends but by the public, resulted in a memorial service at Trinity Church, the large attendance at which testified to the widespread regret felt at his death. A bronze tablet was

erected in his memory in the Chapel at Rutgers College:

JOHN BLAIR GIBBS, M.D.
ASSISTANT SURGEON UNITED STATES ARMY
BORN SEPTEMBER TWENTY-FIFTH, 1858
GRADUATED RUTGERS COLLEGE 1878
KILLED IN BATTLE, JUNE TWELFTH, 1898
AT GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA
ERECTED BY HIS CLASSMATES, A.D. 1898

The tablet was unveiled on "Founders' Day" at the College, in the presence of a large assemblage of College men and Naval officers.[1]

LAURA WOLCOTT, daughter of George Gibbs (III.), married Theophile Marie d'Oremieulx, descendant of an old Royalist family of Picardi, France. His father had been imprisoned in the Luxembourg prison during the Revolution; his two brothers aided Charles X. to escape to England. The French Revolution having impoverished the family, the young man came to this country with excellent letters of introduction and was immediately appointed Assistant Professor of French at West Point, where he lived for 18 years. He was a very popular man with the Army, counting many of the Generals and higher officers among his friends. In 1853 occurred his marriage to Miss Laura Wolcott Gibbs. When he brought his bride to the West Point Academy a dinner was given in their honor by Colonel Robert E. Lee, then superintendent.

[1] A full account of the proceedings will be found in the Rutgers College paper, *"The Targum,"* November 17, 1898.



FRANCIS S. GIBBS

FROM A DAGUERREOTYPE

As he handed Mrs. d'Oremieulx to her seat beside him she exclaimed at the sight of four silver jardinieres on the table, which were very familiar to her, as her grandfather, Oliver Wolcott, Secretary of the Treasury under Washington, had left one exactly like them to her mother. "These four," said Colonel Lee, "are of a set of six; they are really wine-coolers, meant for two bottles each. I inherited four and the other two Washington presented, one to General Hamilton, the other to Governor Wolcott!" At a large reception in New York given to General Philip Sheridan after the War, Sheridan, as he caught sight of d'Oremieulx, exclaimed, "Well, Dorry, I taught you a lot of English, but I'll be hanged if you could ever teach me any French!"

Uncle Dorry, when I knew him, was a fine-looking old man, with a handsome face and courteous manner. His hobby was work with the microscope; I remember, as a boy, looking with awe at the fine instruments with which he conducted his researches.

Aunt Laura, was an accomplished linguist and musician — in fact, one of the best amateur pianists in New York — a remarkable daughter of a remarkable mother. When the Civil War broke out she joined Miss Louisa Lee Schuyler, Miss Ellen Collins, Mrs. Wm. Preston Griffin and Mrs. Wm. B. Rice in forming the Woman's Central Relief Association, which became the central source of medical and surgical supplies for the whole country.[1] During her whole life she was

[1] See "Sanitary Commission," page 156.

greatly interested in hospital work and helped start the Bellevue Training School for Nurses, modeled upon the work of Florence Nightingale in England; this was the first attempt in this country to train women for the profession of nursing, a movement which, at the start, met with much vigorous opposition from the doctors of that day. She also helped Miss Schuyler in her efforts to alleviate the condition of the insane in the State of New York. Until her death at 81 she was alert and active, keeping up her interest in public affairs, in music, and in her very large circle of friends.

A son, *Leon Francisque*, was born November 13, 1854, and died at Oyster Bay, July 28, 1899. He married Helen L. H. Granbery, leaving no issue.

A daughter, *Laura Henriette d'Oremieulx*, born January 7, 1858, is living; she married Dr. J. West Roosevelt, February 26, 1884. He died April 10, 1898. They had six children of whom three are living, viz., Lorraine, born January 1, 1887, married Langdon Warner May 10, 1910; Oliver Wolcott, born November 27, 1891; married Grace Temple Olmstead; his second wife is Mary de Verdery Akin, of Atlanta, Ga. Nicholas, the younger son was born June 12, 1893, and is now U. S. Minister to Hungary. Laura Roosevelt is my favorite cousin and is likewise a great favorite in a very large circle of friends; she is a worthy daughter of her talented mother, a charming woman, and a fine musician and linguist.

FRANCIS SARASON GIBBS, my father, was the youngest child of George Gibbs (III.). He was born at Sunswick, and was a handsome and attractive man of lovable character. At the age of 20 he was sent to China, accredited to the house of Wolcott, Bates & Company, Canton, and was appointed their resident agent in Shanghai. He sailed from New York in March, 1851, and arrived in San Francisco (via Panama) on May 5th, thence he went to Portland, Oregon, to meet his brother, George, and finally left for the Orient on October 3rd, arriving at Canton, China, in December, where he spent two years. His position was obtained through his relative, Henry D. Wolcott, member of the firm, which conducted an extensive shipping business to Shanghai, Bombay, Madras, Calcutta, Penang, Batavia and Manila. My father's later years were spent in New York City and at Nyack, N. Y., from 1871. He was engaged for the greater part of his life in the grain exporting business. Failure of the English firm, with whom he and his partner, Mr. Ledoux, of New Orleans, had large shipments on consignment, caused in turn their failure, and thus left my father in straitened circumstances during the last years of his life.

On June 6, 1860, he married Eliza Gay Hosmer, (born October 27, 1836; died November 24, 1885), daughter of Oliver Ellsworth Hosmer and Nancy Post Hawes, of New York. An account of the genealogy of the Hosmer family will be found elsewhere. My

mother, who was a beautiful woman, was obliged to travel much for her health during many years. Her children were with her in California for two years, and we received our early education there at Santa Barbara. She was a woman of fine, strong character; I feel that I owe much of such success as I have had in life to traits inherited from her. She had four children:

George Gibbs (V.), born April 19, 1861, unmarried and living.

Annie M. Gibbs, born December 16, 1862, died unmarried March 5, 1922, in Florence, Italy, where she is buried in the English and American cemetery.

Laura Wolcott Gibbs, born in New York City, October 8, 1865; married Wm. H. Miller (born October 15, 1862) of Milwaukee, Wis., September 6, 1891. He died September 23, 1923. Laura has three children:

Marjorie, born July 4, 1892, married W. F. Peterson, December 1, 1917, living in Baltimore, Md.

Anne McLean, born January 2, 1894; married October 7, 1915, George Holden; married October 8, 1926, Joseph McGrath.

Constance, born August 2, 1896, married October 15, 1919, Robert N. Williams.

Both Anne and Constance are living in Milwaukee.

Lucius Tuckerman Gibbs, born February 14, 1869, married Angelica Singleton Duer, April 7, 1901. He died in Baltimore, Md., January, 1909, where he held the position of Chief Electrical Engineer of the Baltimore & Ohio Railway Company. He had two chil-

dren, *Wolcott*, born March 15, 1902, married Elizabeth Crawford 1929, who died 1930; married Elinor Mead Sherwin, November 1933. *Angelica*, born June 7, 1908, married Robert Canfield on June 7, 1932.

GEORGE GIBBS (V.). My excuse for setting down here at some length an autobiographical sketch must be that this Record is of a very personal character, and that I take pride in being a member of an old and representative New England family; also that my immediate family may wish to have the Record brought up to date in one of the name.

Throughout a long and active life I have been fortunate in having good friends, and owe much to the careful bringing up by a good mother who taught me the importance of faithfulness in the performance of responsibilities. Inherited qualities determined the direction of my career in life; thus, several generations of the Gibbs had been fond of the natural sciences — chemistry and mineralogy; these leanings in my case took the form of a fondness for engineering — a specialized department of the natural sciences,— largely, furthermore, because it afforded a practical and congenial direction in which to earn a livelihood.

I graduated in 1882 from Stevens Institute of Technology, one of the earliest engineering colleges in the country, and was among the first of its graduates. Generally speaking, this Institution trained men for *mechanical* engineering, but in reality its course of study aimed to lay a general foundation for all engineering,

as then known. This was fortunate, as the first work I was able to secure was as laboratory assistant to Thomas A. Edison, and the duties were chiefly chemical and electrical,— not mechanical.

After some months with Edison I was sent by him to become Superintendent of Meters in the World's first Central power station, in Pearl Street, New York. This position, after the necessary routine had become established, offered to a restless young man few opportunities; therefore the pressure of necessity (my father had then died, leaving my mother and three children to be supported), led me to take the more important position of Chief Chemist of the Orford Nickel & Copper Co., at Bergen Point, N. J.

Before my graduation from college, an intimate friend of my father's, Mr. Roswell Miller, had promised him to give me a position on his railroad — The Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul. Accordingly, he came forward with an offer which, I being a young man who was loath to leave the East, would not accept. But after two years of changing around jobs, I began, under pressure of necessity, to see where my real opportunity lay, so when Mr. Miller later renewed his offer, I promptly accepted it, packed up and went West to Milwaukee, Wis., to organize and assume charge of a new department of the railway — that of physical and chemical tests of materials used in the operation of the road. This was a most fortunate move in all respects, and laid the foundation of my future career.

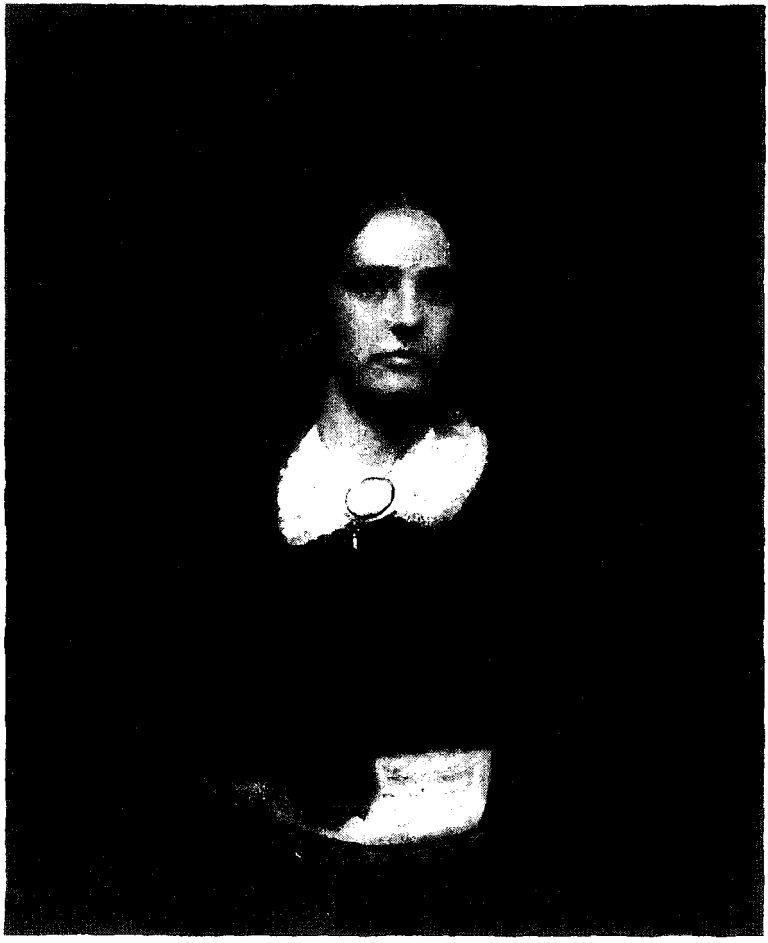
In explanation of this broad statement, it may be said that it was rare fifty years ago to find college-bred men in service on railways, especially in the West; the field of possible usefulness was wide, however, and not overcrowded; all that was necessary for success was a good educational grounding and a willingness to work hard to learn practical matters to which this grounding could be usefully applied. It was a great opportunity and I received a sympathetic welcome from the officers of the road in my endeavors to make a success of the place. I was given many problems to work out in the direction of improving safety and efficiency in operation; in fact "safety" in railway operation has been my chief concern during my professional life. To cover this broad field, I was soon advanced to the position of Mechanical Engineer of the Company, and placed, in addition to Chief of the Department of Tests, in charge of all machinery, locomotive and car designing. Perhaps the most far-reaching and important work given me at this early date (1885) was to devise a safe and practical method of heating trains, to displace the coal stoves in universal use in railway cars. This was an urgent commission, because of a particularly bad train accident on the road which resulted in wrecking and setting the cars afire and the death of a score or more passengers. After much experimentation, a practical steam heating system for trains was devised and adopted as the best solution for the entire road, making the St.

Paul the pioneer in a great advance in safety in railway operation.

For more complete protection of trains from fire, it remained necessary to abolish the use of kerosene oil lamps in the cars; I then designed as a substitute a system of electric lighting which could be practically applied for the heavy through trains; this proved a great success and came into extended use on that Road.

During these years in the West I was active on Committees of the various Mechanical and Operating Railway Associations, especially so in conducting tests of brakes for freight trains; tests of locomotives; improved signaling systems, etc., and became patentee of numerous inventions, notably in the direction of safety appliances; several of these inventions have since come into general use.

In the early '90's my brother Lucius, who was also of an inventive turn of mind, devised a practical line of electric motors for general factory use, and wished to form a small company to manufacture them. I raised among my friends the capital for the purpose and was obliged, in addition to my railway duties, to take the presidency of the company. This modest venture grew rapidly in importance and took the lead in these early days, of the larger companies in equipping steel mills, machine shops, etc., with electric motors applied to individual tools — quite a new departure in practice. My numerous responsibilities were, however, becoming burdensome and it was soon evident that I should



MRS. FRANCIS S. GIBBS (ELIZA HOSMER)

FROM A DAGUERREOTYPE

have to drop either the railway or the outside duties. At this juncture a solution of the difficulty presented itself; I had made the intimate acquaintance of two remarkable men, Mr. George Westinghouse and Mr. Samuel Vauclain,— the latter of the Baldwin Locomotive Works. They had come of the opinion that heavy electric traction might soon be a possibility and might thus become of great importance in their manufacturing fields. They approached me with an offer to become associated with them in the development of electric locomotives. The purchase by them of the Gibbs Electric Company made the acceptance of this offer possible; I severed my connection with the St. Paul Railway and went to live in Philadelphia. In this new work I was drawn more and more in intimate association with George Westinghouse, who became a very warm friend. The connection involved much travel with him personally in Europe, over about three years' time, and a residence in England for over a year, when he was extending his foreign manufacturing companies. I became, while retaining connection with the American Companies, Chief Engineer of his Companies in England, France, Germany, Austria and Russia. While there I prepared plans and estimates and carried out many projects for the electrification of railways; for instance, for the Mersey Railway (Liverpool and Cheshire); the Metropolitan (Inner Circle Railway) in London, one of the new tube railways in London; and was called in for consulting work on the

Paris Underground Railway, and many projects of the kind on the Continent. In work with the Baldwin Locomotive Works, I developed a type of electric locomotive for restricted head-room in mines, which has become the standard in America.

The starting of highly important engineering works in New York City, such as the great terminal project of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, the first City subway system, etc., caused another change in my professional activities; I came to New York and took the position of First Vice-President of Westinghouse, Church, Kerr & Company, Engineers, a well known firm who specialized in the design and execution of these large projects. This connection permitted me to take on independent consulting work; thus, from 1902 to 1906 I was Member of the Board of Engineers of the New York Central Railroad in the planning of the electric traction system for its new terminal; Consulting Engineer of the Rapid Transit Subway Construction Company, in charge of track, signal equipment and rolling stock for first New York City subway lines; Member of the Board of Engineers of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company in determining the design of its system of subaqueous tunnels which were a part of the great New York City terminal project of the Company.

While engaged on these highly important undertakings, I designed and obtained U. S. patents on the first all-steel passenger car ever put into practical use on a railway; a revolutionary idea at the time, but one

which seemed essential for high speed tunnel operation. The New York Subway adopted my plans and put into use initially 300 of this new type of car; the Long Island Railroad adopted it for its new electric lines into Brooklyn; and the New York Central Railroad did the same for its services into its new City terminal; and the Pennsylvania Railroad, seeing the success of the new car, determined to bar out all wooden cars from its new tunnels and terminal,— a very far reaching decision, as it meant the adoption of the steel car everywhere on its system. The result has been that today no more wooden cars are built, and very few remain in use anywhere on American railways.

It soon became evident to the Pennsylvania Railroad Co. officials that the design and execution of its great New York terminal project would require a responsible chief official on the ground, to coördinate and direct the multitude of construction operations and the handling of the very large expenditures involved. The President of the Road, Mr. A. J. Cassatt, therefore, asked me to sever my other connections and become Chief Engineer of the Terminal project (aside from the tunnel construction, which was under others). The work done in my office under this arrangement involved the expenditure of over $60,000,000. and required about four years' time for its completion in 1910.

Since leaving Milwaukee in 1897 I had become deeply involved, as will appear from the foregoing, in electric traction projects and was, in fact, identified

with the development of this art from its earliest and crude examples. To carry on in this special field, after the completion of the Pennsylvania Railroad Terminal, I formed a partnership with an old associate, Mr. E. R. Hill, as Consulting Engineers, and we have been responsible during the last 22 years for the design and execution of much of the heavy electric traction installations on American railways, and we have acted as Consulting Engineers for many railway companies.

I have personally also acted as Consulting Engineer at different times for English Railways — notably the Great Eastern Railway, and the Southern Railway in their terminal and traction problems.

The most important and far reaching electric traction project, in magnitude of the traffic and the money expenditure involved, undertaken in the world has been that of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company which has, by steps, completed the equipment of its main line from New York to Washington for electric operation of all services — passenger and freight. All of the designing, and the greater part of the construction work, has been done for the Railroad Company by my organization over the past ten years' time, and will eventually involve the expenditure of $100,000,000. This project will practically complete my professional work, up to the time of retirement at the age limit.

Aside from this brief statement of professional endeavor may be mentioned, perhaps, other activities engaged in and duties undertaken.

On the entry of the United States in the World War, I was appointed with the rank of an official of the State Department, a member of the "United States Railway Commission to Russia," and spent seven months in Russia (April to November, 1917). This Commission was sent, at the urgent solicitation of the Allies, to assist in keeping Russia in the War during this critical time by such reorganization of the transport facilities of that country as might be possible at the time. Broad powers were given us by our Government, and by the "Provisional Government" of Russia. Detailed examination of the 30,000 miles of the railways of Asiatic and European Russia were made. The main and important results of our mission were to encourage the Russians to maintain their *status quo* in the War during the Spring and Summer of 1917.

Membership in various technical Societies is as follows:

Member and Past Director, American Society of Civil Engineers. (Awarded Normal Medal in 1912.) (Awarded Wellington Medal in 1931.)

Member, British Institution of Civil Engineers.

Member, American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

Past President, American Institute of Consulting Engineers.

Fellow, American Institute of Electrical Engineers.

Member of Council, American Society for the Advancement of Science.

Member, American Railway Engineering Association.

Member, American Railway Association, and Past Chairman of the Electrical Section.
Member, American Mathematical Society.
Past President, Western Railway Club.
Member, New York Railway Club.

Author, over a period of many years, of numerous technical papers, published in the Proceedings of Societies and in the press.

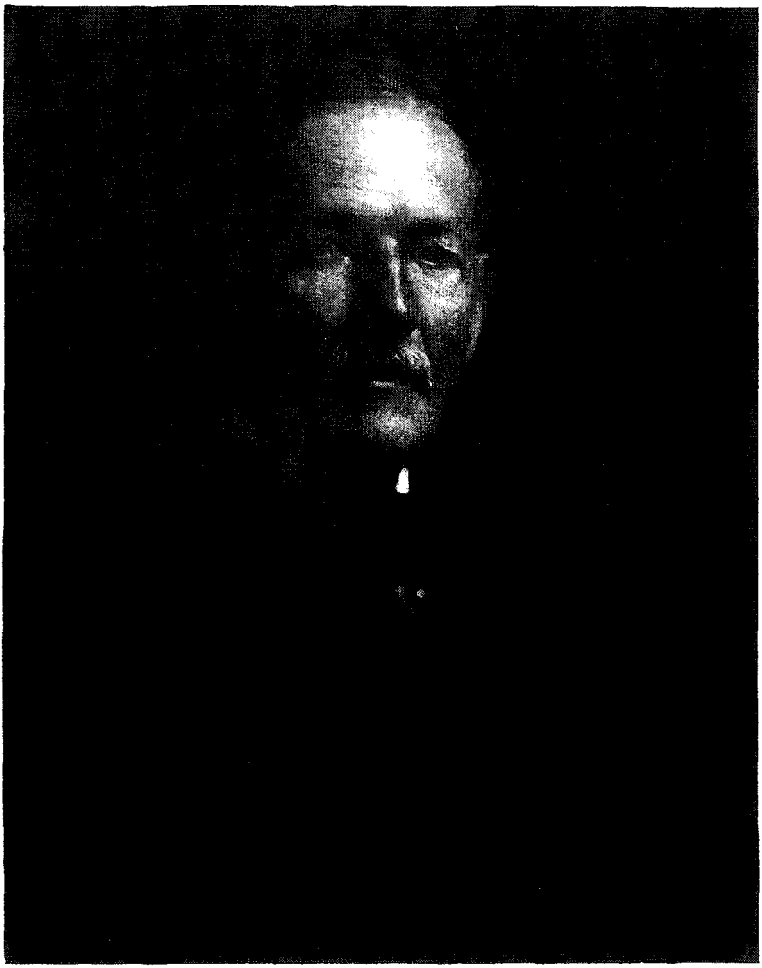
Membership in non-technical societies is:
Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence. (Great-great-grandson of Oliver Wolcott).
Society of the Cincinnati (Connecticut).
Member of numerous charitable and educational societies and institutions, chiefly in New York City. In charitable work, notably:
Trustee of the Presbyterian Hospital — Presbyterian-Columbia University Medical Centre.
Vice-President and Chairman of the Executive Committee, Women's Hospital in New York.
Life Trustee of Stevens Institute of Technology. In 1930 was given the honorary degree of Doctor of Engineering, with the following Citation:

"Mr. Chairman of the Board of Trustees:

I present to you for the degree of Doctor of Engineering, honoris causa,

GEORGE GIBBS

international authority on the electrification of railways; introducer of the all-steel car; during the Great War a member of the United States Railway Commission to Russia; for many years designer and



GEORGE GIBBS V

FROM LIFE

constructor of equipment mainly electrical, for the intricate surface, underground, and underwater arteries of travel that serve and control the concentrations of peoples and industries in the centers of population of this and other countries; human servant of the public through his effective participation in the direction of two great hospitals; a son of this college who has brought to it honor and affectionate service."

My Club membership is:

The Century Association, Past Trustee, New York
Union (Past Governor), New York
University, New York
Brook, New York
Down Town Association, New York
Rittenhouse (Philadelphia)
South Side Sportsmen's (Long Island)
Cascapedia Salmon Club, Canada

Chapter III.

THE WILLIAM CHANNING GIBBS

This branch, collateral in the present generation, of the family should be recorded, to give the line of descent of numerous cousins in the present generation, many of whom we have been intimate with.

GOV. WILLIAM CHANNING GIBBS, my great uncle, the ninth child of George Gibbs (II.) and Mary Channing, was born in 1789 and died in 1871, in his 82nd year. He was Governor of Rhode Island 1821-1824, spent his long life in Newport, and for some years lived in the fine old "Gibbs Mansion" of his father. In 1822 he married Mary Kane, daughter of Elias Kane of Albany, N. Y. They had eleven children. Four of the sons, — George William, Cornelius van Schellnyne, Frederick A. and Charles E., settled in San Francisco, California, and became prominent citizens of that State. Theodore Kane Gibbs, known as Major Gibbs, married Virginia G. Barret (no issue), daughter of Alexander Barret of Kentucky. Miss Powel, in her Memoir of the Family (see page 87) speaks appreciatively of his character. Major and Mrs. Gibbs, residents of Newport for 40 years, lived in a beautiful house on Gibbs Avenue, surrounded by a notably fine garden; they were beloved citizens of the

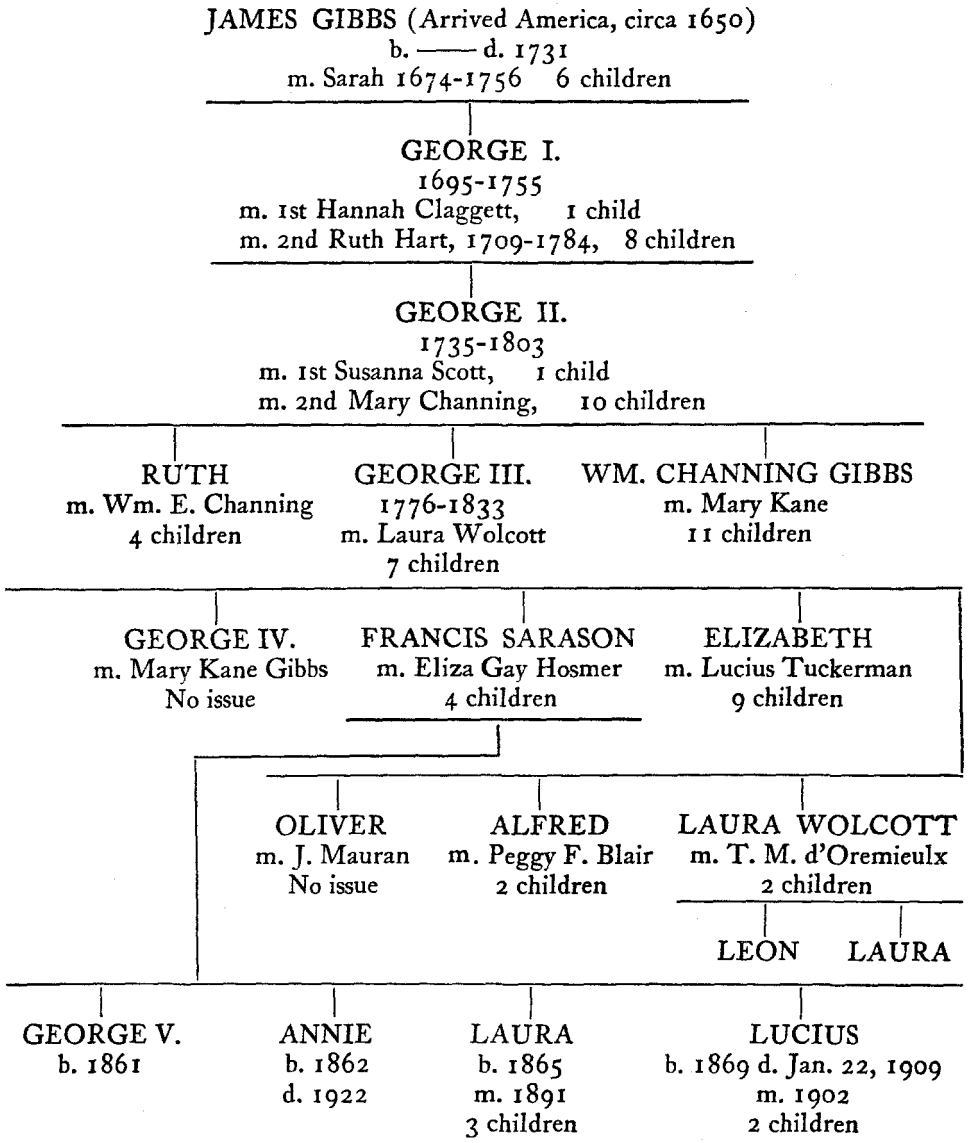
town, giving liberally of their large means. Mrs. Gibbs died January 28, 1926, at the age of 81 years.

