

A

GENEALOGICAL SKETCH

OF THE

PREBLE FAMILIES,

RESIDENT IN PORTLAND, ME.,

A. D. 1850.

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OLIM HEC MEMINISSE JUVABAT.

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PRINTED, BUT NOT PUBLISHED.

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HARMON AND WILLIAMS, PRINTERS.  
PORTLAND, A. D. 1850.



## DEDICATION.

*To my surviving and dearly beloved children,*

MARIANNE AND WILLIAM.

To beguile the lonely hours, which I am called upon to pass, since the death of your beloved mother, I have occupied some of my leisure time in collecting and arranging some authentic facts in relation to the early history of our family. These facts are mainly derived from the church, town, county, and court records—a few of them from other unquestionable sources. My object was, not to give or attempt to give a genealogy of the whole Preble family, but simply of the two branches, resident in Portland, with some few of their connections. Our kinsman Lieut. George H. Preble, U. S. Navy, has, as an "amateur," undertaken, and is prosecuting the more general enquiry; and I have no desire or intention to anticipate or interfere with his labors.—It will interest you doubtless to see with what perfect certainty your family is traced back to the times of our puritan fathers.—You will see, that from the early settlement of New England, all your ancestors, from generation to generation, have occupied a respectable position in private life, and in civil, judicial, and military lines. You can claim no merit on that account. But, that would be a most unnatural and perverse child, who would not prefer to trace his lineage through an honored and respectable ancestry, rather than through a low, degraded, and dishonored one.

Your affectionate Father,

WM. P. PREBLE.

Portland, June 1, 1850.

## ADDRESS.

*To the descendants of*

ABRAHAM AND JUDITH PREBLE.

It is more than two centuries, since our common parents left their native land, and emigrated to America. They quit the cultivated fields of Kent, in England, to join the pilgrim fathers of the Plymouth Colony. Notwithstanding the length of time, that has since elapsed, their course, and generally that of their posterity, is still distinctly traceable. But, unless the present moment is seized upon to gather up and embody the facts, they will soon be lost forever. Born and brought up in York, where our ancestors early took up their permanent residence, I had many opportunities of learning facts in my younger days from elderly and intelligent people of the first respectability there, who have long since been gathered to their fathers. I also attained a knowledge of the sources, where information was to be sought for, with such further general acquaintance with the subject of enquiry, as would enable me to apply and arrange correctly the scattered and isolated facts, as they might from time to time be collected. In many ways I am admonished, that I too shall ere long be gathered to my fathers. I have hastened therefore to put together the more material facts, I have collected, in the hope and belief, that it would be acceptable to, and be regarded as a labor of love by all my relatives, near and remote, who bear the name of Preble, or in whose veins circulates any portion of the blood of Abraham and Judith.

W. P. P.

June 1, 1850.

## P R E F A C E .

To many of the relatives and friends, into whose hands this pamphlet may fall, it may appear strange, that in this State, where so little is thought of family origin, any one should be able to trace back the line of ancestry of a family through a space of more than two centuries—and to a period beyond the landing of the Pilgrim Fathers on the Plymouth rock. And yet such a work is accomplished in the following Genealogical sketch. Under these circumstances I take the liberty to say, that there are very few facts, stated in the sketch, the means of proving which by legal evidence in a Court of Justice, do not exist, in records, legal proceedings, and written documents. Where on the decease of an ancestor there has been an estate to be settled and to be divided among heirs—where collateral heirs have sold out their interest by deed in the paternal estate—where marriages, births, christenings, and deaths, have been recorded—where offices of public trust and honor have been held, there, there is available evidence to be had. But there are statements made in the sketch, which could only be derived from oral communications. For these facts the writer is not indebted to vague, idle, and loose gossip and tradition, but to the most reliable and respectable authority. To the late Hon. Judge Sewall, formerly of York, and a native of the town, he is indebted for the fact, that under the government of Gorges, a city was laid out and organized, and that Abraham Preble was made Mayor or first Magistrate of it, with other facts respecting the early history of the Preble family. To the late Daniel Sewall, Esquire, also a native of the town, and many years Clerk of the Judicial Courts for York County, he is indebted for the original commission of Judge Preble, and for facts in relation to the family. To the late William Frost, Esquire, long time Register of Deeds for York County, who took a special interest in the persons and history of the old prominent families of the towns of Kittery and York, I am indebted for the fact, that the second Abraham Preble

was called by way of distinction, the "great" Abraham Preble, with other interesting facts in relation to him and the family. To the late Chief Justice Parsons, of Massachusetts, more particularly, and to others also, I am indebted for the tragical story of the death of Ebenezer Preble, and his elegy. Judge Parsons when a boy, was a pupil of Master Moody at Byfield Academy, whom he always spoke of with affection and respect. I am indebted to my late father, whose knowledge of the family and its branches, enabled me to classify, arrange, and apply the scattered and isolated facts, which from time to time I got hold of. As to the episodes, introduced into the text or the appendix, I also could name the most unquestionable authority; but no person, who has any knowledge of York, and of its prominent men of that day, derived from its former old inhabitants, as it was a hundred years ago, will question the correctness of the facts related. The arranging, embodying, and dressing up, of the facts is my own; but as to the facts themselves, I have in no case drawn on my imagination or invention. I will further add, that whatever knowledge I have in this matter, derived from others, has generally been communicated to me unsought for, in private friendly conversation.

