

How a British Subject  
BECAME  
President of the United States.

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BY A. T. HINMAN.

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NEW YORK.

1884.

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*To the Citizens of the United States:*

The Constitution of the United States requires that both the President and the Vice-President should be native born. Article II. reads: "No person except a natural born citizen \* \* \* shall be eligible to the office of President;" and Article XII. of the Amendments reads: "But no person constitutionally ineligible to the office of President shall be eligible to that of Vice-President of the United States."

It is a matter of much interest to know whether our present President was eligible to the Vice-Presidency.

Chester A. Arthur, when nominated as a candidate for the Vice-Presidency was, at first, unable to name his birthplace. The party managers insisted that he should name a spot before he wrote his letter of acceptance. At that time he gave out to the press of the country that he was going on a fishing excursion with his friend, Mr. Robert

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G. Dun, of the Mercantile Agency, in order that he might have time to prepare his acceptance. In point of fact, he started with Mr. Dun for Montreal, in the Province of Quebec, Canada, and made a search of the records there to see if anything existed showing that he was born in Canada. Not finding any there, it occurred to him that he would be safe in naming some out-of-the-way place in the United States, and consequently he chose a place where a deceased brother was born, and thus made it appear that he was native born.

Therefore, it will be still more interesting and entertaining to trace the genealogy of the man who did not want to recall it for himself.

A citizen of New York State has ascertained all of the facts and here relates them:

Almost a century ago there lived in Ballymena, County Antrim, Ireland, a Scotchman named Gavin MacArthur. He had a wife and several children, and had emigrated from Scotland, on account of a family difficulty, arising from his having embraced the Protestant religion while his

friends and relatives were of the Roman Catholic faith. Shortly after his arrival in Ireland his religious zeal caused him to change his family name from MacArthur to Arthur. It is understood that he made this change to distinguish his branch of the family from that of the Roman Catholic branch.

In the year 1796, a son was born to this Gavin Arthur, and he was named William Arthur, in honor of William of Orange.

This boy was educated at what was then known as the Blue School, in Belfast. He simply acquired a common school education. On leaving school, in the year 1818, he emigrated in a sailing vessel from Derry, Ireland, to Three Rivers, in Canada. It may here be remarked that, like a great many of the young men of his age, he was very fond of the three great evils of this life, viz: R. W. T.

"Billy" Arthur, as he was familiarly called by his associates in Canada, came direct from Three Rivers to a place called Upper Mills, now known as Stanbridge, Canada, looking for employment as a teacher. He offered to

give lessons in writing, being a fine penman, at a very small salary. He was engaged for one term in the year 1819. Two of his scholars at that time, Erastus Chandler and Luther Burley, are still living.

On leaving Stanbridge, he obtained a government school at Dunham Flats, Canada, a place about seven miles east of Stanbridge. Here he remained for several years, and one of his scholars, Joseph Baker, is still living there. He says that he remembers William Arthur very well, and that he attended his school from about 1819 to 1821. He remembers his marriage to the daughter of George Washington Stone, a Methodist priest, at Dunham, and that they ran away across the line to East Berkshire, Vermont, to get married. When they returned to Dunham they lived in the upper part of a house owned by one of Baker's relatives. Mr. Baker claimed to have been the favorite pupil of his teacher, and when his first child, Regina Melvina Maria Arthur was born, he took Baker to see the baby. "It was a girl," and in honor of the event Mr. Arthur treated Baker to a glass of whisky. Baker further

stated that William Arthur, after his marriage in the State of Vermont and return, was remarried at the Episcopal Church at Dunham, Canada, by the then pastor, the Rev. Mr. Cotton. This remarriage was performed to satisfy certain members of his wife's family, who were a little inclined to doubt everything which they did not see and in which they did not participate. This runaway marriage is corroborated by Leonard D. Geer, Erastus Chandler and others. Baker said that Arthur was lame, or club-footed, and liked his whiskey. While at Dunham he acted for at least two years as clerk to Priest Cotton, Arthur once went to the States to attend a religious meeting on a lake, supposed to be Burlington, Lake Champlain, and was converted. He learned that he afterwards became a Baptist preacher in the States. He also says that Arthur stated to him that the way his feet were lamed was that something fell on them when he was a child and crushed them. This account was somewhat modified after his conversion, and he stated the true facts to the Rev. Alvah Sabin.

During the fall of the year 1823, William Arthur, with his family, emigrated to Burlington, Vermont, and obtained employment as copyist in a lawyer's office. While so engaged, he went one Sunday, for amusement, to see some Baptists break a hole in the ice in Lake Champlain, and take a swim. The ceremony so impressed him that he made up his mind that he would become a Baptist.

At Burlington, March 14th, 1824, his daughter Jane, afterwards Mrs. Marston, of Cohoes, New York, was born. While he continued living in Burlington a Mrs. Stevens, who had been a playmate and companion of Mrs. Arthur when at school, visited her and remained for two or three weeks. Mrs. Stevens is still living, and is about 80 years old. She resides with her son Levi Stevens, at Dunham Flats, Canada, the childhood home of Mrs. Arthur. She detailed many facts in relation to Mrs. Arthur and her life at Burlington, and says she had two beautiful little girls. She then spoke of what kind of neighbors she had, and how they treated her in sickness. Mrs.

Stevens remembered that on one occasion Mrs. Arthur exclaimed to her, "Who are my neighbors? They are a low, ignorant set."

During the fall of the year 1825, William Arthur moved to Jericho, Vermont, and on January 22nd, 1826, another daughter named Almeda was born. In the spring of 1826 he moved to Richford, Vermont, just on the Canada line. In 1827 he moved to Waterville, Vermont, and from Waterville he moved to North Fairfield, Vermont, in May, 1828. Mrs. Stevens states, from the time William Arthur moved to Richford, Vermont, until he was settled in North Fairfield in the new house built for him there, Mrs. Arthur visited at her parents' house frequently with her children, and she well remembers her eldest boy William being born there in March, 1828. The exact date of the month was either the 16th or 18th of March, from the fact that his grandfather said that if he had been born on the 17th he would have insisted on calling him St. Patrick, as he was a half Irish baby, and that it was lucky for this boy that he came either a day too soon or a day too late.

Mrs. Stevens helped make his first clothes. She was a near neighbor and visited the Arthurs almost every day. When Mrs. Arthur was in Dunham, she also remembers that when William Arthur first came to see the baby he tried to plague Mrs. Arthur in her presence by saying that he wanted to have the baby named Tommy Wood, after an old beau of Mrs. Arthur, and that she drove him out of the room laughing, for he was an awful man for saying things he didn't mean—always joking. She says that Mrs. Arthur and herself finally named him William Chester Alan Arthur, and that many times she held him in her arms. He was the perfect picture of his father. Mr. L. I. H. Corey and Mrs. Capt. John Chandler also remember the birth of this boy at Dunham. They both now reside at Stanbridge.

In the month of October, 1830, William Arthur again obtained employment as teacher at Stanbridge, Canada. Many of his scholars are still living. Their statements are herein-after detailed. They remember his return. Mrs. Arthur remained in North Fairfield until the following spring, when she went on a

visit to Burlington. She closed up her house, and went to her father's house at Dunham, and only occasionally returned to live in North Fairfield, on account of the absence of her husband. While living in North Fairfield, Vermont, on November, 1830, another boy was born, who was named Chester Abell Arthur, in honor of Dr. Chester Abell, a boon companion of Wm. Arthur, and who attended Mrs. Arthur in her confinement. Several persons are now living who were aware of the birth of this boy, and there are one or two more who think that they recollect it. They are probably mistaken, as this boy died at Burlington while Mrs. Arthur was on a visit there. A few months thereafter, Mrs. Arthur sought her parents' home for comfort, and left her home in Fairfield for a time. Ezra Wright Sherman, who now lives at Montgomery Centre, Franklin County, Vermont, remembers the birth of this child at Fairfield. He had attended school under Rev. William Arthur when he first came to Fairfield, and just after the birth of this child went with Mr. Arthur to Dunham, Canada, to get a school for himself. He was, however,

too late. He remembers that besides the baby there were two girls and one boy at home with Mrs. Arthur. He knew the Abell brothers, Luther, Chester and Calvin, and that the boy born in Fairfield was named after Chester. Luther Abell was his chum at school, and was a very witty boy. Dr. C. L. Case, now of Rutland, Vermont, claims that he knew of the birth of this child. Mr. Sherman says that his memory must have been extraordinary, for Dr. Case's mother was at this time a girl about seventeen years old, and had been attending school with him; and that she and her mother were at the house when the child was born.

Wm. Arthur, having been re-engaged as school teacher at Stanbridge, Canada, in the fall of 1830, continued to preach at Fairfield every other Sunday. Finally, in April, 1832, he prevailed upon his friend, Dr. Chester Abell, to take charge of his school at Stanbridge, Canada, for the balance of the term. Then, with his wife, who was still stopping at her father's house in Canada, he went to live at a place called Williston, Chittenden County, Vermont. He had moved his house-

hold effects three months before. While Mr. Arthur was still teaching school in Canada, his wife, in the summer of 1831, went to visit some friends near Burlington, Vermont, and while there her baby boy, Chester Abell, sickened and died. This sad blow caused her to return to Canada to her father's house. Mr. Arthur, on mentioning the fact to Uncle Jack Baker and others, at Stanbridge, said that he was so poor at the time that he did not have money enough to bury the child. Mrs. Arthur resided with all her children, except the oldest girl, Regina, who was at school with her father, at Stanbridge until leaving for Williston, Vermont. Here at Williston, Mr. Arthur preached for a small Baptist church just organized, and also set up a private academy in a building owned by the Rev. Peter Chase. Then for the first time Mr. Arthur began to see better days and to live more comfortably, and to surround himself with many cultivated and influential friends, among whom were ex-Governor Martin Chittenden, son of old Governor Thomas Chittenden, the first Governor of the State of Vermont. It was at

Williston, in 1832, that a girl baby, who was also named Malvina, was born. Dr. Chester Abell died this year, and was buried, at Fairfield.

In January, 1833, William Arthur commenced to preach in the village of Hinesburgh, west of the town of Williston, in the same county and state; and finally, in the summer or fall of 1833, moved his family there, although he continued his academy or school at Williston. An old lady, Mrs. Milton Bostwick, who still lives there, also taught school under Elder Arthur, as he was then called, at the Williston academy, in the spring and summer of 1834. While living at Hinesburgh, in 1834, William Arthur (Jr.) was born. The name William was dropped from the name of the first-born son, William Chester Alan Arthur, late of Dunham Flats, Canada, and the little Englishman and senior son was thereafter known as Chester Alan Arthur. Early in the fall of 1834, Elder Wm. Arthur moved from Hinesburgh. At that time he had living five girls and two boys. The daughters of the Rev. Alvah Sabin remember trundling the oldest boy, "Chet,"

on the sidewalk of the streets of Williston in 1833, in a hand cart. The boy was then about five years old. While at Hinesburgh, Wm. Arthur also preached at Essex, Vt., and when he left Hinesburgh, he removed his family to York, Livingston County, New York, and went there to preach. After preaching awhile, he removed to Perry, Wyoming County, and preached there. Then he went to Greenwich, Washington County, in the same state, and afterwards moved to Schenectady, New York, where both he and his son entered Union College; and the record shows that on September 5th, 1845, Chester Alan Arthur, formerly William Chester Alan Arthur, matriculated with Union College, and entered the sophomore class, stating his age then to be sixteen years. He graduated in July, 1848.

Elder Wm. Arthur received the degree of A. M. from Union College.

Rev. Wm. Arthur preached from 1855 to 1863 as pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, in Little State Street, in the city of Albany, New York, and finally finished his career as a divine by preaching in the Newtonville

Baptist Church, near Albany, until his death on October 28th, 1875.

Chester Alan Arthur, on leaving Union College, studied law, and was admitted to the bar in New York City on the 15th of May, 1854. His ability as a lawyer is unquestioned, for it has been written by his friends, that old members of the bar like E. D. Culver would retire from a case to let him try it, or like William M. Evarts, beg to be allowed to be an associate counsel in the case, and that he (Arthur) would win the cases, even though Charles O'Connor were the opposing counsel.