Mary Kane Gibbs, daughter of Gov. Gibbs, married late in life her cousin, my Uncle George Gibbs (IV.).

Sarah Gibbs, the youngest of Gov. Gibbs's children, married Col. Robert M. Thompson. Their only child, Sarah, is now Mrs. Stephen H. P. Pell, of New York and Ticonderoga. This fort, of Colonial-times fame, was the property of the Pell family. It was bought by Col. Thompson, and has been carefully restored to preserve the points of historic interest. The fort now contains an interesting museum for old relics and objects of Revolutionary War times uncovered there. Mrs. Pell has two sons, one in our Diplomatic service in France, and the other in literary pursuits in New York.

TABLE NO. II.

THE GIBBS FAMILY OF RHODE ISLAND





THE OLD GIBBS SUGAR BOWL

Chapter IV.

THE CHANNING FAMILY

In this Record the Channing name frequently recurs. As we are descended from one of the name through my great-great-grandmother, who was the wife of George Gibbs (II.), it is fitting that the genealogy of that family be briefly recorded here. An additional reason for so doing is that many representatives in three generations have been intimate with our family.

The few facts obtainable are in the pamphlet entitled "Notes concerning the Channing Family," collected by Edward Tyrrel Channing, 1836.

John Channing, born 1683, came to America from Dorsetshire, England, settled in Boston, and later (in 1719) removed to Newport, R. I., where both he and his wife, Mary Antram, died. His son, *John*, married the widow of Dr. James Robinson. She was born Mary Chaloner, and was a commanding and beautiful woman. A striking portrait of her, painted by Smybert, and also a fine portrait of John Channing, a companion to Mary, presumably by the same artist, are both in the house of the late William Ellery Channing Eustis of Milton, Mass. One belongs to him outright and the other to his three sisters.

John Channing (II.) and his wife, Mary Chaloner,

left eight children, of whom Mary, the eldest (born 1747, died 1824) married George Gibbs (II.). Another child, Walter, became the partner in the firm of Gibbs and Channing, as elsewhere mentioned. Another son, William, married Lucy Ellery; their son was the Rev. William Ellery Channing, the eminent Unitarian divine. He married his first cousin, *Ruth Gibbs*, daughter of George Gibbs (II.) and Mary Channing.

A daughter of William Ellery Channing and Ruth Gibbs Channing was *Mary Channing*, who married Frederic Augustus Eustis. They lived at Milton, Mass. While in Boston in 1882-4 I spent much time in her house; she was a lovely character. One of her daughters, *Mary Rebecca Eustis*, married William Rotch Wister of Philadelphia. She, cousin May, as we call her, is living at the ripe age of 89 years. Her eldest daughter, Mary Channing, married her cousin Owen Wister; she died in 1913, leaving a large family. Another daughter, Frances Anne, is prominent in Philadelphia civic and musical affairs, and is herself a devoted amateur musician; Frances is unmarried. A third daughter, Ella, married Diederich Jansen Haines, and is the mother of a fine family of boys. A son, John Caspar Wister, is a well-known authority on bulbs, flowers and on landscape gardening.

Returning to the children of Mary Channing Eustis; a daughter, *Ella*, born 1846, is unmarried and lives in Santa Barbara, Cal. A third daughter, *Emily*, married Dr. John Amory Jeffries, of Boston, and has one

son. Dr. Jeffries died; his widow and her son live in Santa Barbara, Cal. The only son was *William Ellery Channing Eustis*, whom I worked with as assistant in his Boston laboratory in 1882-4. He married Edith Hemenway of Boston. They had three children: twin sons, Augustus and Frederic, and a daughter, Mary (Mrs. Donald Scott) who died, 1917. W. E. C. Eustis died October 29, 1932, at the age of 83.

From this brief sketch of the Channing family it will be noted that the Eustis family of Boston and the Wm. Rotch Wister descendants, of Philadelphia, are directly descended from the Gibbses through George Gibbs (II.) who married a Channing and his daughter who married her cousin Wm. Ellery Channing, so that the present generation of the Gibbs and Wisters have a double cousinship.

Other descendants of the Channing family include: Edward Tyrrel Channing, 1790-1856, Bolyston Professor of Rhetoric and Oratory in Harvard University; Edward Channing, grandson of Walter, eminent Professor of History at Harvard University, who died in 1931, author of the "History of the United States" in 8 vols., an authoritative book of its kind; and Dr. Walter Channing of Boston, distinguished alienist, who died 1921.

TABLE NO. III.

THE CHANNING FAMILY OF RHODE ISLAND

JOHN CHANNING (Emigrant from England)
b. 1683, d. 1731 in Newport
m. Mary Antram (1681-1741)

JOHN, JR.
b. 1714, d. 1771
m. Mary Chaloner (1746) (Mrs. James Robinson)
d. 1790 aetat 70, 8 children

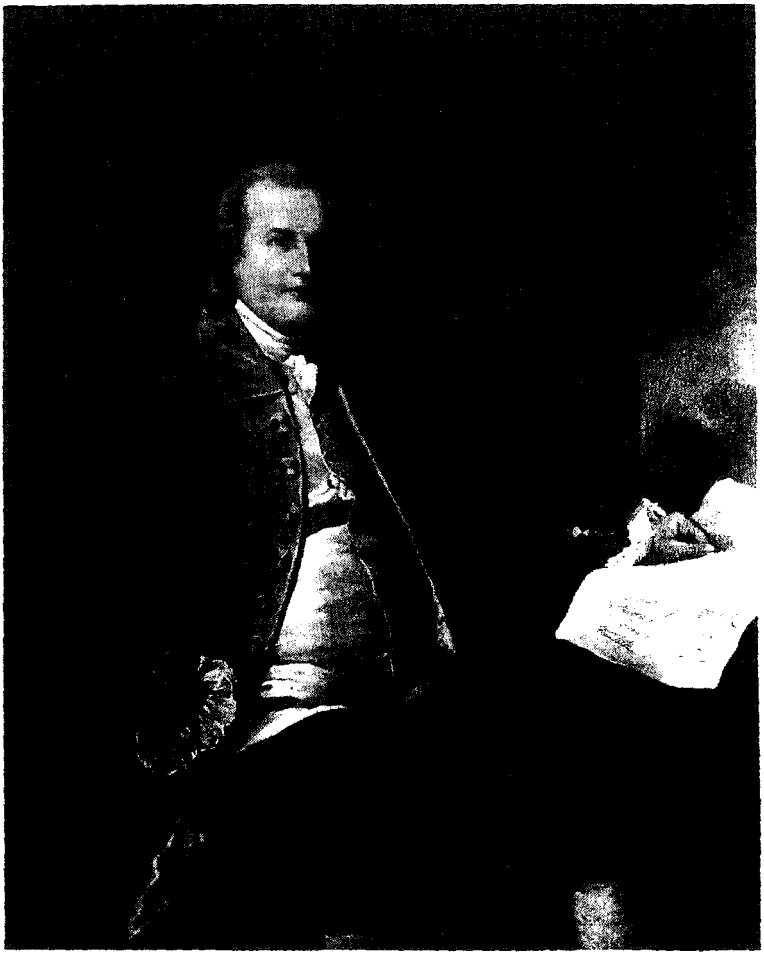
WALTER	WILLIAM	MARY
(partner Gibbs & Channing)	b. 1741	1747-1824
b. 1757	d. 1793	m. George Gibbs II.
d. 1827	m. Lucy Ellery	(See Gibbs Family)

WILLIAM ELLERY CHANNING
b. Newport, 1780, d. Boston, 1842
m. 1814 Ruth Gibbs (daughter of George Gibbs II.)

MARY CHANNING
b. 1818, d. 1891
m. Frederic Augustus Eustis

ELLA C. EUSTIS	EMILY A.	MARY REBECCA
unmarried	m. Dr. J. A. Jeffries	m. Wm. Rotch Wister
b. 1846	1 son	1 son; 3 daughters
	b. 1858	b. 1844
	m. 1889	m. 1868

W. E. C. EUSTIS
b. 1849
m. Edith Hemingway
2 sons; 1 daughter
d. Oct. 29, 1932



OLIVER WOLCOTT, SR.

FROM EARLE PORTRAIT IN 1782

CHAPTER V.

THE WOLCOTT FAMILY OF CONNECTICUT

AN extended account of the Wolcott family in England and in America will be found in a large and finely illustrated volume entitled, "Memorial of Henry Wolcott" by Samuel Wolcott, printed in 1881 for private distribution.[1] Unfortunately the book, which contains much correspondence and other matter of historic interest, is very involved in its treatment of the subject, is inadequately indexed and contains no concise genealogical table. It is difficult, therefore, to trace from it the lines of direct and collateral descent. I shall attempt to give here only a very condensed summary of the Wolcott family history as affecting our direct line of descent from that family.

For this purpose I have found useful certain portions of the condensation made by Bayard Tuckerman in his book, "Notes on the Tuckerman Family of Massachusetts and Some Allied Families," Privately Printed, Boston, 1914. Also, I have drawn some of the facts from the summary of Wolcott family history given in Chapter I. of Volume I., "Memoirs of the Administrations of Washington and Adams," by George Gibbs (IV.), New York, 1846.

The Wolcott family has been one of the most dis-

[1] Samuel Wolcott was a descendant of Frederick Wolcott, the younger son of Oliver Wolcott, the Signer.

tinguished in our colonial annals, has contributed an unusual number of members to public and professional life from the first settlement of the Colony up to the beginning of the 18th Century — and during a period of nearly two centuries, has maintained its strength and character with consistency from one generation to another. Through intermarriage with other leading Connecticut families, the Griswolds (Ursula Wolcott), the Pitkins, Trumbulls, Ellsworths, and Gibbs, its connections are wide and its descendants numerous.

The emigrant, *Henry Wolcott (I.)*, was the second son of an English squire with a manor in Tolland, in Somersetshire. To attain the religious and political liberty which he considered to be denied to him in England, he sold a large portion of his estate in landed property and emigrated to Massachusetts Bay in 1630, in the ship "Mary & John" (400 tons), chartered especially for his family and company. He was then fifty-two years of age. He brought his wife, Elizabeth Saunders, and his older children with him, but a younger son and daughter were left behind as too young to face the hardships of the voyage and life in the wilderness beyond. He landed at Nantasket, and first settled in Dorchester, Massachusetts, but, with John Winthrop the younger, went later into Connecticut and made a settlement near the Connecticut River, which received the name of Windsor. He maintained with his family in England such fitful correspondence as was possible, and, in 1639 he received a letter from

his younger brother, John, announcing that, by the death of the eldest brother, he, as second son, had inherited the Tolland estate. This letter was addressed, "To my verie loving Brother, Henrie Wolcott in New England at Winsor near Quenatacotte riever, give these, I pray you —." Henry Wolcott and his family embarked from Boston for England in the following year, took possession of the Tolland estate, consisting of manor house, farms, and mill, but later, with his two younger children returned to the preferred home in Connecticut. He continued during his life to enjoy the rents of his English property, but after his death it was sold by his children.

Henry's eldest son, of the same name, was one of the patentees under the Charter of Charles II., and for many years a magistrate of the Colony. The younger son of Henry I. was *Simon*, who married Martha Pitkin. Their son *Roger (I.)* was born in 1679. He improved the simple education given to him by his parents and became distinguished in the annals of the province for both his civil and military services. In 1709 he was a representative; in 1711 commissioner with the Connecticut forces in the expedition against Canada; a member of the Council in 1714; judge of the County Court in 1721 and judge of the Supreme Court in 1732; Lieutenant-Governor, and chief judge of the Supreme Court in 1741. In 1745 when the expedition against Cape Breton was undertaken, he, as Lieutenant-Governor of Connecticut, commanded the

troops sent by that province at the Siege of Louisburg with the rank of major-general, and was second in command to Sir William Pepperell. From 1750 to 1754 he was Governor of the Colony. He then retired and devoted the rest of his life to religious study and literary pursuits. His "Poetical Meditations" were published at New London in 1725; he died at Windsor in 1767 at the age of eighty-nine.

Roger Wolcott married Sarah Drake, and their youngest son, *Oliver (I.)*, was born in Windsor in 1726, but passed his mature life at Litchfield. He graduated at Yale in 1747, and in the same year was commissioned captain by the Governor of New York, raised a company of volunteers and served on the northern frontier until the peace of Aix-la-Chapelle. He then returned to Connecticut, studied medicine and established himself at Litchfield. In 1751 he was elected sheriff of Litchfield County, and later held offices of member of the Council, judge of the Court of Common Pleas and judge of Probate.

At the opening of the War for Independence he was appointed, by the First Continental Congress, Indian Commissioner, in which highly important trust he served with Philip Schuyler and others in settling boundary controversies between New York, Vermont, Connecticut and Pennsylvania, and in uniting border settlers in support of the War; also in managing Indian affairs so as to obtain the neutrality of the Iroquois. In this same year he was elected a delegate to the Congress

of 1776, in which capacity he signed the *Declaration of Independence*. An interesting episode in which the family figured may be mentioned; before the Revolution a leaden equestrian statue of George III. was in Bowling Green, New York City; this, at the breaking out of the War, was thrown down, and lead being highly valuable, the statue was taken to Wolcott's place in Litchfield for safekeeping. Later it was cut up and run into bullets for the Continental Army by his wife, his daughters and their friends. On his return home he was appointed major-general of Connecticut troops, and commanded a brigade at Saratoga in 1777. From this time to the end of the war, he was constantly engaged, either in the Council or the field. The following year he resumed his seat in Congress, which he held until 1784. In 1785 he was appointed commissioner to negotiate a treaty with the Six Nations. He was elected Lieutenant-Governor of Connecticut in 1786, and so continued until 1795 when he became Governor, in which office he died. There were others whose names occupy a more conspicuous place in the history of the time than did Oliver Wolcott, but there was no one who in his own province redeemed more faithfully than he, the pledge of the Signers. He was a man of indomitable resolution and unspotted integrity.

Oliver Wolcott (I.) married Lorrain Collins of Guildford, a lady of good family and great personal attractions; aside from these she possessed other qualities more essential to the mate of one who was to be a

leader in a revolution. She was a woman of remarkable courage, and a masculine judgment. They had four children, two sons and two daughters, the eldest son, destined also to become a distinguished man, was *Oliver Wolcott, Jr.*, born at Litchfield in 1760. While a junior at Yale College in 1777, he acted as militiaman in a force collected to repel the English at Danbury. He studied law at Litchfield, at the same time serving as quartermaster for the Connecticut militia. On admission to the bar in 1781, he was appointed to a position in the financial department of the State Government at Hartford, and later was commissioned with Oliver Ellsworth to adjust the claims of the State with the Continental Government. In 1788 he was appointed comptroller of public accounts, and on the adoption of the Constitution, in 1789, he became auditor of the United States Treasury. In 1791, he was promoted to be comptroller of the Treasury, preferring that office to the presidency of the United States Bank which was offered to him at the same time. On February 2, 1795, he was appointed by Washington to succeed Alexander Hamilton as Secretary of the Treasury. When John Adams became President, Wolcott offered his resignation, which Adams declined to accept, and he continued in office until 1800, when he finally resigned. The political quarrels of the time of Adams's administration created a bitterness which has hardly subsided in the pages of history and biography in our own day. A fire having occurred in the Treasury building, the



MRS. OLIVER WOLCOTT, SR. (LORRAINE COLLINS)

FROM EARLE PORTRAIT IN 1782

Democrats in Congress accused the Federalists of having set fire to the building in order to hide their peculations. Wolcott asked for an investigation, and the Democratic majority of the committee kept up the malicious attack by reporting that they could get no evidence regarding the fire which would enable them to arrive at a "conjecture satisfactory." In the face of this report President Adams appointed Wolcott judge of the Circuit Court, including the States of New York, Connecticut, and Vermont, and the appointment was at once confirmed by the Senate. In 1802, the judiciary act under which this appointment was made was repealed and the judgeship abolished. Wolcott then settled in New York City, as president of the Merchants' Bank. In 1812, he founded and became president of the Bank of America. In 1815, he ran unsuccessfully for governor of Connecticut as a Federalist against John Cotton Smith. Nominated again in 1817, he was elected Governor and was annually re-elected for ten years. In 1817, he presided over the convention to frame a new constitution for Connecticut. After his retirement from the governorship in 1827, he divided his time between his home at Litchfield and New York City, where the family of his daughter, Mrs. George Gibbs (III.), made the chief interest of his last years. He died in 1833.

In 1785 Oliver Wolcott, Jr., married Elizabeth Stoughton; they had four children, two sons and two daughters. One son, Oliver (III.), married and left

one child,— a son, Oliver (IV.), died young, unmarried; another son, John, lived to middle age as a practicing physician in his native town, Litchfield, much loved and respected and died unmarried. The younger daughter, Elizabeth (born 1795), married William Gracie, son of Archibald Gracie, of New York, and died suddenly a year afterwards, at the age of twenty.

LAURA WOLCOTT GIBBS. The elder daughter, Laura, my grandmother, was born in 1794 in Philadelphia, then the seat of the United States Government. She was married in 1810, at the age of fifteen, to Colonel George Gibbs (III.) of Newport, Rhode Island. An account of her life and character will be found in appropriate place under the Gibbs ancestry.[1]

In addition to this brief sketch of my direct Wolcott ancestors, I should add, as of family interest, mention of the Wolcott collaterals in the present generation, and trace the relationships from the main family stem where the branches diverge, i.e., from Oliver Wolcott, Sr., the "Signer:"

His son, *Frederick* (born 1767), married Elizabeth Huntington. Their son *Joshua Huntington Wolcott* (b. 1804) was a member of the Society of the Cincinnati, joining under the "Rule of 1854" in the right of Major-General Oliver Wolcott, his grandfather, the "Signer." He married Cornelia, daughter of Samuel Frothingham of Boston, in 1844, and after her death in 1850 he married her sister Harriet, who was a

[1] See page 21.

charming person. By his first wife he had two sons: The elder was *Huntington Frothingham*, a gallant soldier in the Civil War and aide-de-camp of General Alfred Gibbs, my uncle. He died of "camp fever" in 1865. The other son was *Roger*, born 1847, who became a distinguished Governor of Massachusetts in 1897. Roger married in 1874 Edith Prescott, granddaughter of William Hickling Prescott, the historian, and great-great-granddaughter of Colonel William Prescott of Bunker Hill fame. Roger died in 1900. The J. Huntington Wolcotts and the Roger Wolcotts I knew well when I lived in Boston in 1884; they were cultivated and gifted people. Roger and Edith Prescott Wolcott had five sons and one daughter; four sons are living and took active part in military affairs during our participation in the World War (1917-19), and two of them are Harvard Overseers. The daughter, Cornelia Frothingham, married the Rev. Samuel S. Drury, D.D., the present Headmaster of St. Paul's School at Concord, Mass.

A daughter of Frederick Wolcott, *Elizabeth* (b. 1806), married John P. Jackson, of Newark, N. J. Through their five sons we have now many connections in the Jackson family of New Jersey. The eldest daughter, Laura Wolcott Jackson, married Charles H. Parker (gr. Harvard 1835) of Boston.

The homes of the Wolcott ancestors are of historic interest; these were at Windsor, South Windsor, and Litchfield, in Connecticut. Of the house in Windsor

not a trace now remains; the house in South Windsor and one in Litchfield are in good state of preservation, and are illustrated by photographs in the Samuel Wolcott book. A view of the fine old Litchfield house of General Wolcott, and afterwards of Oliver, Jr., is reproduced in this Record. In this house, built in 1752, he received many distinguished persons of the Army and in Congress; in 1780 he thus received General Washington and his suite, among whom was Alexander Hamilton.

The property was inherited by Miss Alice Wolcott, daughter of Judge Frederick Wolcott, a cousin of the late Gov. Roger Wolcott, and of ours. At her death it was sold to our cousin Alice Brinley Sherman. She is daughter of Charles E. Brinley of Philadelphia and granddaughter of Mary Wolcott (Mrs. Theodore Frothingham).



OLIVER WOLCOTT, JR.

FROM TRUMBULL PORTRAIT

TABLE NO. IV.

DESCENDANTS OF HENRY WOLCOTT, OF WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT

Arrived America 1630

HENRY WOLCOTT
b. 1578, d. 1655
m. Elizabeth Saunders; 7 children

SIMON WOLCOTT, m. Martha Pitkin

ROGER m. Sarah Drake
b. 1679, d. 1767

OLIVER
b. 1726, d. 1797
m. Lorrain Collins, 2 sons and 2 daughters

OLIVER, JR.
b. 1760, d. 1833
m. Elizabeth Stoughton, 2 sons and 2 daughters

ELIZABETH
m. William Gracie
b. 1795
d. 1814

LAURA
m. George Gibbs III., 7 children
b. 1794
d. 1870
m. 1810

(For continuation of the Gibbs-Wolcott descent, see Chapter II.)

Chapter VI.

THE HOSMER FAMILY OF CONNECTICUT

THROUGH my mother I come into the direct line of descent from the Hosmers. In his book entitled, "Descendants of James Hosmer," by G. L. Hosmer, he traces the family back to the sixth century as from Sleswick, Denmark, with the name of "Osmer," and says they emigrated to England long before the days of William the Conqueror — all of which may be so, but cannot be verified, and is unimportant. It appears certain that two brothers, *Thomas* and *James*, emigrated to America from Hawkhurst in South Kent, England, about 1630. The younger brother, James, settled in Concord, Mass. The elder brother, from whom I am descended, settled in Cambridge, Mass., and was "freeman" and "selectman" of that town in 1635. In 1636 he left Cambridge for Connecticut, probably with the Rev. Thomas Hooker, and became one of the founders of Hartford. His name appears on the monument in that city to the original settlers. In the first record of the Town proprietors of land, January 14, 1639, there is set to him 60 acres. He was born in 1603 and died April 12, 1687. Frances (surname not known) his wife, was born 1602 and died February 15, 1675. The record of his chil-

dren is incomplete, but one was *Stephen*, from whom we are descended.

STEPHEN HOSMER, born 1645, died November 4, 1693, married Hannah Bushnell, daughter of Rev. Francis Bushnell. They had ten children of whom the eldest was Thomas, referred to as Captain Hosmer.

THOMAS HOSMER, born 1675, died 1732, married Ann Prentiss in 1700. She died August, 1753, leaving six children. The eldest was:

STEPHEN HOSMER (fourth generation). He was born 1704, and died 1758. He married Deliverance Graves in 1730; she died 1762. They had 13 children. I have not been able to find any satisfactory account of his life or occupation, except that he served as a captain in Colonial Troops in certain of the periodical fights against the French and the Indians. One of Stephen Hosmer's sons was *Prentice*, born September 11, 1752, died April, 1787. He married Elizabeth Steel, 1783. He was a Lieutenant in the 3rd Regiment, Connecticut Continental Infantry. From Prentice Hosmer I acquired the right of membership in the Society of the Cincinnati (Connecticut). Stephen Hosmer's eldest son was:

TITUS HOSMER (fifth generation), was born in 1737 and died 1780. He graduated from Yale College and settled in Middletown, Conn., in 1760, studied law and enjoyed a large practice throughout the State. His eulogist, Rev. Dr. David D. Field, stated that Titus Hosmer enjoyed not only much professional

business but civil offices of honor and importance. In 1777 he was Speaker of the National House of Representatives, and had great influence in prompting the Legislature to the adoption of vigorous measures against Great Britain. During a part of the War of the Revolution he was a member of the "Council of Safety" and in 1778 the Continental Congress appointed him one of the three judges of the, then, Court of Appeals. But on the duties of this appointment he was not permitted to enter, dying suddenly August 4, 1780, aged 44.

Titus Hosmer married Lydia Lord November 30, 1761. They had seven children of whom Stephen Titus was the eldest.

STEPHEN TITUS (sixth generation), my great-grandfather, was an eminent and greatly respected citizen of Connecticut. He was born January 10, 1763, and died August 6, 1839, graduated from Yale College 1782, and received the honorary degree of LL.D. Yale 1823. Was appointed a judge in 1815 and became Chief Justice of Connecticut in 1819. Retired 1833.

He married *Lucia Parsons*, daughter of Major General Samuel Holden Parsons, of Revolutionary fame and President of the Society of the Cincinnati (Conn.) in 1784. They had eleven children, of whom Oliver Ellsworth was the youngest.

