



**NEW.
HAMPSHIRE**

Published by
F. Grant
Exeter, N.H.

A
BOOK

FOR
NEW-HAMPSHIRE CHILDREN,

IN
FAMILIAR LETTERS

FROM A FATHER.

EXETER:
PUBLISHED BY FRANCIS GRANT.

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1823.
S. T. Moses, Printer.

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DISTRICT OF NEW-HAMPSHIRE, TO WIT :

District Clerk's Office.

L. S. *****
BE it remembered, that on the twelfth day of May, A. D. 1823, and in the forty-seventh year of the Independence of the United States of America, FRANCIS GRANT, of the said District, has deposited in this Office the title of a Book, the right whereof he claims as Proprietor in the words following, viz. "A Book for New-Hampshire Children, in Familiar Letters from a Father.

In conformity to the Act of the Congress of the United States, entitled, "An act for the Encouragement of Learning by securing the Copies of Maps, Charts and Books to the Authors and Proprietors of such Copies, during the times therein mentioned; and also to an act entitled, An Act supplementary to an Act, entitled An Act for the Encouragement of Learning by securing the Copies of Maps, Charts and Books to the Authors and Proprietors of such Copies, during the times therein mentioned; and extending the Benefits thereof to the Arts of Designing, Engraving and Etching Historical, and other Prints."

WILLIAM CLAGGETT,

Clerk of the District of New-Hampshire.

A true copy of Record,

Attest,

WILLIAM CLAGGETT, *Clerk.*

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PREFACE.

THE little Work, which is here presented to the publick, has been prepared with considerable labour and care. It is much more difficult, than might be at first imagined, to descend to the level of the infant understanding, and at the same time, to write in tolerable English.

It will be perceived, on a slight inspection of this book, that it is intended for children. The objects proposed in it, are the following.

It has been proposed to furnish the children of New-Hampshire with a book well calculated to teach them to read; a book which might take the place in the child's library, of those foolish story books, which answer no valuable purpose whatever, except to teach children to call words at night; but which, at the same time, often effect the bad purpose of giving them a distaste for books of sober and useful knowledge.

If this little work be written in a manner sufficiently attractive to induce children to read it, it may then be valuable as a mere reading book.

it has moreover been proposed to furnish the children of the State with a book,

which, while it teaches them to read, may impart to their minds important information concerning their own country.

It has been thought, if the child's early attainments in knowledge, could be intimately associated with the geography, history, objects and concerns of his own State, or country, that this circumstance might have a happy tendency to cherish his attachment to it; to make him feel a deep interest in its welfare; and to render him a good citizen in mature age.

Common books of geography convey little, or no information to children. They are written in a style above their capacity; and they read them with little interest.

An attempt has been made in the following pages, to give a geographical description of New-Hampshire, in a style pleasing and intelligible to the young; and to describe the objects that belong to it; and if the attempt should in any degree answer its design, it will by no means have been made in vain.

It may perhaps be objected, that the book is deficient in method. It is believed, however, that exact method would, in the present instance, be of little importance. What the child most wants, are facts; and if these can in any way be imparted, he will at the proper time arrange and methodize them.

A
BOOK

FOR

NEW-HAMPSHIRE CHILDREN.

LETTER I.

MY DEAR CHILDREN,

As you live in the State of New-Hampshire, I think you ought to know a great deal more about the state than you now do. I propose, therefore, to write a good many letters to you, in order to give you an account of it. I shall tell you how long and how wide New-Hampshire is; what land lies along on the north, what land lies along on the south, what land lies along on the east, and what great river runs along on the side of it. I shall tell you about

Hillsborough county has just forty towns ;
The people of Hillsborough, fifty-three thousand.

The county of Cheshire has thirty-seven towns ;
The people of Cheshire are forty-five thousand.

The county of Grafton has thirty-six towns ;
The people of Grafton are thirty-three thousand.

