

ley sprinkled the first sacrificial blood on the revolutionary altar of freedom. The weak fire which the Americans returned, wounded three soldiers and killed Pitcairn's horse. The patriots then dispersed, one of the wounded dragging himself to his house (which still stands across the street from the green) and dying at his wife's feet.

The green is marked by a monument of granite with the names of the victims of the battle inscribed upon it. It was erected in 1799. Near this spot an elm tree was planted by General Grant on the centennial of the battle. The remains of those who fell in the battle were buried together in front of this monument in 1835, Edward Everett delivering the oration. Lexington Green is one of the sacred places of America.

Every great historical event has a romantic element. There is "a woman at the bottom" of everything. The battle of Lexington is no exception. Hancock was in Lexington on the night of April 18th, "on love and pleasure bent," while Adams was there on a political errand. We had the pleasure of visiting the house where they spent the night, the old Clarke house, which afterwards passed into the Hancock family. There were a number of young ladies living in this house, and their friend, Miss Dorothy Quincy, was visiting them. Her presence there accounts for John Hancock's stay in Lexington, where he was watched with such solicitude by his friends, because the British had set a price on his head, as well as on Adams's. He and Adams were sleeping in the lower room, and Dorothy (the "Dorothy Q." of Holmes's delightful poem) and the Clarke girls were in the room above, when, at about 2 a. m., April 19, William Munroe and Paul Revere reached the house. The latter, in his excitement, was making considerable noise, and Munroe told him to be quiet, as he would wake the men. "There'll be noise enough before morning," replied Revere; "the British are coming." John Hancock put his head out of the window and said, "Is that you, Paul?" and invited him inside. Just by this house is "Grannie's Hill," where Hancock and Adams are said to have stood watching the battle of Lexington, Hancock exclaiming, "What a glorious morning for America!" In passing I may state that the ladies of our party declared themselves more interested in the Hancock-Quincy episode than in any of the details of the battle. I hope none of my readers are ladies! But in case ladies should read this I will state that the loving pair married happily, and their descendants are among the staunchest citizens of America.

A tablet a little farther along the road states that there Jonathan Hayward, of Acton, met a British soldier, who exclaimed, raising his gun, "You are a dead man!" "And so are you!" said Hayward. Both fired. The soldier was killed and Hayward mortally wounded. Meriam's Corner is at the end of a hill known as "Mile-long Ridge," which stretches to that point from Concord. The minute-men were screened by this ridge in gathering together during the British retreat from Concord, and a sharp attack was made on the soldiers at Meriam's Corner, they being driven headlong from that point to Lexington, and ultimately to Charlestown.

Although they have only a remote connection with the battle of Lexington, I cannot forbear mentioning the homes of three famous men in American literature, Hawthorne, Alcott and Emerson. The home of the first of these, "Wayside," is between Meri-

am's Corner and the center of Concord town. Here, after his return from Switzerland, Hawthorne erected his famous "sky study," a high, square tower, where he could command a magnificent view of the surrounding country, and write undisturbed. His favorite walk, "The Pines," was a beautifully terraced hill, back of the house, covered with pines, firs, and larches, under whose shade his somber figure could be seen for hours, as he walked about awaiting inspiration. In his study are his books and chair, and a rough standing-desk at which he wrote when tired of sitting. This desk is of particular interest, because of being made by himself. Alcott's home is of interest in connection with the Concord School of Philosophy, which at one time created considerable stir in American systems of thought. "The Old Manse" will be mentioned later. Emerson's home was next visited. The study has not been changed since he occupied it in 1840.

We were now in the heart of Concord. The old Wright Tavern was famous as the headquarters of the British soldiers during their brief stay in Concord on that momentous day. Here Major Pitcairn mixed blood from his wounds with wine and stirred it up with his finger, declaring that he would stir up the Yankee blood in the same way. History declares that the Yankee blood was thoroughly "stirred up," though not quite in the way Pitcairn intended. The old Concord meeting house is full of patriotic memories. It was here that the Massachusetts Continental congress first met, Oct. 11, 1774, with John Hancock as president. Harvard college held its sessions there during the siege of Boston.