OLIVER ELLSWORTH HOSMER, my grandfather, was born May 6, 1808, in Middletown, Conn., and

died at Nyack, N. Y., January, 1879. He married Nancy Post Hawes, who was born in New York City, August 6, 1811, and who died July, 1892. They had six children, of whom three lived to maturity and married, viz.:

1. *Stephen Titus Hosmer*, (my uncle), born 1832, married 1857, died 1900. He married Elizabeth Lambert who died 1918, aged 78 years. They had two children; Annie, who married G. F. Wilcoxen, both died leaving no issue; Nina, who married Charles D. Petrie; he died leaving no issue. Nina Petrie is living.

2. *James Ray Hosmer*, born December 4, 1834, died October 17, 1923. He received the degree of M.A. at Columbia in 1858. As a young man during the Civil War he was attached as Colonel on the staff of the American Embassy at London. His first wife was Jennie Albert, of Baltimore, whom he married in 1859. She died leaving one daughter, Fannie, who married Carol Winchester; both now dead. His second wife was Esther Bayard, whom he married in 1873. She died 1888.

By her he had two daughters:

Ethel, married Robt. W. Candler, of New York; he died in 1930; she is living. Issue, two sons.

Cecil, married Albert W. Bayard, of Buffalo, N. Y., both living. Issue, three children, one boy and two girls.

3. *Eliza Gay Hosmer* (my mother), born Novem-

ber 4, 1836, died 1883; married Francis S. Gibbs. Issue, four children. Further reference to her life will be found in the appropriate place in the Gibbs family. (See page 43.)

TABLE NO. V.

THE HOSMER FAMILY

THOMAS HOSMER
1603-1687
To America 1632

STEPHEN
1645-1693
m. Hannah Bushnell, 10 children

THOMAS (Capt.)
1675-1732
m. Ann Prentiss, 1700, 6 children

STEPHEN
1704-1758
m. Deliverance Graves, 1730, 13 children

TITUS
1737-1780
m. Lydia Lord, 1761, 7 children

LT. PRENTICE HOSMER
b. Sept. 11, 1752, d. April, 1787
m. Elizabeth Steel, May 11, 1783

STEPHEN TITUS
1763-1834
m. Lucia Parsons, 1785, 11 children

OLIVER ELLSWORTH
1808-1879
m. Nancy Post Hawes
1811-1892. 6 children (3 lived to maturity)

STEPHEN TITUS
No male children

JAMES RAY
No male children

ELIZA GAY HOSMER
1836-1883
m. Francis S. Gibbs

GEORGE
b. April 19, 1861
unmarried

ANNIE M.
b. Dec. 6, 1862
d. March 5, 1922
unmarried

LAURA W.
b. Oct. 8, 1865
m. Sept. 6, 1891
Wm. H. Miller

LUCIUS T.
b. July 14, 1869
d. Jan., 1909
m. April, 1902



MRS. OLIVER WOLCOTT, JR. (ELIZABETH STOUGHTON)
FROM TRUMBULL PORTRAIT

Chapter VII.

FURTHER ACCOUNT OF CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE GIBBS FAMILY

THE following reminscences, written by Miss Mary Powel, is such a remarkable picture of life in Newport in the 19th Century, and is so identified with the Gibbs that it cannot fail to be of interest to the descendants of our family. Miss Powel, a daughter of Samuel Powel, recently died in Newport at a ripe old age. The Powels came of a distinguished Philadelphia family and lived at Powelton, Philadelphia, for several generations, and of recent years were resident in Newport, R. I. They were life-long and dear friends of our family.

The Gibbs Family of Newport

Being selections from reminiscences of her own family and their friends, written by M. E. Powel for her nephews and nieces.

In 179— Mr. and Mrs. William Hind of Jamaica came to reside in Newport. Mr. Hind rented from Mr. George Gibbs a fine old colonial house on Thames Street (now Kaull and Anthony's market). This house was my grandmother's, Mrs. Robert Johnston's, first home in Newport. Her mother, Mrs. John Taylor, dying in Jamaica, she was brought here by her father when a child of two years, and placed in the charge of her — then widowed — grandmother, Mrs. William Hind, and of her aunt, Miss Mary Hind. This was about 1800, and my grandmother has often told me she distinctly

remembered Mr. George Gibbs calling upon Mrs. Hind to collect his rent — a matter of ceremony! She had great awe of him! There would be bows and curtseys — then cake and wine — and the rent money, always in gold, would be handed to Mr. Gibbs on a silver salver. He would draw a little leather bag from his pocket and tie up the gold in that; — more conversation, bows and curtseys on the part of the ladies and himself and little Cole Taylor was made to come from off her knees behind her Grandmother's chair, by her stern Aunt Mary, and her own effort at a curtsey would end the scene as Mr. Gibbs left the house.

My grandmother also told me she vaguely remembered black hangings in Trinity Church when Mr. Gibbs died in 1803, but was uncertain if she saw them or was told of them. He was deeply beloved and widely respected, the founder of a great fortune which he originated from a small ship's-bakery; a gentleman of good colonial blood, but in respect to fortune self-made. Sixty-two vessels sailed the seas in his fleets, and he died the richest merchant in New England, the senior partner in the firm of Gibbs and Channing. Years ago I copied a black-edged obituary respecting Mr. Gibbs; I think I gave it to one of the family. It was in a bound volume of newspapers at the Redwood and, as I remember, Mr. Gibbs was only about fifty-odd and died suddenly.

The house that was rented to Mr. Hind, my great-great-grandfather, was thoroughly photographed for us within and without during the residence there of Mr. and Mrs. Gilpin. I have also a pretty water-color of the exterior. I am not aware that the Gibbs family had resided in it, only that it was owned by Mr. Gibbs. They may have done so prior to its renting to Mr. Hind.

Of the family of this gentleman there were numerous sons and daughters. I do not know properly which were the older,

so I shall simply write of them as I recall them myself. These friendships, for there is no blood tie whatever, have extended in many lines through six generations of Johnstons and Hares and Powels, and through five generations of Gibbs. (We are not so long lived as the New England gentry.)

Governor William Gibbs had married a Miss Kane of New York. There was a large family. The Governor lived in and inherited from his father the noble old house facing the Stone Mill lot (which was sold by him to the City of Newport). This house was hospitably opened on many happy occasions to the young and older people of the place. On Election Days I have heard that the Governor always "received" and that the table was set forth, not only with his father's fine old Madeiras, but with the traditional Egg Nogg. Of the dances for young people I can personally recall many joys.

My impression is that Governor Gibbs inherited this house from his father. It was filled with splendid old mahogany furniture and contained some fine family portraits, but the most memorable remembrance that I have of it was, even to the last enfeebled years of Governor Gibbs' life, his extreme and charming hospitality even to a young girl like myself.

I think it is right also to put down the memory of some wonderful old-style cakes, Queen cakes, hearts and rounds, iced and citron-hearted, as well as flat sugary jumbles that were intertwined into brittle crumbly shapes, and which invariably graced the supper table amid numerous creams, salads, etc.

From this branch came "Eugene" (Gibbs) the boy friend of my Uncle John (and who later entered the Army); Major Theodore Gibbs, patriot, Christian and citizen; Sarah, my contemporary, now Mrs. Thompson; Lily, who died in middle life and who, my mother told me, as a very young girl

was one of the most beautiful in Newport; and Mr. George Gibbs, who married first the handsome Martha Gardiner, and later his cousin, Miss Kane. On these later members of the family I need not enlarge as their day is still present or in the near past. There were several other sons, but I did not know much of them as they early went to California and settled there.

The oldest son of Mr. George Gibbs (who died in 1803) was also named George. I think he was Colonel George Gibbs of the War of 1812. He died leaving a large family and a — still young — widow. I think my parents did not remember this gentleman, and I do not think that he could have been much in Newport after 1832. Of his widow, Mrs. George Gibbs, born Laura Wolcott—a grand-daughter of the Signer, Oliver Wolcott — I can speak not only from hearsay but of my own most loving remembrances. She died at seventy-six years of age, on my own twenty-first birthday. This venerable lady had honored me with her affection from my early childhood, and she was the intimate friend of all four of my grandparents, as well as of my parents. My mother, Mary Johnston, was married to my father, Samuel Powel, in March, 1845, from a house in Bond Street, New York; and Mrs. Gibbs' daughter, Eliza, was married the same week from a house opposite, to Mr. Lucius Tuckerman. They were all young people together and I could fill pages with the memories recalled by my mother of these days.

My impression is that Mrs. Laura Wolcott Gibbs had been married extremely young — just before her 16th birthday. Possibly this made her always the friend of all ages. She was a brilliant woman, whose gifts of conversation and wit were rooted in such sterling quality of mind and heart that to be near her was an honor and a happiness. Highly cultivated, far beyond the ordinary education of women of her day, she

was a linguist and an artist, as well as excellent in the domestic training and needlework then deemed so essential to a gentlewoman. One of the first collectors of porcelains, etc., in the United States, she had the gift to select good from bad; and in a morning would talk politics with my father, history with my Aunt Julia, cookery and gossip with my grandmother, and whirl my parents off to a ball under her own auspices in the evening. She was in the true sense a woman of the world, wise and brave! I wish I could but dimly set down what my father spoke respecting Madam Gibbs!

Mrs. George Gibbs, I may proudly, with conceit, claim, permitted me to be her young friend. In my youth, during my visits to her daughter, Mrs. Tuckerman, in New York, she made me her constant companion, carrying me to theatres, picture galleries, and other places, including an auction at Col. Murray's house in LaFayette Place, Sypher's basement antiquity store, to Bierstaedt's private view of his Yosemite Valley, and to a delightful inspection of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Stuart's great big house and extensive cabinets of curios. And better than all these, she extended to me the kindest of welcome to her own fireside in Greene Street, where, seated by the table, she received weekly the ancient gentility of New York and regaled them with her celebrated "white caudle," served in tall Dresden cups and stirred with Dresden porcelain spoons; her daughter, Mrs. d'Oremieulx, and her two tiny children completing the picture.

Mrs. Gibbs' kindness to me did not end even with this. At the time of my entrance into society, my own mother was much of an invalid and during a summer, which she spent at the Atlantic House in Newport, Mrs. Gibbs was my constant chaperone at balls and parties. I can see her as I write, a strong, somewhat short figure of much stateliness, clad in

some trailing black material with a good deal of black and white lace about it; her bonnet, always a handsome one, surmounting her iron-grey hair and her fine face lighting up as she conversed with my father on politics, literature or art — on all these she was equally at home and handled her brush with the skill of an artist. I can never forget the deep and masterful impression that she made upon my youthful affection! One very kind wish on her part was to take me with her to Washington to see the great Review of 50,000 men, just at the close of the War. She had but two seats for the grandstand, a goodly number in consideration of the clamor for them; but as she was then much past seventy years of age, my father thought that some gentleman of her own kin should undertake to convoy her from New York and would not permit me to go. Travel just at the close of the War was not as easy as now! I was overwhelmed by disappointment and cried long and bitterly in the dark, and now, while I cry no longer, I am just as sorry and disappointed that I did not go. My father was sorry too. But I know, now, that he was right. Mrs. Laura Wolcott Gibbs had taken a very prominent part among the loyal women of New York and was greatly honored by all for her many exertions for the soldiers. She was indeed a noble character.

Mrs. Gibbs' oldest son, Mr. George Gibbs, the third that I have mentioned of the name of George, always seemed to me to be fully as old, if not older than his own mother. He was tall, dark, had brilliant eyes and was of deep scholarly attainment, particularly versed in North American Indian antiquities and languages. His imposing presence always gave me a touch of shyness at first, which he immediately overcame, for — why, I do not know — dear Mr. George Gibbs was always exceptionally kind and friendly with little me;

even to the sending me of messages from other cities and in his letters, etc. He married shortly before his death his cousin Mary, daughter of his uncle, Governor Gibbs. My father was much affected by Mr. Gibbs' death and I remember his going from Philadelphia to Newport a few days later. I was with him, and we purposely went to New Haven by boat. As he rang the bell of his friend's late residence, he quite broke down, handed his card to the servant, turned at once to the carriage and we drove away without even asking to see Mrs. Gibbs. I remember that he told my mother that he found it impossible to enter the house.

General Alfred Gibbs of the Regular Army, a son of Mrs. Laura Wolcott Gibbs, married a Southern lady who was often mentioned as "Peggy" by her mother-in-law. This young lady wrote very clever descriptions of army life in the Far West after the Rebellion, and I remember some graphic descriptions of a flood in the Great Muddy River or "Big Muddy" at the, then stockade, Fort Riley in Kansas; how they took refuge in baggage wagons and how their tents were made useless.

Not very long after this General Gibbs died, I think suddenly, and his remains were brought to Newport for burial. My father had charge of some of the arrangements, but of course not of the military portion. His old friend, General Thomas H. Sherman, an irascible old officer with but one leg, had ordered a party of officers and men to come to Newport from Fort Adams, await the New York boat's arrival and act as guard of honor in the belfry of Trinity Church, where the General's remains were to lie until the hour of service towards noontime. My father found these half-frozen people, hungry after a night of exposure in the open boat and on the wharf, and he sent provisions and a cart to my mother's door, with a message to cook and send to the church and to

"breakfast the officers who would come by turns to the house;" which was accomplished.

At the church service, an imposing military one, the two little sons of the General, Alfred and Blair, attracted general attention by their innocent curiosity and smiling faces; and finally one of the little boys fell off the footstool on which he was standing in Governor Gibbs' pew. At the door of the church my father brought them to me and said, "Take them home with you, they are too young to go to the grave, dear little children." I took them to Bowery Street, and we spent the day in looking at picture books and other like amusements, while their good brave father was lowered to his grave at St. Mary's in Portsmouth.

I have previously written an account of this which I cannot now find, so make this memorandum for the sketch of "The Gibbs Family of Newport."

Extracts from a Journal
kept in 1898 by M. E. P.

Wednesday, June 14th. The accounts of Guantanamo continue. It has been an awful botch! The unfortunate Marines have been so heroic and they have not only been set like a target on a bare rocky bluff, surrounded by trees full of ambuscades, but the Marblehead was said to have fired her guns by mistake and so aided the Cuban insurgents, who also mistook them. Happily the Marblehead, though landing her shells in their midst — three it is said,— did not kill anybody. Some of the poor fellows fell wounded over the cliff, and the whole account is horrible! It is undoubted that without reinforcement they cannot hold their place. . . .

Friday, June 17th. Miss Austin and I drove on the shore road and went to see dress parade at the Fort; we only stayed a few minutes. The volunteer camp is outside on the slip of

ground northwest of the Fort. My brother Sam and little Tom were on the glacis waiting for the parade and trying the two ivory boomerangs made by Dr. Blair Gibbs.

Monday, June 13th. Oh, it is too sad! Surgeon Gibbs in the landing party at Guantanamo was poor Blair Gibbs, dear Dr. Gibbs' good and beloved nephew, General Alfred Gibbs' son. I am so sorry and have heard that he was doing so well. He was last here when he came to consult about Dr. Gibbs' attack of shingles, and I little thought that he would never come again. It is curious! These friends of four generations; you may not see them very often but they always seem intimate and the same.

June 23rd. There have been many mentions in the paper of Dr. Blair Gibbs, who performed 353 operations last year in the hospital in New York and all were successful. Several memorial notices have been printed and there is to be a memorial service for him at Trinity Church in New York on next Thursday, to which we are bid.

May 1st, 1899. Last Friday poor Dr. Blair Gibbs's remains arrived here. He had been brought up in the "Crook" from Guantanamo to New York and his brother, Alfred Gibbs, and Neil brought him to Newport. There had been a public service in New York last summer and also a service "in the field" when he was buried, conducted by that splendid Chaplain Jones of the Texas. It seems that this chaplain is now here at the Training Station and telephoned the undertaker offering to come, but by some misunderstanding he was not there. While dressing to go I bethought me to telephone Lidy if Neil would like me to take the big flag, and Lidy said that she was sure he would, so I put it in a bag and took a silk one on a stick to leave there. I waited by appointment at the Redwood for Sam's carriage until quarter to eleven, and then in despair fled to the trolley. I was late of course and met the

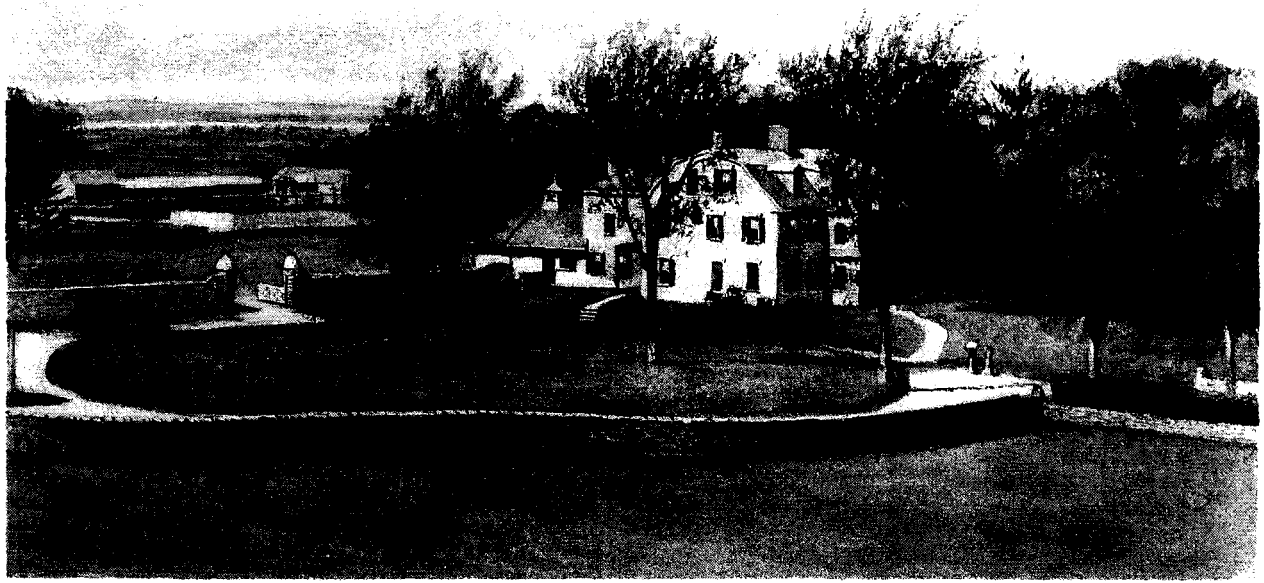
carriages coming out of St. Mary's gate. However, I ran in and found poor Alfred Gibbs and Neil and the grave only partly filled. So after a moment of silence, I gave Alfred the little silk flag and came away in Sam's carriage. Sam had a strange gentleman with him, a Mr. Messiteur, who had been intimate with Dr. Blair Gibbs. He told me that he had felt that he must come and was surprised that there were not more people. I said that no one knew of it, it was hastily done and no notice in the papers. Mr. M. then said, "I buried my wife last week!" "Oh," I said, "how sad, and how good of you to come to another sad scene so soon." "Well," he said simply, "Mrs. Gibbs, Blair's mother, wrote me such a kind letter that I felt I must come." So then we talked of the Gibbs family, of Oaklands in the old days, etc., until I left him at Dr. Gibbs' door.

Sam sat on the box with his coachman and heard nothing of all this until the evening, when I told him. Mama sent a green wreath with a bunch of white flowers tied with the last of the red, white and blue ribbons that remained from last summer, which we had used for the soldiers who died at the Hospital here. It and the flags were all real war ones, those that we had used.

June 12, 1898, to April 29, 1899. A long day before coming back to his clan! Well, the father and the son sleep together now; and the son's three wreaths lay a while on the father's grave, General Alfred Gibbs', while his son's was filling, as if they were mutually glorified by each other. It was a beautiful spring day and the flags are all flying for the first anniversary of the Victory of Manila, "Dewey Day" as it is called.

Oakland

The happiest of memories centre about "Oakland," Miss Sarah Gibbs's beautiful home seven miles from Newport on



OAKLAND, SOUTH PORTSMOUTH, R. I.

(Courtesy of Mrs. W. H. Vanderbilt)

the East Main Road in Portsmouth. I have inserted this account in the Memoirs of "The Beach" but the account of Oakland and Miss Gibbs's hospitality extends over the whole story of all the Hares, Powels and Johnstons. Of course in the many generations on both sides, all persons have not been equally intimate but there was always much, and — in many cases — the old tie of friendship still lasts. The centres of intimacy, however, in our parents' and grandparents' days, lay between Miss Sarah Gibbs of Oakland and Mrs. George Gibbs (Laura Wolcott) and her children and my relations.

Miss Sarah Gibbs was the daughter of Mr. George Gibbs, the great merchant of Newport's prosperous days. This gentleman, having died in 1803, leaving fine estates to each of his children, Miss Sarah Gibbs established herself somewhat after the fashion of a monied English gentlewoman on the good fat acres of "Oakland." Here she kept not only a good farm but a charming and really beautiful old house, which stood — as it still does, but much altered — not far from the highroad. The garden, carefully planted and containing several curious foreign trees (one brought back from England in a flower-pot by Miss Gibbs herself), was separated from the road and from the farm driveway by old stone walls and well-kept arbor-vitae hedges, these very unusual at that date. The house, a good specimen of colonial architecture, was filled with fine old furniture and many curios. Owing to the large hospitality of its owner, there were many rambling additions built from time to time and the exterior of the house was adorned here and there by little balconies of open rails, etc., which last also surmounted the roof. Over the vestibule there rose a sort of turret or gable and on the second floor this formed a tiny glass-doored boudoir — a cabinet of curios — which thus could be viewed in safety with awe and admiration by the generations of children, who for half a century

were invited to spend happy days or happier weeks in that lovely place.

Running from the northeast corner of the house, where were grouped a few large apple trees, bearing both red and green apples, in comfortable proximity to Dr. Channing's study windows and the flower beds, there extended diagonally a tree-sheltered grass road or avenue that led to a wood. Here Dr. Gibbs tells me Dr. Channing was in the habit of strolling, descending from his study every now and then and passing slowly to and fro ere he remounted the stairs and returned to his writing.

To the west of the house and on the south side were fields of corn, rich ripe dark-green Indian corn, dotted here and there with pumpkins; and beyond were pasture lands. Immediately at the end of the straight driveway were the stables and farm outbuildings — barns, corn cribs, old sheds of all sorts — and here, too, was the pump for the horse trough. Nearby lay for years a queer long box which had been intended to stand upright and in some way be used for a shower bath. (This was always a puzzle to me for I thought Miss Gibbs too wide and short to fit it, and Mr. Williams, her clergyman, too spiritual to require it; and it added point to my meditations to wonder, in those chaste days, how they ever could dare to run out and get into it by day, and by night the ground thereabouts was not attractive as the chickens and turkeys held full sway. In fact the short cropped grass was white and black with their downy feathers.) Like a benign household fairy, the presiding genius of this farmyard common was a very old and friendly white horse, who browsed about and liked to be patted on the nose. I think that we thought that he was ninety-eight. (I believe he was really called "Old White," had belonged to Dr. Channing and

finally expired in the near vicinity of two score years of comfortable mundane existence.)

It was a long drive to Newport from Oakland, but a much longer one to go there, for it was all up-hill, and in my own young days the roads were as they had been for the centuries since their first laying-out. At times the mud was very, very deep, the hills always very steep (sometimes the dust was overwhelming). At Slate Hill you could not see the bottom from the top, and it ran over a slippery ridge of rock. It was at this hill that I always heard whispered, on the back seat of the "carryall" my father would hire to take us to Oakland, a hint of long-ago tragedy — "Some one had been found dead there" — and I used to listen for it to be told with a pleasant thrill of terror.

Then, where Bailey's Brook crossed the road, there was a great flat open spot that was sometimes slush and sometimes an actual pond filled with big waddling geese — green geese they are called when cooked but milk-white geese were they in their lifetimes. And all the way out were stone-walled fields on fields of Indian corn, the richest of green all summer — when, it is true, the dust and not the mud was deep — and russet and gold in the autumn when the fiery pumpkins lit up the bare furrows between the shucks of golden cornstalks. Between and beyond the cornfields were other meadows dotted with hundreds of sheep and lambs; and, in these, the grass was as soft, as short, and as rich, as in any modern lawn. Save for dozens of gnarled apple orchards, there were few trees — none of any size except the great dead and dying buttonwoods; but in place of trees stretched away wall after wall and beyond in twenty places or more opened great panoramic views of the Bay, of the Ocean, and of the distant purple and crimson hazy shores of Narragansett, and of the rocky Tiverton slope.

Now all this is much changed; the roads are drained, the hillsides greatly levelled. The past forty years has seen the double growth of trees and houses. The dogs have killed all the sheep, cholera most of the turkeys. The old farms, split up and sold to small holders, grow but little maize, and I think that sometimes the few remaining old windmills must deplore the loss of the strong patient oxen, hauling purple and brown loads of seaweed, and of the mud-splashed old carryalls of the ancient weatherbeaten farmers. I am sure that they miss the time-honored Tiverton stage, with its creaking joints, its high-swung body and tiny two-pane windows.

But I did not intend to drive away from Oakland, only to tell of the fashion of going there, so I shall return to Miss Gibbs' front door; where having descended, very cramped, from our carryall, my father and mother and I were sure to find chickens and turkeys, strolling about the front door, and particularly under a "cedar of Lebanon" hardby, which they had personally selected as a roosting place. And unless we were expected, we ordinarily found none but the poultry in sight. The hall door, as customary in all Newport houses, stood wide open, and just within it always hung on the rack the most enormous straw hat I ever saw, a long white ribbon sweeping from the crown to the floor. It was a Leghorn brought from Italy for garden use, but I do not know that Miss Gibbs ever wore it.

My father's knock would be answered and we would be ushered into the drawing-room on the right of the door — a low square room with two white columns rising abruptly from the floor in the centre to support a great beam that crossed the ceiling. In this room was a fine fireplace with brass fender and "dogs," two large mirrors from floor to ceiling, some beautiful Empire furniture (now partly owned by Dr. Gibbs), two white marble tables, and two glass cabinets (now reposing in

the Redwood Library) that contained clever carved cork models of the Colosseum and of Trajan's Columns in Rome. (They were beautifully executed and I never ceased to admire them and would consequently quite forget to listen to the company's conversation.)

