

*Book for NH
Children*

*Ezeber NH;
F Grant: 1823*

A
BOOK
FOR
MASSACHUSETTS CHILDREN,
IN
FAMILIAR LETTERS
FROM A FATHER,
FOR THE USE OF FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS.



BOSTON.
HILLIARD, GRAY, LITTLE, AND WILKINS
1829

Hildreth,
Hildreth' Hosea

1782-1835

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District Clerk's Office.

October, A. D. 1820, in
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- XXIII. Middlesex—Cambridge. Harvard University.
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- XXVII. " Harbour and Wharves.
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- XXIX. " Market House. Hospital.
- XXX. " Schools. Churches.
- XXXI. " Athenæum. New England Museum.
- XXXII. " State House. General Court.
- XXXIII. " Other remarkable things in Boston.
- XXXIV. Norfolk—Brookline, Roxbury, Dorchester, Milton, Dedham, Quincy.
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- XL. Hampshire—Northampton. Farmington Canal. Amherst.
- XLI. Hampden—Springfield. United States Armory.
- XLII. Berkshire—Lenox, Pittsfield, Williamstown.
- XLIII. Remarks. State of the Country before the White People came.
- XLIV. Indians—Appearance, Dress, Dwellings, Employments, &c.
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- XLIX. Reflections upon it.
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LETTERS O

DEAR CHILD—

As you are well in plain reading of letters to you, the wealth of Massachusetts shall tell you a great deal, and I will be very glad to doubt you will receive pleasure.

I have long thought Massachusetts ought to be known to the world, because we have so many things which will be satisfied, by having thought right.

You have already begun your duty, and I am proper almost as a

Letter

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LETTERS ON MASSACHUSETTS.

LETTER I.

DEAR CHILD—

As you are now able to read pretty well in plain reading, I propose to write a number of letters to you, concerning the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. In these letters I shall tell you a great many things, which you will be very glad to know; and I have no doubt you will read my letters with great pleasure.

I have long thought, that the children of Massachusetts ought to be the best children in the world, because they live in this good land, and have so many advantages; and I trust you will be satisfied, by reading my letters, that I have thought right.

You have already been instructed concerning your duty, and can tell what conduct is proper almost as well as I can. You know,

as well as any body, that the right way to be happy is to be good. You know, too, that those children ought to behave themselves best, who have the best means of knowing what their duty is. Now there are very few children in the world, who are so happily situated as the children of Massachusetts; very few, who have so much good instruction as they have. I hope, therefore, that you will be thankful to God for the many and great blessings, which he has given you; and that you will always behave yourself in such a manner as to give your parents and friends great pleasure.

I shall take pains to make my letters agreeable and useful to children; and as children do not like to read long letters, I shall write short ones; so that no child will have need to leave off in the middle of a letter, because he is tired. But before I write again, I wish you to learn, if you have not already learned, to count a hundred. I wish you also to get some kind person to show you the length of an inch, of a foot, of a yard, of a rod. And I should be glad, if the same kind person would endeavour to teach you concerning the length of a mile. Before I write again, you must learn to answer the following questions. With very

little assistance, you may learn to answer them in a short time perfectly well.

AN ATTENTIVE FATHER.

What town do you live in?
 Which way is north?
 Which way is south?
 Which way is east?
 Which way is west?
 Which way is northwest? southeast? southwest? northeast?
 How many inches in a foot?
 How many feet in a yard?
 How many yards in a rod?
 How many rods in a mile?
 What place, house, or other object is nearest to you?
 How old are you?

LETTER II.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is the same as the State of Massachusetts. A State, or Commonwealth, contains a great many people, living under the same government;—that is, having the same rulers, and obeying the same laws. Perhaps you do not understand this very well now; but as you grow older, you will understand it better.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts contains a great many people. You know a hundred is a pretty large number, and a thousand

LETTER X.

