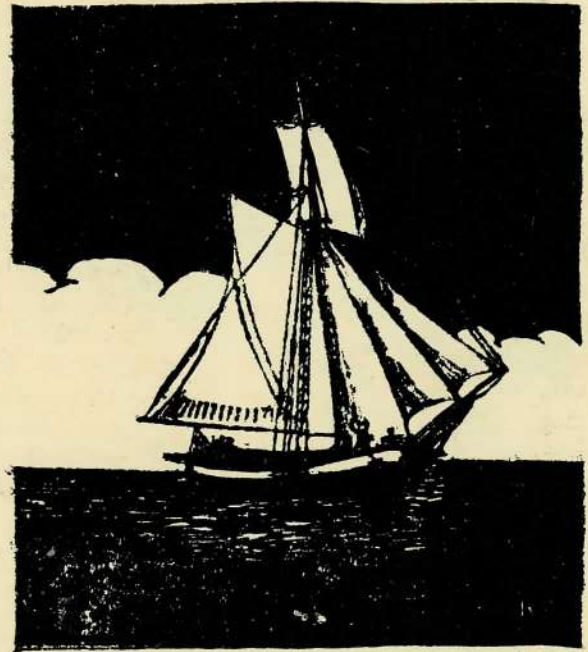


DUKES COUNTY - 1807



by
JAMES FREEMAN

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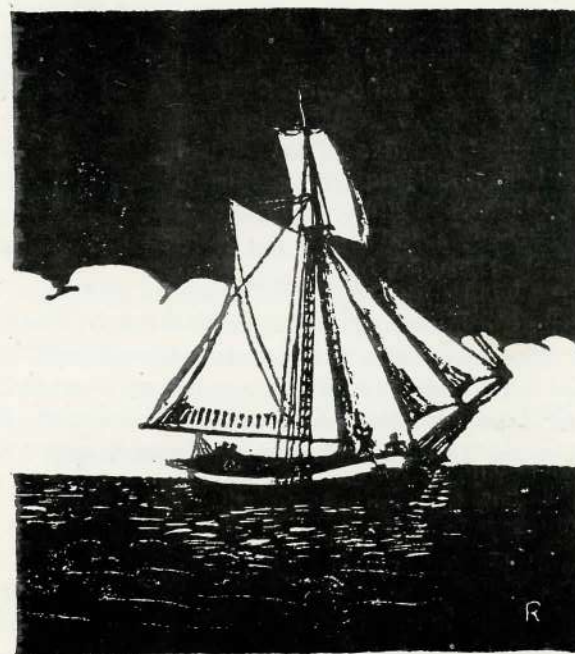
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THE DUKES COUNTY INTELLIGENCER

Published by
 DUKES COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
 EDGARTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS



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by
 JAMES FREEMAN

May, 1971

Vol. 12, No. 4

INTRODUCTION

James Freeman's "Description of Dukes County" in 1807 was written when Martha's Vineyard was still recovering from the devastation and poverty caused by Gray's Raid during the Revolution. It shows a Vineyard of small villages and small farms. The farms were mostly of the subsistence variety. That was because, even then, ten years before the beginning of the great days of whaling most of the Island's wealth came from the sea. It came from fishing and piloting, from coasting all up and down the Atlantic seaboard and from merchant voyages to distant ports of the earth.

The vessels engaged in all of those endeavors were small. The little topsail sloop depicted in Dr. Riggs' drawing on the cover is typical of many of them. There were schooners, all of them only two-masted, there were brigs and brigantines. The Vineyard's ships and barks came later with whaling.

The amounts of shipping that passed through Vineyard and Nantucket sounds in those early years was unbelievably large - vessels from everywhere. And the number of those vessels that anchored in Holmes Hole and Edgartown harbors, as Dr. Freeman points out in his "Description", was unbelievably large too. They came into the harbors to secure a pilot or to refit, to take on water and supplies, or just to wait for a fair wind and tide.

Not only did those vessels carry cargo of all sorts, but many of them carried passengers as well. For the roads were very bad in those days, and it was usually faster, and always more comfortable to travel by water than by land. But it was not always safer. It was because of that tremendous sea traffic in Vineyard waters that Dr. Freeman came to the Island in 1807.