Into this room, after a moment's pause, would advance a little lady, quaintly clad at all seasons of the year in white cashmere or camelshair, and draped in the palest of tan, fawn or yellow shawls. I think that she must have worn only fabrics from India and China; and her bonnets, large and sedate in shape, were of leghorn or beaver, decked with bows of solid wide white satin ribbon; and, in winter, a huge muff and tippet of long-haired light-yellowish fur completed her attire. Her features were strong and pronounced, her eyes extremely blue, her complexion rather bright, but much wrinkled, and her voice and manner most kind and gracious. I do not remember that she ever said very much to me but I think that all children thought that she was a sort of venerable fairy godmother. Across the little hall, up which the stairs with their carved and twisted balustrade rose in a square, composed of very short flights, Miss Gibbs would lead us into the other front room — one always flooded with sunshine, and here, between the fireplace and a "window door," through which one saw in the conservatory a wax plant, a heliotrope and a rose trailing their blooms from the roof, lay spread a table shining with family silver and dark-blue Nankin china (not the coarse Canton now again in market). Here we, the visitors from Newport, would be regaled with the housekeeper, "Dopo's" best cider-cake, chicken and corn; quartered quinces, and with doubtless much more that I have forgotten. But I remember my mother's warning: to hold the corn in one hand only and that the cob would be broken, scored and buttered for me by her or my father. It was con-

sidered very vulgar to eat from a whole cob held in both hands. My brother, Samuel Powel, told Dr. Gibbs that we never left Oakland without having our hands filled by Miss Gibbs herself with very delicious ginger cookies "to eat on the way."

Our early dinner over, I would be dismissed, with the other children who might be at Miss Gibbs's (my cousins, or the King's, etc.) and after a whispered confab at the glass doors of the boudoir on the second floor, where some of us liked best the shell work, and others longed to jangle the spinnet, we would scamper off to the woods, filling our pockets with red and yellow apples from those convenient trees near the house, whose great twisted trunks and strong branches made them easy of access, and out of one of which May King once took "a header." In the woods were maidenhair ferns, the first that I ever saw, and many other lovely things, "Indian pipes" included; and if dear Miss Ann Wheaton had laid down her pink knitting and come with us, she would tell us the name and uses of almost every plant we would bring her—an inheritance, this love and knowledge of plants, from her mother, Mrs. Wheaton, the wife of the late rector of Trinity Church and sister of Bishop Dehon, whose garden on Truro, High and Mary Streets in Newport was considered the best and most varied in the town. Mrs. King, the sister of Miss Wheaton, was named Sarah after Miss Gibbs and a devoted attachment existed between them all and Miss Gibbs. As I was very intimate with Mrs. King's three youngest daughters, who were near my own age, it was an added pleasure to me to find them visitors at Oakland when I was asked there myself.

Miss Gibbs herself had a great love of plants and after my father had removed from the Parade to Bowery Street, she gave him much for his garden, including roots of Scotch

broom that had been started from seed in her greenhouse, in honor of my mother's remembrances of Scotland, and which, alas! only dwindled for some years as sickly round bushes in our front avenue.

It was at Farmer Perry's house on Perry Street — now removed—that Mr. Joseph Tuckerman and his wife, Messrs. Longfellow, Emerson, etc., used to board in summer time. The entire holding is now incorporated in the lawn of our place in Bowery Street. M.E.P., 1905.

There was one particular summer at Oakland, possibly that of 1857 or 8, when my great aunt by marriage, Mrs. Robert Hare, her family, Lt. Harry Hare, U.S.N., Mr. and Mrs. Prime, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Harford Hare and their families and others of my father's kindred and ourselves assembled there. (I think that Dr. Wolcott Gibbs or his brother, Mr. George Gibbs, and possibly Mr. and Mrs. Tuckerman and some of their children were also there, but I may have confused this with other summers.) I remember hearing of a dinner given by Miss Gibbs to Mrs. Hare. Herself, Mrs. Hare, Mrs. Channing and I think Miss Olney (?)— four schoolmates — formed the party, whose combined ages amounted to over three hundred and fifty years. I have spoken at length of Oakland as in my own childhood days, for it was exactly as it was in my parents' earliest youth, only more mellowed and more beautiful by half a century of home life. My account will serve perfectly for those who come after me to see it from 1832 to 1865; always hospitably open to us.

My kinswoman, Mrs. George McClellan, tells me that when her father, Robert Harford Hare, married Miss Caroline Fleming in Boston, Miss Gibbs was absent from Oakland (I think at that period her winter home was with Dr. and Mrs. Channing in Boston) and that she offered Oakland

to the young couple for their honeymoon. The ceremony performed early in the day in Boston, Cousin Robert Hare, himself, drove his young bride to Oakland, which they reached late in the evening of the same day.

I have a little volume of Milton in which is traced in pencil my father's name with a kindly message "from Dr. Channing," of whom my father often gave me accounts, mentioning his sweetness and gentleness of manner combined with intense earnestness. He seemed to have taken much interest in my father, whom I do not flatter in saying he was a thoughtful lad filled with high hopes and who fully appreciated the honor paid him by the condescension of this high thinker and pure-lived preacher, undoubtedly one of the great teachers of mankind.

Oakland

Miss Gibbs was a pioneer in this locality in planting hedges, mainly of arbor-vitae, not only planting about her house but also about the church, St. Mary's, which she built and established in a large plot of ground, now become a populated grave ground; she herself maintaining a rector or chaplain — Mr. Williams — giving him residence in her house until, about the time of Mr. Williams's marriage, Miss Gibbs built a rectory hard by the church.

Here in St. Mary's grave yard, after a few years of enfeebled health such as is contingent upon four score and more, on a bright summer afternoon, my father and mother and I saw this beloved aged lady laid to her rest, the prayers said by her chaplain. During the interment close by the chancel wall, a bird perched on an arbor-vitae and sang through the service. My father remarked upon it as we drove home in the evening glow — long trails of carriages dispersing kinsfolk, friends and neighbors over the entire island.



MARIANNE WOLCOTT (MRS. CHAUNCEY GOODRICH)
FROM TRUMBULL PORTRAIT

I made two later visits to Oakland, one shortly after a final auction had removed the last of Miss Gibbs's effects from the house. My aunt, Mrs. John Hare Powel, had never seen the place and asked me to go with her. I think it had not then been sold to Mr. Belmont of New York; but even a crisp October sunshine could not remove the hungry-hearted feeling of loss that I underwent, and I never liked to remember the silent empty house, swept of all but remembrance.

Some years later Mrs. Edwin Post and her daughter and sister-in-law and I made another autumnal expedition to Oakland, in the attempt to make sketches of it. By this time Mr. Belmont had made many changes in the garden and the house was shorn of some of its extra rooms. The care-taker told us that the northeast corner of the house had become affected by "dry rot," and that the columns having been removed from the drawing room, the floor above had settled, and that that portion of the house was then deemed unsafe.

About 1903 the present owner, a Mr. Vanderbilt, entirely dwarfed what remains of the original house by a large structure built across the northern side of it, and the old outbuildings, barns, etc., are all replaced by extensive modern edifices. It is become a fine modern place, in excellent order, but not very much remains of the long and happy day in which Miss Sarah Gibbs's kind heart held sway therein.

One[1] of the most attractive from endearing associations of the groups of graves on the Island is the burial ground of St. Mary's, five miles from the town, for that rural temple recalls the benign presence of the lady who built it and now sleeps in its shadow — a generous high-toned woman, who for so many years gracefully dispensed the hospitalities of Oakland amid the beautiful trees she had planted in her youth. Who that ever enjoyed her greeting can forget the

[1] Harper's Magazine, August, 1869.

little parlor with its fine paintings, the garden with its odoriferous shrubs, the sweeping branches of the Norway pine, the refreshing copse of oak trees, the delectable tea-table with its old-fashioned service and seasonable fruits, the often eminent and memorable guests, and above all, the genial dignity and gracious cheerfulness of the lady of the manor, with her many rural dependents, her liberal charities, her fond but humble love of the Church; the evening prayer, the kindly chat, the fond welcome and the sweetness and serenity of the scene and the visit? That little cemetery of St. Mary's was newly consecrated to those who stood, on one of the first beautiful Sabbaths of a recent summer, by the grave of Sarah Gibbs. The little stone church on the hill, the crowd of well dressed and sad looking farmers, the troop of children bringing flowers to scatter on the coffin of their benefactress, the vivid and tearful memories that then and there arose in the hearts of the gathered friends, of her uniform goodness, noble nature, and Christian womanhood; the impressive rites of the Church she so loved and labored for, the fresh green of tree and turf, the bright soft solemn day, all made up an experience now hallowed to memory, love and faith.

A remarkably appropriate monument has recently been erected over the remains of this venerated lady, of sarcophagus type, in fine granite, a cross is rounded from the apex in graceful manner, the monograms, Alpha and Omega, are cut in relief at each end. On one side of the inscription, "Sarah Gibbs died June 17, 1866, Aet. 84," on the other, "Founded this church 1847." Mr. Richard M. Hunt designed this chaste and original monument.

Miss Sarah Gibbs inherited "Oakland." It was purchased in South Portsmouth by her father, George Gibbs, and his partner, Walter Channing, in 1796, from John and Lydia Faxon for the now inconsiderable sum of $2,600.00.

It is curious that I have omitted mention of the fine Italian marble monument in St. Mary's Church, designed by Washington Allston, to the memory of Mr. and Mrs. George Gibbs, the parents of Miss Sarah Gibbs. It was cut in Italy and is worth a visit to the church. The border is a skillful combination of the fruits of this soil and thoroughly in accord with the lives of the eminently virtuous pair for whom the stone was erected. Allston married Miss Sarah Channing and courted her in Newport. In 1800 when strolling about Newport with his consumptive sweetheart he found it "a great change from the flat surroundings of Charleston" and "crowded with strangers and gayer than he had ever known it," but while frequently in after years a guest of Miss Gibbs at Oakland there is no mention of it, or of the Gibbs monument, in the memoirs of his life. While my father was in the legislature I frequently accompanied him to his lodging house in Providence, where that eccentric old lady, Miss Allston, was rather overwhelmingly kind to me. She had many anecdotes of her brother, the artist, and it was rather pathetic to see her in her old age so alone in the world. Miss Sarah Gibbs owned a large painting by Washington Allston, Jeremiah the Prophet, dictating to his young scribe. This must have been at Oakland in the drawing room, but I do not remember it until after Miss Gibbs's death in 1866, when it was temporarily placed in the Redwood Library prior to its removal to Yale College.

I should like to tell of the serene calm of Miss Gibbs' own bedroom as I peeped from the door into its emptiness, the big mahogany four-poster draped in tasseled dimity, the strong chests of drawers, brightened by brass handles, and the sparse ornaments and utensils of the toilette and mantel shelf notable in the rigid neatness of the room.

It should be recalled that this corner of Union Street and

the East Road, the northeast corner of Miss Gibbs's estate, faced across the road to the narrow field, now the site of the Union Church, where the opening of the Battle of Rhode Island was fought on the 29th of August, 1778. It was the most bloody encounter of the entire day, and it is advisable to read the account given in Arnold's History of Rhode Island. The British troops went out by both the East and West Roads the previous day, and Miss Gibbs' estate marks the rear of the fight. There was awful carnage over the north wall on Union Street, where American troops lay ambushed, unexpected by the British. It is funny, too, to think of Pigot, the British commander-in-chief of the day, rolling and bouncing about the scene in an old carryall with one of his aids jouncing beside him, and sad to recall one of the British officers, searching after dark for a young kinsman dead in the shadow of the old stone wall, with sixty or so of their men, left behind for the day as the tide of the fight surged on northward to the hills above.

Mrs. d'Oremieulx, Dr. Wolcott Gibbs, Major Theodore Gibbs

January 17, 1909. A year ago it was our own part to lose three of the family in seven weeks. Now Death's quiet finger has touched the shoulders of Mrs. d'Oremieulx and her brother Dr. Wolcott Gibbs and their younger cousin, Major Theodore Gibbs.

First Mrs. d'Oremieulx; after a short four weeks of suffering! Bright, vivacious, filled with the better parts! Known for her marvelous proficiency on the piano, skilled in languages; an apt daughter of her mother and withal herself. An individuality brightened perhaps by the unusual characters with whom her long life was spent, but gifted by nature

beyond the common. I think of her in particular three times. Once — a young wife, her two beautiful little children at her knee, talking to my mother, and seated on the sofa in our new drawing-room in Bowery Street. Mr. d'Oremieulx and her father, their two black heads together, energetically discussing some scientific curio on the round table in the bay window. Next — full two score years later, Mrs. d'Oremieulx, Dr. Gibbs and my mother seated together in the drawing room in Gibbs Avenue, Mrs. d'Oremieulx humming a tune for her little granddaughter Lorraine Roosevelt's dancing. Something not trivial for the child had been commended the previous summer by the chief mistress of the Ballet of the Grand Opera in Paris and, moreover, proffered a few lessons by that critical personage. The last scene of the trio is this strong-hearted lady, standing by the grave of her husband and watching the coffin of her only son slowly sink into the sod of St. Mary's. There too she now lies, and Lidy Betton and I followed her remains from the train to that last rest, only a short week before the death of her brother Dr. Gibbs. Far too ill to be apprised of the passing of his sister, Dr. Gibbs was spared this last sorrow of his old age. I need not dwell upon the gathering of scientists, friends and family grouped about the bier of Dr. Gibbs, banked in flowers, in the library he so much loved; the apt selections of the scriptures, Mr. Diman's prayers — prayed indeed, not recited,— nor the long sorrow of the winding way to St. Mary's where the rain fell in torrents throughout the dreary December day. Rather far, let me think of the living being, who, all my life, has been so marked a figure among us. Not as the marked man of science — that is for wiser brains than mine — but as the gentleman loved by all, in the home that he loved. What strong name of the period has not entered that garden gate, or sat by the fire smouldering beneath the grand Stuart portrait of Mr.

George Gibbs of old Newport fame, pulled the ears of the big cat dozing on the sofa hard by, glanced at "Rutherford's Moon" framed on the wall, noted the venerable Grandmother Gibbs, seated within her frame, in such refinement as Stuart's brush so well preserves, and lingered for a moment by the book-lined walls near that well worn writing table whereon, always mingled with an infinity of flowers, lay the last Spectator and a parcel of the most recent abstruse pamphlets from all over the world with "the respects of their authors" scrawled on their covers. Two or three deep-seated easy chairs faced the fire, and, of last years, one of these carefully drawn to the most sheltered nook between books and table has been Dr. Gibbs' chosen seat. Here he has sat, his mind, his heart, his life mingled into one of those personalities that, without his career, are in themselves very marked.

Of his tall frame, "a fathom of man," his fine presence, shapely head and handsome face I have not spoken, but my parents did, and my mother constantly averred that Dr. Wolcott Gibbs was the only scientist that she knew who was just like other people, in every respect — only better. In other words, that she had no fault to find. Mr. Rutherford, the Agassizs, father and son, and the brothers, Professors Robert and William B. Rogers, being instanced, my mother always insisted that Wolcott Gibbs was the first on her list — and, being two years her junior, "that he had been a very handsome little boy." "All the more to his merit," my father would reply. Age made no distinction in Dr. Gibbs's list of intimates. Mr. Bancroft frequently would halt his great horse at the gate, and long were the cogitations of the historian and the chemist over seeds, plants and roses. Little Tom Powel, six years of age, munching his Sunday chicken at Dr. Gibbs's

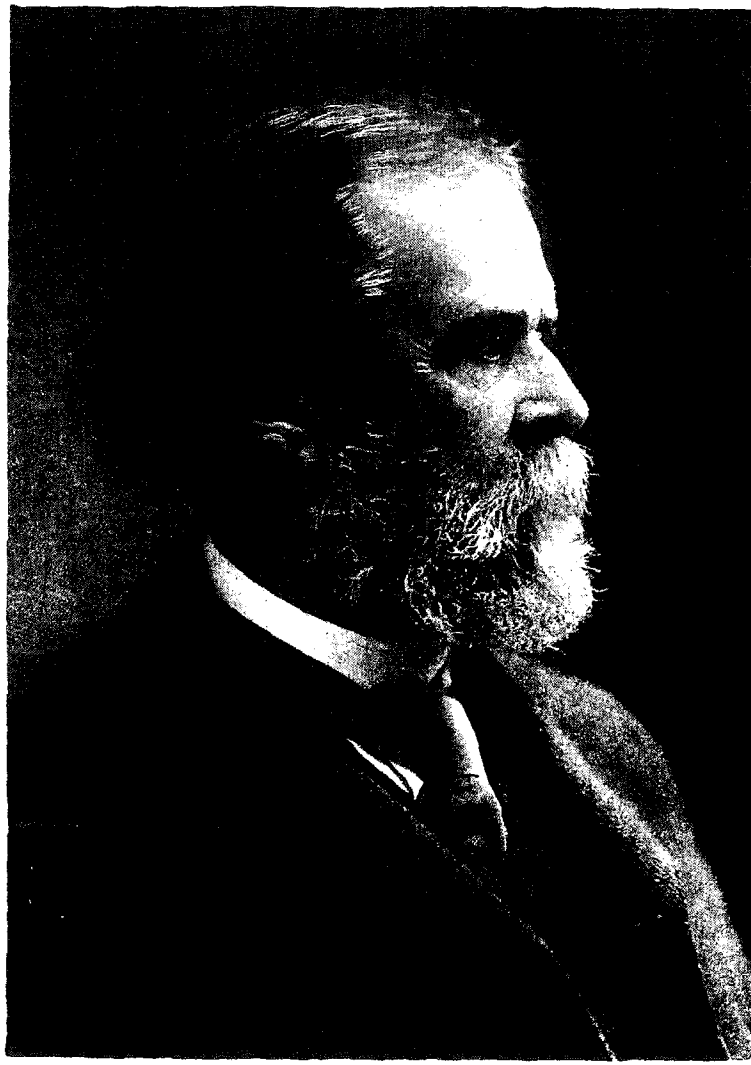
dinner table, watching the cloud of abstraction stealing over his host's brow, burst out with the question, "Mighty Dr. Gibbs! What *are* you thinking about?"

The garden in Gibbs Avenue, for a quarter of a century, has been foremost in wealth of novelties, and Dr. Gibbs's chief happiness lay in first proving the worth of his specimen and then bestowing the plants on some friends, enriching them and making space for new importations. No one in Newport grew such Spanish, German, and above all Japanese Iris, such single paeonies, such varieties or such stalwart stalks of gladioli. He revived the helebores of old gardens, mid-winter blooms out of a frame buried in snow, and cautioned "that the stalks must be slit for the vases." He set wake-robin in the shade of magnolia, and flowering shrubs too many to describe in a border about the grounds; nursed a flowering cherry of his own planting and a giant hickory, that the British had forgotten to cut down in the Revolution, with equal solicitude, until both gave way to a single blizzard storm in 1898. "The Giant's grave" was the nickname of a rock-edged crest in the centre of his lawn, whereon grew a row of ancient hawthorns, and about the piazza where the Doctor and Mrs. Gibbs often received their friends, were draped manifold purple and white clematis and "virgin's bower." Across all the wealth of untold blooms lay the placid pond and from further off drifted an undertone of old Ocean, breathing its summer song in the sunlit afternoon, while to the north "over the hill and far away," beyond the vale at his feet, led the road to his aunt's old home, Oakland, and to St. Mary's shady yard. None left those gates without a nose-gay unless it were to bear away a single specimen of something so rare as to brook no fellow; and under the departing elbow, during the last few words at the gate, was apt to be

tucked the alluring catalogue of some foreign florist. The chief gardeners were, of course, Dr. Gibbs and his nephew, Neil Betton, but the "army" consisted of clever old Matthew, a wizened old negro, afflicted with a mottling of white skin, and possessing polished manners. He was originally brought to Newport from Florida, a servant of Mrs. Betton's, and for many years before returning to his family allegiance had been in the employ of Dr. King.

Mrs. Gibbs did not survive many years after the building of the house in Gibbs Avenue. She was a dear friend of my mother's from her own girlhood, and was a contemporary and intimate of Mrs. d'Oremieulx, both these young people possessing the same marked accomplishments, true wit, fun and deep heartedness. Their pianos, however, made the strongest tie between them. Wherever lived Mrs. Gibbs, there centered music. Long before the house in Newport was built, in New York, in Cambridge, it was her passion. Mrs. Gibbs and my mother read music at sight. Perched upon two stools, the one small and alert, the other tall and prim, both very dark just like foreigners, a note! a pause! "one, two, three — now!" — and away! Classic music for hours, until the exhausted and hungry family would demand their presence at the table. "I will bring more music from Schirmer's! Wolcott, can you and Mr. Powel never cease with your science! Mep, come and see my mother's old china!" would echo from the carriage as, with her music and her husband, Mrs. Gibbs drove away to the train for Cambridge, where little Neil Betton, her nephew, was perched on a chair to play his violin.

These are trivial scenes, but they fill the perspective, and many stronger moments must resolve themselves into names. Mr. Sheldon and Professor Agassiz fils were perhaps Dr. Gibbs's two most intimate friends of latest years, but all of



WOLCOTT GIBBS

FROM LIFE

note were welcomed there, and many a funny story greeted by shouts of laughter floated in the ebb of solid topics. Had not Herman, Mr. Bancroft's pampered menial, whispered in German, "Herr Doctor, refuse this dish! There is a far better one coming presently." And in the same minute Marconi's magic was discussed.

So modest was Dr. Gibbs of his own attainments that he rarely spoke of them, except to my father in private, but it has often been my happy lot to hear Dr. Gibbs describe his old Professor and friend, my great uncle Dr. Robert Hare of Philadelphia. Unquestionably he was Dr. Hare's chief pupil, and it was very touching to hear Dr. Gibbs in his great age speak with such love and veneration for the old master of his early days. He had been an inmate of Dr. and Mrs. Hare's home for one or two years, and was the last living being to tell me of the happy mutual attachment of this couple and of their hospitable home, of which my own childish memories are so bright.

While Dr. Gibbs's library welcomed ladies as cheerfully as their squires, the especial realm of Mrs. Gibbs was naturally the drawing room, rich with inherited crimson brocade curtains and its fine Empire furniture. There, niched in flowers, Mrs. Gibbs's portrait hangs over her desk to this day. This bay-windowed oaken room held not only her piano and Neil's 'cello, being often the field of many musicians, but it contained a happy mingling of the inheritance of both husband and wife. Over the Empire clock on the mantel hung the portrait of Captain Joseph Anthony, the merchant of Philadelphia, an uncle of Gilbert Stuart and an early partner of Dr. Wolcott Gibbs's grandfather, Mr. George Gibbs. Dr. Gibbs told me that, in his childhood, this beaming blue-coated florid old gentleman hung directly over a sideboard on which stood stout round-bellied decanters, of Madeira and the like,

and to his child's mind Captain Anthony was always the presiding host of convivial groups that gathered to jingle their glasses in beneath him. Nigh to this mantel, where were set Trumbull's miniatures of Alexander Hamilton and his wife, stood a cupboard overhung by another Stuart — that of the Signer Oliver Wolcott — from whom Dr. Gibbs took his name, and both above and below, this cupboard was crowded with porcelains of age and value, Wedgwood, Dutch East Indian, old Chinese, and the like, all very precious family relics. To me the chief touch of the past lay upon the white marble table from Oakland, upholding the big fern, and within the dog and swan-headed armchairs that had held on their knees the worthies of a century. So too was there to be found a touch of remembrance in the fittings of Dr. Gibbs's dinner table, modern as was its dainty serving, but that teapot from Oakland — and the rest of the equipage always added flavor even to the best of the day's dishes. Over all this house brooded the atmosphere of genuine friendship. Guests have come and gone by hundreds from Dr. Gibbs's home, none with a sense of perfunctory hospitality.

Neil Betton, the nephew of Mrs. Gibbs, loved as her son, died a few years ago, on a voyage to Europe — about two years after his marriage with Miss Hooper of Boston. He was an intimate friend of my brother John, and very dear to my mother and me, a man of much promise and strong understanding. Of all the quartette who formed the family in this house, Lidy Betton alone remains. This young girl became as his own child to Dr. Gibbs. No daughter of his blood could have been dearer to him and no father more near to her. She now lives alone in this house replete with associations. Her tea table on the piazza, of late enclosed in glass, has long been a feature on summer afternoons and her luncheons are proverbial.

It was my good fortune to be bidden yearly, until last year, when the failing health of Dr. Gibbs and my own serious illness prevented, to dine with our old friend on his birthday, the 21st of February. On the last occasion Mrs. Charles Perkins, over eighty herself, and I were the guests. A merry dinner it was! Dr. Gibbs was by no means of an easy nature. He was fervid, earnest and energetic. I remember many strong moments on both political and private topics when he aroused with much fire. Of his generosity and charity, his liberality of judgment towards others and his strong intellectual strength and purpose his life record is the proof. The rounding of his character was the polish of granite; the blood that ran in his veins sang-azure; and with his grave closes the last life that survived of the friends of my parents' early youth.