THE people of Massachusetts are generally pretty good to work. Some of them complain a good deal of hard times; but almost all make out to get a comfortable living. Yet there are some people who are old, and sick, and unable to work; and there are some who are idle and will not work. Some people in almost every town, lay out nearly all the money they can get, in buying rum; and drink so much, that they are not fit for anything. These are very bad people; and if they suffer ever so much, they suffer by their own fault. But do you not pity their poor little children, who often go ragged and barefoot, and in the winter shiver with cold, and sometimes have no bread to eat? I think you must pity such poor little children with all your heart, especially when you consider, that, for want of clothing, many of them are prevented from going to school, to meeting, and to the sabbath school.

The poor old people, and the poor sick people who cannot work, and the little children who have nobody to take care of them, are taken care of by the towns; that is, by the inhabitants of the towns. Many towns have

poorhouse

a house, built on purpose for such people to live in. This house is called the poor-house, and sometimes the alms-house. Some towns have no poor-house, but board out their poor in different families.

Every town in the State is provided with a number of school-houses; and teachers are hired to keep a school in them. These schools are called district schools. The larger towns have a school which is kept all the year; and which is called a grammar school. The district schools are commonly kept about three months in the winter by men. At this time the larger children go to school, and learn to write and cipher, and some of them study grammar and geography. In the summer, the district schools are kept by women; and then the smaller children go to school, and learn to read and spell, and sometimes to write and cipher. Every child in Massachusetts has an opportunity of learning to read and write, if he will improve it. But some children are idle and naughty, and do not try to learn. I hope this will never be the case with any of my children; for bad children are a great trial to their parents, and almost always make bad men and women, if they live to grow up.

Beside the district, or common schools, there are many others, called private schools;

Schools

and in many of the towns there are schools, called academies. Your teacher or some other friend, will explain to you the difference between district schools, and private schools, and academies. I suppose, there is no state in the world, where the children are better provided with schools, than in Massachusetts.

Every town in the State has a meetinghouse, where the people meet together to worship God, and to hear the minister preach; and to learn how they must behave, if they expect to be happy.* All good people are very careful to go to meeting on the sabbath, and to attend to what the minister says. I do not suppose there is any town in the State so bad, as not to have a meetinghouse; some towns have two or three, and some have many more.

- What is the alms-house for?
- What is said of district schools?
- Do you attend school?
- A district school? Or a private school?

LETTER XI.

In every town in Massachusetts, the inhabitants have several meetings every year, which

* Meetinghouses are also called churches; in cities and large towns they are commonly so called.

great distance. A great number of benevolent gentlemen contributed money to build this hospital; much money was also given by the State for the same purpose. There is no better use to which money can be put, than to give it for such charitable purposes.

How long is Faneuil Hall Market?
 Of what is it built?
 What use is made of it?
 What is the General Hospital for?
 Where is it situated?

LETTER XXX.

I HAVE no doubt you would like to know something about the schools of Boston. The people of the city have taken great pains with their schools. There are about sixty schools kept by women, called Primary Schools. Children from the age of four to seven are taught at these schools to read and spell. At the age of seven, if the children can read, they may be admitted into the Grammar Schools. There are eight of these schools in the city, besides one, called the African School, for colored children. In these schools the children are taught reading, writing, arithmetic, geography and grammar. The boys may remain in these schools till they are fourteen years

old; the girls can stay a year longer. Beside these grammar schools, there are two others, one called the English High School, and the other, the Latin Grammar School. Boys can enter the English High School at twelve years of age, and remain three years. They are instructed in the higher branches of English education. Boys can enter the Latin Grammar School, when nine years old. At this school they study Latin and Greek, and are fitted for college. To be well educated is one of the greatest blessings a child can enjoy; and the people of Boston have taken care, that no child in the city, who is studious and well disposed, shall want this blessing. Beside the schools I have mentioned, there are in Boston a great number of private schools; and lately there have been established a number of infant schools.