James Freeman was born in Charlestown in 1759, but his family had come from Cape Cod, and James seems always to have had a love for this part of the world. His father was Constant Freeman and like so many men of Cape Cod and the Vineyard of those days

he could put Captain in front of his name. He left the sea, though, and Truro on the Cape, to become a merchant in Charlestown. And so young James grew up in the exciting atmosphere of revolutionary Boston. And naturally, he grew up a patriot.

Young Freeman attended the Boston Latin School and was graduated from Harvard college in 1776. Although he had always intended to enter the ministry, his involvement in the Revolution postponed that for some years. He served with a Cape Cod company, and later was a prisoner of war for two years in Quebec. But, after gaining first his parole and then his freedom, he did actively enter the ministry, first in Salem and then in King's Chapel in Boston.

He considered himself a member of the Church of England, which after 1785 became the American Episcopal Church. But almost from the first of his preaching he found himself leaning toward Unitarianism. Jonathan Mayhew, a son of the Vineyard, is often considered the first Unitarian minister in this country. But more rightly that designation should go to James Freeman for he actually was the founder of the American Unitarian Society.

It is interesting to speculate on just how much Freeman may have influenced the religious thinking of the Island's own Joseph Thaxter. For the two men were friends. And in his later years Parson Thaxter's preaching leaned so strongly toward Unitarianism that many of his congregation left him. It was Joseph Thaxter who gave Dr. Freeman much of the information for his description of Martha's Vineyard.

Freeman was one of the founders of the Massachusetts Historical Society and was long active in its work. He wrote a number of papers for the Society's publications, the most interesting to us being those that deal with Cape Cod and the Islands. Freeman was also a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and of the Massachusetts Humane Society. And it was his interest in the work of the latter organization that brought him to the Vineyard.

Because of the large number of vessels plying the coastal waters then, and because there were fewer lighthouses and almost no channel markers, and of course no weather forecasts, there was a

correspondingly large number of wrecks. Then there were no United States Life Saving Stations, and the survivors of wrecks reached the beach as best they could. Many, particularly in winter, suffered terribly from exposure, and some died even after they had managed to reach land. So one tremendously valuable service of the Humane Society was the erection of small huts along lonely stretches of beach. There the survivors of a wreck could take shelter and warm themselves and dry their clothing before trying to find their way to the nearest farm house or village. The huts were all supplied with firewood, kindling and flint and steel.

In later years the Humane Society also erected boathouses, each containing a surf boat, in strategic places along the beaches. The crews of the boats were all volunteers and some of them performed miracles of rescue work. There were at least four such Humane Society boathouses with their boats on the Vineyard. One was at Squibnocket Landing, one on Gay Head, one on Chappaquiddick and another on the Beach Road in Vineyard Haven. Some older Vineyarders still can remember them. But the huts came first.

It was for the express purpose of finding suitable places for the erection of some of those huts on our shores, and of supervising their construction, that James Freeman came to the Island. And we can be happy that that work took long enough, and that Freeman found the Vineyard interesting enough, to lead him to write his "Description of Dukes County" while he was here. But a few statements should be made about the part of the work beginning on page 38.

Modern research shows quite conclusive that Martin Pring never did reach Martha's Vineyard. The landing described in the account of his voyage was at what is now Provincetown and not Edgartown. Also the story of the settlement of several English families on the Vineyard before the coming of the Mayhews, which Freeman accepts as fact is actually only tradition. Dr. Banks in his *History of Martha's Vineyard* shows clearly that he was convinced that there was no truth in the story. Still tradition is always interesting, and further research there might prove valuable.

Dr. Freeman's treatment of the Indians is not sympathetic. He seems not to have realized that while they formed a majority of the Island's population they were well and justly treated. It was only after they had become a minority, and when there was no longer the slightest reason to fear them, that they began to be treated as an inferior people. Nor does he give the Indians nearly enough credit for their contributions to the Island's culture.

With those exceptions, however, the "Description" must be considered a valuable contribution to our knowledge of Martha's Vineyard and the Elizabeth Islands in an earlier day.