Major Theodore Gibbs

Now comes the death of Theodore Gibbs. Tramping again to the graves of this good family goes stern Death. Theodore Gibbs! An eminent American! I know no better word for him. Harford [Powel] sat still last evening, looked up and said, "Well, he *was* an American!" Yes, in its admirable and just sense. Fearless, upright, good, kind, charitable, doing for others ever, never considering himself, and yet a shrewd and successful man of business. Equally a friend of the friendless. One of those who leaven the mass of millionaires. Not a reckless dispenser of vulgarity and show but a man to whom this world is the passing show, and he neither criticising or shunning it, simply walking in his own path that the Lord had appointed. And he walked faithfully to the bitter end, burdened by the misery of a wound that may be said to have killed him, after forty years of daily endurance and endless suffering. In early youth he was a shy awkward lad, friendly

and timid at once; rather overweighted by being the youngest of a very large family. Barely grown to full manhood he "went to the war," served with distinction and was twice wounded and twice brevetted for gallantry, his only home-coming during his arduous service being his sick leave. After the war young Gibbs and his friend and comrade, Colonel Elder, continued service in the same regiment of the Regular Army and, stationed on Staten Island, met and married two charming young girls, cousins, the Misses Barrett. My first sight of the bride of Major Gibbs was about a year later, when returning from Europe they visited Governor and Mrs. Gibbs in Mill Street. My father and I had gone to make a formal call upon — as rumor reported — an elderly bride. Into the room floated a young girl looking almost a child, a branch of apple blossoms across the top of her pretty French hat. Hand in hand in all good deeds, this couple have walked down the length of many years to this present parting.

Tonight I find that in 1803, the Reverend Theodore Dahon (Rector of Trinity Church), and the Newport *Mercury* describing Mr. George Gibbs of Newport, the grandfather of Major Gibbs, in sermon and obituary, so exactly describe his good grandson Theodore that no pen of mine could attempt it. Word for word, excepting for one or two small details of surroundings, does the description of one present the character of the other. Honorable upright citizens of Newport. These accounts are to be found in a pamphlet in the Redwood, the gift of its author, Dr. Wolcott Gibbs, and all most interesting reading ("The Gibbs Family"). To Newport, the close of such a life is a heavy sorrow to all conditions of her inhabitants, most of all to the little children of the town to whom his tender hands were ever extended, teaching them in all modesty the path that leads to God day by day from start to finish.

WOLCOTT GIBBS

The following beautiful and appreciative paper on Wolcott Gibbs's life is the work of a devoted pupil. His treatment of the subject is intended to be non-technical, and is so, in fact. It necessarily makes mention of chemical terms, as outlining the scope of Gibbs's work and some of his contributions to science, but, notwithstanding, is a readable account of the personal and family life of the great man, and is perhaps the best of the many accounts which have appeared. It gives many sidelights upon his character which should be made known to his family.

The introductory portion of Dr. Richter's paper has been omitted, as it is a genealogical account of the Gibbs forebears, a subject which has been covered elsewhere in this book.

Wolcott Gibbs

By Herman Richter

Foreword

The writer offers no justification for the following pages other than the fact that the biographies of Wolcott Gibbs which have previously appeared have been written for scientific readers. In the following pages he has endeavoured to avoid, so far as possible, more than a mention of technical matters, for he firmly believes that the life of Wolcott Gibbs has an important message for the lay reader as well as for the scientist.

Much of his information the writer has secured from the biographical memoirs written by Jackson, Clarke, Richards

and Morley. To Dr. Theodore William Richards he is especially grateful for his helpful suggestions and kindly interest. But most of all is he indebted to a niece of Dr. Gibbs, Miss Elizabeth L. Betton, of Newport, who furnished a wealth of information that could have been obtained from no other source, and whose prompt and cheerful compliance with every request made this work possible.

Oliver Wolcott Gibbs, second son of George and Laura (Wolcott) Gibbs, was born in the city of New York, February 21, 1822. His father, a man of culture and of some means, was able to surround his sons with all the advantages that are conducive to intellectual and moral growth: his mother, as Miss Powel has shown, was a woman of rare gifts and attainments. Brilliant, patriotic, morally strong, she exercised on her children, and, in fact, on all who met her, an inestimable influence for good.

The Gibbs home at Sunswick Farms, where, during Wolcott's early days, the family spent the greater part of the time,— was the resort of the most capable and prominent people of the day, who were attracted thither by the charming hospitality which a far-sighted host and hostess always extended to people of worth. While we can have no means of measuring what Professor Hanus calls "fortuitous education" we can, nevertheless, feel certain that it played a large part in the early development of Wolcott Gibbs.[1]

On the paternal domains Wolcott lived the life of a young English lord. "His was the earth, and the fulness thereof." His were the meadows and fields to roam, his the shore and woods to explore. A lad of rare imagination, Wolcott Gibbs made of "Sunswick" a world in miniature. He himself tells us, in a short autobiography written just before his death, when his mind often wandered back to those halcyon days of

[1] "Science," N.S. Vol. XXVIII, No. 729, December 18, 1908.



SUNSWICK, ASTORIA, L. I.
(Recent Photograph)

the misty past, that he was often occupied with making volcanoes with such materials as he could obtain, and in searching the stone walls for minerals and the gardens and fields for flowers. Even at this early age we find the germs of what, in later life, became two of the most prominent characteristics of Wolcott Gibbs: his love of science and his fondness for flowers.

At the tender age of five, Wolcott was sent away to a school near New York,— from which, it is said, he promptly ran away. No further educational ventures were made until he was seven, when he was sent up to Boston to live, for a time, with William Ellery Channing, the great Unitarian preacher, who had married his aunt. Another aunt, Miss Sarah Gibbs, who lived with her sister and her brother-in-law, was his special guardian. Dr. Channing made his residence in a fine old mansion on Mt. Vernon Street, and, in the shadow of the State House, Wolcott went to the private school kept by Mr. Leverett, a prominent Latin scholar.[1]

As the home of George Gibbs was, in a sense, one of the centers of culture in New York, so, likewise, was that of Dr. Channing a rendezvous for the talent and ability of the old Bay State. Hither came not only those of local fame, but from all the states, from across the seas, indeed, came pilgrims of culture and prominence, attracted by the fame of the eminent divine. Too great stress cannot be laid on the effect of this stimulating mental atmosphere on the intellectual and moral development of the youth who, from the day of his birth, was directly exposed to it.

During the summer months, the Channings, usually accompanied by Wolcott, made their residence at "Oakland," a beautiful country estate on the East Main Road in Ports-

[1] Among his fellow-pupils were Wm. M. Evarts, the two brothers Perkins, Greenough, Sam'l Eliot and others who, in time became distinguished.

mouth, Rhode Island, about seven miles from Newport. This old colonial place was a legacy to Miss Sarah Gibbs from her father, the great merchant of Newport's prosperous days; and "on its good fat acres she established herself somewhat after the fashion of a monied Englishwoman." The winter months she spent with the Channings in Boston, but the first heat of summer invariably drove them all to the green fields and welcome shades of the old Rhode Island farm. Happy the boy whom a kind fate permitted to live, for a not inconsiderable portion of his youth, the wholesome life of "Oakland." I wish I might include here the charming picture which Miss Powel has given us in her reminiscences,— Oakland, with its waving fields of Indian corn, its rolling pasture lands, its low stone walls and well-kept arbor-vitae hedges, and its magic garden,— but I fear that to do so would trench too heavily on our limited space.[1]

As our narrative draws near the close of its first chapter it remains for us to chronicle a sad event which took place in the eleventh year of Wolcott's life: the untimely death of his father. A few months after this unfortunate occurrence, Wolcott left the home of Dr. Channing, going thence to the celebrated school of the Reverend Dr. Muhlenberg at Flushing, Long Island. Here he remained for two years. In 1835, the estate at Sunswick was sold, and the family removed to New York, where, in the same year, Wolcott joined them to enter the preparatory grammar school attached to Columbia College. Thus closed the first chapter in the life of Wolcott Gibbs: a period which he always considered, save for one sad memory, the happiest of his life.

In 1837, he entered Columbia College, aged 15. Early in his course he became interested in the natural sciences, and

[1] This sketch may be found in "The Gibbs Family of Newport." See bibliography. Also in beginning page 96 ante.

specialized, so far as was then possible, in physics and chemistry. The early life at Sunswick, and the later life at "Oakland," had bred in young Gibbs a strong love of nature and a profound interest in her processes. His father's example, too, had made a lasting imprint on the mind of the youth. What more natural, therefore, than that young Gibbs should have turned at once to the sciences for his inspiration?

During the years which Wolcott Gibbs spent at Columbia, the chair of Physics and Chemistry was held by James Renwick, an inspiring teacher who doubtless gave young Gibbs a good start in the world of science. Professor Renwick's youthful pupil must have progressed at a rapid rate in his studies, for we find him, at the age of eighteen, and in his junior year in college, giving to the world his first scientific discovery: the fact that carbon could be employed as the inactive plate in a galvanic cell. During the same year, the same discovery was announced independently by Cooper and Schönbein.[1]

After taking his bachelor's degree from Columbia in 1841, Wolcott Gibbs accepted a position as laboratory assistant to an old family friend, Dr. Robert Hare, the inventor of the compound blow-pipe, who was professor of chemistry in the Medical School of the University of Pennsylvania. It was evidently the example of his preceptor, Dr. Hare, that directed the course of the younger chemist, for we find Gibbs, some months after taking up his work in Philadelphia, saying farewell to the laboratory in which he had gained much valuable experience and entering the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York, with the intention of fitting himself to hold the chair of chemistry in some medical school. From this institution he received, in 1845, the degree of Doctor of Medicine.

[1] Silliman's Journal, 39, 132 (1840).

In the year of his graduation from the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Gibbs published a dissertation which proved that he had in no wise allowed his medical studies to deaden his interest in pure science. In this dissertation he proposed a natural system of classification for the chemical elements, mentioning and applying, in elementary fashion, the very principles that, two decades later, enabled Mendeleef to bring out his wonderful periodic table.[1]

There is small reason to believe that Gibbs ever intended to practice medicine, for by this time he was already wedded to the life of the investigator in pure science. That the study of chemistry had become the dominant purpose of his life, is shown by the next step he took to enlarge his knowledge of the subject: his pilgrimage to the main seat of chemical science, Germany.

It was a period of great scientific development during which Gibbs set foot in Europe. From the great mass of experimental data gathered by the researches of Dumas, Laurent and Gerhardt, Wurtz, Hoffmann, Williamson, Kolbé and Kekulé, Frankland's epoch-making theory of valence was just beginning to crystallize. The science of analytical chemistry was flourishing under the able leadership of Heinrich Rose; Victor Regnault was engaged in those classic physical measurements of enduring fame; Liebig was rising to the zenith of his renown. Into this arena of scientific effort stepped young Gibbs, already well grounded in fundamentals, and eager to match his powers against the problems of Nature.

Attracted by the fame of Heinrich Rose, Gibbs went to

[1] This has seemed to the writer so important a matter that he has brought it to the attention of one of his instructors, who will thoroughly investigate it. The somewhat misleading title under which the dissertation was published is probably responsible for the fact that the classification of Gibbs has been overlooked. It has, to be sure, been mentioned in several bibliographies, but no one seems to have taken the trouble to read it. Even so authentic and comprehensive work as Venable's "Periodic Law" makes no mention of it.

Berlin where, after a few months in the laboratory of Carl Rammelsberg, he took up his studies under the great master-analyst. While working with Rose, Gibbs continued his pursuit of mineralogy under Rammelsberg. Under two such able masters it was not strange that he should have attained, in the year that he spent at Berlin, a knowledge of analytical procedure and a development of technique quite beyond that of most chemists of his day.

After his year at Berlin, he went to Giessen, where Liebig had established the laboratory in which so many of the world's greatest chemists were trained. Organic chemistry, then just coming into its kingdom, now claimed the attention of the young American student. Under the masterful instruction of the great Liebig he made rapid progress; and when, at the end of the semester, he left Giessen, he was fully conversant with the best chemical theory of his time.

From Giessen, Gibbs journeyed to Paris. Here his attention was attracted, by the brilliant lectures of Regnault, to yet another department of the science to which he had devoted himself. At the same time, his newly-developed interest in organic chemistry was furthered by the lectures of Laurent and Dumas.

With the close of these famous lecture courses, Gibbs, having received from the College of Physicians and Surgeons an offer of an assistant professorship in chemistry, returned, in the fall of 1848, to his native land. His stay in Europe had been of inestimable benefit to him. He had acquired a broad knowledge of the higher branches of his science. He had met the great scientific leaders of the day and had worked under their inspiring guidance.

By the example of his late teachers Wolcott Gibbs had been much impressed,— especially by that of Heinrich Rose. As we are told by one of his most intimate friends of later

days:[1] " . . . Heinrich Rose had by far the most influence on him, as is shown by his lifelong devotion to inorganic and analytical chemistry, in spite of the fascinations of organic chemistry under Liebig and physical chemistry under Regnault. He always spoke of Rose with the greatest admiration and affection, and evidently regarded him as his chemical father."

If Gibbs's devotion was laid mainly at the feet of Rose, yet the great personality of Liebig, too, left a deep impression on the younger man. He seems especially to have been struck by Liebig's methods of teaching; for, on his return to America, he made these methods, then even less known to American educators than the teachings of Pestalozzi, the model for his own pedagogical work. On this subject we shall have more to say in the proper connection.

Shortly after his return to the States, Gibbs, by request, delivered a short course of lectures at Delaware College, Newark, Delaware. In 1849, he was offered, and he accepted, the chair of chemistry in the newly-founded "Free Academy," now the College of the City of New York.

From the time of his appointment to the professorship at the Free Academy, we find his name appearing frequently in the literature. The teaching required of him was elementary and his activities, accordingly, were directed in part to other matters. In 1851, he contributed no less than five papers to Silliman's "American Journal of Sciences:" of which publication he became, during the same year, the associate editor. In this capacity he began for this journal a series of reports on the progress of chemistry and physics, as recorded by contemporary European scientfic publications. This laborious work Gibbs continued until 1873. His abstracts covered 472 closely-printed pages, and furnished brief, but comprehen-

[1] Charles Loring Jackson, "Wolcott Gibbs," Am. Journ. Sci., Vol. XXVII, March, 1909.

sive summaries of 605 chemical and physical investigations which had been carried out abroad. It is impossible to overestimate the value of these abstracts to American science.

In 1853, Dr. James Renwick, under whom Gibbs had received his first instruction in science, retired from his chair at Columbia College. Gibbs, by this time, had achieved no small amount of local fame; and it was supposed by all that his alma mater would call her distinguished alumnus to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Professor Renwick. In this day of broad views and religious liberality it is hard to believe that, only three score years ago, minor religious considerations should have entered into the choice of a professor of chemistry at Columbia. "But, strange as it must seem to the rising generation, to the board of trustees of that day, under the presidency of Charles King, LL.D., the idea of appointing a Unitarian to teach chemistry in Columbia was quite too shocking to be entertained, and the chair was filled by another. Bache, Henry, Peirce, Dana, Wyman, Gray, the Barnards, the LeContes, Sears C. Walker, Gould, Rutherford and others (Episcopalians, some of them) protested in vain, though they were not without support among the trustees. Mr. Samuel B. Ruggles, whom every inhabitant of this island ought to remember gratefully for the public squares we owe to his generosity or influence, was not the only one of that body to do all that lay in an influential, energetic and skilful citizen to do to overcome the prejudice. But it was in vain: and Dr. Gibbs remained in his professorship in the Free Academy for another ten years." [1]

[1] The publicity attending this curious and amusing controversy caused the appointment in 1853 of a special Committee by the New York State legislature to investigate the affairs and management of Columbia College. In its Report is spread lengthy testimony in the Gibbs matter, as well as numerous letters from distinguished men in Gibbs's behalf and an especially interesting dissertation upon the subject of religious intolerance by Mr. Samuel B. Ruggles. These documents were presented to President Nicholas Murray Butler for preservation in the library of the University by George Gibbs (V.) in 1932.

The fourteen years which Gibbs spent at the Free Academy were not, however, wasted years. During his period of service at the New York institution he won for himself an enviable reputation as a teacher, one of the considerations, undoubtedly, that afterward influenced his appointment to the Rumford Professorship at Harvard. His pedagogical duties, moreover, did not trench very heavily either upon his energy or his time: he was, consequently, able to devote himself largely to his research work. In 1852, as a result of this work, he discovered a new salt of xanthocobalt. The composition of this body Gibbs established.

Another American chemist was at this time devoting himself to a study of the cobaltamine compounds: F. A. Genth, who, while studying in Germany, had taken up the problem suggested by Gmelin's discovery, in the year in which Wolcott Gibbs was born, of the first cobaltamine salt. Genth, in 1847, had prepared several related cobalt-ammonia compounds, and had established the composition of the two bases now known as luteocobalt and roseocobalt.

It was but natural that the two American chemists, both pioneers in the work they had undertaken, should be led to work together. In 1857, they gave to the world their famous memoir, an account of the first complete and systematic research performed in America. In this masterful paper, which has ever since served as a model for the presentation of results by investigators in chemistry, Gibbs and Genth described no less than thirty-five salts of the three cobaltamines, including some of those of a fourth called purpureocobalt. Careful analyses of all these compounds were given, and in eleven cases, the chemical and analytical work was supplemented by crystallographic measurements by J. D. Dana. Never before had so exhaustive a research been conducted on this side of the water.

Our narrative has carried us four full years beyond that in which took place a very important event in the life of Wolcott Gibbs. In 1853, he married Josephine, daughter of Oroondates and Martha (Eddy) Mauran. She was a charming and talented woman.

After his research with Genth on the cobaltamines, Dr. Gibbs turned his attention to another difficult subject: the analytical chemistry of the platinum metals. Unlike most investigators, however, he at no time allowed his energies to be monopolized by any single line of work. His interests were always catholic. In the period between 1856 and 1860 we find his name at the head of six articles in the "American Journal of Sciences and Arts," the publication which had formerly been known as Silliman's "Journal of Science." These papers illustrate well the versatility and the broad scientific interest of Wolcott Gibbs. Three of the articles deal with subjects in organic chemistry; one of them continues the work on ammonium bases; another discusses the equivalents of certain metals; while yet another deals with a physico-chemical problem — the calculation of vapor densities.

The first of three papers on the platinum metals was given to the world in 1861. The work was of the same high quality that characterized the earlier efforts of Dr. Gibbs and immediately won him a place among the leaders of chemical science in America.

It seems almost like a special act of Providence that Wolcott Gibbs should have risen to fame just at the time when the long pent-up fires of rebellion burst forth and plunged the nation into the chaos of civil war. When the guns of Sumter thundered the prologue of that most terrible drama of our history, certain far-sighted men, in whose minds were still fresh the horrors of the Crimea, realized that there would soon be dire need of a body of experts whose duty it

should be to safeguard the health of the soldiers. Out of their sapient suggestion grew the United States Sanitary Commission,[1] which performed so noble a work during that dreadful crisis in our national life, and which has since served as a model for other nations that have been engaged in warfare.

The Sanitary Commission, early in the war, entered upon its active career by enlisting the support of the most prominent and capable men of the day. Among those public-spirited citizens of ability who placed their services at the disposal of the Commission was Wolcott Gibbs. Of a deeply patriotic nature, he would undoubtedly have hastened to the front, had he not realized that he could serve his country far better by the exercise of his special abilities in the work of the Sanitary Commission. Because of his eminent position among men of science, Dr. Gibbs was made a member of the original Executive Committee of the Commission;[2] and in this capacity he served the cause of humanity with entire devotion.[3]

The frequent meetings of the Sanitary Commission suggested to Dr. Gibbs the idea of "a club which should be de-

[1] Now "The Red Cross."

[2] The other members were: Rev. Dr. Bellows, president; Dr. Alexander D. Bache, vice-president; Dr. Van Buren; Dr. Elisha Harris; Dr. C. R. Agnew; Dr. J. S. Newberry; and Mr. George T. Strong.

[3] In a "History of the United States Sanitary Commission," by C. J. Stillé (see bilbliography), appears the following paragraph on Dr. Gibbs; a tribute which describes the man and his splendid work far better than could any words of ours:

"Professor Gibbs was one of the Commission from whose earnestness, wisely tempered judgment and great scientific ability much assistance was expected by his colleagues. Perfectly convinced of the truth of the principle upon which the Commission was based, he devoted himself with untiring zeal to a special investigation of all the scientific questions (non-medical) which were brought before the Commission. . . . This duty . . . became a most serious and responsible one, but the Commission was always satisfied that its reputation as a pseudo-scientific body was safe in his hands. But his services were by no means confined to this special field of inquiry. His zeal and earnestness, his comprehensive and practical views upon all questions of general policy were always conspicuous, and while he commanded the respect and confidence of his colleagues he exerted a most important influence upon the whole work of the Commission."

voted to the social organization of sentiments of loyalty to the Union." On January 30, 1863, a meeting was called at his home to consider this project, and the result was the formation of the well-known Union League Club of New York. We can imagine that Laura Wolcott Gibbs, who still lived to serve her country by her example of fervid patriotism, was one of the moving spirits in this organization. Miss Powel tells us that she "had taken a very prominent part among the loyal women of New York and was greatly honored by all for her many exertions for the soldiers." It is not surprising that the son of such a mother should have held himself ever ready to serve his country. In times of peace as well as of war Wolcott Gibbs never failed to respond when called to the service of the government. When he was a commissioner to the exposition at Vienna, in 1873, he contributed to the Government Reports a valuable paper on the instruments of physical research. At another time he prepared a report on the tariff as applied to seeds, and on many occasions furnished expert advice on chemical subjects.

In spite of the many demands made upon his time by the Sanitary Commission and his other patriotic activities, Gibbs, during the Civil War period, continued his work on the metals of the platinum group, publishing his second paper in 1862. His masterly treatment of this most difficult problem at once stamped him as the foremost chemist of America: and when, in 1862, Eben N. Horsford resigned his position at Harvard as Rumford Professor of the Application of Science to the Useful Arts, men of science called, with almost one acclaim, for the appointment of Dr. Wolcott Gibbs to the vacant chair. Fortunately, religious considerations played no part in this case and, in 1863, Dr. Gibbs was called to Cambridge by President Hill.

In the same year in which he received his appointment to

the Harvard faculty, Gibbs, with other eminent American scientists, founded the National Academy of Sciences, the most exclusive of American scientific organizations. Later, he served for several years as Vice-President of this society and, from 1895 to 1901, as its President. Throughout his life he was actively identified with the work of scientific bodies, serving as Foreign Secretary, Vice-President and, finally, in 1897 and 1898, as President of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. To many societies he was elected as honorary member, among these being the American Philosophical Society of Philadelphia, the American, English and German Chemical Societies, the British Association for the Advancement of Science and the Royal Prussian Academy. In this connection it seems fitting to mention the other signal honors which his splendid achievements won for him. He received the degree of LL.D. from Columbia College in 1873, from Harvard University in 1888, from the Columbian University of Washington in 1895, and from the University of Pennsylvania in 1897; while, in 1902, the University of Pennsylvania conferred upon him, as a special honor, the same degree *in absentia.*

The appointment of Wolcott Gibbs brought a great man into the company of his peers. The period which centers about the middle of the last century stands out as one of the proudest in the history of Harvard University. At that time she numbered on her faculty such men as Louis Agassiz, the zoölogist, Jeffries Wyman, the comparative anatomist, Asa Gray, the botanist, Josiah Parsons Cooke, the chemist, Benjamin Peirce, the mathematician, and Nathaniel Southgate Shaler, the geologist. Throughout the world the renown of Longfellow, Lowell and Holmes redounded to her glory. Nowhere could Wolcott Gibbs have found an atmosphere more inspiring than that of Cambridge.

The duties of the Rumford Professor were quite different from those of the professor of chemistry at the Free Academy. But little elementary instruction was now required of Gibbs. He was expected to assume control of the chemical laboratory of the Lawrence Scientific School and to lecture on Light and Heat. In both of these subjects Gibbs was profoundly interested, and his large store of information enabled him to deliver his lectures with great facility.[1]

As a teacher, Gibbs plainly showed the influence of Liebig: in fact, any description of Liebig as a teacher can be applied almost without change to Gibbs. Kolbé has given us the following information concerning Liebig's methods:[2]

"Liebig was not a teacher in the ordinary sense of the word. Scientifically productive himself in an unusual degree, and rich in chemical ideas, he imparted the latter to his more advanced pupils to be put by them to experimental proof; he thus brought his pupils gradually to think for themselves, besides showing and explaining to them methods by which chemical problems might be solved experimentally."

Compare with this the following paragraphs on Wolcott Gibbs:

"Gibbs was a man fertile in varied suggestions; in many a conversation he would lavish freely material almost suffi-

[1] It has been said that Gibbs was not a "popular lecturer." Concerning this point, Munroe says: "It has been my privilege to listen to a large number of those public speakers who have commended themselves to the public. As a youth I reported at length, for the newspapers, the lectures of Tyndall and Proctor. I served as demonstrator for Professor Cooke in that charming course of lectures at the Lowell Institute which appeared as 'The New Chemistry.' I sat at the feet of Edward Everett, Henry Ward Beecher, Wendell Phillips and Emerson. I was enthralled by Julia Ward Howe and Mary A. Livermore. Dr. Gibbs gave us but few lectures, but those were enriched by such a wealth of knowledge, graced with such diction, planned in so thoroughly logical and systematic a manner, and presented with such charming simplicity as ever to remain almost unapproachable models."—Journal Ind. and Eng. Chem., Vol. IV, No. 1, 1912.

[2] See Ernst von Meyer's "History of Chemistry."

cient for the working capital of a teacher who taught largely by inspiring and directing research."—Morley.

"As a teacher, he had an especial faculty of imbuing his students with the enthusiasm and spirit of original work; and they felt the greatest admiration and affection for him. The only instruction I received from him was a single voluntary lecture in my senior year. In this his ideas came hurrying out with impetuous speed, as if there were too many to be forced into the narrow limits of an hour. The effect was wonderfully inspiring when, as in this case, one did not have to take notes."—Charles Loring Jackson.

"Most of the students had already gained some elementary knowledge of chemistry; their work began with the usual practise in analytical methods and chemical manipulations, and as soon as the men showed capacity they were admitted to the confidence of their master and aided him in his investigations. This procedure may seem commonplace enough today, but in the years of which I speak it was new to American institutions and was looked upon doubtfully by some."—Clarke.

