

Ensign Sherley, Esq. White, Samuel Sherley, Esq. Blanchard, and William Bell, were chosen a committee. There is nothing more on the Congregational records about it. The Presbyterians voted not to accept of the report, whatever it might have been.

At a meeting of the Congregational parish, May 30, it was voted to give Mr. Nathan Bradstreet a call ; to give him £75 yearly during Mr. Flagg's life, and a parsonage worth fifty-four dollars per annum, and after Mr. Flagg's decease, a salary of £90 as long as he should perform the work of the ministry. Jethro Colby, Jacob Hill, Amos Merrill, Stephen Merrill and David Hall entered their dissent against the vote. The parsonage was afterwards, at Mr. Bradstreet's request, exchanged for the money. The last Wednesday in October was appointed for the ordination. Esquire Flagg was to entertain the ministers free of cost, Edmond Webster was to provide for the delegates, and a room for the council.

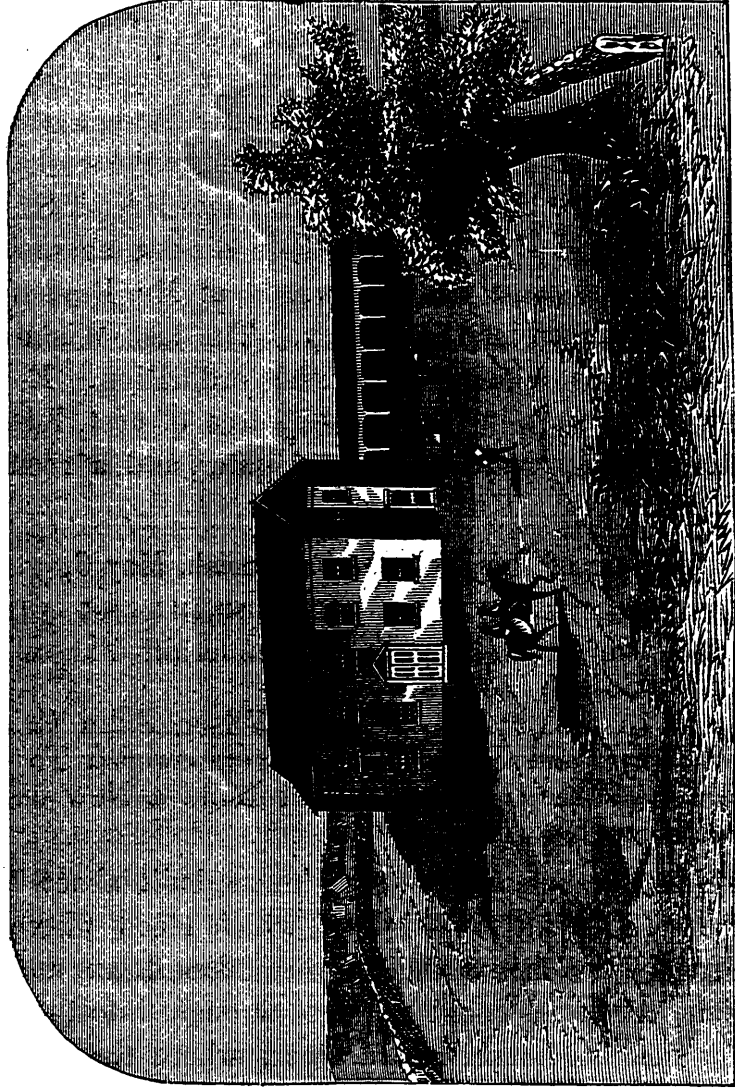
At a meeting of the Presbyterian parish, May 6,

“ Voted, that the old Meeting house Shall be taken Down and Set on the ‘Ground that Capt. Underhill Purposes to them, Near Joseph Calph’s.

“ Voted, that Will<sup>m</sup> Bell, William Wilson, John Grimes, Hugh Tolford, and Joseph Lins, is empowered To take down these old meeting houses, and Build a New one, or Cause it to be Done.”

The first Presbyterian meeting-house, built about 1739, and the “Little meeting-house,” which stood where the Rev. Mr. Holmes' house stands, were taken down, and the materials, as far as could be, were wrought into the Long Meadow meeting-house, which stood where the burying-ground is, on No. 73, 2 P. 2 D. The new house was raised July 4th, and the pews were sold July 11th, 1793. Dedicated January 1st, 1794.