The county of Coos has twenty-one towns ;
The number of people is hardly six thousand.
All the towns in the state are two hundred and twelve ;
The people, two-hundred and forty-four thousand.

When I began these letters, my dear children, I proposed to write about thirty. Two letters more will make just thirty ; which I shall write as soon as I can find time. One of them I shall direct to my son ; the other, to my daughter. My object in the two remaining letters will be to give you some good advice. I hope you will be prepared to receive it, as well as to put it in practice.

YOUR AFFECTIONATE FATHER.

LETTER XXIX.

MY DEAR SON,

In the course of these letters, I have frequently spoken about the duties of children ; yet it has seemed to me very proper, that I should write one letter of advice, more directly to you. I hope, therefore, you will read this letter more often, and with more pleasure, than any of the others. You are now able to read pretty well in plain reading, and to understand good advice, if given in plain language.

I have taken considerable pains to give you an account of New-Hampshire ; because every child ought to be made acquainted with the State, where he lives ; and because, when he is acquainted with his own State, he will naturally wish to know something about other States and countries. I have made it appear, I think, that New-Hampshire is a land, for which we ought to be thank-

ful to God ; a land of hills and of vallies, where virtuous people may be as happy as in any part of the world. I wish, therefore, that you would love New-Hampshire, and be very desirous of its prosperity in every thing good. And if you do really wish that New-Hampshire may prosper ; you will be very glad to know how it may be made to prosper in the greatest degree.

Now, my son, one of the best ways in the world, to make New-Hampshire prosper is, to have all the children in it behave themselves as well as they possibly can. For, if they are good children, it is very likely they will be worthy and good men ; and if so, they will wish to do every thing they can for the benefit of the State.

Now you are young, you must remember, my dear, that you cannot tell what is best for you so well as those that are older ; because you have not had opportunity, to hear and see and know

as much as they have. You must always obey your parents, your teachers, and others, who have the care of you, and be always willing to be taught and advised by persons, who are older and wiser than yourself.

If a child, like you, expects ever to be a worthy and useful man, he must be desirous of learning to read. A person that is unable to read, is very little thought of in New-Hampshire ; and if he try ever so much, he can do but little good. I hope, therefore, you will go on learning to read better and better, till you are able to read any book in the English language.

At the proper time, I also wish you to learn to write. No person, who is unable to write, can expect to be a man of much consequence. Do what he may, he will pass for an ignorant man. And besides, he will not be able to do his own business in a safe, or respectable manner. Many people have been sadly

cheated by not being able to write. I hope therefore you will be very desirous of learning to write, and to write handsomely; so that neither you, nor your friends may have reason to be ashamed of your writing.

And while you are careful of learning to read and write well, I beg you to pay particular attention to your spelling. For what a shame it would be for you, to be able to write handsomely, and yet not be able to spell half of your words. Bad spelling always spoils good writing. But a person, who can write and spell with propriety, especially, if he understand figures, or ciphery, may always find employment, and get a good living.

Ciphery is a very important part of a boy's education; and as soon as it will do for you, I wish you to begin the study of Arithmetick. Indeed, I wish you to learn the Multiplication Table as soon as possible. I think every boy, that is able to read these letters, ought to go to

learning his table immediately; and, if you have not learnt it already, do attend to it. If you should put off learning it, till you are thirteen, fourteen, or fifteen years of age, you will find it quite as hard to learn then, as now; and besides, you will be very much mortified.

After a boy is able to read, write and spell correctly, understands Arithmetick well, has a pretty good knowledge of the State in which he lives, and of other countries, and is well acquainted with his native language, I consider him a boy of a good education. If the conduct of such a boy be good, there is nothing to hinder his becoming a respectable and useful man. If parents are careful to hire good and able teachers, the greater part of the boys in New-Hampshire may acquire such an education as I have here noticed. And they can afterward go on, and improve themselves at their leisure. If they have the disposition to do it, they can read large books of Geography and

History, books upon Farming and Gardening, and books of Philosophy, Morality and Religion.