Not alone in his appreciation of the value of research as a means of instruction was Gibbs far ahead of his day. In certain details of educational administration he was fully abreast of the best thought of today. We think of student government as a recent development, but Gibbs introduced it as soon as he came to Cambridge. We are dissatisfied with the system of written examinations. "The real examinations under Gibbs were daily interviews, when he visited each student at his laboratory table and questioned him about his work. . . . The final examination was usually oral, each man alone with his teacher, and was conducted in an easy conversational way which tended to establish the confidence of the candidate



MRS. WILLIAM GRACIE (ELIZABETH WOLCOTT)
FROM TRUMBULL PORTRAIT

from the very beginning."[1] We talk of the wastefulness of the rigid class system. In the Lawrence Scientific School, "The course of instruction had no definite term of years prescribed for it, and graduation came when the individual had done the required amount of work and submitted an acceptable original thesis."[2] If Wolcott Gibbs was a pioneer among American Chemists, not less was he a pioneer among American educators.[3]

Dr. Gibbs remained in charge of the laboratory of the Lawrence Scientific School for eight years: a period during which it contributed much to the method and apparatus of analytical chemistry. Among other things it gave to the science that great labor-saving device, the Gooch crucible; the invention of an assistant of Gibbs, F. A. Gooch, who later became a professor of chemistry at Yale. The basic idea of this invention was suggested by Dr. Gibbs. By far the most important of Gibbs's contributions to science during this period was, however, the description of a method for the quantitative determination of copper by electrical deposition of the metal. This paper opened up an entirely new branch of chemistry — electrical analysis. Luckow, a German, claimed to have employed the method of Gibbs long before its publication, but Clarke, in the course of a careful investigation, could find no grounds for this claim. Whatever may be the truth of Luckow's statement, Gibbs deserves full credit for this great contribution to analytical methods, for his work was entirely independent of any that Luckow may have done.

Aside from his analytical work, Gibbs's spectroscopic researches, which he began shortly after coming to Harvard, deserve special mention. Like many another chemist of his

[1] Clarke. "Wolcott Gibbs." (See bibliography).

[2] Ibid.

[3] The best tribute to the soundness of his methods is the success of his pupils, among whom were J. M. Crafts, S. P. Sharpless, F. W. Clarke, E. R. Taylor, L. P. Kinnicutt, S. P. Sadtler, C. H. Wing, C. E. Munroe and T. M. Chatard.

day, he was much stirred by the great discoveries, by Bunsen and Kirchhoff, of the elements lithium, caesium and rubidium, and took up for himself the new and fascinating problems of spectroscopy. To the knowledge of this broad subject he contributed not a little that was of value. His work with the spectroscope led him by easy transitions to other problems in optical chemistry; and in this field, as in so many others, science owes much to the work of Wolcott Gibbs.

In 1871, it was found advisable, for financial reasons, to consolidate the chemical instruction of the Lawrence Scientific School with that of Harvard College. Many were the protests that this procedure brought forth. Scientific journals and scientific men, even Dr. Gibbs himself, vigorously opposed the change, but to no avail. The consolidation was effected and Dr. Gibbs was transferred to the Department of Physics. On the score of economy the centralization of instruction was doubtless justified, although the comparative isolation into which the change plunged the greatest American chemist of the day may have rendered the saving more apparent than real. Be this as it may, we can see, at this perspective, that the union of scattered forces was for the best interests of the University. It is, however, impossible to say with the same degree of assurance that the treatment accorded Dr. Gibbs in the matter was just. A decidedly unpleasant task is that with which the writer is here confronted, and one that he would gladly avoid: the more so because Wolcott Gibbs himself would wish the painful events of those days left unmentioned. The transfer of Dr. Gibbs to the Department of Physics, contrary to his wishes, seems, however, to call for some explanation. In an address at the unveiling of a bust of Wolcott Gibbs in Rumford Hall, Chemists' Building, New York City, Charles E. Munroe, a former student at the Lawrence Scientific School, outlined in an unprejudiced and char-

itable manner the causes which led to the deposing of his beloved master; and the explanation throws so interesting a sidelight on the character of Wolcott Gibbs that, for this reason alone, the writer feels justified in quoting from it.

"Strange as it may seem, Dr. Gibbs became, on coming to Harvard, a storm center. President Hill called him because he had a vacant chair in chemistry to fill and he found in Gibbs the most eminent chemist in America. Gibbs accepted the position at Harvard because it seemed to offer the largest opportunity for usefulness in the field for which he was especially equipped. But his appointment thwarted the realization of the ambitions of others; it became a cause of dissension and the arraying of groups of men against each other. The situation had become acute as I entered upon the scene. In the regular performance of my duties I was unwittingly forced to know of it, though then I knew not the reason for it or the extent of it. I was especially embarrassed to come upon Professors Gibbs and Cooke when they were engaged in a gentlemanly, but very personal altercation.

"Unknowingly to me, out of this came my opportunity. While holding the position of private assistant to Dr. Gibbs, I was appointed Assistant in Chemistry in the College under Professor Cooke. With the courtesy that prevails among gentlemen, all these arrangements were ostensibly in the hands of Dr. Gibbs, and it was from him that I received my instructions to make that visit to President Eliot at which I received notification of my appointment to the college. Naturally and most properly I reported to Dr. Gibbs that I had obeyed his instructions, and the results of so doing,— and I can never forget his admonition. Knowing my loyalty to him, knowing that inadvertently I had become somewhat acquainted with the distressing situation he said: 'Mr. Munroe, I have been deposed, and you are appointed to take my place. You know

that my relations with Professor Cooke have not been entirely amicable, yet let me say that you can serve me best by serving him with entire devotion'."

Charles S. Peirce tells us that, even as a lad, Wolcott Gibbs was "radiant with beauty, outward and inward." Concerning his physical attributes as a man, Munroe tells us that "he was above the average in height, and his body was symmetrically developed with his stature, so that he walked and moved with natural gracefulness. His head was admirably proportioned and was covered with a splendid mass of curling black hair which matched the beard that covered his face. In clothing and person he was always decently fastidious, but ever the attracting features were the eyes, which were deep brown in color, lustrous and luminous; and his voice, which was full and rich, with a deliciously attractive and convincing overtone." If Wolcott Gibbs retained the physical charms of other days, no less did he retain his youthful beauty of character. Munroe said of him that he was characterized by "breadth of view and tolerance of differences in opinions, methods, or manners," and that he approached every issue, scientific or social, without prejudice, and with an entirely open mind." His one-time neighbor, Professor Goodale, states that he "never heard him say an unkind word about another." Many another tribute has been paid to the sterling qualities of the man, but none speaks so eloquently as the incident quoted in the preceding paragraph.[1]

The reorganization of chemical instruction had deprived Dr. Gibbs of his laboratory. His student helpers had gone to Boylston Hall. Fortunately for the cause of science, however,

[1] "The reader must not suppose that, through indolence or timidity, Dr. Gibbs sought to avoid strife. On the contrary," says Munroe, "he was intensely human, and he met his troubles in a thoroughly human way. . . . " Miss Powel tells us: "Dr. Gibbs was by no means of an easy nature. He was fervid, earnest, and energetic. I remember many strong moments on both political and private topics when he aroused with much fire."

he had the means to establish a small private laboratory in a little room which the Corporation offered him for the purpose, and to hire a skilled assistant. Clarke tells us that the equipment of the laboratory was very modest, but well adapted to the type of work with which Dr. Gibbs busied himself. In its simplicity, the little room reminded one of the famous laboratory of Berzelius. One of the most pretentious pieces of apparatus in the outfit was a common kitchen range, — a homely, but eminently practical, article of laboratory furniture. Crucibles could be buried in its glowing coals, and precipitates could be dried in its capacious oven; while an endless supply of hot water was furnished by great kettles placed on its top.

Once more in a position to devote himself to his beloved science, Dr. Gibbs began his investigation of the complex acids of tungsten and molybdenum, which presented problems of such difficulty that most chemists would have been satisfied to leave them untouched. But, as he himself once said, he was a pioneer. "He seemed to enjoy nothing more than breaking a way through those tangled jungles on the frontier of the science." In his monumental research on the complex acids he discovered over fifty new series of compounds and fully investigated the old series. His first paper appeared in 1877, and the work was continued for many years.

Just after his transfer to the Department of Physics, Dr. Gibbs invented the ring burner, his most important contribution to the apparatus of analytical chemistry; and in the same year, 1873, he described his porous diaphragms for heating precipitates in gases. An excellent method for preparing pure nitrogen gas appeared under his name in 1877.[1] Among the

[1] The reaction described by Dr. Gibbs has since found important application in medical diagnostics.

minor services rendered to science by Dr. Gibbs during his term at Harvard may be mentioned his thirty years of activity[1] on the Rumford Committee of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. We have Dr. T. W. Richards as authority for the statement[2] that Gibbs's influence on this Committee was largely responsible for the awarding of the Rumford Medal, in 1880, to J. Willard Gibbs[3] of Yale, who propounded the "Phase Rule." Wolcott Gibbs was essentially an experimentalist, but he was always interested in theoretical speculations and keenly alive to their possibilities. Sufficient justification for the latter part of this statement is his early appreciation of the work of Willard Gibbs.

In 1887, Dr. Gibbs retired from the Rumford Professorship and was made emeritus. He now withdrew to his estate near the First Beach in Newport, the charming sea-girt town of his forefathers. Not far from his residence he erected a small laboratory, which he had planned with great care, and which, next to his garden, became his special pride. Almost every visitor to the Gibbs home was escorted down the road; and when the modest little building was reached, Dr. Gibbs would turn to his guest, wave his hand gaily toward it, and exclaim, "Behold the Parthenon!" The sense of humor which led him thus to characterize the tiny structure was ever present in Wolcott Gibbs. True wit he relished keenly; and his bookshelves, which reached from floor to ceiling in his library, were never so crowded but that a volume of real humor could always find a place on them.

In the "Parthenon," with its sun-flooded rooms and its cheerful outlook over the fields and the pond below, the work on the complex acids was continued and completed.

[1] (1864-1894).

[2] T. W. Richards, "Wolcott Gibbs," Berichte der deutschen chemischen Gesellschaft, Vol. 42, No. 19, 1910.

[3] Willard Gibbs was in no way related to Wolcott Gibbs.

Here, too, in company with Dr. H. A. Hare, grandson of his one-time master, Dr. Gibbs studied the effect of isomeric organic compounds on animals. Later, this work was continued with Dr. E. T. Reichert. While Gibbs and his assistants did little more than open up this enormous field of research, yet, in so doing, they rendered a great service to mankind. The "Immuno-chemistry" of today, which has done so much toward the alleviation of human suffering, and of which so much more is expected, is the proudest of the many splendid superstructures that have been erected on the foundations they laid.

Shortly after his seventieth birthday, Dr. Gibbs began to feel the effects of advancing years. Nevertheless, he still worked assiduously in his laboratory and attacked the only remaining problem in inorganic chemistry that, in complexity and general difficulty, could be ranked with those he had already solved so successfully. This was the chemistry of the cerium group, on which, in 1893, he published a paper containing five new and ingenious separation-methods. In the following year appeared his final papers on the toxic action of related compounds and on the complex acids. The latter was his last written contribution to science. Even after this, however, his active brain led him often to the laboratory. So late as 1898, on the occasion of his retirement from the presidency of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, he delivered in Boston an address in which he summed up the results of his former researches on the complex acids and added many facts discovered in his laboratory since the publication of his final paper. In conclusion, he took occasion to point out to the coming generation of chemists, with the keen discrimination that was ever characteristic of him, the four great problems in inorganic chemistry remaining to be solved. With this parting suggestion as to the work

of the future,[1] Wolcott Gibbs, so long the pathfinder in American chemistry, took official leave of the science he had served so well.

On his Newport estate, and in the care of a devoted niece, than whom no daughter of his own blood could have been dearer to him, Dr. Gibbs spent his last years. Foremost now among his interests were his flowers, amid which he spent much of his time. Aided by his nephew, Neil Betton, and "the army," which consisted of clever old Matthew, a wizened old negro afflicted with a mottling of white skin and possessing polished manners, he made of his garden a veritable paradise. "No one in Newport grew such Spanish, German and, above all, Japanese Iris, such single paeonies, such varieties or such stalwart stalks of gladioli. He revived the helebores of old gardens, midwinter blooms out of a frame buried in snow, and cautioned that "the stalks must be slit for the vases." He set wake-robin in the shade of magnolias, and flowering shrubs too many to describe in a border about the grounds; nursed a flowering cherry of his own planting and a giant hickory, that the British had forgotten to cut down in the Revolution, with equal solicitude, until both gave way to a single blizzard storm in 18—. "The Giant's Grave" was the nick-name of a rock-edged crest in the centre of his lawn, whereon grew a row of ancient hawthorns; and about the piazza, . . . were draped manifold purple and white clematis and "virgin bower." Across all the wealth of untold blooms lay the placid pond, and from further off drifted an under-

[1] These were, he said:

"The existence and chemical relations of the gaseous elements, of which five are now known to exist in the atmosphere; the separation of the elements forming the rare earths by systematic processes, and the determination of their positions in the periodic series; the thorough and, so far as possible, exhaustive study of the complex salts; and finally, the determination of the atomic masses of the elements with all the precision of which the subject admits, and in the spirit of Stas, of Richards and of Morley."

How well he outlined, in his prediction, the chemical activities of the next twenty years!

tone of old Ocean, breathing its summer song in the sunlit afternoon; while to the north, "over the hill and far away," beyond the vale at his feet, lay the road to his aunt's old home, "Oakland," and to St. Mary's shady yard. None left those gates without a nosegay, unless it were to bear away a single specimen of something so rare as to brook no fellow; and under the departing elbow, during the last few words at the gate, was apt to be tucked the alluring catalogue of some foreign florist."[1]

Although he seldom left his Newport estate, Dr. Gibbs retained to the last his interest in the affairs of the outside world, with which he was kept in constant touch by the many friends and former associates who came often to his home. He followed with profound satisfaction the work of Ramsay and Rayleigh on the rare gases of the atmosphere (one of the great problems he had mentioned in his farewell address); and he never lost an opportunity to discuss with his friends the magic of Marconi. In a eulogy on Laura Wolcott Gibbs, delivered in 1870 by the Reverend Henry W. Bellows, it was declared that "she did not die, as so many of the superior class do, from the top!" What was said of her may be said also of her distinguished son. Even to the last hours of his life his brain retained the vigor and originality of earlier times; and his inability to put to the test the ideas with which his mind was constantly overflowing was, as he once declared to his niece, no small hardship to him.

Wolcott Gibbs died, ripe in years and crowned with many honors, on the eighth day of December, 1908, after an illness of some length. His death caused profound regret throughout the world of science and affairs, and called forth many tributes to the splendid works and sterling character of the man. Scientists and friends from far and near journeyed to

[1] "The Gibbs Family of Newport."

Newport to attend the funeral; and in their presence the dean of American chemists was lowered to his last resting place in the quiet yard of St. Mary's, Portsmouth.

On the seventieth anniversary of his birth, Dr. Gibbs was apprised of the fact that over one hundred of his friends, former students, and assistants had established a fund for the encouragement of chemical research. This fund, according to the plans of his friends, was to bear the name of the "Wolcott Gibbs Fund for Chemical Research." In a letter acknowledging this signal mark of friendship and good will, Dr. Gibbs rejoiced that he could now feel that his power to work would not cease with his life. Unfortunately, the money was poorly invested, and the plans of his well-wishers came to naught. Wolcott Gibbs still works, however. "His portrait has been made in bronze to take its place on the door of the Capitol among the pioneers of American science,— an enduring memorial to his greatness and an object of inspiration for future generations of chemists." But most of all will his influence continue to be felt through the splendid laboratory, a Parthenon in very truth, recently erected in his memory at Harvard. This beautiful and excellently equipped building is, as Dr. Richards points out, the most elaborate and useful memorial ever erected in memory of a chemist. Germany has set up countless statues in honor of her distniguished scientists, France has honored the Father of Modern Chemistry with a noble monument: but never before has the memorial taken so useful a form as has that which has recently been erected in loving memory of Wolcott Gibbs. In the laboratory which bears his name the science to which he contributed so much will make still further conquests, to the certain benefit of the race; and the splendid structure will stand for many years to keep green the memory of the great pathfinder in American chemistry.

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CHAPTER VIII.

FAMILY PORTRAITS

MANY portraits in oil, miniatures and silhouettes exist of the early members of the family; some of these are in possession of the present generation; others have been dispersed and their present ownership I have been unable to trace. In some cases, moreover, names of the artists are now uncertain.

In Revolutionary days, before the advent of modern photographic processes, oil portraiture was much used, by those who could afford the considerable expense; in other cases, miniatures and silhouettes were resorted to to preserve the likenesses of relatives. The Gibbs were fortunate in possessing many Gilbert Stuart portraits; the Wolcott family often employed other artists, Trumbull, Earle, Copley, etc.

The following is a list, unavoidably incomplete, of the works of eminent artists which were at one time in the family.

GILBERT STUART (born 1755 in North Kingston Township, R. I., died 1828), one of the best known and prolific of American portrait painters, was a warm friend of both my great-grandfather George Gibbs (II.) and of my grandfather, George Gibbs (III.), known as "Colonel Gibbs." Eleven of his canvases were at one time in possession of the family. The most

famous example is, of course, the portrait of George Washington, known as the "Gibbs-Channing-Avery Washington;" it was painted for my great-grandfather. The story of this picture can best be given by extracts from a letter of Dr. Wm. F. Channing, written in Newport, September 21, 1888, as follows:

". . . it is the representative picture of Washington's first sitting to Stuart (in Philadelphia), in September, 1795. . . . It was sold at an early date to his warm friend, Colonel George Gibbs (III.) of New York, with the statement that it was on the easel while Washington was sitting and worked from life. At a later period Colonel Gibbs having purchased from Stuart a set of his 'First Five Presidents of the United States,' gave the 'Gibbs Washington' to his sister, Mrs. W. E. Channing, who gave it thirty years ago to her son, Dr. Wm. F. Channing, the writer of this letter. The 'Gibbs Washington' has, then, never been out of the possession of the Gibbs-Channing family since it left Stuart's hands. . . . I have vivid recollections of the picture 60 years ago hanging with other portraits in the house of my father, the Rev. Wm. Ellery Channing, in Boston. About 1890-92 the portrait was purchased from Dr. Channing by Mr. Samuel P. Avery, and at the time of his death in 1904, it passed to Samuel P. Avery, Jr., of Hartford, Conn. He sold it in 1907 to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, where it now hangs."

Mason in his "Life and Works of Gilbert Stuart" (1879) says "the finest of them all (Washington portraits) is the Gibbs picture." Lawrence Park, in his four volume work on Gilbert Stuart gives the same rank to the "Gibbs" picture. It is interesting to note that Park lists 111 Washington portraits by Stuart in existence. Probably ten only may be regarded as of distinctly different types, or interpretations; the others are replicas (some possibly not authentic). For ininstance, of the "Vaughan" type there are 15 replicas.

Of the "Athenaeum" type (painted and left in an unfinished condition in 1796), about 75 copies are in existence and considered to be by Stuart. Stuart, because of his long residence in England, was probably not a warm friend of Washington's, but he (Stuart), was frequently "hard up" and dashed off copies of the pictures, which had a ready public sale. Of the Gibbs family Stuart portraits, the following may be mentioned:

(a) *George Gibbs (II.)*, painted in Philadelphia, 1798. Was inherited by his son, Col. George Gibbs (III.), from whom it passed to his son, Dr. Wolcott Gibbs. The latter left it by Will to his sister, Mrs. Lucius Tuckerman (who died before him). The picture has passed to her son, Paul Tuckerman, the present owner. A copy of this portrait is owned by George Gibbs (V.).

(b) *Mary Channing Gibbs*, wife of George Gibbs (II.), painted in her widow's weeds, at some date between 1803 and 1820, in which latter year she died. This portrait has the face turned one-half to right; eyes looking directly at spectator; she wears a white cap with broad black velvet ribbon. The portrait has descended in the same manner as mentioned in case of (a) above, and is now owned by Paul Tuckerman. These two pictures, (a) and (b) are said by Park to be "among the finest that Stuart ever painted." A copy of this portrait is owned by George Gibbs (V.) and one by Mrs. S. H. P. Pell.

(c) *George Gibbs (III.)* (Colonel Gibbs), painted on a panel, between 1825 and 1830. Bust one-half to right; little locks of hair on forehead; hair and side whiskers brown; black coat with brass buttons. A very fine picture. Inherited by his son, Wolcott Gibbs, and bequeathed to his sister, as in (a); passed to Bayard Tuckerman, nephew of Wolcott Gibbs; now owned by Bayard Tuckerman, Jr., of Boston.

(d) *Mrs. George Gibbs (III.)*— Laura Wolcott. A beautiful oval portrait, painted in the year of her marriage when she was fifteen years of age. Now owned by her granddaughter, Mrs. J. West Roosevelt. George Gibbs (V.) has a copy of this portrait.

Another Stuart portrait was in possession of George Gibbs (III.), and is one which I admired greatly; that of Capt. Joseph Anthony. It showed a jolly, old, bald seafaring man with a florid complexion. Anthony was born in Newport but established himself in Philadelphia, where he became the head of a large shipping firm which traded with the West Indies. He was an uncle of Gilbert Stuart. The portrait was painted for Colonel George Gibbs and left to his son, Wolcott Gibbs. By him it was left to the Redwood Library, of Newport, but he stipulated that, if not accepted by the library, was to go to the Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia. It is now to be seen in the gallery of the latter institution.

Another interesting possession of Colonel Gibbs's was Stuart's portraits of the first five Presidents of the

United States. This was a set painted for Colonel Gibbs, probably between 1810 and 1815. The pictures were on panels, 21 by 25½ inches. Stuart painted a duplicate set of these portraits, which at one time hung in the Capitol at Washington and were finally destroyed by a fire there; the Gibbs set is, therefore, now unique. They hung at the Sunswick House and afterwards, for many years, in his widow's house in Winthrop Place, New York. After her death they were sold to the Honorable T. Jefferson Coolidge, of Boston, and are now owned by his grandson, T. Jefferson Coolidge, 3rd.

JOHN TRUMBULL (1756-1843), son of the Revolutionary Governor of Connecticut. Served in the Revolution as Adjutant to Washington. Was at one time President of the New York Academy of Arts. After leaving the army he studied in England under Benj. West. A large collection of his works of Revolutionary celebrities are in Yale University. In possession of the family are the following Trumbull portraits:

One of Oliver Wolcott, Jr., my great-grandfather, and one of Mrs. Wolcott (Elizabeth Stoughton). The former, it is said, was painted in 1806 for the Hon. Josiah Quincy and bequeathed by him to Wolcott Gibbs; on the latter's death it went to his sister, Mrs. Laura Wolcott d'Oremieulx, and is now owned by Mrs. J. West Roosevelt. Mrs. d'Oremieulx inherited direct the portrait of Mrs. Wolcott; this is now the property of her daughter, Mrs. Roosevelt. George Gibbs (V.) has a copy of each of these portraits.

A charming Trumbull portrait of Elizabeth Wolcott (my great aunt), who married William Gracie of New York, and died at the age of twenty; this picture is owned by George Gibbs (V.). Another one of Mrs. Gracie was bequeathed to Mrs. Lucius Tuckerman and left by her to her granddaughter, Elizabeth Wolcott Elkins.

JOHN VANDERLYN; b. 1776 at Kingston, N. Y.; died 1852. Studied art in France. His work shows superior draftsmanship and skill in composition. He painted portraits of the first four presidents, and a well-known picture, entitled the "Landing of Columbus" hangs in the Capitol at Washington. George Gibbs (V.) has a fine portrait by Vanderlyn of his grandfather G. G. (III.). It is painted on a panel and shows the subject in a Colonel's uniform, with a coat having a high standing collar, and a badge of the Society of the Cincinnati in the buttonhole.

Several miniatures of both the Gibbs and Wolcott ancestors are owned by various members of the family; in a number of cases, however, it has been impossible to identify the artists, and the following list is quite incomplete:

WILLIAM WOOD, b. 1760 in Ipswich, England, d. 1809. His work is distinguished by correct drawing and by harmony of colour. George Gibbs (V.) possesses a beautiful miniature of Oliver Wolcott, Jr., by him.

EDWARD G. MALBONE (b. Newport 1777; d.

Savannah, 1807). Said to be the "best miniature painter the country has produced, and among those of highest ability in all countries, ranking with Cosway of England and Isabey of France." A miniature by him of George Gibbs (III.) is in possession of Mrs. J. West Roosevelt; George Gibbs (V.) has a copy of this.

Paul Tuckerman owns a Trumbull miniature of George Gibbs (II.), and one of his wife, Mary Channing. Mrs. J. West Roosevelt owns one of Oliver Wolcott, the Signer.

During the closing years of the 18th Century, an engraver and profile painter — generally in black and white — named St. Memin resided in Philadelphia. He was in high repute as an artist and produced some very fine work. George Gibbs (V.) has an example of an engraved miniature of George Gibbs (II.) by him.

SILHOUETTES. These were very popular in early days. The only cheap process by which nine out of ten people could secure likenesses of themselves or friends was by silhouettes; Daguerre came later, and miniatures were also expensive and often indifferently painted. George Gibbs (V.) has two interesting examples of the silhouette, those of his great-grandfather Oliver Wolcott, Jr., and of his great-grandmother.

OTHER FAMILY PORTRAITS. Other Gibbs and Wolcott portraits exist — some in public collections, and others are owned by the collateral family branches.

A fine portrait of Oliver Wolcott, Jr., by Stuart, is in the Connecticut State House at Hartford, and one

by Earle in the library of the Connecticut Historical Society in that city.