People who are fond of learning, are commonly friends to religion and good morals. The inhabitants of Boston, ever since the town was first settled, have been noted for attention to their ministers, and for going to meeting on the Sabbath. There are nearly fifty places of public worship in the city. Some of the churches are large and elegant, and all are neat and decent. A few of them are built of

wood, many of brick, and some of stone. Their tall spires, when seen at a distance, look grand, and it is very pleasant on a still Sabbath morning, to hear all the bells ringing to call the people to meeting.

What is said of schools in Boston?

What children go to Primary Schools?

What to grammar schools?

At what age are boys admitted to the English high school?

To the Latin grammar school?

How many places of public worship in Boston?

LETTER XXXI.

THERE are several large libraries in Boston; but the largest in the city, and in the State, except perhaps the library of Harvard College, is the Boston Athenæum. This library contains twentyfive thousand volumes. All these books are arranged on shelves in the different rooms of a large house, given by Mr James Perkins, late a rich merchant of Boston. Behind the house where the library is kept, there is a large building of three stories, called the Gallery of Fine Arts. This building is a part of the Athenæum. In the lower story the libraries of several societies are kept. The upper story forms a single room, and is lighted

from the top by an opening in the roof. This room is used for exhibiting pictures; there is an exhibition of pictures here every summer. The money which the people pay who come to see the pictures, is for the use of the Athenæum.

In Court Street is kept the New England Museum. This is a collection of all sorts of curiosities, filling eleven large halls and chambers. You would like very well to see them; and whenever you go to Boston, by paying a few cents you may see them all. There are a great many images of wax; a great many skins of animals, stuffed so as to look almost as if the animals were alive; a great many curious shells, taken from the sea; a great many snakes and other reptiles, and all sorts of insects and birds, as well as great many fine pictures and prints, and other curiosities, more than I can remember.

Which is the largest library in Boston?

Give some account of the Athenæum.

Of the New England Museum.

LETTER XXXII.

ONE of the largest and finest buildings in Boston is the State House. It is of brick, and

the trees and bushes from the land, and raised grain and grass. They had cattle, sheep, horses, and hogs, brought over from England. They made roads, bridges, and fences; they built meeting-houses, and had ministers; they built school-houses and had teachers; and did a great deal besides, to make Massachusetts a pleasant land to live in.

What is said of the Indian wars?

In what part of Massachusetts did the white people first settle?

What is said of the Plymouth colony?

Who was the first governor?

Where was the second settlement in Massachusetts made?

What town was settled next to Salem?

Who was the first governor?

How many colonies were there in Massachusetts when it was first settled, and what were they called?

When were they united into one?

LETTER XLVIII.

For many years after the white people came, they lived in peace with the Indians. The Indians were kind to the white people, and the white people were kind to them. The Indians sold the skins of the deer, and bear, and beaver to the white people, and bought blankets. These blankets they tied over their shoulders and wore them as a dress. They also bought

iron hatchets of the white people, which were much better than their own hatchets. They also bought knives and kettles.

The Indians were very fond of little looking-glasses and glass beads, and other such trifles; and would give away furs worth a great deal in exchange for them. At first the Indians were very much afraid of the guns which the white people had. They did not know what to make of them. But after a while they bought guns and learned to fire them as well as the white men.

After some time, when the white people had increased, and one town was settled after another, the Indians began to think that the white people would get away all their land. Then they were very sorry that they ever let the white people come hither to live; and they made wars with the white people. They used to lie and shoot the white people, as they went out into the fields to work, or as they were travelling, or going to meeting. They used to come in the night, and set the houses on fire, and kill the cattle, and the men, and the women and children. They would likewise take them prisoners, and carry them away into the wilderness. The Indians would sometimes kill or take captive nearly all the people in a town, burn

down all the houses, cut down all the fruit trees, and destroy everything they could. But the white people understood how to make war better than the Indians; and though the Indians did a great deal of mischief, they were commonly beaten at last. After a while the white people became so strong, that they killed and drove away almost all the poor Indians; and now there are not more than a thousand Indians in the State. These are scattered about in different places; but most of them live in Barnstable county, and Dukes county. They are a poor, weak, miserable people, and not at all like the fierce Indians that used to be in Massachusetts.