This issue of the *Intelligencer*, then, is a reprint of Dr. Freeman's "Description of Dukes County" from the Massachusetts Historical Society's Publications, and is used with the permission of the Society. The original of Dr. Riggs' drawing of the topsail sloop on the cover is a painting in the Peabody Museum in Salem. It also is used with permission.

Because of the length of this issue, our curator, Mrs. Chatterton, has kindly consented to withhold her DCHS news for the August issue.

A Description of Dukes County. Aug. 13th, 1807.

Duke's County, a small county in the state of Massachusetts, is situate south of the county of Barnstable, south-east of the county of Bristol, and west of the county of Nantucket. Its distance from Boston is about eighty miles; and the road, which leads to it, passes through Plymouth and Sandwich to Falmouth, whence a ferry boat conveys the traveller to Holmes's Hole. The county is composed of the islands of Martha's Vineyard, or Martin's Vineyard, and Chappaquiddick, which are separated from each other by a narrow strait, of the Elizabeth Islands, and of Noman's Land. It lies between the latitudes of $41^{\circ} 14'$ and $41^{\circ} 31'$, and between the longitudes of $70^{\circ} 22'$ and $70^{\circ} 55'$ W. from Greenwich.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD.

The principal island, where the courts are held, and which contains the meeting houses, school houses, and the greatest number of inhabitants, is Martha's Vineyard. I shall begin with this island; and in describing it, there will be a necessity of mentioning several things which belong to the county in general.

Martha's Vineyard is nineteen miles in length from east to west. Its greatest breadth is ten miles, from the West Chop in Tisbury to the beach south of Oyster Pond: in the narrowest part it is two miles wide: its mean breadth may be about five miles.

Beginning north, proceeding east, and following the coast round the island, we first enter the harbour of Holmes's Hole, formed by the West and East Chops; the first of which is two miles and a half, and the second, two miles from the head of the harbour. These points are two miles and a half apart. There are flats, which make off a little way from each side; but no shoals to obstruct the entrance. The depth of water is from eight fathoms to three and a half, rising gradually; the bottom excellent holding ground, bluish clay. Vessels can anchor at any distance from the shore in the harbour, which is secure against all winds, except those which blow from N. N. E. to E. N. E. From twenty to seventy sail of vessels,

bound to Boston bay or to the eastward, and which have put in here, are frequently seen at the same time in the harbour, waiting for a fair wind. About a thousand or twelve hundred sail anchor in it in the course of a year. Several excellent pilots reside in the village near the harbour, and at Old Town; but none of them are furnished with branches: in consequence of which the unsuspecting stranger is frequently imposed upon. Common tides rise in Holmes's Hole two feet and a half. The beaches are a deep sand, or sand mixed with gravel and small stones. Shells are found in great abundance round the harbour; some of them as deep as five feet in the ground. If they were left there by the Indians, the place must formerly have been thickly inhabited; but they seem to be too numerous to be attributed to this source. A lagoon, called Wickataquay Pond, communicates with Holmes's Hole by an opening, which is only four rods wide, and five feet deep at high water. It is supposed formerly to have been wider and deeper, and to have been a part of the harbour. The lagoon is about three miles long, and from a quarter of a mile to a mile and a half wide. In several places it is forty feet deep.

From the East Chop to Starbuck's Neck, at the entrance of Old Town Harbour, are five salt water ponds, communicating with the sea by small openings: a narrow sandy beach separates them from the sound. One of these ponds, called Sangekantacket, is half a mile wide and above three miles long. This part of the shore is in the form of a curve.

Old Town Harbour is the strait between Martha's Vineyard and Chappaquiddick Island. It is composed of two parts. The Outer Harbour extends from Cape Poge to Starbuck's Neck, and is four or five fathoms deep. From this neck the harbour "winds like the shell of a snail," and constitutes the Inner Harbour, which is about half a mile wide. The depth is from three to four fathoms, the bottom soft, generally sandy, in some places muddy. In entering it, a ship must keep W. from Cape Poge half a mile distant, in six or seven fathoms of water. It must run S. S. W. two miles and a half, shunning the sand flats which extend half a mile E. S. E. from Starbuck's Neck. This will bring it to Chappaquiddick Neck. It must then run W. into the Inner Harbour, close to Chappaquiddick Point, where the shore is very bold. This harbour is safe and excellent, and is esteemed one of the best in the United States. It is so

much better than the harbour of Nantucket, that the whalers of that island are obliged to come to this place, to take in their water, and to fit out their ships. The excellent water of Edgartown is conveyed to them by troughs, which run over the wharves, at the end of which the ships lie, and by hoses is poured into the casks in the holds. If the ships return from their whaling voyages in the winter season, they are compelled to come to this port, and to discharge their cargoes into lighters, which carry them over the bar of Nantucket harbour.