It is claimed and believed to be true, that he took a very active part in politics from an early age, but did not cast his first ballot for President until November, 1852. He could have done so, it is claimed, only he was not quite old enough, and did not know how to vote without getting out his last papers, and 1868 papers were not known in those days. He contributed greatly to the re-election of Edwin D. Morgan as Governor of New York, and on January 1st, 1861, was made Engineer-in-Chief for his political services. In the commencement of the late war, Gov. Morgan,

on whose staff he still held the position of Chief-Engineer, made him Inspector-General and Quartermaster-General, and ordered him to put on gory epaulets and open a Quartermaster's Department in New York City at once, which order he very promptly obeyed; and so skillfully did he run his department, and so well did he understand politics in running the same that the government always approved his accounts at once, while in other States their accounts were cut down from one to ten millions of dollars each. It is well here to say that he did not practice law at this time, but although a *double* general, he never knew the smell of gunpowder, nor ever heard the whistle of the enemy's bullet in anger during the cruel war. But he did find it to be a fact, and so reported it to the government, that blue caps for the U. S. soldier, made by his friend Col. Thomas Murphy, would never fade nor lose their color.

The well-know desire of General Arthur to show his fighting qualities in the field led his friends to elect him Colonel of the Ninth Regiment, New York Volunteers; but he

declined the honor. He was offered the command of the Metropolitan Brigade and again he declined, because, as we have it, he could make more money at home; and although he lost his commission as general on the 1st of January, 1863, his inclination to keep out of the Army continued unabated. At the close of the war, he took a leading part in politics, and so expert was he in the art that he managed to elect himself President of the Central Grant Club of New York City.

By reason of the prestige which the position gave him, he was enabled to manoeuvre some very fine deals with the opposite political party. In fact, his political astuteness so attracted the attention of the honorable Democratic statesman, William M. Tweed, or "Boss" Bill Tweed, as he was called in those days of ring rule, that he caused an office to be created by an act of the Legislature of New York, for this honorable this honorable member of the Republican party. The Board of Supervisors, of which Wm. M. Tweed was a prominent member, passed a resolution fixing the salary of this office at ten thousand dollars a year. The

duties of the office (if any) should have been performed by the Corporation Attorney, but Bill Tweed and Chet Arthur, in their political astuteness, thought otherwise. It is claimed that he held the position only three years and resigned only upon an attempt of the Democratic Tammany Ring to coerce Republicans employed in the city departments to aid them in concealing the robberies of the ring; not as some surmised, that, holding office as Collector of the Port of New York under a Republican administration, some people might think it strange that he still held office under Bill Tweed and the Democratic administration in New York City.

The office created was that of Counsel to the Commissioners of the Board of Taxes and Assessments, and the following statement shows that it was accomplished. The Legislature had passed an act "prohibiting the Common Council of the City of New York from creating new offices or increasing the salary of any person holding office under the present city charter." Tweed *was boss* and Supervisor. John T. Hoffman had been elected Governor in November, 1868. A.

Oakey Hall was Mayor; Richard B. Connolly was Comptroller; Bernard Smyth was Receiver of Taxes; Richard O'Gorman was Counsel of the Corporation, with three assistants; Thomas C. Field was Corporation Attorney; John Morrissey represented the city in Congress, and Michael Connelly was Register. Tweed wanted an office for his friend Chet Arthur, and demanded of Senator Thomas Creamer that an office be created, and it was done.

The act is found in the Session Laws of New York for 1869, Volume 2, pages 2264 and 2265, Chapter 898, passed May 17th, 1869, and is entitled "An act in relation to taxes, &c." At the end of Sec. 2 (as a rider thereto) are these words: "And for the more effectual discharge of their duties, the said Commissioners are hereby authorized to employ counsel at an annual salary to be fixed by the Board of Supervisors of said county."

The Board of Supervisors at that time were: Walter Roache, Esq., President, Henry Smith, William M. Tweed, Andreas Willmann, John Fox, James Hayes, Andrew

Bleakley, Isaac J. Oliver, Gerson N. Herrman, Orison Blunt, John Brice.

In the City Library at the City Hall, in the City of New York, will be found a book numbered in said library 2846, endorsed, "Proceedings of the Board of Supervisors, 1869, Vol II."

On page 71 will be find the following :

#### COMMUNICATION.

The following was received :

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF TAXES  
AND ASSESSMENTS, No. 32 Chambers St.

New York, July 5th, 1869.

To the Honorable the Board of Superiors:  
Gentlemen—

I am instructed by the Commissioners of Taxes and Assessments to inform your Board that, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 898 of the Laws of 1879, Chester A. Arthur, Esq., was appointed Counsel to this Board on the 5th instant.

Respectfully,  
Your obedient servant,  
E. F. BABCOCK, Secretary."

On page 72 of same book we find :

"Whereupon the following was presented :  
Resolved, that the salary of the Counsel to the Board of Commissioners of Taxes and Assessments be and is hereby fixed at ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) per annum, to take effect from date of his appointment, which was adopted by the following vote.

Affirmative—Supervisors, Bleakly, Blunt, Brice, Fox, Hays, Herrman, the President and Supervisor Smith—8.

And the same was directed to be sent to the Mayor for approval."

The Commissioners of Taxes and Assessments were Nathaniel Sands, William H. King and George H. Andrews.

Thos. Murphy, the cap contractor during the late war, and afterwards Collector of the Port of New York, resigned that position on November 20th, 1871, and was succeeded in the office by General Chester A. Arthur. We find in a Republican weekly paper called HARPER'S WEEKLY, of date December 16th, 1871, mention of the event, as follows :

"General Chester A. Arthur, whose gory  
"epaulets were won as a member of Governor

"Morgan's staff, comes again to the front as  
"Collector of the Port of New York. He is  
"the son of a clergyman, the Rev. William  
"Arthur, of Newtonville. Clergymen's sons  
"are proverbial for being good men, caring  
"more for piety than politics or pelf, and  
"opposed to all prescription for opinions  
"sake. His predecessor, Mr. Murphy, was  
"conspicuous for this latter virtue; and it is  
"confidently asserted that General Arthur  
"will not emulate him therein, but elevate  
"the standard of custom house virtue to the  
"fine pinnacle it obtained under the adminis-  
"tration of George Washington."

It appears that he entered the office of collector a poor man, and managed the affairs of the office so well, with the aid of Gen'l George A. Sharp, Alonzo B. Cornell and others, that he found time to send a revenue cutter loaded with custom house employees from all parts of the city of New York, to one Republican District Primary in said city called Harlem. These employees being armed with tissue ballots, and using the names of Republicans living in that district, voted from ten to thirty ballots each at a time, and thus

were able to carry the District Primary against the will of the majority in the Republican Association in that district. And in the same district, the old 21st Assembly District, he demanded and caused a Republican candidate to withdraw, on the threat that if he did not, he, Arthur, would slaughter his boy, and slaughter his friends holding office in the Custom House—meaning the candidate William Haw's son and friends. Afterwards, he put an Independent Republican, so called, without nomination, in the field, and one whom the Republicans could not, and did not, support at the polls.

Finally, for doing his duty, he was retired from the Custom House of the Port of New York. This was done after a due examination of the manner of his work by a Commission, and, on the approval of the work of the Commission by the President of the United States, he retired with the snug little sum to his credit of about three million dollars; and all saved out of his salary as Collector of the Port of New York!

A copy of the testimony offered, or a portion of it taken before Commissioners, as to

the elevated standard to which he raised the Custom House virtue while Collector of the Port will be worth reading. It was published in THE REPORTER and HARLEM LOCAL, New York, May 26, 1877, entitled,—

### CUSTOM HOUSE INVESTIGATIONS.

On Monday last, the 21st inst., a delegation of Republican citizens, from the 21st Assembly District, called upon the Customs Investigating Commission at the Custom House, and offered some interesting evidence. The first witness examined was Mr. John E. Hegarty, who resides at 1654 Second avenue, New York City, who testified as follows: That he was elected member of the 21st Assembly Association in 1871, and was appointed in the Appraiser's Department as opener and packer, at \$3.00 per day, on the 12th of December, 1872, and discharged therefrom on the 18th of July, 1875. He demanded the cause of his removal, and was told by the Superintendent, Mr. Lawrence Harney, that Mr. A. P. Ketchum had asked Mr. Darling several times to discharge all of

William Haw, Jr.'s friends in his department, but he would not discharge him at his request then.

Collector Arthur asked for our removal also, and, finally, Surveyor Sharpe demanded his discharge, and Mr. Harney told me I was discharged because I would not support the Custom House party in the district against William Haw, Jr., ex-President of the Republican Association through which he was appointed. (Showing letters as to competency from his superior officers in the Custom House), have served four years in the United States Army during the late rebellion, and had an honorable *discharge therefrom*.

The next witness was James O. Roper, who resides at 155 East 112th Street, by occupation advertising agent, office 140 Fulton Street, New York. He testified that in 1875 he resided in the Twenty-first Assembly District, New York City, and had been for several years a member of the Republican association in that district, and had been Inspector of Elections at their primaries, was acquainted with Stephen S. Doty, a Custom House Inspector, also a

member of the association. In 1875, just before the election of delegates to the Saratoga Convention, Doty offered to procure him a place in the Custom House if he would use his influence to make Henry Welch chairman of the Board of Inspectors. He doubted Doty's power to procure him the place, and William Starrett, also a Custom House Inspector and member of the association, made him the same promise, and sent him a letter to meet him at the office of Surveyor George H. Sharpe. He called on Sharpe accordingly; Sharpe told him that the Collector would attend to the matter of his appointment at once; also went to see Col. A. P. Ketchum, General Appraiser of Custom House, and also member of the association, who gave him a letter directed to the Collector of the Port, Chester A. Arthur, Esq. Roper did not read the letter, but Mr. Ketchum said it was in regard to his appointment. He delivered the letter to Mr. Phillipps, the Collector's secretary. Ketchum had before written him that his appointment would be handed him in a day or two; afterwards he refused to make Mr.

Ketchum's nominee chairman of the Board of Inspectors, and the place in the Custom House was never given him. He was told when they wanted him they would notify him. The next patriot was Payson Dwight, residing at 114 East 112th Street, New York City. He was appointed Inspector of Customs by Thomas Murphy, Collector of the Port of New York, upon the recommendation of Messrs. Edwards Pierrepont, Francis E. Spinner, and Judge Noah Davis, on December 24th, 1870, and remained in the government service until October 28th, 1875. During that time he has acted as boarding, discharging, debenture and district officer of the port.

During the time he acted as (assistant) Boarding Officer, Surveyor Sharpe telegraphed to the Barge Officer to hold the Steamship Manhattan, a revenue cutter, subject to his order, (this was about September or October, 1874) he, Sharpe, together with the Collector of the Port, General Arthur, boarded the revenue cutter, and proceeded to quarantine and boarded the steamship Russia, (*after sunset*) and pro-

ceeded to saloon of said Steamship to receive Mrs. Secretary Belknap and Mrs. Marsh who were on board and had with them their personal baggage; Mrs. Belknap's packages numbering about 43, consisted of trunks and parcels; these were taken from the steamship Russia in the stream, by order of Surveyor Sharpe, without examination, except thirteen that were in the hold of the vessel. Afterwards Sharpe wrote me the order for the 13, to be delivered to Mr. Bliss, and for him to forward the same to the Fifth Avenue Hotel.

Other evidence of a like tenure was rejected as being too remote altogether; the officials were then and are still Federal office-holders. Mr. Dwight gave some very interesting evidence as to irregularities, and the mode by which certain abuses might be corrected to some length.