## GENEALOGICAL SKETCH.

The first authentic account, which we have, of the Preble family is, that among "the men of Kent," who emigrated to the old Plymouth Colony from Kent, England, there was resident in Scituate, as early as 1636, a person by the name of Abraham Preble. All we know of him at that period is, that he had received a good education, was a man of substance, and much respected. Prior to 1628, a gentleman by the name of Nathaniel Tilden from Tenterden in Kent, came to the Old colony with his family. He was a man of large substance and high standing, being elected in 1634 elder of the first Congregational Church in Scituate. Elder Tilden died in 1641; and by his last will and testament gave the income of his stone house with the lands in Tenterden in Kent, England, to his wife Lydia; and, among other devises and bequests to his children, gives to his third daughter, Judith, "a cow." Soon after the death of her father, Judith Tilden, then about 20 years of age, was married to Abraham Preble, who about the same time removed to York, then called Gorgiana or Agamenticus, in Maine. Under the government of Gorges a portion, of what is now York, had been erected into a city, and made the capitol. Of this embryo city Abraham Preble was first Magistrate, or Mayor. We find this gentleman also acting a very prominent part in the public affairs of the Province up to the time of his death, the latter part of 1662, or early in 1663.— In a document dated March 30, 1663 he is spoken of as "*lately deceased.*" As early as 1645 he was one of the Magistrates, and in 1647 was one of the Judges of the Court in the Province, exercising legislative as well as judicial authority. In the final assumption of jurisdiction over Maine on the part of Massachusetts, he took a very active part in favor of the measure, in order to secure to the inhabitants of Maine the order and protection of that powerful Province. Afterwards in 1657 he was appointed to the same office of Judge under the authority of Massachusetts,

which he continued to hold until shortly before his death. He was also for several years one of the commissioners for York County, then embracing the whole territory of Maine, and county treasurer. He was a man of great integrity of character, and as such was often called upon to act as friendly arbitrator between parties.

Among the children of *Abraham and Judith Preble* were Abraham the eldest son, born in 1612, Nathaniel born in 1618, and Benjamin born some years after, not long it is supposed, before his father's death. The first certain record evidence we have of this Abraham Preble, is, that he was register of deeds for the county of York. About the year 1685, he married a young lady by the name of Hannah Kelly, by whom he had several children. He took a very active and prominent part in the public affairs of the Province. In 1702 he with three others were appointed Judges of the Judicial Court for the county of York, or Province of Maine. He was also captain of the town or chief commander of all the military forces in it. His original commission on parchment as Judge, is in possession of the writer. My memoranda of facts collected on the most careful enquiry more than forty years ago, state, that he was the holder of thirteen offices. But let the monumental stone at the head of his grave tell his story: "This stone is fixed at the head of Abraham Preble Esq., deacon of the church, Capt. of the town, and one of the Judges in ye county of York;—was universally faithful to the death;—who deceased Octo. ye 4th 1714 aged 72."

As was common in those days, the christian name of the founder of a family was continued down from generation to generation in most of its branches. Accordingly we find an "Abraham" in very many branches of the Preble family. Hence for one or two generations after his death, whenever there was occasion to refer to the Abraham, of whom I am speaking, his townsmen and others, by way of distinction always designated him by the epithet of the "great" Abraham Preble.—I will here add—Hannah his widow and relict died May 9, 1751. Among the children born to *Abraham and Hannah Preble*, were Mary born June 8, 1686, Abraham born Aug. 21, 1687, Caleb born July 7, 1689, Jonathan born April 11, 1695, Ebenezer born March 26, 1698, and Samuel born April 19, 1699.



We have little knowledge of Abraham Preble, the son of Abraham and Hannah, except that he died in less than six years after his father. The traditions of a century ago say, that his death was universally regarded as a public calamity; he being a young man of great promise and expectation. He was an uncle of my father, who, although born more than twenty years after his uncle's death, knew well in what manner that death was regarded by the public, and spoke of it to me. The simple record of his death would seem to confirm the tradition, as they were very chary of titles in those days. It is: "Abraham Preble, *Esq.* died March 30, 1720." He was never married. Thus died out the elder branch.

Abraham the eldest son having set up in life for himself, his father in his advanced age, the year before his death, in order to induce his second son, Caleb, to remain with the mother and family, conveyed to him April 21, 1713, a portion of the homestead. He continued to reside there to the time of his death. His wife Jemima, seven years after his death, married a second husband, Andrew Gilman; and hence it was, that the still celebrated spring on the homestead, near the mansion house, took the name of Gilman's Spring. He is called in the records Capt. Caleb Preble. He left several children, sons and daughters. His eldest daughter Hannah, born January 29, 1720, was married to Daniel Moulton, successor, as Register of Deeds, to Abraham Preble. Capt. Caleb Preble was a man of substance and consideration in his day; but died comparatively young. The monumental stone at the head of his grave has this inscription. "Here lies interred the body of Capt. Caleb Preble, aged 45 years and 7 months, who departed this life, Jan'y 7, 1734." The record of his death reads thus: "Capt. Caleb Preble, son of Abraham Preble, *Esq.* and Hannah his wife, died Jan'y 7, 1734, in the 46th year of his age."

Jonathan Preble, the third son of Abraham and Hannah, removed with his wife and family to Arrowsic Island at the mouth of the Kennebec; and is the head of that branch of the Preble family. He is said to have been the owner of a handsome estate, the whole, or a part of which, still remains in the family. He married Rebecca Harvey. Three of their children only have their births recorded in York records; and these are expressly

stated to have been "*born in York.*" 1. Ebenezer, named probably in memory of the brother, whose untimely death I shall shortly notice. This child however lived only about 16 months. 2. Abraham born March 23, 1722. Again 3, Ebenezer born Sept. 22, 1721. In addition to these, Mr. Preble had two other sons Jonathan and Joseph. These latter were probably born to him, after he removed his family to Arrowsic. How many daughters he had, if any, I am not informed. Mr. Preble lost his wife Rebecca in 1739. Happy was it for her, that she did not live to see her son Ebenezer and wife butchered by the Indians, nor to learn at the same time, that the Indians had also dashed out the brains of the murdered parents' infant babe, by thrashing its head against a tree—one of those acts of savage ferocity, of which both parents and child were victims a few years after. Meantime Mr. Preble, to console himself, as far as practicable, for the loss of his first wife, married a second—a widow, it is said, whose first husband was a Sewall. Jonathan Preble died March 7, 1768.