*How did the white people live with the Indians for many years?
What was the cause of the wars with the Indians?
What finally became of the Indians?*

LETTER XLIX.

It seems to be a great pity that the Indians and the white people could not have lived peaceably together till now. If the Indians were still here, it seems as if we might do a great deal to teach and to comfort them; but they are all gone, except the few which I mentioned in my last letter. When I say that the Indians are gone, I mean gone from Mas-

sachusetts. In some other States, there are many Indians still living; and good white people are trying to teach them how to plough and hoe, and raise grain; how to build good warm houses; how to spin and weave and make good clothes; how to read and write and cipher; but above all things, they are trying to teach them to behave well, to read the Bible, and live as God requires. You ought to be very glad that good people are trying to teach the poor Indians so many things; and be willing to give something, if you have it to spare, to support and assist them in doing all the good they can, to the poor Indians. I am very happy to say, that in many places, the Indians are beginning to improve. Some Indian children are learning to read, and write, and cipher, like the children of Massachusetts. And some young and elderly people among the Indians are pious Christians.

You ought to be thankful to God, that those terrible times are past, when parents were in continual fear for their own lives and the lives of their children; when the men were afraid to go to work in their fields without carrying their guns; and when families dreaded to see the sun go down, lest the Indians should come in the night, and murder and scalp them, or carry

them away into captivity. In those terrible times children fared very differently from what they now do. They were not clothed, nor fed so well as they now are; they had but few schools to go to; and there was not an academy in all the State. It is very different now. The Massachusetts children now have all the advantages they can reasonably ask; and I hope they will not fail to improve them.

I have now written a large number of letters to you, which I trust you have read with pleasure and profit; and which I wish you to read again and again, till you remember the principal matters they contain. If you thus read and remember, you will have a very good knowledge of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and you will be very likely to be pleased with reading accounts of other States and countries. Children that love books, commonly acquire a good education; and if their behaviour is good, they are sure to make their parents and friends very happy. I shall finish this course of letters by writing one letter more. It will contain the advice of a father; and I hope you will be disposed to read it with great attention.

LETTER I

DEAR CHILD,

FROM the letters I concerning the Commonwealth you have learned, that the people are highly favored. God bless our land, and we ought to be very thankful. With diligence and economy we are able to work, and can get a living. Parents can provide food and houses for themselves and their children. No person in the State has want of the necessaries of life.

But the principal things that make Massachusetts a good land to live in are, we have the Bible, which teaches us the way of salvation by Jesus Christ; we have the Sabbath, or Lord's day, when the people are gathered together to worship God, and the Gospel preached; we have several kinds, at which our sons and daughters acquire so much good learning for useful employment; we have Schools for the instruction of young persons in the Bible.

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LETTER L.

DEAR CHILD,

From the letters I have written concerning the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you have learned, that the people of this State are highly favored. God has given us a good land, and we ought be very thankful for it. With diligence and economy every body who is able to work, can get a comfortable living. Parents can provide food and clothing and houses for themselves and their children: and no person in the State has need to suffer for want of the necessaries of life.

But the principal things that make Massachusetts a good land to live in, are these:—We have the Bible, which teaches the will of God, and the way of salvation by Jesus Christ; we have the Sabbath, or Lord's Day, which affords the people an opportunity for meeting together to worship God, and to hear the Gospel preached: we have schools of various kinds, at which our sons and daughters may acquire so much good learning as to be fitted for useful employment; we have Sabbath Schools for the instruction of children and young persons in the Bible, and in all their

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duty to God and mankind; we have a free and good government, which the people have established by their own authority and will; and we have good laws for the preservation of order, uprightness, and peace. All these good things we have; and my desire is, that you would love the Commonwealth, and do all you can to make it prosper.