The spokesman, Mr. A. P. Hinman, then informed the Commission that several others would probably testify this week, and was answered that the Commission would gladly hear all he might induce to come and testify. William Haw, Jr., still a Republican in

principle, residing at No. 246 East 117th Street, New York City, testified to the following facts. In the fall of 1866 he became a member of the 21st Assembly District Republican Association and had previously been a member of other Republican Associations in the city since 1856. He had been in consultation in the past with the various leaders of the party to secure the triumph of its cause. He was appointed an Inspector of Customs, September 13th, 1861, by Collector Hiram Barney, and resigned December 6, 1864, to take the Public Store carting of the Custom House under Collector Simeon Draper and held that office until July 1st, 1866. He was then removed by Collector Henry A. Smythe, for the reason that he opposed the policy of Andrew Johnson's Administration and he was not connected with the Custom House thereafter. He was appointed Inspector of Stations in the New York Post Office on October 13th, 1873, by Thos. L. James, Postmaster, and was removed November 10th, 1874, for the reason, as stated by the Postmaster, that he did not obey the orders of General Arthur

in relation to the political affairs in his (21st Assembly) District.

(Mr. Haw here produced a personal letter from Horace Greeley.)

When questioned further on this removal, Mr. Haw testified that the day after he received notice of his removal he called upon Postmaster James to learn the cause of his removal and was informed that Collector Arthur had demanded it.

Among all the Republicans in his District great excitement had been caused about this time, by the action and interference of Collector Arthur and Surveyor Sharpe with the politics of the District, by intimidating office-holders. It was insisted that they should vote and act as directed by the Collector and Surveyor. All those who attempted to assert their manhood by doing otherwise at the Primaries were removed from office. Mr. Haw said that a few weeks before his removal in 1874 at the Primary election held in his District, when delegates were chosen to the Assembly Convention, he was a candidate before that Convention. This was composed of forty-two citizens, not one of them

an office-holder, and he was their unanimous choice. He was driven out of the field finally in this way. An independent candidate was put in the field by the State Committee, located at the 5th Avenue Hotel, presided over by Surveyor George H. Sharpe. He was requested to withdraw. He refused and then Gen. Arthur sent for him and *ordered* him to withdraw. He still refused. Then Collector Arthur threatened in these words: "That if he did not withdraw he would slaughter him, that he would slaughter his friends, and that he would slaughter his boy." Most of his friends were in the Custom House. *He defied him.* Then the threatened slaughter commenced and his boy was removed from the Custom House. Here is a list:

John E. Haggerty, from the Appraiser's Depot; Archimedes Bell, from the Appraiser's Depot; Benjamin Page, from Internal Revenue Depot; John L. Kinsland, from Watchman at Stores; Payson Dwight, from Inspector of Customs; Samuel Wallace, from Inspector of Customs; William F. Harridon, from Inspector of Customs;

Joseph M. McDonald, from Weighmaster's Depot; Charles A. Dumuolin, from Weighmaster's Depot; Nelson Mott, from Clerk in Surveyor's Office, and many others. To save others from the slaughter *he withdrew from the race.* Because their candidate was defeated at the polls on election day he was removed from the Post Office. He had been ordered to elect the candidate. He couldn't, for the Republicans refused to support him on election day.

At the Primary election held the next year in his district, on September 3, 1875, for delegates to the Saratoga Convention, the Custom House authorities, Arthur, Sharp and Bliss, desired to run a ticket against the Republicans in the 21st District, and Collector Arthur gave orders that all the Federal officeholders in the whole city were to come into the district on the night of the Primary, and beat the ticket put up by the Republicans in that district. The orders were obeyed. Some came by way of tugboats, some by railroad cars, and some by way of steamboats. They voted on members' names belonging to the Republican Association in

the district. He detected a great many, and stopped them from voting. While he was so engaged, one General A. P. Ketchum, then United States Appraiser who now holds that office, was encouraging these repeaters to vote. When he found Mr. Haw preventing them from so doing, he called on the police and had him arrested for interfering with the voting. He was discharged, after being detained about half an hour at the Station-house, as Ketchum did not dare to make a charge against him, and could not find any one to do it for him. He returned and continued to do his duty at the Primary. While he was away they had done their work, and the people were beaten.

At the Primary election for delegates to the State Convention held March 17, 1876, everybody who wished to vote, whether he was a member of the Association or not, was allowed to do so. Men who were not known in the district deposited a number of ballots at a time of the color and size (Mr. Haw produced a very thin ticket, about half an inch wide and two inches long, on very fine tissue paper of a pink color) here shown.

When one of these men voted, he would roll up twenty or twenty-five of these tissue ballots, and deposit them as one ballot. When the Inspectors counted the ballots, they did it by simply counting the Association ticket, and lumped the other tickets as being in the majority, and the Republicans were thus voted down. Of the three Inspectors, he knew that two were Custom House officials, and the other had been a plumber under the Democratic boss, William Tweed, Neither Mr. Haw nor anyone else was allowed to challenge votes at this Primary.

He further stated that General A. P. Ketchum before he went into the United States Appraisers Department was Collector of Internal Revenue. One Captain Benjamin Page held, under him, the position of Assistant Collector of Internal Revenue, until removed as one of Haw's friends. He now has his office at No. 2298 Third avenue, New York City. He informed Mr. Haw that, while he was connected with said Internal Revenue office, a colored man named Robert Jones was on the pay roll at a salary of \$1500, while in fact he was man servant

for said Ketchum, and did no work for the office of any kind.

On his forcible retirement from the Custom House, General Arthur immediately passed into obscurity. Here he remained until at the last National Republican Convention at Chicago in 1880, when the senior Senator of New York, in order to handicap the man who had succeeded in obtaining the Presidential nomination, suggested the name of Chester A. Arthur, a New York local politician, for the position of Vice-President. The Senator himself, well knew that his availability as a candidate would impede rather than help the head of the ticket, and that the Presidential candidate would be compelled to call upon the senior Senator to aid and assist him to even carry the State of New York. The political astuteness of the senior Senator was thereafter fully developed, and the terms of success imposed.

The foregoing pages comprise a statement of facts which can be fully verified, and are in the possession of the author. The following pages contain a portion of the affidavits, narratives and letters of divers persons, in

relation to the birth-place of our now acting President.

The author has thought best to give them in full as they were collected, and from them the reader can draw his own conclusions. Realizing that he is only one of the millions of voters of his native country, but believing that the Constitution should be rigidly regarded, and that the nativity of all candidates for the offices of President and Vice-President should be certainly settled and determined before presenting them to the people for their suffrages, he respectfully asks for his book a thoughtful consideration.

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Erastus Chandler, of Stanbridge East formerly Upper Mills, Canada, remembers William Arthur when he first came to Stanbridge: went to school to him. He was a lame Irishman, and inclined to drink, but was a splendid penman. He landed in this country at Three Rivers, and his first school was at Stanbridge. I think it was about 1819. I was about fifteen years of age the first time he was here, and about twenty-five years of age the second time. I know he married

George Washington Stone's daughter, Methodist priest. Do not have any knowledge of their children. I remember two years he lived at Dunham. I know that he came direct here after he landed in this country from Three Rivers. I have heard him say so.

Joseph Baker, of Dunham Flats, P. Q., remembers going to school to William Arthur about 1819 and 1821. Remembers his marriage. They went across the line to get married,—run away,—and when they returned, lived in the upper part of a house belonging to his (Baker's) relatives. He was the favored pupil of his teacher; and when the first child was born, the teacher, William Arthur, took him to see the baby. It was a girl, and was called Regina. He was treated at the time by the teacher to a glass of whisky in honor of the baby. William Arthur lived some years at Dunham Flats, but don't know where he moved to after that. His teacher, William Arthur, was lame. While at Dunham he went to a camp meeting on some lake, and got converted, and afterward heard he became a Baptist priest

in the States. The way his feet were lamed was, as William Arthur stated to him, that something fell on his feet when a child and crushed them.

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ST. ARMAND STATION, PROVINCE OF QUEBEC, CAN.  
December 21st, 1880.

MR. A. P. HINMAN.

DEAR SIR :—I received a letter from you the 18th inst. asking me if one of my teachers in Stanbridge was named Wm. Arthur. I answer yes. The first time he kept our school was between 1816 and 1820. He was not married at that time. He left, and was away between ten and twelve years, then returned and kept our school, I think one year. It is so long ago that I cannot say positively. He was married the last time that he kept our school, but did not bring his family there. He was a Baptist minister, and used to preach occasionally. If what I have written is not satisfactory, you had better write to Erastus Chandler of Stanbridge, East Village, Province of Quebec, Canada.

He is older than I, and probably can give you more information than I can.

Yours respectfully,

LUTHER BURLEY.

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PROTHONOTARY'S OFFICE,  
Sweetsburg, 7th Jan., 1881.

A. P. HINMAN, Esq., New York.

SIR :—I have just completed an exhaustive search in the archives of our office, from 1819 to 1835, inclusive, and I have only found one entry in the Register of the Civil Status for the year 1822. It is very possible that the different

ministers of Dunham Flats, Sutton and Stanbridge, have neglected, during these years, to deposit the duplicates of their registers. I think your proper course now would be to enquire of the present incumbents of the places above mentioned. They must have the duplicates. I inclose the certificate of birth and baptism of Regina Malvina, one of Arthur's daughters, and also \$1.10. The searches have cost \$1.70, and the certificates \$.40, and you paid me \$3 20. Hoping you will be more successful in other quarters, I am Sir,

Yours truly,

C. BOUCHER, Dep. P. S. C.

STANBRIDGE EAST, QUEBEC, CANADA,

January 1, 1881.

ARTHUR P. HINMAN, Esq.

DEAR SIR:—Your letter to the rector of the Baptist Church in Stanbridge Ridge was handed to me by the postmaster, because at the present I am preaching in the vacant house previously occupied by the church in question.

In reply to your inquiry, I may say that previous to 1840 all duplicates of registers of baptisms, marriages and burials performed in the then District of Montreal were deposited with the prothonotary of the District of Montreal in Montreal, but on the division of the district and the erection of the District of Bedford, I am informed all such records of acts performed within the District of Bedford were sent to the prothonotary of the district at Sweetsburgh, where they can be examined and copies obtained for twenty-five cents each, if I am correctly informed.

I have heard it said by the older people that previous to Mr. Arthur taking orders as a Baptist elder he held an official position in the Episcopal Church in Dunham, where he lived for some time, and if any of his children were born and baptized in Canada it must have been before he became a Baptist elder, as *Baptists do not baptize their children*. The records of such act will be found in the original register with the rector at Dunham, unless destroyed at the burning of the rectory some years ago, and if so they can be found in duplicate at the prothonotary's office at Sweetsburgh.

Hoping that this may fully answer your inquiry, with compliments of the season,

I am, sir, yours faithfully,

SAMUEL JACKSON,

Minister Methodist Church, Canada.

STATE OF NEW YORK,  
CITY AND COUNTY OF NEW YORK, } ss.

George Forneret, being duly sworn, says that he resides at Dunham, in the Province of Quebec; that he is rector of "All Saints" Church, Dunham, Province of Quebec; that he has examined the Parochial Register of Marriages and Baptisms kept at said church; that he finds there recorded on the 12th day of April, 1821, the marriage of William Arthur and Malvina Stone, and on the 31st day of March, 1822, the baptism of Regina Malvina, daughter of William and Malvina Arthur of Dunham, born the 8th instant; that the annexed exhibits, marked "A" and "B," are true copies of the entries in the said parish register.

And deponent further says that he verily believes that the said parish register examined by him is the parish register kept at the dates above-mentioned, and that the entries of which the annexed are copies are original entries in said register.

GEORGE FORNERET

Sworn to before me this 14th day of January, 1881.

P. F. SPENCER, Notary Public,

Kings County, N. Y.

Certif. filed N. Y. Co.

A.

On this twelfth of April, eighteen hundred and twenty-one, William Arthur, of full age, schoolmaster, and Malvina Stone, under age, spinster, both of Dunham, were married after publication of banns, with consent of parents, in presence of the following persons, by me.

(Signed) CHAS. C. COTTON, Minister,  
WILLIAM ARTHUR,  
MALVINA STONE,  
ALMEDA STONE,  
ALEXANDER BROWN.

True copy of an entry in the parish register of "All Saints" Church, Dunham, Province of Quebec.

GEORGE FORNERET, Rector.

Dunham, province of Quebec, this twenty-eighth day of December, eighteen hundred and eighty.