The head of Old Town Harbour is Matakeeset Bay, which communicates with the ocean by a strait, fifty rods wide, and four feet deep at high water. The strait is denominated Washqua Outlet, and it lies between Washqua Point on the east, and Waqua Point on the west. This outlet is continually altering in its breadth; and there is always in it a rapid tide. About the year 1792 it was entirely blocked up with sand, and remained shut during six months; at the end of which it was again opened by a north-east storm: it was never shut before or since. The beach, which extends west from Waqua Point, and which is the barrier between Matakeeset Bay and the ocean, is from fifty to sixty rods wide, and about three miles long.

Thence, as you proceed west, the south shore is nearly straight to the commencement of the peninsula of Gay Head. A string of ponds, separated from the ocean by a narrow sand beach, called the South Beach, which is not more than ten or fifteen rods wide, extends from Matakeeset Bay to Chilmark Great Pond. They are divided from each other by narrow necks, some of which are only ten rods wide; and the sum of all their breadths is not more than a mile. The first, second, and third ponds are made to communicate with Matakeeset Bay, and with each other, by means of artificial canals. The third pond, which is called Great Pond, is two miles long, and one mile wide. The sixth pond is the Oyster Pond, near the Tisbury line: a canal from it into the ocean is opened two or three times in a year, and is again filled up by south-east storms. Newtown Pond in Tisbury is a mile and a half long, and has a natural communication with the sea. The ponds between it and Edgartown are of a smaller size. West of Newtown Pond is a small pond in Chilmark; and then succeeds Chilmark Great Pond, which

consists of two parts, connected by an artificial creek: the length of these two parts is two miles, east and west. The sea is continually encroaching on the South Beach; or rather, as it still retains the same breadth, is pushing it north into the ponds, the salt marsh, and upland, on which it borders.

About a third of a mile east of the west end of Chilmark Great Pond, the shore is formed of cliffs of clay, which extend two miles, to the beach that leads to the peninsula of Gay Head. The clay is generally blue and of the indigo cast; but it is intermixed with red clay, or red ochre, a small quantity of yellow clay, or yellow ochre, and a small quantity of white clay. The indigo substance is mixed with the same kind of black wood, which we shall again mention, when we come to Gay Head. Very small streams run down the cliff; and there was a spring there a few years ago, seventy feet above high water mark, and thirty below the summit of the cliff, containing excellent water, but it is now blocked up. Much of the sand, below the cliff on the beach, is black, and has a great proportion of iron ore, which is attracted by the magnet. The same kind of sand is found on other parts of the beaches of the island. There is also sand of an orange colour. This part of the shore, from certain marks, is known to have lost a half a mile in breadth in the course of eighty or ninety years. Large stones of granite, which have fallen from the upland, as it has been broken down, lie on the strand: one in particular, weighing about a hundred tons, is remembered by persons now living to have descended from the summit of the cliff. A tawny coloured stone, which is also seen at Gay Head, is observed here. On the strand there are rocks of pudding stone, and many pebbles made smooth by the rolling of the surf. Marine shells and the teeth of fish have frequently been taken from the cliff, ten or fifteen feet below the summit.

The beach or isthmus, which leads to Gay Head, has the sea on the left hand, and Stone Wall Pond, which is connected with Menemsha Pond, on the right. The shore here turns to the south, extends to Squipnocket Point, is composed of sandy cliffs, and is about fifty feet high. This bending of the land forms Squipnocket Bite, in which vessels may anchor, on a muddy bottom, half a mile from the shore, in a north-west wind, which blows directly into

Menemsha Bite, on the other side of the peninsula. At Squipnocket Point are clayey cliffs, which contain a large proportion of red ochre. Thence to Gay Head the shore is a sandy beach; and its direction west of north. There is a large pond within the peninsula, called Squipnocket Pond, which is close to the ocean, from which it is separated only by a narrow beach. By means of an artificial canal, lately dug by the Indians, for the purpose of admitting alewives to pass into Squipnocket, it is made to communicate with Menemsha Pond.