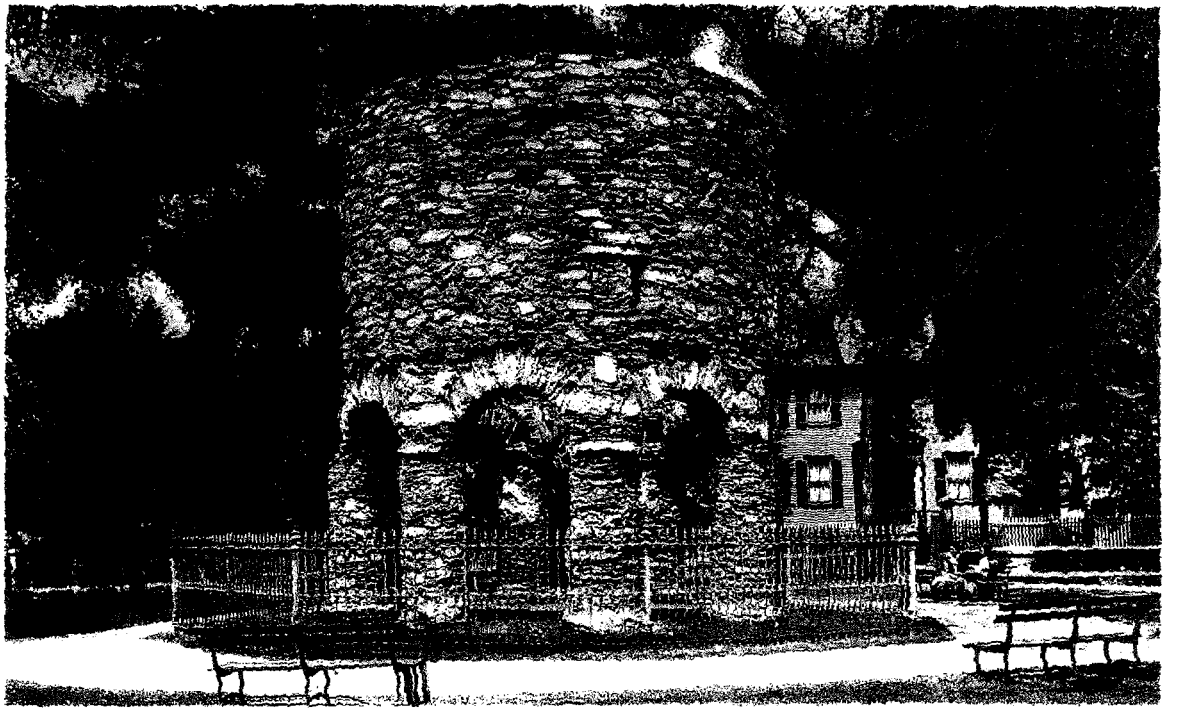
A fine seated portrait of Oliver Wolcott, the Signer, by Earle (painted 1782) is now in the rooms of the Connecticut Historical Society. The portrait of the Signer's wife, Lorraine Collins, and one of Marianne Goodrich; she was Oliver Wolcott, Jr.'s youngest sister, and was a distinguished beauty of her time. Both portraits are by Earle; these and also a copy of the Earle Oliver Wolcott, are in the house of Roger Wolcott (II.), at Milton, Mass.

Mrs. Wm. Rotch Wister, of Philadelphia, owns a portrait, by Gamberdella, of Wm. Ellery Channing.

The Wm. E. C. Eustis family has one of Mary Chaloner, wife of John Channing, by John Smybert; she was the mother of Mrs. George Gibbs (II.), my great-great-grandmother.

A Stuart portrait of Oliver Wolcott, Jr., hung for a time in the State House at Hartford; it is now in the dining hall at Yale University.

A bust, by Clevenger, of Oliver Wolcott, Jr. (executed after his death) is in possession of Paul Tuckerman.



THE OLD STONE MILL, AND GOVERNOR GIBBS HOUSE, NEWPORT

Chapter IX.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

The Gibbs Stone Mill

Near the centre of Truro Park, in Newport, stands an interesting old structure — the Gibbs Mill, as it was designated by its owner, George Gibbs (II.). It is a perfect specimen of early Norman architecture, but its origin has been endowed with much mystery. Prof. Horsford of Harvard University called it a Baptistery, and held that it indicated the presence of Norsemen in Newport long before the settlement of the country by the English. Mason in his book[1] calls attention to an interesting article by R. G. Hatfield, President of the New York Chapter of American Institute of Architects,[2] in which the latter came to the same conclusion, i.e., that the "Mill" was built in the early part of the 11th Century by Northmen, founders of the Vineland Colony. Mason, who appears to have been much interested in the subject, was at pains to have a complete structural survey made of the building, with the object of throwing light on the relative probability of the various theories advanced for its origin. He comes to the conclusion that the structure was doubtless intended for use as a *grist mill*, run by wind-power;

[1] "Reminiscences of Newport," by Geo. Champlin Mason; pub. Newport, 1884.

[2] Scribner's Magazine, May, 1879.

that it was erected in the last quarter of the 17th Century, and that Governor Benedict Arnold was its designer as well as original owner. He finds that Arnold, who was first Charter governor of the Colony of Rhode Island in 1678, resided for a time in Warwickshire, not far from Leamington, England, where a similar mill structure, designed by Inigo Jones in 1632, is found. There are certain structural details in the Newport Mill, such as floor supports, a fireplace and flue in the second story, windows, etc., which he thinks could only have been built in originally and for an utilitarian purpose; not a religious one.

As a matter of interest, the building is circular in section, supported on eight arches having crowns eleven feet from the ground. The total height is about 25 feet and the diameter 20 feet. Two stories are indicated above the arches; neither floors nor roof are in existence.

As a boy I can remember the Old Mill covered with ivy, with beautiful effect. Later the vines were removed, as they were found to have a disintegrating effect on the mortar.

The Union League Club of New York

The following extracts from Dr. Bellows' interesting "Historical Sketch of the Union League Club of New York"[1] properly tie up the origin of this famous

[1] See "Historical Sketch of the Union League Club of New York," 1863-1879, by Rev. Henry W. Bellows. Putnams, 1879.

old Club with that of the Sanitary Commission and record the prominent part which Wolcott Gibbs and others of our family took in public affairs at the time of the Civil War.

"The Union League Club of New York is a child of the United States Sanitary Commission, which body was represented, when not in session, by an Executive Committee, all residents of New York City, consisting up to the date of the origin of the Union League, of five persons only, its President, Dr. Bellows, its Treasurer, George T. Strong, Prof. Wolcott Gibbs, Dr. Cornelius R. Agnew, and Dr. Wm. H. Van Buren.

"The Sanitary Commission was not, from its inception, a merely humanitarian or beneficent association. Its projectors were men with strong political purposes, induced to take this means of giving expression to their solicitude for the National life.

"Prof. Wolcott Gibbs was the first to suggest that the idea on which the Sanitary Commission was founded needed to take on the form of a Club, which should be devoted to the social organization of the sentiment of loyalty to the Union; and he chose Mr. Frederick Law Olmsted as the first person to be consulted and advised with.

"Prof. Gibbs had a natural right among his coworkers to be earliest in the field with a plan which concerned the existence of the Union. His grandfather, Oliver Wolcott, had been among the most vigorous and earnest of the patriots who formed the Union

and guided its earliest steps. His mother was known all her long life as a noble daughter of a revolutionary father, worthy of the name she bore, and inheriting and transmitting a profound interest in the honor and dignity of the country. No better source could have been found for the Union League than the heart and head of a grandson of Oliver Wolcott. His patriotism was pure and simple, without a taint of partisan feeling, of lust for office, or of taste for power.

Nothing less than the great perils of his country could have taken him out of his laboratory, and made him for many years an earnest and active member of the Sanitary Commission, and, at length, the corner-stone of the Union League Club."

The Sanitary Commission

Upon the outbreak of the Civil War (1861-1865) it was realized by patriotic men and women of the North that the peace-time medical and surgical machinery of the Government would need heavy augmentation and that civil instrumentalities to prevent undue suffering, waste and neglect would be desirable, provided they could be effectively organized to avoid conflict with army agencies. Accordingly certain prominent citizens of many cities started to develop local Relief Associations, which later, after much controversy with the Government, flowered into the U. S. Sanitary Commission. This was modeled largely upon the Sanitary Commission of Great Britain, which did

such splendid and effective work during the Crimean War.

Dr. Henry W. Bellows, D.D., wrote a full history of the work and accomplishments of the U. S. organization (see "Johnson's Universal Encyclopedia"), but it cannot be here reproduced in full. The Commission was of enormous value during the entire war time in the relief of suffering, in hospital management, and in furnishing supplies, medical, clothing and food to soldiers. It is mentioned here to record the prominent part taken by members of our family in its organization and work. Dr. Wolcott Gibbs was one of the nine originators of the plan which was perfected by conferences with the Army medical bureau and the Secretary of War, and Gibbs was one of a standing committee of five, charged with all the responsibility of the Commission during the intervals of its Sessions. The original members of this Committee were: Dr. Bellows, President, Frederick Law Olmsted, General Secretary, Dr. Wolcott Gibbs, Dr. Samuel G. Howe, Drs. Van Buren and C. R. Agnew.

Among the prominent women members of the Commission were: Miss Louisa Lee Schuyler, Laura Wolcott Gibbs d'Oremieulx (my aunt), Mrs. Oliver Ellsworth Hosmer (my grandmother), Miss Ellen Collins and Mrs. Wm. B. Rice. These patriotic women, and others less prominent, formed the Woman's Central Association of Relief, the New York Branch of the U. S. Sanitary Association of Relief, the New York

Branch of the U. S. Sanitary Commission; through them passed daily the large quantity of supplies given by loyal women of New York and adjoining States to the sick and wounded soldiers.

For further account of the Sanitary Commission and account of the Woman's Central Association of Relief, see an address by Miss Georgiana Schuyler to the pupils of the Louisa Lee Schuyler Public School, N.Y., May, 1917. Also, see James Ford Rhodes' "History of the United States" Vol. V. and "History of the United States Sanitary Commission," by Dr. Charles Stillé, Public Library, New York, and an article by Louisa Lee Schuyler in "The Survey," of the State Charities Aid Association, January 4, 1913.

The Wolcott Gibbs Memorial Laboratory of Harvard University

(Abstracted from an address by Prof. T. W. Richards, delivered before the National Academy of Sciences in 1915).

The idea of this laboratory was initiated by the late Dr. Morris Loeb, Class of '83, a devoted and able pupil of Dr. Gibbs; it was largely through his generosity, and that of his brother James Loeb, '88, that it was built, although many other friends of Dr. Gibbs generously contributed to the fund for the purpose. It is one of the most significant monuments ever built in memory of a chemical investigator. Its purpose was to provide a modern laboratory for exact research, under ideal conditions, in physical and inorganic chemistry.

The building construction is such that it is unusually free from vibration; it is ventilated and heated with filtered air and temperatures are automatically regulated. Because the laboratory is designed to be used wholly for research it contains no lecture or class-rooms. The various rooms, of which there are forty, are intended to accommodate not more than fourteen investigators, and are fully equipped for the many special purposes needed. During the three years (1912-14) 24 papers have been published from this laboratory, ranging from almost pure chemistry to almost pure physics. Among the investigations of fundamental properties may be mentioned: atomic weights; radio activity of certain elements; electromotive forces of metals in solutions; dielectric constants; densities, melting and boiling points; specific heats and many other physical and chemical facts and laws regarding which our present knowledge is incomplete.

In the front hall of the building stands a bronze bust of Wolcott Gibbs (by Ernest Wise Keyser); it was presented by the Gibbs family. A replica of this bust is in the building of the Chemists Club in New York City. A marble tablet in the laboratory bears the inscription:

WOLCOTT GIBBS
FEB. 2, 1822 — DEC. 9, 1908
RUMFORD PROFESSOR
HARVARD UNIVERSITY
1863-1887 EMERITUS 1887-1908
PATHFINDER IN AMERICAN CHEMISTRY

George Gibbs II. House in Newport

Newport Mercury, August 19, 1916

The second house below Mr. Taylor's shop had been, previously, to my recollection, and during the principal part of his active life, the residence of George Gibbs, Esq., the senior partner of the firm of Gibbs and Channing, who were the leading merchants of this town in the latter part of the last century and the beginning of the present, and with them the predominant prestige and importance of Newport as a commercial centre culminated. This house so far back as tradition extends was the mansion of Samuel Cranston who was Governor of the Colony of Rhode Island from 1700 to 1729. I have no recollection of who occupied it in my early life, but I am informed by my friend, Mr. Swan, that the tenant was Capt. John Vars who was one of the old time New York packet masters, afterwards well known as the landlord of the United States Hotel, or Townsend's Coffee House, after Mr. Townsend. I recall the Gibbs House to mind as a long large house of very respectable pretensions according to the standard likely to have prevailed as far back as 1700. It was without ornamental finish, having a gambrel roof, and standing back two or three feet from the line of other buildings, like the Wanton house, and having no stones in front. In 1833 it was purchased by Zenas Hammond, Esq., and very materially altered and enlarged, possibly moved back a few feet and a colonnade built on the front of the ground story, after

which it was known as Colonnade row. Mr. Hammond had his painting establishment as well as his residence in it until it was purchased by William K. Covell, Esq., and the old building removed and the present modern structure replaced it; now occupied by Mr. Covell and Mr. Landers. Mr. John Stanhope had a crockery and glass store in Colonnade row, shortly after Mr. Hammond's improvement, and Dr. T. W. Wood had a music store for some years in the south end.

"Sunswick"

On page 19 reference will be found to my grandfather's residence at "Sunswick," on the shore of the East River at Hallett's Point. This property was formerly owned by John Delafield, a prominent citizen of New York City. Delafield married, in 1784, Ann Hallett, daughter of General Joseph Hallett, who owned much property on Long Island, embracing the greater part of what is now Astoria. Hallett's Point, on which was located a Block-house built for protection of the East River Entrance to New York City during the War of 1812, was named for him. The "Sunswick" house was built shortly after the War. The entire river shore in this vicinity was occupied for many years by fine estates of many prominent families — among whom were John Jacob Astor, Archibald Gracie, Wm. Rhinelander, Commodore Chauncey. Mrs. Walter Bowne, wife of the Mayor of New York, describes "Sunswick" as "one of the most superb, magnificent

places I ever saw; with the finest view you can imagine." Doubtless this is a pleasing exaggeration of the lady's, but the house was really a large one and the gardens, for which George Gibbs was famous, were unquestionably very fine. The house is still in existence amid sadly desecrated surroundings, and is now occupied by the Sisters of the Sacred Heart.

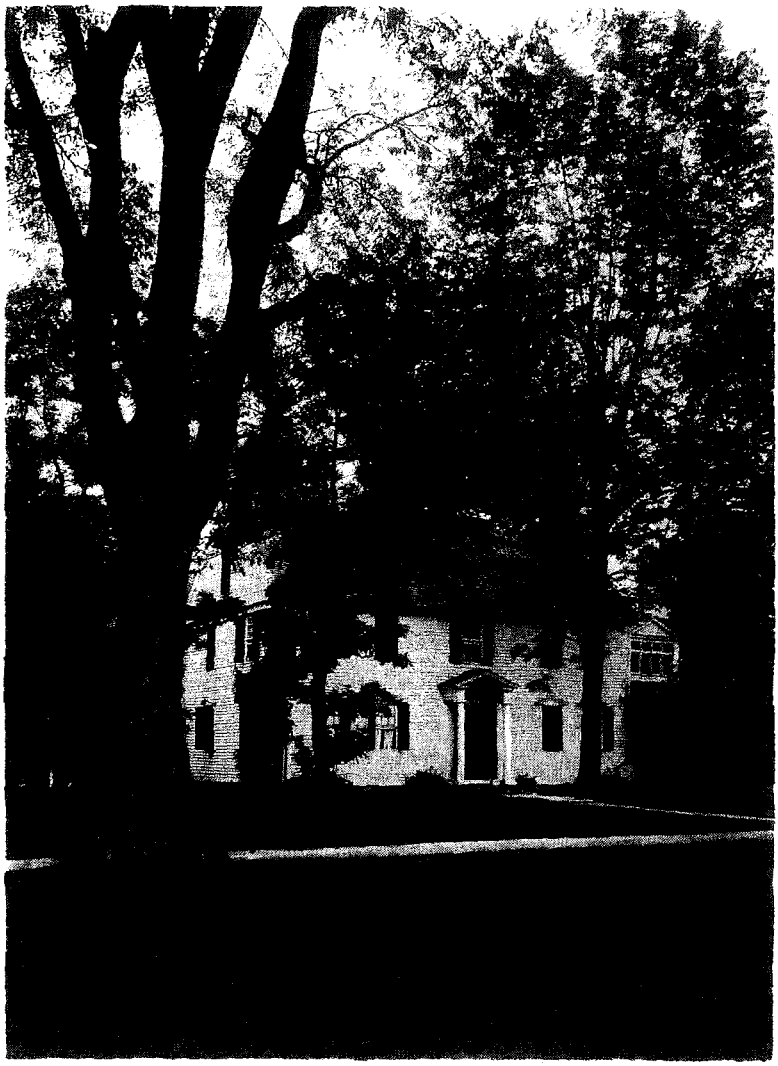
Ursula Wolcott

Ursula Wolcott,[1] daughter of Roger Wolcott and Sarah Drake, was born in Windsor, Conn., in 1724 and died in 1788. She was sister of Oliver Wolcott, Sr., my great-great-grandfather, and married Matthew Griswold, of Lyme, Conn. Her name is mentioned here as a personage, who belonged to a family in which the honors of public office seem to have become hereditary for more than two centuries. Through her ancestors, her descendants and collaterals, among whom were the Wolcotts, Griswolds, Ellsworths, Trumbulls, Pitkins, Parsons, Hosmers and Gibbs, there are numbered 12 State Governors and 32 Judges, including Chief Justice Waite of the U. S. Supreme Court; also many distinguished generals and officers in the wars of her country, from the Revolution to the last World's War.

George Washington's Hair

George Gibbs (V.) owns a locket containing a lock of Washington's hair, which has passed to him by direct line of descent, under the following circum-

[1] See N. E. History and Genealogy, Register XXXIII.



OLIVER WOLCOTT HOUSE, LITCHFIELD, CONN.

(Recent Photograph)

stances. His great-grandfather, Oliver Wolcott, was an intimate friend of Washington's and his Secretary of the Treasury. When Mrs. Wolcott visited Mrs. Washington for the last time before Washington left the seat of government, she was asked if she did not wish a memorial of the General; Mrs. Wolcott replied: "Yes, I should like a lock of his hair." Mrs. Washington, smiling, took her scissors and cut for her a large lock of her husband's hair and one of her own. These mementoes Wolcott preserved with careful veneration, and afterwards divided them between his surviving children.[1]

A confirmation of this incident is found in an original manuscript letter written by Mrs. Hopkinson (neé Emily Mifflin,) and owned by Mrs. J. West Roosevelt. Mrs. Hopkinson was 90 years of age in 1850, when the letter was written. She says she personally saw the lock of hair cut off, as above described, and presented to Mrs. Wolcott, in March, 1797.

[1] From "Administrations of Washington and Adams," by Geo. Gibbs IV. vol. 1, p. 450; published 1846.

CHAPTER X.

CONDENSED GENEALOGICAL RECORD

(As related to Descent to the present generation of the Gibbs Family)

DESCENDANTS OF JAMES AND SARAH GIBBS OF BRISTOL, MASSACHUSETTS BAY

JAMES GIBBS,

born? died June 1, 1731

SARAH GIBBS,

born 1674(?), died Oct. 5, 1756

CHILDREN

1. WILLIAM, born May 25, 1691, died Dec. 27, 1691.
2. GEORGE, born Aug. 13, 1695, died Aug. 6, 1755.
3. JOHN, born Oct. 25, 1699, died ?, 1760-62?
4. ANN, born April 18, 1702, died ?. m. Simon Tilley. Issue.
5. JANE, born Feb. 24, 1708, died Dec. 22, 1755, m. James Fowler. ? Issue.
6. JAMES, born Nov. 14, 1711, died Nov. 19, 1795.

GEORGE GIBBS, FIRST

(Second son of James I and Sarah Gibbs; in direct line of descent)

GEORGE GIBBS, First, born Aug. 13, 1695, died Aug. 6, 1755

HANNAH CLAGGETT, 1st wife, born 1709, died 1732.

CHILD:

HANNAH, born 1732, m. Jabez Champlin, and left issue.

2nd wife, RUTH HART, born 1709, died June 4, 1784

CHILDREN:

1. GEORGE, born May 19, 1735, died Oct. 11, 1803.
2. JAMES, born Sept. 11, 1736, died July 23, 1737.
3. SARAH, born Jan. 4, 1737, died Mar. 17, 1821, m. Oliver Champlin. Issue.
4. RUTH, born Oct. 25, 1741, died Dec. 25, 1741.
5. JOHN, born April 11, 1743, died June 16, 1765, unmarried.
6. MARY, born Nov. 25, 1744, died May 27, 1790, m. James Robinson. Issue.
7. ELIZA, born Sept. 21, 1746, died Nov., 1829, m. Thomas Greene. No issue.
8. RUTH, born Mar. 21, 1748, died Feb. 25, 1824, m. Sam. W. Whitehorn. Issue.

JOHN GIBBS,

third son of James and Sarah Gibbs,

1699-1760-1762. (not in the direct line of descent)

1st wife, Sarah Jones.

CHILDREN:

1. ELIZABETH, born Oct. 12, 1730, died Jan., 1803, unmarried.
2. MARY, born Oct. 21, 1732, died ?, m. Samuel Gladding.
3. JOHN, born 1734, ... 1734.

2d wife, Sarah Gladding.

CHILD:

JOHN, born Oct. 20, 1751 or 1752, died before 1772.

JAMES GIBBS,

fourth son of James and Sarah Gibbs,

1711-1795. (not in the direct line of descent)

1st wife, Martha Giddings or Giddens.

CHILDREN:

1. SARAH, born .... died .... m. Haile Turner. Issue.
2. MARTHA, born .... died .... m. Josiah Finney. Issue.

2d wife, Mary Munro Ingraham.

CHILDREN:

1. JAMES, born Feb. 23, 1743, died July, 1760.
2. NATHANIEL, born 1749, died May 31, 1756.
3. RUTH, m. Job Thurston.
4. ANN, m. Timothy Pearce. Issue.
5. FRANCES, born Jan. 23, 1744, died ....
6. HANNAH, born .... died .... m. Robinson Potter. Issue.

GEORGE GIBBS, SECOND (1735-1803)

Eldest son of George Gibbs (I.); in direct line of descent

1st wife, Susannah Scott.

CHILD:

GEORGE, born June 2, 1767, died June 13, 1767.

2d wife, Mary Channing, born 1747; married Oct. 9, 1768, died 1824 (see "Channing Family").

CHILDREN:

1. SUSANNAH, born April 15, 1770, died Sept. 10, 1790, unmarried.
2. MARY, born May 3, 1772, died May 27, 1772.
3. MARY, born Sept. 23, 1773, died Oct. 19, 1813, m. T. W. More. No issue.

4. GEORGE, born Jan. 7, 1776, died Aug. 6, 1833, m. Laura Wolcott.
5. RUTH, born Nov. 7, 1778, died Mar. 2, 1870, m. Wm. E. Channing. Issue.
6. JOHN, born Oct. 2, 1781, died Aug. 26, 1797.
7. SARAH, born June 27, 1784, died June 17, 1866, unmarried.
8. ELIZABETH, born Dec. 10, 1786, died April 7, 1816, m. Luther Bradish. No issue.
9. WM. CHANNING, born Feb. 10, 1789, died Feb. 21, 1871, m. Mary Kane.
10. SUSANNAH, born Nov. 28, 1792, died Jan. 15, 1817, unmarried.

GEORGE GIBBS, THIRD

Eldest son of George Gibbs (II.) (direct line)

Wife, Laura Wolcott, born April 10, 1794, married 1804, died Dec. 10, 1870 (see "Wolcott Family" for descent).

CHILDREN:

1. GEORGE, born July 17, 1815, died April 9, 1873, m. 1871, Mary Kane Gibbs. No issue.
2. MARY, died in infancy.
3. ELIZABETH WOLCOTT, born July 8, 1819, died Aug. 25, 1906, m. Lucius Tuckerman, Apr. 2, 1844, who died June 10, 1890. 6 sons, 3 daughters.
4. OLIVER WOLCOTT, born Feb. 21, 1822, died Dec. 9, 1908, m. Josephine Mauran. No issue. (She died Feb. 16, 1887).
5. ALFRED, born April 22, 1823, died Dec. 26, 1868, m. Peggy F. Blair. 2 sons. (She died July 25, 1908).

6. Laura Wolcott, born Aug. 12, 1827, died Dec. 1, 1908, m. T. M. d'Orémieulx. 1 son, 1 daughter.
7. Francis Sarason, born June 24, 1831, died Dec. 27, 1882, m. Eliza Gay Hosmer. 2 sons, 2 daughters.

WILLIAM CHANNING GIBBS, 1789-1871

Third son of George Gibbs (II.)

Wife, Mary Kane, married June 2, 1822.

CHILDREN:

1. George William, born March 24, 1823, died .... m. 1st, Martha Gardiner, 2d, Augusta Kane. No issue.
2. Cornelius Van Schelluyne, born May 7, 1824, m. Harriet Fobes. 2 sons, 2 daughters.
3. Helen Elizabeth, born July 8, 1825, died March 28, 1867, unmarried.
4. Mary Kane, born Jan. 19, 1827, died Dec. 18, 1876, m. George Gibbs, 4th. No issue.
5. Frederick Augustus, born Aug. 17, 1828, died June 25, 1893, m. Jane Rosalie West. 3 children, one only living.
6. Charles Edward, born July 20, 1830, died.....; m. Vernet McKoon. 6 daughters, 2 sons.
7. Eugene Beauharnais, born May 29, 1832, died April 25, 1882, m. Mary Hoyt. No issue.
8. Algernon S., born Jan. 1, 1834, died Feb. 8, 1837.
9. Emily, born Jan. 10, 1836, died Jan. 7, 1837.
10. Theodore Kane, born Dec. 25, 1840, died Jan. 24, 1909, m. Virginia Barret, died Jan. 28, 1926. No issue.
11. Sarah, born Jan. 6, 1842, died Oct. 17, 1924, m. April 30, 1873, Robert M. Thompson, died Sept. 5, 1930. 1 child.