B.

On this thirty-first of March, eighteen hundred and twenty-two, Regina Malvina, daughter of William and

Malvina Arthur, of Dunham, schoolmaster, born the eighth instant, was baptized this day in presence of the following persons, by me.

(Signed) CHARLES C. COTTON, Minister,  
WILLIAM ARTHUR,  
MALVINA ARTHUR,  
JAMES STONE.

True copy of an entry in the parish register of "All Saints" Church, Dunham, Province of Quebec.

GEORGE FORNERET, Rector.

Dunham, Province of Quebec, this twenty-eighth day of December, eighteen hundred and eighty.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC, }  
DISTRICT OF BEDFORD. }

Extract from the Register of the Acts of Baptism, Marriage and Burials of the Episcopal Congregation of the Church of England, at Dunham, for the year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty-two.

"On this Thirty-first of March, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty-Two, Regina Malvina daughter of William and Malvina Arthur, of Dunham, schoolmaster, born the eighth instant, was baptized this day, in presence of the following persons, by me.

(Signed) CHARLES C. COTTON, Minister,  
WILLIAM ARTHUR,  
MALVINA ARTHUR,  
JAMES STONE,  
DAVID BROWN."

I, the undersigned, Deputy Prothonotary of the Superior Court, in and for the said District of Bedford, do hereby certify that the foregoing is true "Extracts from the Register of the Acts of Baptism, Marriage and Burials of the said Episcopal Congregation of the Church of England, at Dunham," in the said District; the said Register deposited in the office of the Prothonotary of said Superior Court.

Given at Sweetsburg, the Twenty-eighth of December, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty.

(L. S.)

C. BOUCHER,  
Deputy Prothonotary Superior Court.

To A. J. HOWARD, Esq., County Clerk of Chittenden County, Vermont:

Please search in your office for records of births and deaths of children to the following persons: William Arthur, Malvina Arthur, from January 1st, 1822, to January 1st, 1841, and certify result for

A. P. HINMAN, Attorney, etc.,

No. 8 Wall St., New York City.

Dated Jan. 28th, 1881.

New York.

STATE OF VERMONT, }  
CHITTENDEN COUNTY. } ss.

A. J. Howard, Clerk of said Chittenden County, hereby certifies that there are no records of births, marriages and deaths required to be kept by county clerks in this State, and that there are no such records in my office.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said county at Burlington, this first day of February, A. D. 1881.

A. J. HOWARD, Clerk.

ST. ARMAND, Feb. 2d, 1881

MR. A. P. HINMAN.

SIR:—Your letter of the 25th Jan., addressed to Rector of the Baptist Church, St. Armand, Missisquoi Co., Prov. of Quebec, was given to me as the individual indicated. In answer to your request, I reply that no pastor of the Baptist Church in St. Armand *previous to 1843*, was legally qualified to keep and use registers for recording marriages, births, baptisms and deaths; hence, there can be no records of births, etc., of the family of Rev. Wm. Arthur, in keeping by this church.

Baptist churches always keep a book of records of the doings of the church, in which the names of her own pastors appear, and usually also, incidentally, the names of pastors of adjacent churches. I have searched the records of the Baptist Church in St. Armand from 1823 to 1843, and the name of Rev. Wm. Arthur *cannot be found therein*. I have also searched the records of the second *Baptist Church in Richford, Vermont*. *In these I find his name appearing*, as shown in the following extracts:

"April 26th, 1828.—The church received a request from Waterville Church, to send brethren to set in council to examine Br. Wm. Arthur for ordination; and the church appointed brethren A. Stone, Jeremiah Janes, A. C. Banister."

"January 17th, 1829.—Voted to employ Elder Wm. Arthur one eighth part of the time for one year."

These extracts will show his whereabouts at that time.

I have also called upon Dea. Mitchel Stone, of Birkshire, Vermont, a cousin of Mrs. Malvina Arthur. He informs that he lived near Malvina Stone, subsequently Mrs. Arthur, during the first fourteen years of her life; and that he

visited her, when a mother, in the township of Fairfield, Vermont. Mr. Stone is in his eighty-first year, and cannot remember the date of this visit.

These are all the facts bearing upon this subject that I am now able to give; and it is *facts*, I am aware, not speculations, that you desire.

As I live just on the border, Richford, Vermont, is my nearest P. O. Yours truly

ARNOLD L. ARMS,  
Richford, Franklin Co., Vt.

TO THE TOWN CLERK OF WATERVILLE, Lamoille County,  
Vermont:

Please search in your office for records of births and deaths of the children to the following persons: William Arthur, Malvina Arthur, from January 1, 1822, to January 1, 1841, and certify result for

A. P. HINMAN, Attorney, &c.,

No. 8 Wall Street, New York City,

Dated New York, January 7, 1881. New York.

WATERVILLE, February 2, 1881.

I do not find any record of any of the above family.

E. H. SHATTUCK, Town Clerk.

NORTH ENOSBURGH, January 1, 1881.

HON. A. P. HINMAN,

DEAR SIR:—I received yours of December 27th. In reply will say I cannot tell the number of children William Arthur had at the time he resided in Waterville; but I

think he had two or three at the time he came to Fairfield. I was acquainted with him in Waterville, and helped move him to Fairfield.

LEONARD W. LEACH.

P. S.—I received your note after some delay, as it went to the wrong office.

LEONARD W. LEACH.

ST. ALBANS, VT., May 19, 1882.

A. P. HINMAN.

SIR:—My sister, Mrs. Harmon Northrop, Jr., has placed in my hands a letter from you, which may have been intended for her or my mother, with a request that I answer. My father, Harmon Northrop, aged 86, and my mother, aged 83, were both acquainted with Elder William Arthur, but not with any of the family.

Nearly a year ago, in conversation with Leonard W. Leach, of North Enosburgh, I found that he knew more of the Elder than any one I have met; and I will give you a few notes or extracts taken at that time:—

Mr. Leach went to Waterville, Vermont, in May, 1828, and brought Mrs. Arthur, her baby-boy, and three girls in his wagon; and John Sherman (father of E. W. Sherman, of Montgomery) took his team and brought the Elder and the household effects.

William Arthur first came to St. John's, P. Q.; then to Dunham; then to Williston, Vt.; then to Essex, Vt.; studied Law, and practiced some; then to Waterville, Vt., where he was ordained; then to Fairfield. While in Fairfield took a school in Stanbridge, P. Q.; family did not go there. New Church in North Fairfield was dedicated in fall of 1828. Rev. B. H. Wooster, Cong., my grandfather

was present and assisted; Rev. Alvah Sabin, Bap., over ninety, now living, and at one time M. C.—resides west; can get address—was also present; and if you have not written him you should do so for information.

Perhaps the family of Deacon Farnsworth, of Fairfax, Vt., may give you information; also Dr. Sylvester Case, of Brandon, Vt.

Should you write Mr. Leach, I think it would be well to put your inquiries in form of direct questions.

Also, the impression was current that at the time of your visit to Fairfield, that your mission was not friendly to Mr. Arthur, now our President; and, perhaps, in order to get these people to investigate closely, they may wish to know that you are pursuing this matter by the wish of the Arthur family.

Also, there is a Mrs. Burlison at East Fairfield, Vt.; also, the Stone family, of Berkshire. The latter are relatives of Mrs. William Arthur.

Mrs. H. Northrop, Jr., leaves for the West in a few days. My mother's sight has failed; and I have nothing more.

Yours,

JOSEPH NORTHROP.

I always resided in Fairfield until six months since.

Ezra Wright Sherman, of Montgomery Center, Franklin County, Vermont, a farmer, went to school to William Arthur in Fairfield, Vermont; says he will be sixty-seven years old in January, 1881; went on one occasion with William Arthur, in November,

1830, to get a school to teach in Dunham, but was too late; remembers at that time that William Arthur had one, and perhaps two girls and a boy. He remembered the Abell brothers—Luther, Calvin and Chester Abell—and that the boy born in Fairfield, Vermont, was named after one of them, Dr. Chester Abell, and was known as Chester Abell Arthur. He remember of Rev. William Arthur saying in his presence in school one day to Luther Abell, "Luther, your hide or mine will soon have to come to the collar beam;" the teacher's (William Arthur) old horse died in two weeks after, and Luther said to him (E. W. S.), "I guess the teacher's hide has collared the beam first." Ezra Wright Sherman also showed me an account book kept, as he said, by his father, in which was an account with William Arthur while he lived in Fairfield, Vermont. It set forth the first item, "Moving William Arthur to Fairfield in May, 1828," and the last item was dated January, 1832. The most part was store bills, paid by my (E. W. S.) father for William Arthur's account.

I had been informed that E. W. S. had

written an article about the Arthur family in the Rutland Herald and Globe newspaper, and asked him if he was the author. He said not, but that Dr. C. L. Case, who was stopping at 280 4th Avenue, New York City, was the author, and that his (Dr. Case's) mother was present when Chester Abell Arthur was born in Fairfield, Vt. *She was seventeen years old at that time* Also referred me to Erastus Chandler, above Stanbridge, Mrs. Adams and Mrs. Stricker.

He (E. W. S.) is the cousin of the wife of Ormond Bradley, of Fairfield, Vt., and a lawyer.

280 FOURTH AVENUE, NEW YORK,  
December 27, 1880.

A. P. HINMAN.

DEAR SIR:—Yours of to-day is received. I regret that I have not a copy of the article referred to, in regard to the birth and childhood of General Arthur. Being at Saratoga at the time of the nomination, I hastily wrote what I *did*; and did not think it of importance enough to order any papers containing it. I have but one copy, and that is at my home, Brandon, Vt.

I expect to return next week; but will furnish any information desired, or will copy the article, and send it on my arrival home. At the time of General Arthur's birth, I was a lad of ten years of age, my parents living nearest neighbors to General Arthur's family, and my memory is very

clear in regard to the circumstances of his birth, and of the history of the family during his father's pastorate in Fairfield, Vt. Dr. Arthur's eldest daughter, Mrs. R. M. Caw, lives at 27 Clinton avenue, Albany, N. Y. Since my stay in the city I have had two letters from her relating to the reminiscences of our childhood.

Respectfully yours,

C. L. CASE.

DEAR SIR:—The writing on the back side of this was prepared last fall for the paper; but as there were several articles appeared the week before, I never sent it. I will send it with a few explanations. I have seen several of the old neighbors that say he moved from Dunham to Waterville, and from there to Fairfield. I have heard from his own mouth all I know of him. His father was Irish, and his mother Scotch. He was educated in Edinburgh, and studied law, and practiced after he came to Canada. He was dissipated when he first came to Canada, but was reformed and converted, and was at first a Free Will Baptist; but after that he joined the Close Communion Baptists, and remained so as long as I knew him. He had three daughters older than Chester—Regina, Jane, and Almeda. The dates of their birth, and place of birth, I cannot give. Instead of my attending school, I recited to Elder Arthur, as he was called. He maintained the most rigid government in his family. This is correct, as nearly as I can remember.

Yours truly,

M. H. BLISS.

Swanton, October 1st, 1881.

DEAR EDITOR:—As there has been much written and said lately of the birth-place and parentage of President

Arthur, I thought I would write you what I know of the matter. In the winter of the year 1829, I boarded at the house of the Rev. William Arthur, and attended school. They lived at the time in a small framed house, and not in a "log cabin," as was stated at the time of his nomination at Chicago. Chester Abell was then an infant in the cradle and I then supposed was named for the family physician, although it is now stated that he was named Chester Alan, after a relative of his mother's. His father had moved here a year or two previous from Dunham, Canada, where he married a Miss Melvina Stone. I can well recollect her as a large, lively, good-natured woman, who was very much esteemed by all her acquaintances. He had three daughters older than Chester. He was a hard-shell Baptist in the strictest sense of the word, and was earnest and enthusiastic in preaching its doctrines, especially that of immersion. He and the Rev. Benjamin Wooster, the congregationalist minister in Fairfield at that time, had long and heated debate in the pulpit. Mr. Arthur preached one sermon four hours long, and many disbelievers of the doctrine became so weary and excited that they got up their teams, put whip to their horses, and were never seen there again. But the Rev. cared but little for this, and I am sure that if the President is as rigid in his belief as his father was, he will stick to what he believes to be right if all the powers in the United States should be hurled against him. Little did I think, as I rocked that cradle, the occupant would some day become the President of the United States; but I probably dreamed as much of it then as he did one short year ago. But it is certain no one can tell what is in store for him, for sure some unknown hand shapes our destiny.