Ebenezer Preble, the fourth son of Abraham and Hannah, had an untimely end. Joseph, son of the celebrated Rev. Samuel Moody, usually called Father Moody, and Ebenezer Preble, were very intimate, personal friends. One day they went out shooting together into the woods in pursuit of deer, and other wild animals. Having reached the thicket, they separated for the purpose of making a circuit, so as to start the game. After a while Moody heard a crackling, and saw the under-bushes move, as if an animal were making its way through them. Instantly without thought, levelling his gun, he fired. Hastening in triumph to the spot, where he expected to find his game, there lay his friend Preble weltering in his blood, and in the agonies of death. Moody could never afterward forgive himself for his precipitancy. We may judge of his grief and distress from the fact, that he soon afterwards tied over his face a black handkerchief, as a veil, and always wore it in that way, to his dying day. This is the origin and cause of his being called "*handkerchief*" Moody. I will add, this is the Joseph Moody who was the settled Pastor of the second Congregational Parish in York. The tragical death of Preble, created a great sensation, and called forth the elegiac talents of the poets of the day. I can give only a couplet of one of the pieces, got up by them on the occasion:

“Oh, lamentable, lamentable !  
What has become of Ebenezer Preble ! !”

Returning to our subject, the youngest son and child of Abraham and Hannah Preble was *Samuel*, born April 19, 1699. He was the owner of a handsome estate in that part of York called Newtown, where he lived and died. At the close of the year 1725, he married Sarah Muchmore, of the Isle of Shoals. By her he had five children. The youngest son was *Esaias*, born April 26, 1742. He left a very respectable estate for those days. The record has it, “Samuel Preble son of Abraham Preble, Esq. deceased, died March 22, 1746.” He was less than 48 years of age; and his youngest son, Esaias, was less than four years old, when his father died.

*Esaias Preble*, the son of Samuel, married Lydia Ingraham, June 30th, 1766. Miss Ingraham was the daughter of Edward Ingraham, Esquire, and his wife, a daughter of Joseph Holt, elder of the first Congregational Church and Society in York. Miss Ingraham was born March 28, 1749, and was therefore little more than 17 years of age, when she married Mr. Preble. Preble suffered much from the early death of his father, and the retired situation of the paternal estate. We find him, however, in 1775, Captain of a company of minute men at Cambridge, at the commencement of the Revolutionary war—afterwards a member of the Convention of Massachusetts, which ratified the Constitution of the United States—again a Representative of the town in the Legislature of Massachusetts, and also a Selectman. He partook, also somewhat of the military character of the Preble family, having been Colonel of the first regiment of militia for several years. Col. Preble died in 1813, having had by his wife Lydia, no less than fifteen children. At the time of his death, he lived upon, and owned that portion of the paternal estate, where had lived and died before him, his grandfather and great grandfather, and which by regular descent and the purchasing out of collateral heirs had always remained in, and never gone out of the family. One word here in regard to Edward Ingraham, the father of Mrs. Preble. Father Moody was at the time, I am now speaking of, pastor of the Parish. Mr. Ingraham was a native of England, a gentleman of much respectability, erect in stature, and somewhat stately in his movement. On

one occasion he was rather tardy at meeting, and came walking up the broad isle in prayer time. Father Moody just at that moment was offering up petitions for the granting of this blessing, and the pardoning of that sin. Seeing Mr. Ingraham coming in, and walking up toward his pew, Father Moody interlarded in his prayer this petition, "And O, Good Lord, among thy other kind dispensations, cure thy servant, who has just entered thine house, of that *ungodly strut*."

The eleventh child of Esaias and Lydia Preble was *William Pitt*, born November 27, 1783, named after the celebrated Earl of Chatham, the friend of America. Mr Preble was educated at Harvard College, where he graduated in 1806. On the 7th September 1810, he married Nancy Gale Tucker, eldest daughter of Joseph and Mary Tucker, born Sept. 16, 1786. Capt. Tucker was an officer in the Continental army of the Revolution; and after the adoption of the federal constitution, was Collector of the Customs for the port of York under Washington. He had two children only—both daughters. His wife was the daughter of Capt. John Stone, and by her mother's side a direct descendant from Governor Bradstreet, of Massachusetts. Capt. Stone himself was a grandson of Abraham and Hannah Preble, by Meriam their youngest daughter, who married Benja. Stone. William P. Preble is still living, and is the person, who usually passes under the designation of *Judge Preble*. His wife died Oct. 17, 1819. Her mother and her husband were second cousins, and of course she and her husband were third cousins.

The only surviving son of William P. Preble is *William Pitt Preble*, junior, born April 15, 1819. He married Harriet T. Mussey, daughter of John Mussey, Esq., July 1, 1846. He was graduated at Bowdoin College; and is at present Clerk of the District Court of the U. S. for the Maine District. He is a member of the Cincinnati of Massachusetts, through right of his mother. The other children of William P. and Nancy G. Preble, were William P., who died Oct. 23, 1816; Nancy T., who married Major Robert Allen, U. S. Army, and died Aug. 11, 1846, leaving one child, a son; and Marianne, who married Stephen Longfellow, junior, and is still living, the mother of five children.

Nathaniel, the third, if not the fourth, son of Abraham and Judith, was born and baptised in Scituate, in 1648, while his mother was on a visit there to her friends. All we have, that is authentic about him is, that he was married, when about 21 or 25 years of age; and that he had a son by the name of Abraham, born about one year afterward, toward the close of 1673. This son lived to grow up and distinguish himself. Soon after the second Judge Preble died, in 1714, this Abraham was placed on the bench, and succeeded to his uncle's influence and honors. He had four wives, the last of whom was Mary, the eldest child and daughter of his uncle Abraham. This lady he married some few years before her father's death—thereby becoming the son-in-law of his uncle, the great Abraham, so called. In this way he fell into the line of natural and regular succession. He did not live long, however, to enjoy his honors; for he died, when only 49 years old. But let the monumental stone at the head of his grave tell his story :

“Here lies buried ye body of Abraham Preble, Esq., and Capt. in ye town, and Judge in ye county of York. He served his country in various other posts, and at the time of his death, which was on March 14th, 1723, in the 50th year of his age, he sustained no less than nine offices of honor and public trust, for the town, county and Province.”