But perhaps you may ask, What can children do, to promote the welfare of the State? I will tell you. Children can remember their Creator, and learn his will; they can avoid using profane and wicked language; they can remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy; they can honor their father and their mother; they can be kind and tender-hearted, modest and virtuous; they can be honest and true in all their dealings with others, and in all they say of them; they can avoid the sin of wishing to have what does not belong to them; and can be happy when they see others in possession of good things, which they themselves have not. Children can learn to say, and by the help of God, they can learn to keep, the commandments. They can behave well at school, and make good improvement in learning; they can behave well at home and be pleasant, useful, and faithful to their parents and friends. Children can

be sorry for their sins. Whenever they have done wrong, they can consider the evil of it, and they can pray to God to forgive their sins, and help them to be good children. And He will help them, if they pray in sincerity. He will give the Holy Spirit to all, who feel aright their need of His help. The Bible teaches us to pray, because God hears and answers prayer; and in all ages of the world, those who have sincerely desired and endeavoured to do His will, have been assisted in doing it.

Now if the children of Massachusetts were all good, and behaved toward God, toward their parents, toward one another, and toward all persons, as children ought to behave, then we should have the happiest Commonwealth on the face of the earth. Such children, when grown up, would be good men and women. They would be friends to religion, friends to good ministers, friends to schools and good learning, friends to their country, and friends to all mankind.

I suppose you are satisfied, that a Commonwealth made up of good people, must be happy and prosperous; but then you are old enough to know, that there are many wicked people in Massachusetts, and that there are many children who are naughty, and who are very likely

to be wicked persons, when they are grown up. This is true; but it is no good reason why you should be naughty and wicked. It is rather a reason why you should be as good a child as you possibly can; and I do earnestly hope that you will love what is good, and do what is right. Some children are naughty from want of instruction; but you must remember that you have had instruction, and if you behave ill, it will not be for want of knowing your duty. Ill conduct in you will be the more sinful on account of the good instruction you have had. Jesus Christ has said, 'That servant which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes; for unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required.' You cannot be happy in this world, nor in the world to come, if you are wicked; and I entreat you to remember, that without holiness no man can see the Lord.

Finally, my child, it is my prayer, in submission to God's will, that your life and health may be preserved; that you may live to a good old age, and be prospered in the world; but my prayer especially is, that you may be so pious, worthy, and useful a person, that all acquainted with you, may have reason to love and esteem

you; and, when at length you shall die, that they may be comforted by the words, 'blessed are the dead, who die in the Lord; they rest from their labors, and their works do follow them.'

AN AFFECTIONATE FATHER.

QUESTIONS IN REVIEW.

- How long and how wide is Massachusetts?
 Is the length of Massachusetts north and south, or east and west?
 Which way is the width of Massachusetts?
 In what part of Massachusetts is its greatest width?
 On what side is its greatest length?
 How much is its greatest length?
 How much is its greatest width?
 How is Massachusetts bounded?
 Into how many counties is it divided?
 Tell how each county is bounded, beginning with the most easterly.
 How is Barnstable county bounded?
 How is Nantucket? Dukes? Plymouth? Bristol? Norfolk? Suffolk? Essex? Middlesex? Worcester? Hampden? Hampshire? Franklin? Berkshire?
 In order to tell these boundries look at the map.
 What are the two largest rivers in Massachusetts?
 Which is the largest of the two?
 In what part of the State is the Merrimack? In what part is the Connecticut? Which way does the Merrimack run in Massachusetts? Which way does the Connecticut run? Which way does Concord river run? Nashua? Charles? Taunton river? Blackstone? Chickapee? Miller's river? Deerfield river? Westfield river? Housatonic? Hoosick?
 To tell which way the rivers run, look at the map.
 Which is the highest mountain in the State? Where is it? How high is it? Where is Saddle mountain? Where is Mount Tom? Mount Holyoke? Mount Toby? Which of them are east of Connecticut river? What is said of their heights?
 Which way is Wachuset from Boston?