Gay Head, the north west point of the peninsula, is about a hundred and fifty feet high. A light house, which stands on it, elevates a light fifty feet more above the level of the sea. It is attended by a faithful man; but it affords a dim light only; the cause of which is, that the lantern is too small. The mother of the keeper of this light-house, Mrs. Remember Skiff, aged ninety-three, is the oldest person on the island. She is cheerful and affable; and retains her sight, hearing, and memory. During the past twelve months, she has knit above fifty pair of stockings.* At Gay Head is the Devil's Den; which, notwithstanding the terrour of its name, has nothing formidable in its appearance. It is a depression in the hill, in the form of a bowl, except that it is open on the side that is toward the sea, through which it is not difficult to descend to the strand. If it was on the top of a mountain, it might be called a crater. In this cavity, according to an Indian fable, many years before the English came to Martha's Vineyard, a giant, or tutelary deity, named Maushop, resided. Here he broiled the whale on a fire made of the largest trees, which he pulled up by the roots. Though a malignant spirit has now taken possession of his den, yet the first occupier was a benevolent being, and he kindly supplied the Indians with whales and other fish. After separating Noman's Land from Gay Head, metamorphosing his children into fishes, and throwing his wife on Saconet Point, where she still remains a mishapen rock, he went away nobody knew whither.† Perhaps the report, that volcanick flames have been seen to ascend from the Devil's Den, is as fabulous as the story of Maushop. This at least is true, that they have never been observed by the intelligent inhabitants; who wonder that learned men, who have visited the island, should so

*She was alive in December, 1814.

†See Memoirs of Am. Acad. II. 133, and Coll. of Hist. Soc. I. 139. 1st Ser.

easily be imposed upon by the credulous vulgar.

On both sides of the Den, the cliff is composed of clay and other substances, red, yellow, blue, indigo, black, and white; and to those who are on board a vessel, sailing along the shore, especially soon after a rain, and when the sun shines on it, it is a brilliant and beautiful object: Hence is derived the name of Gay Head. The red clay is denominated red ochre; but it is a pigment of an inferior quality, and does not adhere well to the wood on which it is laid. The yellow part of the cliff is partly sand, partly clay covered with efflorescences of copperas, and a small part yellow ochre. The indigo portion is mixed with a black substance, which looks like coal, but which is scarcely combustible. In many pieces the fibres of wood can plainly be discerned; and what may be called large sticks, covered with a coat which resembles bark, have sometimes been taken out of the cliff. Sometimes the black substance is a complete petrification, but still retains the shape of a piece of wood. Neither the blue nor the white clay predominate; but the latter, which is the most valuable article that the cliff affords, may be obtained in sufficient quantities. It is excellent for hearths and backs of furnaces, for moulds of cannon, and for refining sugar; and it is sent to Taunton, Boston, and other places. Stones impregnated with iron are found among the clay, and are scattered along the beach. Here and there pyrites may be obtained; and the two shells of the poquau (*venus mercenaria*) petrified and adhering together, with the hinge complete in its characteristic marks, have been dug out from among the clay, many feet below the summit of the cliff. As the parts of the cliff are continually breaking to pieces, falling down, and washing into the sea, the appearances of it are perpetually varying. Several very small rills run down the cliff; and a well, which is dug on the side of the bank, and a little below the summit, affords water which has an aluminous taste. Large rocks of granite are on the shore, under the cliff; there are a few small stones of slate; and a few of quartz. Beside which there are two sorts of stone on the shore, one of a tawny, and the other of a dull reddish colour, both of which are indurated clay.

From the light house the shore tends east, a little southerly, to Wawaytick Creek, which runs from Menemsha Pond; whence the shore tends north-east. This bending of the land forms Menemsha Bite, where there is good anchorage, when the wind is

from W. by S. to E. by N. a half a mile from the shore, on a muddy bottom. From the light house to the creek the shore is a sandy beach. Menemsha Pond separates the peninsula of Gay Head from the rest of Chilmark.