M. H. B.

EXTRACTS TOWN RECORDS OF FAIRFIELD,  
VERMONT.—VOL. I.

Rev. Anson B. Hard ; marriage, September 30, 1830.

Rev. Isaac Hill; marriage, July 4, 1825.

" " " " March 19, 1834.

Rev. S. Nash, Rector Union Church ; marriage, June 6,  
1832.

Page 184 — Rev. Isaac Leonard ; marriage, December 20,  
1833.

Page 192 — Rev. Peter Chase ; marriage, February, 1834.  
Also, Births recorded, and School-Meetings, &c.

William Arthur and two others elected, at Town Meeting, Superintending Committee for Schools.

March 2, 1829, } No other record of the Arthur name.  
March 1, 1830, }

There is a Catholic, Episcopal, and Congregational church now at Fairfield Centre; and a Union church at North Fairfield, on the same spot where William Arthur preached. It was then a Baptist church; but that was torn down twelve years ago, and this Union church built in its place. It is within a half mile of where Chester Abell Arthur was born. A. P. H.

December, 1880.

Fairfield, Franklin County, }  
State of Vermont. {

Salmon Soule says he resides in Fairfield, Franklin County, State of Vermont. I was born in New York State, and came here, and have resided in the town of Fairfield since I was one year old. I am now eighty-five years old, and will be eighty-six on the twenty-sixth day of January, 1881. I knew Rev. William Arthur when he preached in

this town, which was from about 1827 or 1828 until about 1831. I remember of hearing at that time of Rev. William Arthur having a boy born, who was named after Dr. Chester Abell, a physician practicing in this town. I also knew the doctor; for he cut off my toe in the year 1826, which would cause me to remember him. I don't remember of any other children of the minister spoken of at the time. I don't remember seeing the Minister Arthur's wife, although I may have. He (the minister) was about my age. I don't know where he came from when he commenced to preach here; and when he left I heard he went to the State of New York to preach.

Attest :

SALMON SOULE.

E. C. SOULE, Justice of the Peace.

#### Town of Sheldon, Franklin County.

Calvin Abell says: I am seventy-six years of age, and reside in the town of Sheldon, Franklin County, and have resided in Franklin County, Vermont, all my life. Chester Abell Arthur, son of William Arthur, was named after my brother, Chester Abell. I know his name—that is the child's name that was born in the town of Fairfield—was Chester Abell Arthur. William Arthur's wife's father was named Washington Stone. Her name, I think, was Melvina. I always understood that his wife's father resided in Canada. I know of but one child born in the town of Fairfield, Franklin County, and I think he was the first born. I don't remember any brothers of Chester Abell Arthur. My brother named him with the permission of his father and mother. He was the family doctor; and had

been a doctor for about fourteen years in Fairfield Centre. I think I have heard that my brother the doctor and Rev. William Arthur married cousins. My brother, Chester Abell, married the daughter of Benjamin Stone, of East Berkshire, in this State; and the Rev. William Arthur married Washington Stone's daughter, over the line in Canada. I think Elder Arthur moved from Fairfield before my brother's death. Rev. William Arthur was between thirty and forty years of age when in Fairfield. I knew him personally while here; and remember seeing him since, about twenty-nine years ago, and spoke to him at that time.

Attest :

CALVIN ABELL.

E. C. SOULE, Justice of the Peace.

Town of Fairfield, }  
State of Vermont, }

Leonard D. Geer says: I am sixty-nine years old. I was born here, and resided in this town nearly all my life, except three or four years. I remember Rev. William Arthur when he came here. He married his wife in Berkshire, Franklin County, Vermont, against the wishes of his father-in-law, and moved into Canada, just over the line. They had children born them in Canada before they came here—two or three, certain, and I think more. There was one born named Chester Abell Arthur. None by the name of Chester Alan Arthur was born here. Chester Abell was named after Dr. Chester Abell. The wives of William Arthur and of Dr. Abell were either sisters or cousins. The boy, Chester Abell Arthur, was born over fifty-five years ago, at least. I am not certain whether a boy was born in

Canada or not; but no Chester Alan Arthur was born here in 1830. He left this place in 1830. Then had four or five children when he left here. Some were attending school here at the time. Mrs. Arthur's name was Stone; a New England or Yankee woman.

Attest: LEONARD D. GEER.  
E. C. SOULE, Justice of the Peace.

TO ARTHUR P. HINMAN, New York City, New York.

I, A. G. Soule, upon oath, depose and say that I am a Town Clerk for the town of Fairfield, in the County of Franklin, and State of Vermont; that I have examined and searched the Records of Births in the Town Clerk's office, in said town of Fairfield, *and do not find recorded therein, between the years A. D., 1825, and A. D., 1835, the birth of any child therein named Chester A. Arthur.*

A. G. SOULE, Town Clerk.

Dated at Fairfield, this 31st day of December, 1880.

State of Vermont, }  
Franklin County, } ss.

Subscribed and sworn to at Fairfield, in said County, this 31st day of December, A. D., 1880, before me.

JOHN McQUEENEY, Justice of the Peace.

State of Vermont, }  
Franklin County, } ss.

I, Wilbur P. Davis, Clerk of the County Court for the County of Franklin, in the State of Vermont, hereby certify that John McQueeney, Esq., is a Justice of the Peace within and for the County aforesaid; that his commission is dated on the first day of December, A. D., 1880, and will expire on the 30th of November, A. D., 1882; and that he

is duly qualified by the laws of this State to administer oaths for general purposes, to take depositions and acknowledgments of deeds and other written instruments; and to his official acts and attestations full faith and credit ought to be given.

FRANKLIN : In testimony whereof is my official  
L. S. : seal and signature.  
CO. COURT, VT. : WILBUR P. DAVIS,  
Clerk.

I had considerable trouble in getting that last certificate. The Town Clerk refused to give one, for a long time. But this letter will inform you better than I can.

Fairfield, Vermont, January 3, 1881.

A. P. HINMAN, Esq.

DEAR SIR:—The delay in forwarding the enclosed "Search of Town Clerk," is not attributable to negligence on my part. The Town Clerk, who is a stalwart Republican, objected to consult the records in an official capacity, and certify accordingly, and did not do so until December 31st, although requested so to do on the evening of your departure from Fairfield. Being uncertain whether the Town Clerk would comply with my request, I delayed until he did so, before applying to the County Clerk for a certificate, which I have just now received. Trusting that the inclosed papers are sufficiently explicit, and that you have not been seriously inconvenienced or injured by this unfortunate delay, I await, with much curiosity, further developments. Very respectfully,

W. H. FAIRCHILD, Attorney,

Bedford, Q., Feb. 5th, 1881.

MR. A. P. HINMAN.

DEAR SIR :—In answer to your inquiry I will state to the best of my recollection, William Arthur taught a District School at Stanbridge Mills in 1830 and '31 and a part of 1832 and his family lived here, he married Malvina Stone, of Dunham, and her brother, S. W. Stone, *was my brother-in-law*, the first son died in Burlington, Vt., consequently the present C. A. Arthur was born in Canada. While he taught school I lived about two miles from Stanbridge Mills. I never knew of their living in Fairfield, Vermont, any length of time. Mrs. Wm. Arthur went home often when her children were born. I am very positive C. A. Arthur was born in Canada, Missisqua Co.

J. H. COREY.

MR. HINMAN.

The above is J. H. Corey's statement in his own handwriting. Part of it is hardly legible, but I guess you can make it out.

Yours, &c.,

LINDAL COREY.

per M. D. C.

Mrs. Captain John Chandlers, widow, went to school to William Arthur, at Stanbridge (Upper Mills), Canada, the second time he came there, in 1830. Remembers him as a lame man; she remembers his daughter attended school at the same time, and one day had quite a laugh at the names of his children, when his daughter referred to them in

a letter written to her mother. The little girl who was writing the letter was Regina Melvina Maria Arthur; a brother was named William Abell Chester Arthur, and all the other children had four names each. They lived at Dunham, Canada. There were five or six children at that time. Mrs. Arthur was the daughter of a Methodist preacher who lived at Meggs Corners, Dunham, Canada, and Mrs. Chandler was their next neighbor. Her daughter, Mrs. Samuel Stanton, also remembers her mother speaking of the queer names of William Arthur's children, and repeated the names above given and one in between.

Joseph Eaton attended school in 1830 and 1831, when Wm. Arthur taught school the last time at Stanbridge (Upper Mills), Canada; he now lives in Fairfield, Vermont, said his cousin Luther Burley, of St. Armond, P. Q. attended school there at the same time; the teacher's oldest girl, Regina, attended school part of the time; she told him her mother was living at Meggs Corners, about seven miles away, with her sisters and brothers.

Lindal Corey, of Stanbridge, Canada, P. Q., remembers William Arthur; went to school to him; also that he was married and had a family at Dunham Flats, and when he left there heard of him at Fairfield, Vt. Heard William Arthur say that while there he delivered the prayer one 4th of July, and Dr. Chester Abell delivered the oration. He, Arthur, said that it took him three days to get up the prayer and that he received \$100 for delivering it. Knows that William Arthur had a son born at Dunham Flats before he went to the States.

(Mr. Corey's business is that of a surveyor.)

He also remembered William Arthur before he became a Baptist, officiating as an officer in the Episcopal Church at Dunham Flats, when the Rev. Mr. Cotton was rector. He, Corey, had a cousin, Simon Orcutt, who now lives at Ersflat, Town of Hadley, P. Q., who was married twice, and the first time William Arthur married him in Corey's presence, about forty years ago. William Arthur was then at Hinesburgh Academy, Vermont.

He was well acquainted with Stephen Stone, brother of Mrs. William Arthur, who died in Wisconsin. (Referred me to Brom Seely and Joseph Baker, of Dunham Flats, and Leonard & Hall, joint prothonotaries, Sweetsburg, P. Q.)

He also remembers that William Arthur married Malvina Stone, daughter of Squire George Washington Stone, who lived at Meggs Corners, Dunham Flats, Canada, P. Q., and that it was a runaway match—the old Squire, who was a Methodist preacher, being opposed to the match; went to school when William Arthur's daughter Regina attended school in Stanbridge; she was then about 11 or 12 years old. This was the second time he taught school in Stanbridge. After William Arthur left Dunham Flats, he next lived in Sutton, Canada, just over the line.

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Stanbridge, Jan. 13th, 1881.

MY DEAR SIR:—Your letter of the 10th inst. came to hand last evening. You say that you have written to Orcutt and have received no answer. You call him Simon, when his name is Lyman; that probably is the cause of no answer being returned. You speak of a Mr. Thomas, of

Sutton Flats. I know some people in Sutton by the name of Thomas, but do not know that either of them is your man. The old gentleman, Baker, is the person who informed me that William Arthur sold his dead son for dissection to the physicians at Burlington, as I reported to you at Earle's Hotel. Of course, he knows something about the matter, if he would testify. I know of no way to ferret out anything with regard to the name and age of the boy born at Dunham, unless by an old lady residing at Adamsville, who is aunt to the mother of the Arthur whom you are pursuing, and must have been a resident of Dunham at the time of his birth. An old man by the name of Davies, now residing at West Shefford, was residing at Stanbridge at the time that Arthur was a resident of the same place, and must know something about his children. The information you want of Orcutt I can get by way of my son, who is son-in-law to Orcutt. I feel disposed to do all in my power for you and your party, but I am sorry to say that I am unable to make the researches required without assistance, as I am a poor man. The old lady referred to must have been a resident of Dunham at the time of young Arthur's birth, and being a relative, she must remember something about him.

Please write me at once if you think it consistent to do so. Anything you write in confidence will be safe.