By the time they are twenty-one years of age, they may have a great deal of knowledge. But I desire you would not forget, that, if you would be a man of knowledge, you must love your books much better than play. You can obtain nothing good in this world without labouring for it. Corn and hay do not come without people's labouring to raise them. Neither will useful knowledge come into your mind, unless you study for it. Especially when you are sent to school, I wish you to be very careful not to play by the way, but to be there in good season. And while you are at school, sit still in your place and mind your lessons, without giving your master, or mistress, any trouble. Go to school for the sake of learning, and not for the sake of playing.

Those boys that study and behave best, are always the happiest at school. They love their master, and their master loves them. But I have known boys, that went to school chiefly for play, and that were very unhappy all the time they were there. They longed to be out doors at play. Like a wild animal, that is chained, they were very uneasy; and as soon as school was dismissed, they would drive out of the house, just as the same wild animal will run away, when his chain is taken off. Such boys are not only troublesome to their masters; but are apt to be noisy at home, and troublesome to their parents and friends.

While I am talking about school, I will mention one thing more. I desire you would avoid getting into quarrels with your school-mates. Treat all your school-mates well, and you will be likely to find good treatment in return. It is a bad sign to see a boy given to quarrelling. It is a sign that he will be an ill

natured and quarrelsome man. But I hope better things of you. I hope you will be kind to your school-mates, and to all others; and do what you can to render them happy.

If you mind all I have now said in this letter, I shall be thankful; but you will not be likely to mind it, unless you remember your Creator; unless you think every day, that you are born to die and to give an account. You must consider, what your Bible and catechism teach, that God sees and knows every thing you do and say; that he sees you always, and that you cannot possibly hide yourself out of his sight. You should be afraid of offending God, because he punishes those who sin against him, unless they are sorry for their sins, and ask his forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

Children as young as you, have often done evil; and you will not deny, that you have done wrong a great many times. Children are apt to do wrong. But God is

so kind as to pardon all their sins, when they are truly sorry for them; and to give them a mind and heart to serve him in future.

Now, my child, you are young; but in a few years more, if you live, you will be a man. In a few years more all those, that are now children will be men, and those, that are now men, will be in their graves. You know very well, my son, that you also must die. And you know from the Bible, that there is a place of happiness, and a place of punishment after death. Good people after death go to a place of happiness; and wicked people go to a place of punishment. This I beg you to consider; and to consider likewise, that children of your age very often die, and that you yourself may not live to be a man. How important is it then, that you remember your Creator, now in the days of your youth!

I will now tell you what I hope and desire concerning you, should you live to be a man. I hope and desire most of

all, that you may be a pious good man; a man that fears God, and keeps his commandments. I hope and desire that you may be a respectable man in the place where you may live; that you may be a friend to good schools, to good ministers, to good Rulers, and to good laws.

Should you live to be a voter, I hope you will never vote for bad men, if you know them to be such; but that you will always give your vote for wise and virtuous men, who love their country, and are willing to do what they can for its prosperity. I hope you will be successful in business, and become a man of handsome property; but I most earnestly hope, that you may never wrong others for the sake of money. I pray that you may always speak the truth, and be honest and fair in all your dealings.

In short, my dear son, I earnestly pray, in submission to God's will, that your life and health may be spared; that you may live to become so kind, worthy,

pious, and useful a man, that all acquainted with you, may highly esteem you; and when, at length, you shall go down to the grave, that they may have reason to lament, because so good a man has been taken away.

I have written to you, my son, a very long letter; but I hope, you will not be sorry to find it so long; but that you will read it many times with care, and give me occasion to rejoice in all my exertions for your improvement and happiness.

YOUR AFFECTIONATE FATHER.

LETTER XXX.

MY DEAR DAUGHTER,

As I have written a very long letter to your brother, which you will have the reading of, it will not be necessary for me to write so long a one to you. What I said in that letter concerning study, education, good behaviour, and