The Chester Social Library first opened June 9, 1793. It was incorporated in 1797.

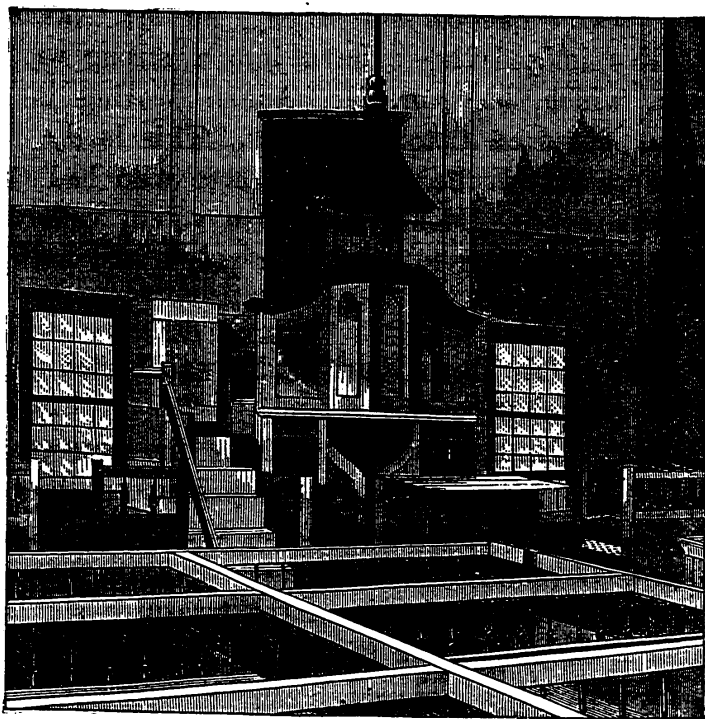


THE LONG-MEADOW MEETING-HOUSE, ERECTED 1793; ENLARGED 1807.

1794. The account of the committee to sell the parsonage lots was rendered. They sold for £249 8s. 9d. Expenses, £5 7s. 6d.; remains, £244 1s. 3d.

There was an article "to see if any encouragement should be given to raise our quota of 80,000 men that had been called for." Dismissed.

The Presbyterian parish chose William Mills, John Grimes, William Shirley, Joseph Blanchard, David Currier, James Wason and Benjamin Melvin, ruling elders. Joseph Blanchard, William Wilson and John Grimes accepted, and were ordained by the Rev. David Annan.



INSIDE VIEW OF LONG-MEADOW MEETING-HOUSE.

This year was remarkable for the forwardness of the season, and for the "great frost" the night of the 17th and morning of the 18th of May. Richard Melvin, Esq., recollects that when Esquire Blanchard moved his wife home, April 23d, the apple-trees were in blossom. The rye was headed and the flax up, but the apples and all were

killed by the frost. It is said that the canker worms, which had been very troublesome for years before, were greatly checked by the frost.

1795. The two parishes chose committees to make rules in regard to taxing, and changing from one parish to the other, which were adopted; but the document is too long to be copied. The Congregationalists refused to divide the parsonage money. They voted to take up seats, and have a singing pew built. November 19th, the Presbyterian parish voted to hire the Rev. David Annan two-thirds of the time for four years, and pay him two hundred dollars each year. The committee engaged Mr. Annan a house to live in, and they entered into a strong written obligation, which, however, Mr. Annan proving intemperate, was dissolved October 7, 1799. This is the first intimation we have in the records of those who had been employed to preach. Money had been voted, collectors chosen, and committees to supply the pulpit, and nothing further.

1796. May 18th, David Carr's wife was buried — the first in Long-Meadow burying-ground.

November 7, the town voted to divide the proceeds of the sale of the parsonage lots equally between the two parishes. It was done March 28th, 1797, each parish receiving £572 9s.

There remained in the hands of the treasurer six hundred dollars, the proceeds of the sale of the school lots.

Nov. 14, Rev. Mr. Flagg died.

1797. There was an attempt to build a new pound, or remove the old one, which stood near Ebenezer Townsend's barn. It was voted that it should remain there ten years, and to sell Mr. Townsend the land incumbered by his buildings.

June 14, 1786, there was a meeting-house raised in Raymond, at what was considered the centre of the town, near where David Page lived. October 18, 1797, it was moved to the present centre. It is the present town-house.