Mr. Preble had eleven children by his wife Mary, all of whom except two daughters, died young. The death of his last child is recorded in this way: “Abraham Preble, a posthumous son of Abraham Preble, Esq., and Mary his wife, died Aug. 19, 1727.” By his first wife he had two children, daughters; by his second, none; by his third, two sons, Edward and Nathaniel—the latter being recorded, as “*scalded to death.*” Edward we hear of subsequently. Through him, that branch still survives. But, with the exception, that he is designated on the records as “Capt. Edward Preble,” that he left four sons and one daughter, and that in the division of the town common lands, 20th June 1732, *eight shares* were assigned to him, we know nothing further about his history. We have said Mary was the fourth wife of her husband. Sometime after his death, she married again. Her second husband's name was Nowell.

In connection with the death of Judge Preble, and in anticipation of similar bereavements, I take occasion to advert to a change in the position of the Preble family, and its blighting cause. The second Abraham Preble died in 1714—his eldest son Abraham in 1720, aged 32 years—his nephew and son-in-law, Abraham, the husband of his eldest daughter, and the successor to his influence and honors, in 1723, aged 49—his fourth son, Ebenezer, was shot by "Handkerchief" Moody about this same time—his second son, Capt. Caleb Preble, died in 1734, aged 45—two years before which, in 1732, died Mr. Joseph Preble, a nephew, son of his brother Joseph, aged 40 years, who is called *Mr.*, as was the fashion in those days by way of honorable distinction. All these bereavements, visited upon a family in the course of some nineteen years, and then followed up only twelve years afterward with the death of Samuel, the youngest son, in 1746, aged 47 years, are enough to *prostrate* any family. Hence the prominence, the character, and influence, which this family had enjoyed for nearly a century uninterruptedly, began to pass away. Of the first named, that is, the second Abraham Preble, it may be said, he was gathered to his fathers, "as a shock of corn fully ripe;" but of the remainder, without exception, it must be admitted, "their summer sun went down at noon." Tradition has assigned this, as the reason of these early and repeated deaths. Some member of the family was always Captain, or head of the military force, of the town. Hence, in the bloody incursions of the Indians, they were the first to face the enemy; and suffered accordingly. History informs us, that, when the town was destroyed by the Indians in 1692, only four garrison houses were left standing, having made a successful resistance. One of these was the garrison house of Abraham Preble—that is, the great Abraham, so called.

The history of the elder branch of the Preble family, resident in Portland, belongs to a period, which closed a century and a quarter ago, excepting the little flickering of uncertain light, which has since occasionally manifested itself. The history of the younger branch belongs to more modern times. Here the spirit of the fathers has revived in the sons. Before tracing down the younger branch, I will add a few facts to those, already given, in relation to Abraham and Judith Preble's family, consigning to

the appendix some remarks in reference to the same subject. Besides the children of these patriarchs of the family, already mentioned, there was a Joseph, a Stephen, a John, and probably three daughters, one of whom, Rachel, married to Joseph Carline, March 28, 1659, was born next to Abraham. There is no family of Preble, which is not traceable back to one of five brothers, children of Abraham and Judith, viz:—Abraham, Joseph, Nathaniel, Stephen, and Benjamin. Joseph Preble, just mentioned, had a son by the name of Joseph, born to him in 1692. Of this latter Joseph, we have the following account on the head-stone of his grave: "Here lies buried the body of Mr. Joseph Preble, who departed this life April 28, A. D. 1732, in the 41st year of his age." This man had two wives, and left several children. But one son however, whose name was Nchemiah, born March 16, 1718, ever arrived at man's estate. Stephen also married Rachel, the daughter of John Main, and had children. His youngest child was a son, named Stephen, born Jan. 15, 1693; the others were daughters. This latter Stephen was the father of Peter Preble, born Jan. 26, 1732. John married, and had only one child, Hannah, who was married to Col. Donnel. By the aid of these facts, and others before stated, it will be comparatively easy to trace any of the collateral branches, if any one is so disposed. There is a family, who have acquired the name of Preble by "*reputation*," as it is called. I refer to the family of Zebulon Preble, of York, which cannot be traced through any *male* line to any head or branch of the Preble family.

*Benjamin Preble*, youngest son of Abraham and Judith, as already mentioned, was born between the years 1650 and 1660. His wife's name was Mary. They lived at a place in York called Scituate. They had several children, sons and daughters. In 1723 he made his will, appointing his beloved wife, Mary Preble, his sole executrix. He was a man of substance for a country gentleman of those days. His will was witnessed, and doubtless written, by the celebrated Father Moody. He died March 25, 1732, at an advanced age. His son John, born Nov. 26, 1699, the father in turn of Benjamin Preble of Scituate in York, and Jedediah, with three daughters, survived their father.

*Jedediah Preble*, youngest son of Benjamin, was born in 1707. Contrary to the practice of the Prebles of the elder branch, and of his own father, he married before he got into the bachelor

line. He had two wives. The first was Martha Junkins, of Scotland, so called, in York, whom he married March 21, 1733. By her he had five children. His first wife died March 1753. In May 1754, he married his second wife, Melitable, daughter of Capt. Joshua Bangs. By his second wife he had seven children. Among them were, Martha, born in 1755, who was married to the Rev. Thomas Oxnard; Ebenezer, who was afterward a merchant in Boston; and Edward and Enoch. This Jedediah Preble is the well known person usually called Brigadier Preble, who acted a very prominent part in his day. His name belongs to history. He died March 11, 1784, aged 77. He was a man of great activity and energy, and soundness of judgment; and received many marks of the respect and confidence of his fellow citizens. Among other offices, he held that of Judge of the Court of Common Pleas. But the incident of his life, for which his name will be longest held in remembrance, is, that he was the father of his son Edward.