SARAH GIBBS THOMPSON,
daughter of Sarah and Robert Thompson,
born May 30, 1878, m. Stephen H. P. Pell. 2 sons

SONS OF SARAH PELL ARE:

1. ROBERT T. PELL, born March 9, 1902, m.
2. JOHN HOWLAND PELL, born Aug. 9, 1904, m.

CHRONOLOGY OF CHILDREN OF GEORGE GIBBS (III.) AND LAURA WOLCOTT

ELIZABETH WOLCOTT GIBBS, born July 8, 1819, died Aug. 25, 1906; married April 2, 1844, Lucius Tuckerman; born March 19, 1818, died June 10, 1890.

TUCKERMAN CHILDREN:

1. LUCIUS CARY, born Aug. 21, 1846, died Sept. 23, 1849.
2. ALFRED, born Jan. 15, 1848, died May 25, 1925, m. Clara L. Fargis, Dec. 10, 1879. No issue.
3. WALTER CARY, born Mar. 29, 1849, died April 18, 1894, m. Florence Hardinge Fenno, June 1, 1875. 5 children.
4. LAURA WOLCOTT, born Aug. 2, 1850, died Feb. 9, 1914, m. Col. James Lowndes of South Carolina. No issue.
5. RUPERT, born Dec. 16, 1851, died Nov. 22, 1871.
6. EMILY, born Nov. 6, 1853, died April 17, 1924, unmarried.
7. BAYARD, born July 2, 1855, died Oct. 20, 1923, m. Annie Osgood Smith, 1882. 4 children.
8. PAUL, born Nov. 17, 1856, m. Susan Minturn, March 3, 1886. 2 children.
9. LUCY, born Feb. 2, 1858, died May 12, 1904, m. Arthur George Sedgwick, Nov. 16, 1882. 2 daughters.

ALFRED GIBBS,

born April 22, 1823, died Dec. 26, 1868,
m. Peggy Forshee Blair, died July 25, 1908.

THEIR CHILDREN WERE:

ALFRED W., born Oct. 27, 1856, died May 9, 1922, m. 1890, Marianne Skelton. One child, Marianne, m. Lee L. Layton.

JOHN BLAIR, born Sept. 25, 1858, died June 12, 1898, unmarried.

LAURA WOLCOTT,

born Aug. 12, 1827, died Dec. 1, 1908,
m. T. M. d'Orémieulx. CHILDREN:

LEON FRANCISQUE, born Nov. 13, 1854, died July 28, 1899, m. No issue.

LAURA HENRIETTE, born Jan. 7, 1858, m. J. West Roosevelt. 6 children.

FRANCIS SARASON GIBBS,

born June 24, 1831, died Dec. 27, 1882,
m. Eliza Gay Hosmer. 2 sons, 2 daughters.

GEORGE (V.), born April 19, 1861, unmarried, living.

ANNIE MARGARETTA, born Dec. 19, 1862, died March 5, 1922, unmarried.

LAURA WOLCOTT, born Oct. 8, 1865, m. 1891; 3 children.

LUCIUS TUCKERMAN, born Feb. 14, 1869, died Jan., 1909, m. Angelica Singleton Duer. 2 children.

Chapter XI.

EARLY FAMILY DATA

James Gibbs (I.)

All that is known of James Gibbs, First, and Sarah, his wife, is taken from the Bristol Records. From these it appears that in 1720 or 1721 James Gibbs, of Newport, removed to Bristol with his family, consisting of his wife, Sarah, and five children,— John, George, James, Ann, and Jane. It does not appear that he was possessed of any real estate in Bristol, or that he was ever admitted to the privileges of a freeman or voter. His name appears but twice on the records. Under date of Jan. 25, 1723, James Gibbs entered his cow to feed on the public commons. "Said cow is red, with small horns, and is marked with a swallow's tail slit in each ear. And whereas Captain Throope's cow has the same marks as Mr. Gibbs's, therefore, for distinction' sake, it is ordered that there be added thereto a half-penny on the under side of the right ear." In 1728 James Gibbs subscribed one-half cord of wood toward the support of the minister and schoolmaster.

James Gibbs's will is dated Dec. 19, 1729, and recorded Sept. 7, 1731. It reads as follows:—

I, James Gibbs, of Bristol, in the County of Bristol, in New England, being feeble in health though of a sound, disposing mind, for which God be thanked, and calling to mind the uncertainty of life

and the certainty of death, and wishing to prepare for so great a change, do order this as my last Will and Testament. I commit my body to the earth, from which it came, to be buried in a decent and Christian-like manner, not doubting that I shall receive it again at the resurrection of the great day, through the merits of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

My wordly effects I give as follows:—

Item. I give to my beloved son George Gibbs five shillings.

Item. I give to my beloved son John Gibbs my cart and oxen and the mare which goes with the team, and the grey horse called Creag, and the yoke and chains and other tackling belonging to the cart, also the plough and pitchfork, and my best riding saddle and bridle, and also the oldest black cow.

To my beloved son James Gibbs I give five shillings, and desire my beloved wife to do for him further as she shall think proper and find herself able.

To my daughter Jane Fowler I give five shillings, having done for her already.

To my daughter Ann Tilley I give five shillings, having done for her already.

To my beloved wife, Sarah, I give all the rest and residue of my estate of every description to be at her disposal in life or death, desiring and willing her to pay my debts and legacies above mentioned.

And I appoint my said wife Executor of this my last Will and Testament.

James Gibbs (II.)

Son of James Gibbs (I.) lived and died in Bristol, and became an important person in the town. The record of his life is quite complete, but as we are not descended from him, it is unnecessary to give it here in detail. He was for many years a shipmaster and married twice. His second wife, Mary, was daughter of William Munro, who was possessed of a large estate. James's daughter, by his first wife, Martha Giddings,

married Haile Turner, grandfather of Thomas G. Turner, one-time Governor of Rhode Island.

Another daughter married Josiah Finney. Another, Ruth, married Samuel Whitehorne and left a large family.

John Gibbs, another son of James Gibbs (I.) appears in the Bristol Records. He was also a mariner by profession. In late life he removed from Bristol to Newport. There is little of interest to record regarding John Gibbs's life.

George Gibbs (II.)

The following gives the terms of his business partnership with Walter Channing, his brother-in-law:

Articles of agreement entered into the sixteenth day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety-two, between George Gibbs, of Newport, in the State of Rhode Island, merchant, on the one part, and Walter Channing, of said Newport, merchant, on the other part.

The said George Gibbs and Walter Channing have mutually agreed, and do by these presents, hereby, for themselves severally, and their several executors and administrators, covenant and agree to and with each other, to become partners in trade, under the firm of Gibbs and Channing, the said George Gibbs in three quarter parts, and the said Walter Channing in one quarter part, of the trade and business, and the profits and losses which may arise therefrom.

And the said George Gibbs doth agree with the said Walter Channing to turn the whole of his stock in trade to the said company of Gibbs and Channing, to be by them used and employed in trade and business; and for the amount of said stock, agreeably to an inventory thereof, the said George Gibbs shall be credited on the books of said Gibbs and Channing.

And it is further agreed, that the said partnership shall commence on the aforesaid sixteenth day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety-two, and continue until the

same shall be dissolved, by mutual consent, or at the request or death of either of the said partners; and at the dissolution of the aforesaid partnership, a just estimate shall be made of the whole of the stock of the said company of Gibbs and Channing; and the amount of the stock supplied the company, as aforesaid, by the said George Gibbs, shall be paid out of the stock of the said company of Gibbs and Channing; shall be divided and delivered or paid: three quarters part thereof to the said George Gibbs, and one quarter part thereof to the said Walter Channing, or to their several executors or administrators in such manner as shall be reciprocal and just.

And it is further agreed, that all vessels, merchandise, debts, dues, and demands, all lands, wharves, and buildings, which the parties aforesaid, have or shall purchase for the amount of said partnership, and all wharves and buildings which they have or shall erect, all rights or shares, in the public funds, banks, bridges, manufactures, and all other property of whatever nature or kind soever, to them belonging or due at the dissolution of the aforesaid partnership, shall be considered the stock of the said Gibbs and Channing, and estimated as aforementioned; and on an adjustment of the said partnership, in the manner as is herein specified, the said George Gibbs and Walter Channing do severally agree for themselves and their several executors and administrators, to execute and deliver to each other, respectively, all deeds, releases, and discharges that shall or may be necessary to carry into full and complete effect the adjustment that shall be made of the partnership as aforesaid.

In witness whereof, we have hereunto signed our names, and affixed our seals the day and year before written.

Signed, sealed, and delivered in presence of

GEO. CHAMPLIN.
JAM. ROBINSON.

GEORGE GIBBS. *Seal.*
WALTER CHANNING. *Seal.*

Mr. Gibbs died in 1803. The estimation in which he was held will appear from the following extract from the funeral sermon preached by Rev. Mr. Dehon:

Endowed naturally with vigorous powers of mind and body, blessed by Providence with a very ample fortune, and animated by

happiness or improvement of his country or man, Mr. Gibbs was eminently qualified to rank among those rare characters the value of whose lives is felt while they are here, and whose deaths cause a void in society which the ordinary course of events does not easily fill. Do we contemplate him as a citizen? Who was more sensible of his country's honor, or felt more tenderly her wrongs? The real interests of his town, his State and nation, he considered as his own interests; and could the plain wishes of his heart be realized, national freedom, increased prosperity, pure religion, tranquillity, and honor would long be their happy allotment. Do we contemplate him in his mercantile character? By enterprise, integrity, candor, and punctuality, he rendered himself known and respectable throughout his own country, in Europe, and in the Indies; and with a portion of that benevolence which actuates the Deity and emanates from him, it was his great delight to convert his commercial projects into occasions of benefiting as many fellow-beings as it was practicable to employ in the accomplishment of them. Do we contemplate him in his state of distinguished affluence? He was indeed the almoner of God. Never was a man in a less degree rich for himself. Pride in his wealth he had none; and he was chiefly happy in it because it enabled him to render his family and connections happy, to benefit the community, to employ the honest and industrious poor, and to wipe away the tear from the widow's and the orphan's cheek. Do we remember him in the connection by which he was related to us, my brethren, as a member of this society? Alas, what a pillar of our church has God taken away! A modest yet firm believer in her principles, a sincere admirer of her services, a friend and liberal benefactor to her ministers, he has left her to regret that she shall no more be benefited by him, save in the influence which the example of his benevolence in life and his faith and resignation in death should have upon each of her sons so long as the remembrance of them remains. Shall we approach tenderly the domestic scene, and view him in those relations in which the true characters of men generally appear? Here he was an ornament to his nature. His cheerful and affectionate disposition, his honest, unsuspicious, benevolent mind, qualified him to be a pattern of all that is lovely in domestic life. Oft has affection admired in him, and long will memory deplore, the fond and faithful

husband the tender and indulgent father, the kind brother, the generous master, and the unwearied friend.

The following notice appeared in the "Newport Mercury," Oct. 15, 1803:

DIED.— On Tuesday morning, the 11th instant, greatly and deservedly lamented, after a most distressing illness, in the 69th year of his age, Mr. George Gibbs, of this town, merchant.

Of a lively and cheerful disposition, active and enterprising, he rose superior to every obstacle incident to a very extensive, complicated scene of business, pursued his well-digested plans of commerce with indefatigable and persevering industry, and soon established a reputation in America, in Europe, and in the Indies, on the most honorable and respectable basis. That he was the main pillar in the mercantile line at Newport, no one, it is presumed, will deny. That he always stood foremost to support the cause of religion and the interest of the Episcopal Church, of which, free from bigotry and superstition, he was a worthy and valuable member, his many liberal contributions to that society bear ample testimony.

Having acquired a very handsome and independent fortune, his gratitude to the Supreme Author of all good was manifested by his endeavors to imitate the example of the divine original, in acts of benevolence and kindness. The many strangers continually passing through Newport experienced his attention and hospitality. To promote the welfare and prosperity of his native town and State, to employ the industrious poor, to feed the hungry, and to relieve the sufferings of the wretched and miserable, were not the least pleasing employments of his life. During his sickness, when his bodily pains were not so severe and excruciating as to deprive him of reflection, he appeared composed and serene; adjusted several weighty worldly matters; thanked God that his life had been continued so long in the world, to be useful to his family and friends; expressed his firm reliance on the merits of his Saviour, and with a fortitude and resignation which the consciousness of a well-spent life can alone inspire, beheld his approaching dissolution without terror or dismay.

In short, if ever the inhabitants of Newport had reason to lament a loss, and to drop a tear over the remains of a departed fellow-citizen, they will acknowledge, with mingled emotions of affliction

and gratitude, that no man ever merited more from them than Mr. Gibbs. His remains were on Thursday carried into Trinity Church, where the appropriate service was performed by the Rev. Mr. Dehon; and afterwards were deposited in the burial yard of the church in the presence of a great concourse of people; all deeply lamenting the departure of their beloved fellow-citizen, and solemn with sorrow "that they should see his face no more."

Note by George Gibbs (V.)

I have been at pains to uncover any facts which would throw light upon Gibbs's activities and attitude of mind during the War of the Revolution, but have had little success. Letters of his — either of a business or of a personal nature — covering that period I have been unable to find; possibly in part due to the fact that on evacuating the town in 1779 the British carried off to New York all Town Records which were in the Newport State House.[1] Almost at the outbreak of the War the British fleet arrived off Newport (in December, 1776) and took possession of the town, quartering an army of 8,000 men in the place. They remained three years. Martial law was declared, much property destroyed and business was at a standstill, while the population dwindled from 12,000 to 4,000 people. Gibbs's shipping business could not be conducted, and it appears that he left the town. I get this fact from brief references in the 3-volume "Literary Diary of Ezra Stiles" (pub. by Scribners, 1901). Dr. Stiles was pastor of the 2nd Congregational Church in Newport in 1755; he afterwards became President of Yale College. He gives the names of those in his visiting lists, among which were the Gibbs, and Dr. William E. Channing and his wife; these he appears to have been on intimate terms with. The only other references to Gibbs are contained in the lists of British sympathizers (of which there were a great number). He mentions Gibbs as among the "Principal and Active Tories" who left Newport when the town was taken December 8, 1776. A year later he met and conversed with Gibbs and with Francis Malbone, and quotes their opinion that "the King's troops will reach Philadelphia, and will then endeavor to

[1] In "Rhode Island," by Irving B. Richman, Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 1905, it is stated that the departing loyalists shipped the town records to New York. The vessel was wrecked in Hell Gate, the records were submerged for a time, and when the vessel was raised they were recovered, but almost undecipherable.

meet the Canadian army at Albany, and America will finally submit by next Fall and be overcome." He further remarks that neither of the gentlemen "did business."

After the evacuation in October, 1779, it would appear that Gibbs returned and resumed his shipping business actively. Mason[1] cites a number of vessels fitted out by him; also that Francis Malbone was supercargo on one,— the "Mount Hope," a vessel of 570 tons, carrying ten guns; this vessel was built in Newport.

The Walter Channing (later the partner of George Gibbs, II.) it appears from certain records was a lieutenant in the regular State troops of Rhode Island during the War. No details of his service or the date when he returned to Newport are, however, obtainable.

The following are extracts from the will of George Gibbs, Second, dated Oct. 2, 1803:

Item. After payment of my debts I leave to my beloved wife, Mary Gibbs, one third of my personal estate forever, and the use of one third of my real estate during her natural life.

Item. I give to my sister Sarah Champlin during her natural life and the natural life of her daughter Ruth the sum of three hundred Spanish milled dollars per annum, to be paid in quarterly payments; but in case of either her death or the death of her said daughter, then only two hundred Spanish milled dollars per annum, to be paid in quarterly payments as aforesaid to the survivor. And I do order that my said sister and her daughter be allowed during their natural life, or the natural life of either of them, the chambers they now occupy, and that they or either of them who shall survive be furnished with firewood for their use, and that my sister have the privilege of sending adventures in the vessels of my house, as heretofore.

And I give to my sister Elizabeth Greene during her natural life the rent of the house which belonged to her late husband. And I do order that her board should be paid during her natural life, that she may live in a decent manner.

All the rest of his estate, real and personal, is divided among his surviving children, share and share alike.

[1] "Reminiscences of Newport," by Geo. Champlin Mason. Pub. Newport, 1884.

The next item is as follows:

Item. My mind and will is that my partner in trade, Walter Channing, shall continue the establishment of our house of trade and business under the firm of Gibbs and Channing, and continue to make, use, and improve the real estates purchased by and belonging to said Gibbs and Channing for the use and benefit of said firm, and to employ the moneys, vessels, goods, and chattels now belonging to said Gibbs and Channing in trade and business on the account, for the benefit, and at the risk of said firm, as heretofore and now carried on, so long as it shall be agreed to be continued by my beloved wife and my children who shall be of age at the time of my decease, on the one part, and the said Walter Channing on the other part, and no longer. And to this end I order and direct that no division or distribution of my estate in said firm be made until the expiration of such agreement.

The executors were Mary Gibbs, Walter Channing, George Champlin, Caleb Gardner, and James Robinson, of Newport, John T. Champlin, of New York, and Jeremiah Forres Jenkins, of Providence; but in a codicil he appoints his son George Gibbs also as executor.

The will was executed Oct. 2, 1803; the codicil Oct. 4, 1803.

The date when the affairs of the firm were wound up, in accordance with the codicil is not of record, but Wolcott Gibbs states that Mrs. Gibbs and her brother Walter Channing removed to Boston, where Mrs. Gibbs died in 1824.

George Gibbs died October 11, 1803, and was buried in Trinity Churchyard. The inscription on his tomb reads as follows:

HERE ARE DEPOSITED THE REMAINS
OF
GEORGE GIBBS
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE
ON THE 11TH OCTOBER 1803
AGED 68 YEARS
PERSEVERING IN INDUSTRY
JUDICIOUS IN ENTERPRISE
FAITHFUL IN ENGAGEMENT
HE ACQUIRED UNIVERSAL CONFIDENCE
AND RESPECT AS A MERCHANT
AFFECTIONATE BENEVOLENT AND PUBLIC-SPIRITED
HIS LIFE
WAS A COURSE OF EXTENSIVE USEFULNESS
WHICH HE FINISHED
IN CHARITY WITH ALL MEN.

The grave of Mr. Gibbs's first wife, Susannah Scott, and of her infant, George Gibbs, lies in the southeast corner of the churchyard, near that of her husband. These are covered with one large and fine flat stone, decorated with the Gibbs Coat of Arms and conventionalized angels at the corners. The stone bears the inscription: "This monument erected by George Gibbs, Merchant, to the memory of his Amiable Consort

Susanna

Daughter of Joseph Scott Esquire

She departed this life June 24th, 1767, in
the 22nd years of her age after a long sick-
ness which she sustained with Patience, for-
titude and Resignation to the will of God.
Divine Persuasions with a Heavenly Grace
Dwell on her Lips and Pity on her face.
Behold the Christian in the last great strife
Recount her Actions in the close of Life.

Here also lieth their son
George Gibbs who died June 13th, 1766
aged 11 weeks."

By its side are the tombs of Susanna Gibbs, daughter of George and Mary Channing Gibbs, dated 1790, aged 20 years; the other of their son, John, aged 16 years, who died from the accidental discharge of his fowling piece.

There is a monument in St. Mary's Church, South Portsmouth, R. I., commemorating George and Mary Channing Gibbs; the inscriptions read as follows:

SACRED
TO THE MEMORY OF
GEORGE GIBBS,
BORN 19, MAY, 1735, O. S., DIED 11, OCT. 1803.
AN EMINENT MERCHANT,
HONORED FOR HIS PUBLIC SPIRIT AND UPRIGHTNESS,
GIVEN TO HOSPITALITY AND GOOD WORKS.
A FAITHFUL AND MUNIFICENT SON OF THE CHURCH,
AND MOST TENDER AND BELOVED IN DOMESTIC LIFE.
ALSO OF
MARY CHANNING GIBBS,
BORN 18, OCTOBER, 1747, O.S., DIED 26, DECEMBER, 1824.
HER HEART OVERFLOWED WITH ALL KIND
AND HOLY AFFECTIONS.
THE GRACES OF HER CHARACTER, THE REFINEMENT
OF HER MIND,
THE DIGNITY OF HER MANNERS,
HER SERENE AND BENIGNANT COUNTENANCE,
HER TONES AND DEEDS OF LOVE,
NO TIME CAN ERASE FROM THE MEMORY
OF HER GRATEFUL CHILDREN.

The inscriptions were written by Dr. Channing.

As previously mentioned (see page 17), this churchyard has been the family burial place since Aunt Sarah's death. Her grave lies outside of the church east of the chancel. The later graves, in a very beautiful setting, are in the plot west of the church, where will

be found those of the Gibbs, the Tuckerman and the d'Oremieulx descendants of George and Laura Wolcott Gibbs.

Prior to the building of St. Mary's, the "Town Burial Ground" was used by the family. Here at least 25 members of the family were buried from the years 1712 to 1825, but the greater number before 1800. The notable graves are of: George Gibbs I., d. 1755; and of his wife, Ruth Hart Gibbs, d. 1784; also of their infant son, James,— and all of these are stones in good condition. A number of graves of the Channing family are here, but are not very well preserved. There are found also a number of graves in the "Island Cemetery," adjoining. These are of Governor Wm. Channing Gibbs; Eugene B. Gibbs and his wife, Mary; Helen Elizabeth Gibbs; Major Theodore Kane Gibbs and his wife Virginia Barret Gibbs.

EXTRACTS FROM THE NEWPORT (TRINITY) CHURCH RECORDS

Susannah Gibbs baptized May 8, 1770.

Mary Gibbs, baptized May 16, 1772.

Mary Gibbs, baptized Sept. 21, 1774.

George Gibbs, baptized Sept. 29, 1776.

Ruth Gibbs, baptized April 22, 1779.

March 17, 1789. John, Sarah, Elizabeth, and William Channing Gibbs, children of George and Mary Channing Gibbs, baptized.

April 8, 1796. Ruth Gibbs Whitehorne (relict of Samuel W.) and her children, Sarah and Elizabeth, baptized.

June 25, 1824. Baptized George William Gibbs, son of William C. Gibbs, born at Albany, N. Y., March 24, 1823; also Cornelius Van Schelluyne Gibbs, son of the same, born at Newport May 7, 1824.

MARRIAGES

1733. Oct. 19. George Gibbs to Ruth Hart.
1750. Aug. 26. Jabez Champlin to Hannah Gibbs.
1759. July 20. Oliver Champlin to Sarah Gibbs.
1766. Aug. 10. Job Thurston to Mary Gibbs.
1766. Dec. 28. James Robinson to Mary Gibbs.
1766. ——— George Gibbs, Second, to Susannah Scott.
1767. Aug. 3. Thomas Green to Elizabeth Gibbs.
1768. Nov. 19. George Gibbs to Mary Channing.
1771. Sept. 29. Timothy Pierce to Ann Gibbs.
1771. Dec. 19. Samuel Whitehorne to Ruth Gibbs.
1772. Aug. 16. Stephen Bardin to Hannah Champlin.
1811. ——— Thomas William More (of England) to Mary Gibbs.
1840. Mar. 28. James Gibbs, son of John Melville and Frances Gibbs Keith.

Burials

1813. Oct. 19. Mary, wife of Thomas William More, and daughter of George Gibbs, Second.

1817. Jan. 17. Susanna Gibbs, aged 25 years, daughter of George Gibbs, Second.

1822. Sept. — George Gibbs Channing, infant son of William E. and Ruth Channing.

1824. Dec. 29. Mary (Channing), widow of George Gibbs, Second, aged 77.

1837. Feb. 11. Algernon S. Gibbs, aged 3 years. son of William C. Gibbs.

1837. Dec. 1. Emily Gibbs, aged 18 months, daughter of William C. Gibbs.

Copied by Peter Gladding, Town Clerk, October, 1847

John Gibbs, son of John and Sarah, his wife, was born Oct. 20, 1751. Sabbath Day. Record, page 8, Book 2 of Births.

Capt. James Gibbs' son Nathaniel drowned May 31, 1756, aged 7 years. Record, page 2, Book 2 of Deaths.

Mrs. Sarah Gibbs died Oct. 8, 1756, aged 82 years. Page 2.

Capt. James Gibbs, commander of sloop Little, bound for Surinam, July 28, 1746. Record, page —, Book No. 1.

Elizabeth Gibbs, daughter of John Gibbs and Sarah, his wife, was born Oct. 12, 1731. Record, Book No. 1.

Mary Gibbs, daughter of John Gibbs and Sarah, his wife, was born Oct. 21, 1752. Record, Book No. 2.

Mrs. Sarah Gibbs, wife of Mr. John Gibbs, departed this life the twenty—— day of April, 1746. Record No. 2.

Feb. 9, 1750. Simon Tilley, now resident of this town, entered his intention of marriage with Ann Gibbs, of Newport, R. I. Record No. 2, page 15.

The intention of marriage between James Fowler, of Newport, and Jane Gibbs, of this town, was entered April 1, 1727. Record No. 2, page 27.

John Gibbs entered his intention of marriage with Sarah Jones Sept. 13, 1729. No. 2, page 31.

James Gibbs entered his intention of marriage with Martha Giddens on ye 4th day of April, 1735. No. 2, page 37.

John Gibbs and Sarah Jones were joined together in matrimony Oct. 19, 1729. Record No. 2, page 39.

James Gibbs and Martha Giddens were joined together in matrimony July 25, 1735. Record No. 2, page 59.

The intention of marriage between Mr. James Gibbs and Mrs. Mary Ingraham, both of Bristol, was entered April 29, 1742. Record No. 2, page 53.

James Gibbs and Mary Ingraham were married May 13, 1742. No. 2, page 54.

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