Respectfully yours,

LINDAL COREY.

Stanbridge, East, P. Q., Jan. 20th, 1881.

A. P. HINMAN, Esq., Attorney, etc.

DEAR SIR:—Your two letters of date Jan. 18, with enclosures of \$5 each, received by last night's mail. I have talked with old Mr. Baker in regard to his having told me

once that Elder Arthur lost a son by death, which circumstance and others connected with it he fully recollected, with the exception of his name, which had slipped his memory. I am going to-day to see a J. H. Corey, who professes to know somewhat about the matter, and to-morrow I will start for Adamsville to see the aunt, after which I will inform you further. I will make all the researches possible, if it is your wish, for which I trust I will receive a fair remuneration. I will endeavor to write you again Saturday, and if you have any new suggestions, please drop me a line on receipt of this. Respectfully yours,

LINDAL COREY.

per M. D. C.

P. S.—I have a reliable evidence that Elder Arthur was a resident of Stanbridge fifty years ago, by a marriage that he performed at that time. Since writing the above I have interviewed J. H. Corey, who appears to be positive that your man was born on British soil, and says that you are mistaken in regard to his name being Chester Alan, as he was named Chester Abell, after one Abell Adams, then a resident of this vicinity. However to-morrow I will commence a more extended tour, and with your assistance, hope to furnish you with more positive information.

Yours,

L. C., per M. D. C.

### THE OLD AUNT'S TESTIMONY.

Mr. Corey subsequently saw the aunt of Chester A. Arthur, referred to in this letter, and here is the result of his interview written by himself:

Stanbridge, East, P. Q., Jan. 24th, 1881.

A. P. HINMAN, Esq., Attorney-at-Law.

DEAR SIR:—Since my last letter to you I have seen the old aunt referred to previously, but did not succeed in getting as much information from her as I wished to. I will give you as nearly verbatim, as possible, the conversation between us:

I—Did you know one William Arthur who once lived at Danham Flat?

She—I knew him well; his wife was a relative of mine.

I—Do you know the name of the eldest son?

She—I do. His name is Chester Abell Arthur.

I—I think he was named after your first husband, Abel Adams.

She—No; he was named after the physician who assisted at his birth.

I—Do you know the place of his birth?

She—Yes; he was born at Fairfield Centre, Vt.

I—Did you ever see the records of his birth?

She—No.

I—Have you any personal knowledge that the place named is his birth place?

She—No, only from report.

I—Is the physician, Chester Abell, living?

She—No, he is dead; as also is his wife.

I—When Wm. Arthur, the father of C. A. Arthur, left Fairfield, where did he go?

She—He went to Burlington to study law, and just before the time for his examination there was a religious revival in the town, which caused him to abandon his in-

tended profession and turn preacher. His first preaching was in Burlington. From that place, I think, he returned to Fairfield and then to Stanbridge.

This is the substance of the old lady's story, she however refusing to sign a certificate of her statement. I also interviewed Captain Wm. Davis and Warren Stone, both of West Shefford, who resided at Stanbridge at the time that William Arthur was at that place. They agreed in saying that Arthur came into the place in the latter part of 1830, and left in the first part of 1832, remaining in the place about eighteen months. Both remember seeing two daughters of his, but have no recollection of any son. You see that the elder Arthur resided in Canada fifty years ago this year. I would further say that Lyman Orcutt was married fifty years ago this Winter by Wm. Arthur, who then resided here. I have found it up-hill work so far, as the parties I have consulted are nearly all strongly prejudiced against the Democratic party. In looking over the whole matter I am strongly of the opinion that the son, Chester Abell, died in Burlington (as reported to me by old Mr. Baker, which report I will swear to), and that the present Arthur has assumed the name of his dead brother. There is no doubt but that the son who died at Burlington is the one said to be born at Fairfield Centre.

Very respectfully yours,

LINDAL COREY.

per M. D. C.

Stanbridge, Jan. 31st, 1881.

DEAR SIR:—I wrote you the result of my excursion to Adamsville and West Shefford. The maiden name of the old lady was Stone. Her first husband's name was Abel

Adams, and her second husband was the late Rev. Barnabas Hitchcock. She is now a widow the second time. I saw at once, when I commenced my inquiries, that she had been previously warned of what was coming. After managing very cautiously, I succeeded in drawing out from her the statements which I gave you in my last letter. She persists that William Arthur never had but one son. If old Mr. Baker would tell as much as he knows about the boy that died and was dissected at Burlington, it would show to the world that the present Arthur is the second son. There is no doubt in my mind but that Chester Abell Arthur is the one that was born in Fairfield.

Mr. Stanton tells me that he has informed you where he thinks you will find George Stone, the uncle of the Mr. Arthur in question. Stephen W. Stone, another uncle to young Arthur, died in the west. His widow is living at Redwing, in Minnesota. Her maiden name was Cynthia Grey, formerly from Stanbridge. Her late husband, Stephen W. Stone, was in the service of William Arthur as copyist for the space or term of one year or more when Arthur was getting up his book called the "American Antiquities." Were said Stone alive, he would know all about Arthur's family. I think Stone's widow or daughter, now a young lady, must know all about the family. As I said before, they are residing at Redwing, Minnesota.

I have been faithful in your service, and regret that I could not accomplish more than I have done. Have the kindness to write me upon receipt of this, and let me know what is the present situation of affairs.

\$10 more will just cover my time and expenses.

Yours truly,

LINDAL COREY.

There is a tombstone in the cemetery at North Fairfield, Vermont, which bears the inscription :

Sacred  
to the Memory of  
Dr. Chester Abell,  
who died  
June 2d, A. D. 1832,  
Aged 36 years.  
(lines, 3 verses.)

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Georgia Plains, April 30th, 1882.

A. P. HINMAN, Attorney.

DEAR SIR :—I received your letter of the 27th inst. in due time. It is true I have lived in Georgia more than fifty years, or seventy-three years, but William Arthur never lived in Georgia, but lived in East Fairfield, about eighteen miles northeast of Georgia, and east of St. Albans ; but I have seen him many times and heard him preach. He was a Baptist minister, and very smart, and I think that he left here soon after he was ordained and went south. Chester A. Arthur was born in Fairfield in a log house. I will refer you to Rev. Alvah Sabin, of Sycamore, DeKalb County, Illinois, who was raised in Georgia, and lived here more than seventy-four years, and was well acquainted with William Arthur, and helped ordain him, and was with him a good deal. He is now eighty-eight years old, but I think is able to give you a good deal of information about

William Arthur and family. Perhaps you will write to the postmaster at East Fairfield, and he might direct you to some able person there that could tell more about the family.

Very truly yours,

ALVIN MEARS.

Georgia, May 24th, 1882.

ARTHUR P. HINMAN.

DEAR SIR :—I received a letter from you some time ago saying you had learned that I had lived in Georgia over fifty years. I am in my seventy-first year, have lived on the same farm I was brought up on ever since I was born, except being absent at intervals occasionally. I have had the rheumatism this winter, so I neglected answering your wishes concerning the President's father. He never lived in Georgia to my knowledge; I remember his coming here to a protracted meeting when I was in my teens; he preached and sang the Star of Bethlehem very beautifully, the first time I ever heard it; he stayed here several days, and was considered a very smart man by those who heard him preach. I think it was said by some he lived in the Town of Fairfield, in this County Franklin, it is a town next east of St. Albans, it corners on to the Town of Georgia. It is said by some the President was born in the Town of Fairfield. If these few lines are of any benefit to you, you are welcome to them.

Truly yours,

MOSES WIGHTMAN.

Sycamore, DeKalb Co., Ill., May 9, 1882.

DEAR SIR :—Yours of the 4th instant was duly received. I would say that I am not able to give dates definitely; but can state from recollection what I have known of Rev. William Arthur. My first acquaintance with him was about the year 1826 or 1827. I do not recollect being one of the Council that ordained Mr. Arthur. I met him at the annual meeting of the Fairfield Association. I learned from him that he emigrated from the north of Ireland, and that his ancestors were of Scotch descent, and were Protestants in belief. He was, unfortunately, afflicted with a fever-sore in one of his knees, while a boy, that partially crippled him; so that the lame leg was two or three inches shorter than the other; so that he walked with that unequal step that all persons do that are thus afflicted. I think he told me that his parents made extra effort to send him to school, on account of his lameness. I recollect his remarking to me that the minister in his father's parish paid him special respect, as he passed out of the church, because he was a scholarly young gentleman. He said that little mark of distinction had quite an effect upon him, and fired his ambition not a little to excel as a scholar. I do not know as he ever told me how far he was advanced in his education. But, as he taught a select school, and had advanced scholars under him, it must have been very respectable. He taught writing-schools, and was a beautiful and rapid writer, and would take down a speech as if by shorthand. He was of medium size, and dark hair, with a keen, penetrating eye. His articulation was distinct, his figures apt, their application easy, not unfrequently manifesting the keenest wit. His sarcasms, when used, were cutting. His taste was nice and delicate; and would

read men's characters accurately by their physiognomy. His conversation was earnest, lively, and always listened to with attention.

My impression is that he left his native land soon after the close of his academic studies. The first I knew of Mr. Arthur, he was studying law in Berkshire, in the County of Franklin, State of Vermont. In an awaking on the subject of religion, Mr. Arthur's mind became interested, and with others made a public profession of his faith, and was baptized, and associated with the Free-will Baptist Church of that place. Not long after his association with the church, the members, and the people of the community expressed the opinion that he would have to preach the gospel; and, as it appeared, he felt a necessity laid upon him to do so. Soon he was licensed to improve his gift, as he should be called upon, and as he should have opportunity. This custom is adopted by all Baptist churches, that the people may judge when it is proper to call the licentiate to ordination. It seems he had ample opportunity to improve his gift in quite a region around him; but as he became more acquainted with the regular Baptists, he found his views better accorded with them than with Free-will Baptists; and after due consideration, he withdrew from them, and proposed himself to the Baptist church in Berkshire.

While he was a licentiate he appointed a meeting for a lecture in a school house in East Berkshire. In that neighborhood lived old Esquire Roice, the father of Judge Stephen Roice, who was Judge of the Supreme Court of Vermont for more than twenty-five years. The old Squire was a man of sterling talent, but somewhat addicted to intemperance. At an early hour he went to the school house to meet the young preacher before the people should all

get in. And after a few moments he rose up and approached him, and said, "young man, I thought I would come here early and examine you as to whether you would ever make a preacher." Mr. Arthur saw in a moment that his object was to *dash* him before he began the meeting. Mr. Arthur, looking him in the eye, replied, "well, Esquire, I expect to be examined, but I did not expect it at this time, or this place, nor before this Board, but I will waive all objections, and will answer any interrogatives you please to put to the best of my ability." The old Squire said, "*How many Islands are there in the Grecian Archipelago?*" Arthur replied, "Squire Roice, you are a Freemason, are you not?" The Squire answered, "yes, but I do not see what that has to do with the question." Arthur replied, "if you are, you are acquainted with Morgan's Masonry, and in that you will find there are as many Islands in the Grecian Archipelago as there were buttons on Moses' britches. The old Squire stepped up, patting him on the shoulder, said "you'll make a preacher, you can preach." The old man went and took a seat and paid good attention through the meeting. He attended several meetings afterwards, and invited the young preacher to his house, and ever after treated him with entire respect. I thought I would send you this sheet to let you know that I was endeavoring to answer your request, and I am filling out another sheet and will send it in a day or two. I may as well pay postage on two letters as on one double one. You will excuse my writing, I am an old man and my hand often flies off at a tangent involuntarily; I am in the eighty-ninth year of my age; I was born in Georgia Vermont, October 23d, 1793. The facts that I state are made from my recollection, as they lie floating on my memory.

A. SABIN.

This was answering a fool according to his folly. I believe this anecdote to be a true one.