*Edward Preble*, son of Jedediah, was born Aug. 15, 1761. He was educated at the celebrated Byfield Academy, of which Master Moody, son of Father Moody, was the well-known preceptor. He there gave such evidence of coolness and determined courage, that Master Moody one day told him "*he ought to be an Admiral.*" His name is identified with the naval history of the United States. No man has done more to raise and establish its reputation, than Commodore Preble. He married Mary Deering, March 17, 1801, and died Aug. 25, 1807, aged 46. Verily, it seems to be the fate of the Preble family, that its distinguished sons shall be cut down in middle life, when their hopes and prospects of future usefulness and fame are brightest and most promising. Or, if death will not interfere and do the work of removing their overshadowing talent, intelligence, and ability, out of the way; envy and jealousy will devise some ways and means, whereby to put an extinguisher upon them. Commodore Preble, it is believed, was in some degree, a victim to this spirit of envy and jealousy; and being a high-spirited officer, the effect upon him, combining perhaps with other causes, hastened his premature death. He left only one child, a son.

*Edward D. Preble*, son of the Commodore, and Mary his wife, was born Feb. 20th, 1806. He graduated at Bowdoin College,



and afterwards prosecuted his studies at Heidelberg in Germany. On his return from Europe he married Sophia E. Wattles, and had by her four children, three daughters and a son, three of whom survived him. He died February 20th, 1816. His only son Edward Ernest, was born August 10, 1812.

The younger branch, resident in Portland, consists of two families, 1. that of Edward, 2. that of Enoch.

Enoch, the fifth child of Jedediah by his second wife, was born July 2, 1763. For many years he commanded a ship in the merchant service. He married Sally Cross, September 14, 1800. He had by her two sons and two daughters. The elder son Eben born in 1802, died in 1815, leaving no male issue, and but one daughter. The younger son George H. was born in 1816.— One of the daughters, Adeline, is married to John Cox, merchant—the other, Ellen Bangs, is with her brother. Capt. Enoch Preble died September 23, 1842. George Henry Preble, son of Captain Enoch, married S. L. Cox, daughter of John Cox, in 1845. Mr Cox is the same person, who married Adeline Preble, sister of George H. Mr Preble is a Lieut. in the U. S. Navy. He has one child, Henry Oxnard, born in 1847.

Hence it appears, that all the male descendants of the Preble family, resident in Portland at the present time, consist of *three men and two children*,—that is to say, 1. William P. Preble, 2. his son, William P., 3. George H. Preble, 4. his child Henry Oxnard, 5. Edward Ernest Preble, the child of the late Edward D.

I close this account with the following,

TABLE OF LINEAL DESCENT.

\**Abraham* and \**Judith*.

1st Branch.

2d Branch.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. * <i>Abraham</i> and * <i>Hannah</i> . | * <i>Benjamin</i> and * <i>Mary</i> .                                  |
| 2. * <i>Samuel</i> and * <i>Sarah</i> .   | * <i>Jedediah</i> and * <i>Mehitable</i> .                             |
| 3. * <i>Esaias</i> and * <i>Lydia</i> .   | * <i>Edward</i> and <i>Mary</i> . * <i>Enoch</i> and * <i>Sarah</i> .  |
| 4. <i>Wm. P.</i> and * <i>Nancy</i> .     | * <i>Edw. D.</i> and <i>Sophia</i> . <i>Geo. H.</i> and <i>Susan</i> . |
| 5. <i>Wm. Pitt</i> and <i>Harriot</i> .   | <i>Edward Ernest</i> . <i>Henry Oxnard</i> .                           |

Those marked with an asterisk are deceased.

ERRATUM.—Page 16, line 20, for son, read grandson.

## APPENDIX.

Abraham Preble and Judith his wife, the parent stock—were from Kent, England. Their children were

Abraham, born 1642.	John.
Rachel, born 1643.	Benjamin.
Joseph,	Sarah,
Stephen,	Unknown—daughter, probably
Nathaniel born 1648,	Mary, who died unmarried.

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### First branch (resident in Portland.)

Extracts from the town records of York.

#### I. "The Births of *Capt. Abraham Preble's* children.

June 8, 1686, Mary Preble born.  
August 21, 1687, Abraham Preble born.  
July 7, 1689, Caleb Preble born.  
March 28, 1691, Hepzibah Preble born.  
June 14, 1692, Miriam Preble born.  
April 11, 1695, Jonathan Preble born.  
March 26, 1698, Ebenezer Preble born.  
April 19, 1699, Samuel Preble born."

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#### II. "The births of the children of *Samuel Preble*.

1. Samuel born October 7, 1726.
2. Joseph born ———
3. Hepzibah born August 31, 1739.
4. Esaias born April 26, 1742.

Memo.—There was also (5) Sarah, who married Jeremiah Wears. She was the youngest daughter.

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#### III. "Birth of the children of *Col. Esaias Preble*.

1. Esaias born Sept 27, 1767, died a child.
2. Sarah born Feb. 19, 1769.
3. Lydia born September 27, 1770.

4. Theodocia born September 15, 1772.
5. Hepzibah born February 27, 1774, died in early life.
6. Samuel born December 8, 1775, died an infant.
7. Esaias born December 16, 1776.
8. Joanna born January 1779.
9. Hannah born Jan. 1781, never married.
10. Ruth born April 8, 1782.
11. William Pitt born Nov. 27, 1783.
12. Harriot born September 27, 1785.
13. Statira born March 28, 1788.
14. Rufus born March 4, 1790.
15. Adolphus, born July 24, 1793, died in early life.

IV. The children of *William Pitt Preble*.

1. Marianne born July 30, 1812.
2. William born November 22, 1814, died 1816.
3. Nancy Tucker born November 23, 1816, died 1846.
4. William Pitt born April 15, 1819.

Second branch (resident in Portland.)

I. "The births of the children of Benjamin Preble," York records.

1. Judah born February 9, 1697.
2. John born November 26, 1699.

*Memo.*—Benjamin had three daughters, who with Judah, his first born, died young, never having been married. Also he had JEDEDIAH, born in 1707, usually called *Brigadier Preble*.