Visiting the Concord Museum of Antiquities, we saw very interesting relics connected with the history of the town. An address was given by the curator, Mr. Tolman, who referred to four important events which had occurred in Concord on April 19. The first of these was the passing of resolutions against British oppression, in 1689; the second (86 years later), the battle of Concord, in 1775; the third (86 years later), the offering of volunteers for the Civil War, in 1861; and the fourth, the offer of a company of single men to go in place of the married men, to the war with Spain, in 1898. The last event breaks the cycle of 86 years, but Mr. Tolman hopes for great events on April 19, 1947!

When the British soldiers passed Elisha Jones's house, a little beyond Sheepley Hollow cemetery, he stood in the door and was about to fire on the whole body; but his wife (prudent woman!) restrained him. A soldier did fire at him, however, missing him; and the bullet hole in the casement is still shown to the visitor. Strangest thing of all, the very rock is pointed out on which Capt. Isaac Davis fell when he was killed at Concord! Verily, relics are of unquestionable value!

"The Old Manse" is full of pleasing interest, not only on account of Hawthorne's "Mosses" and the connection of the Emerson family with it, but because a window in the back of it overlooks the Concord river, and the old north bridge, where the battle occurred. Through this window, the old minister, who then lived in the Manse, watched, with what mingled feelings! the momentous battle.

We were now near the famous battle ground, and our curiosity could no longer be restrained. Rushing across the field which intervenes between the old manse and the bridge, we climbed a fence and emerged upon the road which runs east and west

across the stream. The Concord river is a small, sluggish, though picturesque stream, which wanders along through beautiful meadows and stately groves. The bridge is a rude, but substantial structure, which is kept in good repair. On the east side of this bridge the British soldiers halted; on the west the minute men were drawn up. The latter had been gathered under the leadership of the two Barretts, in anticipation of the approach of the British, the rallying places, about half a mile away from the bridge, being marked with appropriate tablets. The British had already destroyed the main stores in Concord, but were proceeding to the house of Captain Barrett, where other supplies were supposed to be. The volleys were fired across this bridge. It is on the fact that execution was done on both sides, instead of but one, as at Lexington, that Concord bases its claim to the first battle of the Revolution. Lexington makes the same claim because the first blood of the war was shed there, though no fatalities occurred on the British side.

The spot on the east of the bridge where the British troops stood, is marked by a granite monument, commemorating almost as much the death of the British soldiers as that of the Americans; stating that on this field the first armed resistance to British oppression was made. On the west of the bridge, where the American militia stood, is the famous monument "The Minute Man." It is a bronze figure on a stately pedestal, and represents a man in the garb of a farmer, with a musket in the right hand. His left hand rests on the handle of his plow, from which he has just turned and taken a vigorous stride towards the field of battle. It is full of strength and action, and forms a perfect picture of the men who were willing to do and dare so much at a minute's call. The figure is the work of a Concord sculptor, and the model was a Concord man, noted more for fine form and strong face than for any moral worth. The lines inscribed on the monument are by Ralph Waldo Emerson, also a resident of Concord:

"By the rude bridge which arched the flood,

Their flag to April's breeze unfurled,  
There once the embattled farmers stood  
And fired the shot heard round the world!"

We were pleased to gather around the granite battle monument and listen to a brief address by Mr. Frank Sanborn, the famous Concord author, on some of the details of the battle. Mr. Sanborn is a tall, graceful gentleman, dresses rather quaintly, has long, gray hair, an expressive face, deeply sunken, but very brilliant eyes, with a peculiar humorous twinkle, and a rather attractive style of language. He referred to the rivalry between Lexington and Concord, and, naturally, supported the claims of the latter place, on the grounds already stated. He said that at the bridge there were some two or three hundred militiamen, and a somewhat larger number of the British. This was the last excursion the British dared take beyond the confines of Boston during their occupancy of that city. One detail which Mr. Sanborn added was not at all pleasing. As already stated, two British soldiers were killed by the American fire. Another was badly wounded, and was left on the field. After the troops withdrew, an American boy ventured on the battle field, and saw the wounded soldier trying to rise. Raising his ax, the boy split the soldier's skull. Of course, his action cannot be justified, but it is probably accounted for by the fact that the Americans were so incensed at the ac-