Mr. Arthur married Miss Stone, of East Berkshire. Her parents and family were all respectable, industrious, independent, farming people. I recollect staying one night at the house of old Mrs. Stone. She was a social, intelligent old Baptist lady. There was an Elder Stone that preached at the town of Johnson, Vt., who became a Millerite; but was a man of talent and good character. He was brother or uncle to Mrs. Arthur—I am not certain which. Old Mrs. Stone related to me a conversation which she had with the Rev. Benjamin Worster, of Fairfield, Vt. He was a man that often gave startling expositions of scripture, but they would all prove to be correct. They were speaking of a certain preacher. The old lady said she knew him to be a true gospel minister. Said Mr. Worster, "How do you know that?" She replied, "Because he was the means of converting my soul." "Then," said Mr. Worster, "I knew a man that was converted by a skunk jumping out at him." The old lady thought him in error; but he was correct. A hypocritical preacher may be the means of converting men to the truth. When I first became personally acquainted with Mr. Arthur he resided in East Fairfield, Vt. I stayed at his house one stormy night in mid-winter. His house was small; and the luxuries of wealth and aristocracy were totally wanting. The Church was small and poor; and what little duty did devolve upon them to support the minister, was but slightly felt. He expressed to me some of the trials he had when out of bread, and out of wood, and himself a cripple. His temper would rise; and he would almost resolve to quit the ministry. Then the cloud would break; and a good meeting, with a sym-

pathizing friend, would set all right again. I think one or two of his children were born while he lived in this place. Mr. Arthur preached in several places in the north part of Franklin County within a few years; but how many times he moved his family, I could not tell. He preached in Sheldon, St. Armon, Waterville, and South Fairfield. I exchanged pulpits with him several times while he lived in Fairfield and I lived in Georgia. We lived about fourteen miles apart. He attended a protracted meeting in our place, and made himself very acceptable to all the people of the town. He preached and lectured in different parts of the town, and lectured on the subject of temperance several times. I recollect one of his sarcastic remarks in relation to drinking farming-men. He said: On a rainy day they would be sure to all meet at the village tavern or store, and imbibe freely of black strap (new rum and West India molasses), and then talk and laugh convulsively, and stamp their feet, and slap their thighs, without a particle of wit or a point of common sense. Then, at night, one of them would start for home with a jug of whiskey in one hand, and a dried codfish, by the tail, in the other. He would speed through the mud, and, gesticulating with his codfish, would soliloquize at the top of his voice: "These cursed temperance men would have us sign away our liberties, purchased by the precious blood of our forefathers!"

About the year 1828, in October, the Vermont Baptist State Convention met at Windsor, Vermont. I had been appointed to preach the introductory sermon, and the Convention voted to have another sermon in the forenoon of the second day, and designated brother Arthur to deliver it. He asked to be excused, but they pressed him to it; so he made the attempt and succeeded well, except he made

one mistake. He took for his text the passage in the Acts, Chapter XXVII., verse 29: "Then, fearing lest we should have fallen upon rocks, they cast four anchors out of the stern, and wished for the day." He improved the passage by way of remark, and after an old, obsolete method, he spiritualized the four anchors as faith, repentance, hope and love, or obedience, or something like that. I had heard him preach from the same text before, and I felt it my duty to say to him that that method of using the text was not considered legitimate; but as all that he said was good and true, although it did not grow out of that text, I said nothing about it. As soon as he named his text in the Convention, I was sorry that I did not suggest what I felt prompted to do. There was in the assembly an old conscientious minister from New Hampshire (Areal Kendrick), and as soon as Mr. Arthur had closed his discourse, rose up and said he felt bound to correct the error into which the young brother had fallen; that his discourse did not grow out of his text; he felt in duty bound to correct the error on the spot, and that he hoped the young man would take it kindly, as he meant it for his good. No one made a word of remark, and the meeting closed. Governor Aaron Leland, of Chester, Vermont, was the President of the Convention. After the adjournment, he went to General Forbes' house. As I passed by him, sitting by the door, he said to me, "I never will forgive father Kendrick as long as I live for that cruel attack on that young man. His criticism was correct enough if made in private, but to make it at that time—and he a stranger—was inhuman. All he said was good, although it may not grow out of the text." Mr. Arthur felt it keenly, as it seemed to indicate a superficial theological training. There were perhaps

seventy ministers present from all parts of the State, and this was his first introduction to most of them. I presume he never forgot the criticism.

About 1830 he removed his family to the town of Williston, Chittenden County, Vermont, and was employed as a preacher by a small Baptist church then recently organized in that place. He also set up a private Academy in a building erected by Rev. Peter Chase, a brother of D.D. Ira Chase of Newton, Mass. But as he did not succeed to his mind, he gave up to Mr. Arthur. He taught the school for some time, I could not state how long.

By this move Mr. Arthur's pecuniary circumstances were materially improved. His salary from the church was small but promptly paid and the income from the school enabled him to rent a good house and to live respectably. After being there about a year he appointed and held a protracted meeting for the church in the Academy building, and he requested me to attend and to do the preaching. The meeting was to continue one week, and I preached twice and three times a day for eight days. Mr. Arthur expressed to me his satisfaction in relation to his then situation. His school was a success, and the community was quite enlightened and his friends were cultivated and influential. Among them was Ex-Governor Martin Chittenden, son of old Governor Thomas Chittenden, the first Governor of the State of Vermont. Governor Martin Chittenden expressed a warm and cordial attachment to Mr. Arthur. He, though not a Baptist, attended Mr. Arthur's meetings much of the time, and he attended the week's meetings quite uniformly. As the political views of both harmonized the Governor might have been some moved by policy. I had not a favorable opinion of

the Governor, but I found him a pleasant, social, agreeable gentleman. Mr. Arthur's children were perhaps from fourteen years of age downward to infancy. I observed the older ones and thought them smart and of bright intellect. After this meeting I sent my two oldest children, a son and daughter, to Mr. Arthur's school for a term or two, and they say they well remember trundling the now President in a hand cart on the side walk of the street. I would say, that at the end of my week's preaching Mr. Arthur said to me, "during the week I have not heard you pronounce a word wrongly, nor make wrong choice of words, nor use an improper rhetorical figure, nor an illogical argument." This declaration was quite gratifying to me, as I knew he was a much more critical scholar than myself.

Mr. Arthur removed from Williston, Vermont, to some place west of Albany, N. Y. I occasionally heard from him, but our particular acquaintance terminated on his removal from Williston. The last time I saw him was at the Vermont Baptist Convention held at Fairfax about the year 1850. I did not hear of his death till within a year, and I do not know whether Mrs. Arthur, his wife, is alive or not.

I would now say, Mr. Hinman, I send to you this scroll written from my recollection with no memoranda of any kind, and the statements may not be strictly accurate, but they are about as accurate as I am able to state them. You are at liberty to make what use of them you please, I have no vanity to be gratified or will to dictate, I only wish to be remembered as the intimate friend of the Rev. William Arthur, and a well wisher to his family.

ALVAH SABIN,

To A. P. HINMAN, Esq., Sycamore, DeKalb Co., Ill.  
8 Wall St., N. Y. City.

610, A. C. P., 1881.

L. B., 29, '71.

Headquarters of the Army,  
Adjutant-General's Office,  
Washington, January 27, 1881.

MR. A. P. HINMAN, Attorney, &c.,

No. 8 Wall Street, New York City.

SIR:—In answer to your communication of the 25th instant, the following information is furnished from the files of this office:—

Major William Arthur, Paymaster United States Army, was born at Hinesburgh, Chittenden County, Vermont. His date of birth is not shown by the records. His address is Helena, Montana Territory. I am,

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. D. RUGGLES,  
Assistant Adjutant-General.

Headquarters Military Division of the Atlantic,  
Governor's Island, New York, January 22, 1881.

ARTHUR P. HINMAN, Esq.,

No. 8 Wall Street, New York.

SIR:—In reply to your inquiry of the 21st instant, the official record of the services of Major William Arthur, Paymaster United States Army, is as follows:—

(Born, Vermont; appointed from New York.) 1st Lieut. 4th N. Y. Artillery, January 29, 1862. Captain, January 1, 1863. Maj., December 25, 1863. Maj. Vols. Brevet, February 20, 1865. Lt.-Col. Vols. Brevet, March 15, 1865, "for gallant conduct in the battles of Spottsylvania, and Ream's Station, Va." Mustered out, April 6, 1865, Captain Veteran Reserve Corps. January 19, 1865; accepted, April 29, 1865. Mustered out, February 22, 1866; paid to

March 31, 1866. 2d Lieut. 3d Artillery, February 23, 1866; accepted, April 18, 1866. 1st Lieut. July 28, 1866. Capt. Brevet, March 2, 1867, for gallant and meritorious service in the battle of Spottsylvania, Va. Brevet, March 2, 1867, for gallant and meritorious service in the battle of Ream's Station, Va. Regimental Quartermaster 3d Artillery, February 1, 1873 to July 28, 1875. Major and Paymaster, July 26, 1875; accepted, July 28, 1875. Vacated commission of 1st Lieut. 2nd Artillery, July 28, 1875.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES B. FRY,

Colonel and Assistant Adjutant-General.

Hinesburgh, Vt., Jan. 22, 1881.

MR. A. P. HINMAN.

RESPECTED SIR.—Your letter of inquiry respecting Rev. William Arthur was received by my husband, Milton G. Bostwick, the 18th of this month, and he, having no distinct recollections on the subject, wishes me to answer. We have taken some pains to obtain information and look up church records, and the first mention of Elder Arthur having preached in this town which we have been able to find is January 13, 1833, and the last August 10, 1834. We also find mention made of his preaching a part of the time—think every alternate Sabbath—between those dates, but did not move his family to this town until the Summer or Fall of 1833. I will also state that I attended school in the Williston Academy—a town adjoining this—the last half of the Winter term of 1833, closing, I think, in March, 1833. Rev. William Arthur was at that time the principal of that school, and his family resided near the academy;

and I frequently called there, and have a distinct recollection of his children, of whom there were six—five girls and one boy. Their names, commencing with the oldest, were as follows: Regina, Jane (since deceased), Almeda, Ann Eliza, Chester, Malvina ranging in age from one year old, or under, to 10 or possibly 11 years old.

I taught school in the village of Williston in the Spring and Summer of 1834, and Elder Arthur preached alternately in Williston and Hinesburgh, his family living in Hinesburgh. From the information we have been able to obtain, we think he left Hinesburgh in the early Fall of 1834.

Mr. Bostwick has just seen a communication recently received by Mr. Herman A. Post, of this town, from Chester A. Arthur, Vice-President-elect, in which he mentions the time and place and circumstances of his birth, which are the same as have been published in the papers of the day.

Yours respectfully,

MRS. M. G. BOSTWICK.

MILTON G. BOSTWICK.

Hinesburgh,  
Chittenden Co., Vermont.

State of Vermont, Office of Secretary of State,  
Montpelier, January 28th, 1881.

A. P. HINMAN, Esq.

DEAR SIR:—There is no record in the office showing the births and deaths of the children of William Arthur and Melvina Arthur from January 1st, 1822, to January 1st, 1841.

Yours truly,

C. W. PORTER,  
Dep'y Sec'y.

[L. S.]

Union College,  
Schenectady, N. Y., Feb. 2d, 1881.

A. P. HINMAN, Esq.,

8 Wall St., New York.

DEAR SIR:—In answer to yours Jan. 22d, Chester A. Arthur, son of Rev. Wm. Arthur, of this city, entered U. C. Sept. 5, 1845, in the Soph. class, and graduated in July, 1848. He was one of the best scholars of a large class numbering ninety-eight students. At the time he entered we kept no record of birthplaces. His age was sixteen years.

Yours, etc.,

J. PEARSON,

Treas. U. C.

The following is an answer to a letter of enquiry as to the earliest age a student could be admitted in the college.

Union College, Dec. 3d, 1881.

Sixteen years of age in any class.

J. PEARSON, Treas. U. C.

In a catalogue issued in 1847, by Riggs, printer, of Schenectady, we find:—

#### UNION COLLEGE.

Junior Class, Third Term, 1847.

Chester A. Arthur, Schenectady; Menzo Diefendorf, Fort Plain; Erastus Corning, Jr., Albany; Edward F. Ross, New York; Samuel T. Ross, New York.

It also appears therefrom, that Chester A. Arthur was in the Senior Class, First Term, in 1847.