II. Jedediah Preble, by his first wife Martha Junkins, had the following children:

1. Jedediah, who married Avis Phillips.
2. Samuel, who never married.
3. John, who married Sarah Frost.
4. Lucy, who married Jonathan Webb.
5. William, who never married.

By his second wife Mehitable, he had the following children:

1. Martha born 1755, who married Rev. Thomas Oxnard.
2. Ebenezer born 1756, who left one daughter, married to Rear Admiral Wormley, B. R. Navy.
3. John,—whose line is run out.

4. Edward, born August 15, 1761.
5. Enoch, born July 2, 1763.
6. Statira, born 1767, line run out.
7. Henry born in 1770.—U. S. Consul at Palermo, died 1825,  
line run out.

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III. (a) Edward Preble, (Commodore) had but one child,  
Edward D. born February 20, 1806.

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- IV. (a) The children of Edward D. are:—
1. Mary born September 10, 1834, died September 15, 1835.
  2. Mary born December 19, 1835.
  3. Alice born February 26, 1839.
  4. Edward Ernest, born August 10, 1842.

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- III. (b) The children of Capt. Enoch Preble, were
1. Eben born 1802, died 1848, no son.
  2. Adeline, married John Cox.
  3. Ellen Bangs, unmarried.
  4. George Henry born 1816.

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- IV. (b) The children of George Henry Preble,  
1. Henry Oxnard born 1817.

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NOTE A.—When I commenced this sketch, my intentions were to confine myself strictly to the two branches, resident in Portland. As in the early history of the parent stock and its ramifications, I may seem to have departed in some degree from this plan, I may perhaps be allowed to give a momentary glance at my father's family. Of the six sons, the two first died in childhood, and one, the youngest child, a few years after becoming of age, having never been married. Hepzibah the fourth daughter, died without being married, when about twenty-five years old. Hannah, the sixth daughter, is still living and unmarried. Sarah was married to Wm. McLellan. She died several years ago, leaving three daughters married, of whom two are still living and have children. Lydia was married to Deacon Samuel Moody, great grand-son of Father Moody—both are dead. They left three sons, all of whom are married. Theodocia was married to Robert R.

Moody, brother of Samuel—both are dead, leaving three children. Joanna was married to John B. Hill. She is dead and never had a child. Ruth was married to Capt. John L. Storer, since deceased. They had six children, all of whom are living, and four of them (daughters) married. Harriet was married to the Hon. Stephen Thacher. She died in 1849. They had a large family of children, girls and boys, of whom several are living, but some are not—their eldest daughter, died young not long after her marriage. Another fine girl preceded her mother by only a few years. Statira was married to Capt. John H. Hall since deceased. They had several children, all of whom are living. One of the sons is at the present time member of Congress from Missouri. Esaias is the father of a large family of children, sons and daughters. He married Mary Bell. Their eldest son, William P., is married, and has sons and daughters. Their eldest daughter is also married, and some others of the children. The principal part of the old paternal estate in York was given to Esaias, in and by his father's will. Rufus married Nancy Bell, sister of Mary. They are both dead, but left children. So much for my father's family. Of my father's brothers and sisters, Samuel married late in life a widow Remick, and had a daughter Susanna and son Samuel. Joseph married Abigail Preble, daughter of John Preble, brother to the Brigadier, in 1762, and had by her Joseph, Samuel and Jeddiah, sons, and Miriam, a daughter. Hepzibah was married to Samuel Junkins in 1764, and was the mother of sons and daughters. Sarah was married to Jeremiah Weare, and was the mother of sons and daughters.

Of the brothers and sisters of my father's father, that is of my great uncles and aunts by the father's side, I have already taken some notice. I will add a few facts in this connection. There is every reason to believe that Hepzibah died unmarried, and probably young; as we find her name kept up by being given to a daughter of her sister Mary, to a daughter of her brother Caleb, to a daughter of her sister Miriam, and to a daughter of her brother Samuel; but can find no trace of her elsewhere. Miriam, as stated in the text, was married to Benj. Stone, and was the mother of Hepzibah, who married a Coburn, and of Capt. John Stone, who was the grandfather by the mother's side,

of my deceased wife. She died at the age of 29. But of all the shoots that sprung from the parent stock, the most prolific has been that of my father's uncle Jonathan, who removed to Arrow-sic Island. While the other branches are everywhere wasting away and dying out, his branch "flourishes like a green bay tree." To trace out this and other branches and ramifications is utterly out of my power. Lieut. Geo. H. Preble, who has an investigating mind, and is fond of antiquarian researches, has taken the whole matter in hand, and I wish not to interfere with his objects, but rather to aid him, in the pursuit of them.

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EXCEPTION.—I have spoken in the text of the Zebulon Preble line, so called. The origin of this family and line, is a matter of some delicacy, but no difficulty. It is a thing which has always been perfectly well understood in the elder branches of the Preble family, resident in York, though little of course has been said about it. Whatever imputation might rest on the young creature who was led astray, none can rest on her unoffending offspring. When Abraham Preble the first, died, he left among his other children two little daughters. After they had grown up to woman's estate, one of them made an unfortunate slip, and had a son born to her, whom she called Zebulon. She not only owned him, but insisted upon his bearing her maiden name of Preble. She was afterward married, but, it is presumed, not to the father of her child. She nursed it, as a mother, and it grew up, and about the year 1712 her son, become a young man, married Hannah, daughter of Philip Welch. In October 1713, he had a daughter born to him, and he called her after his mother, thus showing the place, she occupied in his affections. On the division of the town common lands in 1732, six shares were assigned to Zebulon Preble. The family has always maintained a respectable position. This line is now reduced, it is said, to a single individual, Joseph, who has a wife and seven or eight children.