In a catalogue of officers, graduates, and students of Union College, from 1795 to 1868, "issued by Munsell, printer, of Albany, in 1868," there appears, under the year 1848, the following:—

1848.

Chester A. Arthur, Lawyer, Schenectady, New York.

In this same catalogue, under a general index of names, arranged alphabetically, appears the following, under heading of

#### ARTHUR.

1845—William Arthur. 1848—Chester A. Arthur. 1864—George Arthur.

Mention is made, under list of 1845, of William Arthur as follows:—

William (A. M.), Clergyman, Schenectady, Newtonville.

George was a lawyer in Springfield, Ohio.

From the books, registers, &c., of Union College:—

Date of admission—September 5, 1845. Residence, —Schenectady. Condition entrance—"Full." Age—16.

His father was William Arthur, a Baptist clergyman, who died at Newtonville, Albany County, New York, October 28, 1875, aged seventy-nine years.

There is no record of births in Union College prior to 1853. *After* that date births,

etc., are given. The register here says that the College did not make that requirement prior to 1853.

TO THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

We certify that Chester A. Arthur has been a student in the office of the undersigned (who are attorneys and counsellors of the Supreme Court of the State of New York) for more than a year last past, and that he is a gentleman of good moral character.

CULVER & PARKER, Attorneys and Counsellors,  
289 Broadway, New York.

Dated New York, May 1, 1854.

City and County of New York, ss.

Chester A. Arthur, being duly sworn, says he is a native-born citizen of the United States; that he is of the age of twenty-one years, and a resident of the First Judicial District of the Supreme Court of the State of New York.

CHESTER A. ARTHUR.

Sworn to before me this 4th day of May, 1854.

WM. A. DUSENBERRY, Com. of Deeds.

Indorsed; filed May 8, 1854.

State of New York, }  
City and County of New York, } ss.

I, William A. Butler, Clerk of the said City and County, and Clerk of the Supreme Court of said State for said County, do certify, that I have compared the preceding with the original certificate of Culver & Parker, attorneys and counsellors, etc., dated May 1, 1854, and affidavit of Chester A. Arthur verified May 4, 1854. In the matter of

the application of Chester Alan Arthur to be admitted as an attorney of this Court, on file in my office, and that the same are correct transcripts therefrom, and of the whole of such original.

In witness whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed my official seal this 13th day of January, 1881.

(L. S.)

WM. A. BUTLER, Clerk.

Albany, N. Y., January 18th, 1881.

ARTHUR P. HINMAN, Esq.,  
8 Wall St., New York.

DEAR SIR:—Your letter to the Rector of the Baptist Church, Newtonville, has been handed to me. There has been no Baptist Church organization at Newtonville, since about 1874.

Rev. Wm. Arthur died at Newtonville, Oct. 27th or 28th, 1875, and was buried 30th Oct., 1875, in the family lot, Albany Cemetery, between Albany City and West Troy.

Dr. Arthur was settled as pastor of the Calvary (State street) Bapt. Church, Albany, from 1855 to 1863, and preached in the N. V. Church until it was closed, although not a regular settled pastor.

You will find an obituary notice of Dr. Arthur in the New York Times of Oct. 27th, 28th, 29th or 30th, 1875, containing a sketch of his life.

Resp. yours,

JOHN E. McELROY.

(From the New York Times, Saturday, October 30th, 1875.)

REV. DR. WILLIAM ARTHUR.

Rev. Dr. William Arthur, the notice of whose death appeared in the Journal of yesterday, was born in the

County of Antrim, Ireland, in the year 1796. He sprang from that Scotch-Irish stock which is excelled by none other in all those qualities which go to make strong, true, independent men. After a thorough preliminary training he entered Belfast College, and was graduated from that institution at the early age of eighteen. Not long after he determined to make the New World his home, and accordingly, sailed from Liverpool for New York. Proceeding from the metropolis to Bennington, Vermont, he began his labors in this country as principal of the Bennington Academy. While maintaining this connection, he commenced the study of law, which he subsequently continued in the office of Governor Van Ness, of Vermont. His future, however, was destined to run along a different path, and he had not been long at the law before he became convinced, first in his heart, and then in his mind, that he was called to the ministry. He at once prepared himself with characteristic energy and assiduity for the sacred calling, and in due course of time was installed as minister of a Baptist church at Bennington. He was subsequently settled in Hinesburgh, Fairfield and Williston, in Vermont, and in 1835 removed to western New York. After laboring awhile at York, Livingston County, and Perry, Wyoming County, he accepted a call from the Baptist church at Greenwich, Washington County, and in that field remained five years. Later he removed to Schenectady, and before settling down permanently at Newtonville, had charges successively at Schenectady, Lansingburgh, Hoosick and West Troy. From 1855 to 1863, Dr. Arthur was pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church of Albany. He will long be remembered by those to whom he then ministered for the earnestness and power with which he delivered his sacred message.

Dr. Arthur leaves five daughters and two sons. Of the sons, Gen. Chester A. Arthur is the present Collector of the Port of New York, and the other, who made a gallant record in the late war, is now paymaster in the army, with the rank of Major. While living at Schenectady, he began the publication of the *Antiquarian*, a magazine whose aim and scope is indicated in its title. Contributing to its pages much curious learning upon a great variety of topics, he soon became known for his rare attainments in the ancient classics, and all departments of history, both sacred and profane. A few years later, his quaint work on family names appeared, and served to confirm the literary reputation which he had previously acquired. Not only in this country, but in Europe, it met with a most favorable reception. It is one of the curiosities of our American literature, and as such, has a secure place in the library of all those who have perused its odd and entertaining pages. During the last ten years of his life, he preached only occasionally, devoting the major part of his time to literary pursuits. He possessed a large and valuable library containing many rare volumes, and in reading and composition his time passed away. Some years ago, the degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred upon him by one of our universities. He also received the degree of A. M. from Union College. We have thus touched upon the salient points in the life of the deceased. Those who knew him best and will remember him longest will bear witness to the rugged strength and sturdy independence of his character. His scorn of conventionality and of the fashion which passes away, was more than overbalanced by his unswerving devotion to whatever things are true, and noble, and generous. A radical in all essential opinions, he was not easily shaken from a position which he once took.

The Baptist denomination, it is safe to say, never had a more uncompromising champion of their creed—never one who could present the reasons for the faith that was in him and them with more readiness, force and clearness. He never wavered from his old allegiance, and remained loyal and faithful to the end. Peace to his ashes!

*Albany Evening Journal.*

Below find contents of Wm. Arthur's lot in the Albany Rural Cemetery, (being  $\frac{1}{3}$  of Lot 8, § 24).

Albany, N. Y., Feb. 20th, 1881.

BRO. ARTHUR.

Yours of the 17th came duly to hand. Below find the list of *Cadavers* as per request.

Elizabeth H. Herndon, wife of Wm. Lewis Herndon, U. S. N. Born Oct. 10th, 1817, at Culpepper, Va., died Hyeres, France, April 27th, 1878.

Wm. Lewis Herndon Arthur, died July 8th, 1863, aged 2 yrs., 7 mo.

Wm. G. Caw. Born Sept. 3d, 1806. Died in Cohoes, Aug. 1st, 1864.

Rev. Wm. Arthur, D.D. Born in County Antrim, Ireland 1796. Died at Newtonville, Albany Co., Oct. 27th, 1875. Aged 79 years.

Malvina Stone, wife of Rev. Wm. Arthur. Born at Berkshire, Vermont, April 29th, 1802. Died at Newtonville January 16th, 1869.

"Her children rise up and call her blessed, her husband also, and he praiseth her."

There is also on the lot 15 shrubs, 2 dead bushes, 2 willows, 1 large maple and plenty of *suono*, and one grave with no headstone, I would take it to be the grave of a grown person. Dave and I visited your lot and found everything in order.

Resp'y,

ARCHIBALD ERTZBERGER.

New York, December 14th, 1880.

ARTHUR P. HINMAN, Esq.

DEAR SIR:—In reply to yours of yesterday, I have to say that a recent investigation of the Arthur matter in the direction which your letter indicates, convinces me more than ever that our friend Dwight was right in his statements.

I was with Wm. Arthur when he was wounded and of course am in possession of the information which you seek. The Colonel of the Regiment is now at one of our hotels and through him I learn that through two terms of Wm. Arthur's enlistment he figured on the muster rolls *as being born in two places*. Dwight is right in his statements. This has been my belief for some time. If I can assist in any way, please make an appointment.

Truly yours, J. N. BEACH.

#### A RUSSIAN ATTACK.

PRESIDENT ARTHUR'S MESSAGE SEVERELY CRITICIZED BY A ST. PETERSBURG JOURNAL—EXCEPTION TAKEN TO THE CONDITION OF THE JEWS IN RUSSIA.

(By cable to the Herald.)

London, December 12, 1881.

Our St. Petersburg correspondent telegraphs under the date of the 9th:—To-day's *Novoe Vremya* contains the following article, which I translate literally, without

softening or accentuating the opprobrious language of the article:—"Arthur's Message to Congress is surprisingly strange if the telegraphic version before us be accurate. It congratulates Americans on their growing prosperity, as if this was anything new to the honorable Yankees. Arthur takes upon himself to express his views on foreign politics. France and Germany receive friendly patronage, but with regard to the much talked of friendship with England not a word is said; and how could it be expected from an Irishman? Arthur even refrains from making comments on English home affairs—the Irish rebellion, for instance, which is agitating millions of American citizens, who are also born Irishmen like the President. But Arthur was more brave in dealing with Russia. Laying aside the fundamental principles of America's foreign policy of non-intervention in the internal affairs of European governments, Arthur took it into his head to promise us his energetic protestations with regard to our treatment of the Jews. Arthur's threats are empty ones. No notice will be taken of any of his representations by the Russian government—not even out of condescension to the American people, among whom are so many Jewish swindlers unaccustomed to productive labor, and who thrive on American soil, as elsewhere, by getting the fruits of other people's work. This thoughtless freak of Arthur places the American government in a sorry light.

#### CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES.

##### ARTICLE II., SUB-DIVISION 5.

"No person, except a natural-born citizen, or a citizen of the United States at the time of the adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the office of President: neither

shall any person be eligible to that office who shall not have attained the age of thirty-five years, and been fourteen years a resident within the United States."

#### CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

##### ARTICLE XII., SUB-DIVISION 3.

"But no person constitutionally ineligible to the office of President, shall be eligible to that of Vice-President of the United States."

New York, January 7th, 1881.

Hon. THOS. F. BAYARD, U. S. Senator.

DEAR SIR:—What is the construction of Article II., § 1, Clause 5, of the Constitution of the United States—that "No person, except a *natural*-born citizen, etc., shall be eligible, etc." \* \* \*.

Yours respectfully,

A. P. HINMAN.

Senate of the United States,

City of Washington, January 10th, 1881.

A. P. HINMAN, Esq., New York.

DEAR SIR:—In response to your letter of the 7th instant—the term "natural-born citizen," as used in the Constitution and Statutes of the U. S., is held to be a *native* of the U. S.

The naturalization by law of a father before his child attains the age of twenty-one, would be naturalization of such minor.

Yours respectfully,

T. F. BAYARD.

(Copied from Harper's Weekly, August 12th, 1871.)

# THE DEATH STRUGGLE.

My back is to the wall,  
 And my face is to my foes,  
 That surge and gather round me  
 Like waves when winter blows.  
 The ghosts of by gone errors,  
 The faults of former years,  
 That sting my veins like arrows,  
 And pierce my heart like spears.

But let them do their utmost ;  
 For these I can endure,  
 And meet and overcome them,  
 By suffering made pure.  
 Against all other foemen  
 I'll fight with fiery breath,  
 And if, all done, I'm vanquished,  
 So gloriously to death.

My back is to the wall,  
 And my face is to my foes ;  
 I've lived a life of combat,  
 And borne what no one knows.  
 But in this mortal struggle  
 I stand, poor speck of dust,  
 Defiant, self-reliant,  
 To die—if die I must.

A. P. HINMAN.