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NOTE B.—I have spoken more than once in the text of the bloody incursions and ferocious cruelties of the Indians, and of the sufferings and losses of the Preble family in consequence of these irruptions. But I feel myself bound to say, that I have long

since come to the conclusion, that the wrongs and treachery were not all on the side of the wild and untutored children of the forest. Caleb Preble, son of Capt. Caleb married in 1752, Miriam, daughter of Capt. John Harmon. The garrison house of the Harmon family was one of the four, which held out against the Indians, when they destroyed the town in 1692. The men of the Harmon family were owners and masters of vessels. They had their homes and families ashore, but they themselves were almost always on the sea. More than once therefore their families had been the victims of Indian atrocities. At the time of this intermarriage, the Harmon family was in its prime. Some eight years prior to this time the Indians had renewed their hostilities with redoubled fury and ferociousness. It was, as it were a war of extermination. Our people had learned to kill Indian children on the disgusting, but delusive plea, that "nits make lice." In this war the Harmon family suffered severely; and they vowed revenge. Peace at length came, and the usual tokens of peace and amity were mutually interchanged. As further proof, that all hostilities were at an end, and peace and good will alone prevailed, some of the more active people of York invited the Indians to come in, and join in a banquet of peace and rejoicing. At first the Indians were a little shy; but the invitation was so pressing, the assurances given so solemn and earnest, that the Indians consented to the proposition. The place appointed for the meeting was a flat neck of land between the mill pond and the main river called Kerswell's neck. On this neck stood a one-story house, where the carousal was to be had. True to their engagement, a number of the Indians appeared, but still exhibiting some indications of caution. Their reception however, was so cordial and unconstrained, and they were so applied with their darling stimulants, and other refreshments, and excited by the dance, the mirth, and general unbending, that they finally gave themselves up to the merriment of the occasion. In this state of things they were applied with more liquor, until they reached a state of almost thoughtless intoxication, and were completely off their guard. Immediately the house was surrounded by armed men; and the poor disarmed Indians, who had accepted the white man's hospitality, and trusted themselves to his honor and good faith, were massacred without mercy. The contrivers and leaders in this act of treachery and revenge were well

understood to be the men of the Harmon family. The next day the story was abroad every where. It produced one common expression of indignation and horror. It could not fail to reach the ears of that independent man of God, father Moody. Accordingly the next Sabbath the venerable old pastor appeared in the pulpit. His countenance was more sad and solemn than usual, but steadfast. In his prayer he evidently alluded to the transaction, I have related. He earnestly deprecated the divine displeasure, and prayed most fervently, that the vengeance of God Almighty might not be visited upon his people for the wicked treachery and cold-hearted blood-guiltiness, that the last week had witnessed in the midst of them. Next came his sermon. My informant could not give me the text; but from the tenor of the discourse, I should infer it might be the following, for, as I have already stated, the Harmon family were then in their prime. "I have seen the wicked in great power, and spreading himself like a green bay tree; yet he passed away, and lo, he was not; yea I sought him, but he could not be found." Prepared by the petitions of the prayer, every one, on hearing the announcement of the text, knew something unusual was coming. No minister of the gospel ever had a stiller audience, than parson Moody had on that forenoon. He commenced by saying that the government of God was a mysterious one—that he suffered wrongs and crimes of the darkest dye to be committed, when, by even *willing it*, the sinner's hand would be stayed. "Clouds and darkness are round about him"—that we all know:—but our heavenly faith assures us, that "justice and judgment are the habitation of his throne forever." In creating man God's purpose was, that he should be a free moral agent; but to be a free moral agent, man must be endowed with the power of doing wrong, as well as of doing right. Even this power of aberration, under the Providence of God, was made, in the end subservient to the great purposes of Jehovah. "He makes the wrath of man to praise him, and the remainder of wrath he restrains." Having thus cleared the skirts of Divine Providence, as it were, from imputation, for suffering the foul deed; he next approached the deed itself in front, and with unshrinking firmness and plainness of speech. He first reminded his hearers of the invaluable importance of integrity of character even in the concerns of this life. But "godliness has the promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come." Then lifting up his hands and



raising his eyes, as if in prayer, he cried "Lord! who shall abide in thy tabernacle—who shall dwell in thy holy hill?"—then turning to his audience, as if the bearer of a Divine message to them, he replied: "He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart,"—"he that doeth no evil to his neighbor"—"he that solemnly promiseth—to his own hurt—and changeth not." He next called upon his hearers to contrast the requisitions of the divine law with the character of the bloody tragedy of the week preceding. Here he in brief, but clear and select terms, detailed the systematized treachery, the hollow-hearted pretences of friendly hospitality, the cunningly contrived means of throwing the red man off his guard, and then the consummation of the deed of blood and butchery. As the "hoary head" closed this portion of his discourse, a shudder and thrill of horror pervaded the whole house. But absorbed in his feelings, and in a deep sense of the calls of his mission, raising himself up and stretching out his right arm he proceeded: "And now my children, as I stand here the servant and minister of the most high God, like his faithful servant Jacob of old, I proclaim in regard to the authors and contrivers of this foul deed, "Cursed be their anger for it was fierce, and their wrath for it was cruel."—"The Lord will divide them in Jacob and scatter them in Israel." And following up the work, quoting the strong denunciations of scripture against the guilt of such atrocious wickedness, he terminated his sermon by declaring, that, according to the laws of Divine Providence, which though slow, were sure and certain in operation, the time was not distant, when, quoting the quaint language of Scripture, which I could hardly venture at this day to transcribe, there would not remain to the transgressors, a male to bear up the family name.

This story was told me by a very respectable person of most tenacious memory, in my younger days. I have no doubt of its general correctness; for it has been impressed on my mind by the progress of events. The Harmon family submitted to the rebuke, and lived on. Some sixty years ago the Harmon family were still very respectable, and apparently doing well. Several of the daughters, older than myself, were very handsome young women. At that time there were no less than five Capt. Harmons, masters of vessels in York. There were sons also who were my school-

mates. But what a change! How they have melted away one after another, old and young. They have not moved away, but they are gone. And now at length for twenty years past, there has not remained to them, as Father Moody in scripture language predicted, "one that pisseth against the wall."

NOTE C.—Paul Preble, the eldest son of Capt. Caleb Preble, married Dorothy, the daughter of Capt. Alexander McIntire, Dec. 21, 1747. This Dorothy was the aunt of Alexander McIntire, Esq., of York, and of Hon. Rufus McIntire, formerly member of Congress. This line or branch has run out entirely. It is referred to here only for the purpose of introducing one of the early traditions of the town, illustrative of the manners of the times. York was divided into two territorial parishes, the seaboard and interior parish—the interior is called Scotland. In those early days it was customary for the male inhabitants, the fathers of families, to leave their fastnesses and their farms on Saturday afternoon, and meet at the central place of business, for mutual converse and congratulation and jolification. Scotland parish was settled principally by Scots, among the leading men of whom was a McIntire. The McIntire family were a strong, muscular, athletic race of men, perfect sons of Anak in their time. On one occasion the people of Scotland parish, as well as those from other quarters in the town, came all flocking down to the central place of business and trade in York. They got up a grand "spreec." The McIntire is a peaceable, well-disposed fellow, if you do not chafe him too much. But beware how you start the Scotch blood. In due time the Scotland people started for home, somewhat excited by liberal potations, the fit subjects for a "row." Riding on together, jostling against each other, playing off their tricks, accompanied by coarse jokes, they at length got into a grand "melee." And to work they went. Tradition has handed down an account of this battle. I have quoted a couplet from one of the elegiac poets of the day in regard to the untimely death of Ebenezer Preble. But they had their epic poets also. This encounter has been celebrated in immortal verse. My memory is so imperfect, that I can give entire only one stanza. It runs thus :

"And there was Micum McIntire,  
With his great foot and hand,  
He kicked and cuffod Sam. Freathy so,  
He could neither go nor stand."

NOTE D.—In the foregoing genealogical sketch, the writer has carefully abstained from all comments, on persons and character. There is one fact, however, which appears from the statements of the text, which he thinks, he may venture to refer to. It is this:—That since Abraham Preble and Judith took up their permanent residence in York, and within the period of two centuries, no less than five members of the family have been called to occupy and hold judicial stations, as Judges of the Courts of Law in Maine. When Massachusetts assumed formal jurisdiction over Maine in 1652, “the right trusty Mr. Edward Godfrey, Mr. Abraham Preble, Mr. Edmund Johnson, and Mr. Edward Rishworth, were invested with full power and authority to keep one County Court yearly at Yorke, &c.” Mr. Godfrey, by the way, was at first very much opposed to this change of jurisdiction; but seeing further resistance hopeless, he resigned himself to fate, took the freeman’s oath, and accepted office under the Massachusetts. Mr. Preble, on the contrary, acted more consistently; for having removed from Massachusetts, where he had resided several years, with his puritan notions, and where were his family connexions, he was very happy to get back under her jurisdiction, and was one of the first to welcome the Massachusetts commissioners. Mr. Godfrey was rather of the Episcopalian sect.

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NOTE E.—I have stated in the text, that Abraham and Judith Preble, soon after their intermarriage, removed to Gorgiana or Agamenticus. This may require a word of explanation. Within the limits of the town of York, there is a high hill of three summits, called *Agamenticus*. In the nearest direction, it does not exceed five miles in distance from the sea-shore. It is a noted land-mark for sailors; and its three summits are distinctly visible in a clear day from the western cemetery in Portland. The region of country in its immediate vicinity, and between it and the shores of the Atlantic, was also designated by the Indians as *Agamenticus*, undoubtedly as appurtenant to the Hill itself. So also the river, which makes up some seven miles into the interior from the sea, was called *Agamenticus* river. A portion of this territory Gorges erected into a city by the name of Gorgiana.

This embryo city, whose streets or rather lanes, near the mouth of the river, remain to this day, extended from the sea-shore along the left bank of the river to a small branch and stream emptying into it, about three miles from its mouth, called *Judicature* stream, as being, as is supposed, the limit of the jurisdiction of the city toward the interior. Gorges, the Lt Gov's. house, stood not far from the left bank of this stream, near its mouth, on a broad flat point of land made by that stream and the main river. After, or rather at the time, the authority of Gorges was put an end to, and the Province of Maine came under the jurisdiction of Massachusetts, a certain portion of territory and its inhabitants were constituted a town by the name of York, the territorial limits of which, as ultimately settled, embrace the whole of the original Indian Agamenticus, and a part of their Ogunket. This hill was an object of special interest to the Indians.— Upon the top of Agamenticus lies buried the Indian apostle, so noted in his day, *St. Aspinquid*. He was 94 years old, when he died, May 1, 1682. At the age of 42 or 43, he was converted to christianity, and spent fifty years of his life in preaching to the sixty-six different nations or tribes of Indians, as the account has it, "*from the Atlantic to the California sea.*" He was an object of great veneration to the natives. The sachems of the different tribes attended his funeral, which, from motives of policy, was conducted with a good deal of pomp and ceremony. In honor of the deceased, the Indians made a great collection of many sorts of wild animals, and sacrificed them to the departed spirit. I subjoin a list of them, which has been preserved. The whole number amounted to 6711. On *St. Aspinquid's* tomb-stone is this inscription.

"Present useful—absent wanted,  
Lived desired—died lamented."

The animals sacrificed on the occasion of the death of *St. Aspinquid* were the following :

25 Bucks, 67 Docs, 99 Bears, 36 Moose, 210 Wolves, 82 Wild Cats, 3 Catamounts, 900 Muskquashes, 3 Ermines, 50 Weasels, 59 Woodchucks, 462 Foxes, 32 Buffaloes, 400 Otters, 620 Beavers, 1500 Minks, 110 Ferrets, 520 Raccoons, 501 Fishers, 38 Porcupines, 832 Martens, and 112 Rattle Snakes.

ERRATUM.—In several of the first copies struck off, the word *Juvabit* on the title page, is misspelled *juvabat*.