The shore between Wawaytick Creek and Lumbert's Cove consists of clayey cliffs, intermixed with sandy cliffs. Large stones or rocks are in the cliffs: many have fallen down, and lie along the shore; and render a landing in several places impracticable. The cliffs of clay are broken into rude forms; but deep gullies, and sharp ridges, compose their general features. Wind, rain, and the dashing of the sea are gradually causing them to assume new appearances. In one instance a change suddenly took place. About ten years ago, a piece of ground, above an acre in extent, and near a cliff, sunk in a moment to the perpendicular depth of more than seventy feet. It went down with a noise resembling that of an earthquake; but was seen by no one, as it happened during the night. At the same time a part of the beach, at the boundary of high water, rose to the height of twenty feet, and composed a mingled mass of sand, clay, and stones. Several years before the land sunk, cracks were observed in the ground, about ten rods off. As the land there is high, the sunken place still remained about ten feet above the strand. Between it and the ground which was raised, was a narrow passage or alley, which preserved the usual sandy appearance of the beach. This place is near Roaring Brook, somewhat more than two miles N. N. W. from Chilmark meeting house. In the course of ten years, the raised spot has been entirely washed away by the sea, and the sunken place is much altered in its form.

The shore curves between Paul's Point and Konickey Cliff, and forms Lumbert's Cove; which is well sheltered against every wind, except those which blow from W. S. W. to N. N. E. The Middle Ground, a shoal in the Vineyard Sound, at no great distance from the shore, somewhat breaks the force of the northerly winds. Vessels anchor from fifty rods to half a mile from the shore, in three, four, and five fathoms of water, on a sandy bottom, good holding ground. Great James Pond, a small pond, communicates with the cove. Konickey Cliff consists of clay; and there is found here the same kind of black substance,

which is seen at Gay Head. Several persons who have visited Martha's Vineyard suppose, that this substance indicates the vicinity of a coal mine; whilst others imagine that it is nothing but pieces of charcoal, made either by a volcano, or by Maushop, when he was cooking his whales. From Konickey Cliff, east, to the West Chop are beaches of sand. About half way between these two points is Tashmoo Pond, which runs directly from the shore, is three quarters of a mile wide on the Sound, from which it is separated by a beach, and two miles long. It terminates in a point south, and by an artificial creek, called Chappaquonset, discharges itself into the Sound.

We have now completed the circuit of Martha's Vineyard. The shoals by which the island is surrounded, we shall not, as we have not sufficient information on the subject, undertake to describe. It is well known to seamen, that they are numerous and dangerous. Of the direction of the tides it may be proper to say a word. The flood tide makes up between Gay Head and the Elizabeth Islands, and sets to the eastward. The same flood tide makes up between Muskeget Island and Cape Poge, is very rapid, and sets to the eastward. The flood tide continues on northward and eastward to Massachusetts Bay. The ebb tide, of course, sets the contrary way. At Point Judith, the flood tide sets to the westward, through Long Island Sound.

Beside the lagunes and ponds near the sea, of which an account has been given above, there are a few small ponds at a distance from the shore. One of them, near the boundary line between Tisbury and Chilmark, in the north-east corner of the latter township, covering about an acre of ground, and situate on land seventy feet above high water, is so deep, that its bottom has not yet been found. Another pond of fresh water in Edgartown, near the Tisbury line, is on land about a hundred and twenty feet in height. It is about twenty rods long, eight or nine wide, and five feet deep. It has never been known to be dry; and as there is no water either salt or fresh within about four miles of it, it seems to be placed here by a benevolent Providence for the refreshment of the thirsty animals, by which it is surrounded. Attempts have been made to sink a well near it, but without success. Of this pond a marvellous story is told, that in a wet summer it is two feet lower

than in a dry summer, and that the remarkable fact has been confirmed by the observation of more than a hundred years. But after careful inquiry, the author has reason to believe that this is a fabulous story. Those, who during a hundred years have conveyed it from one mouth to another, have probably been too much pleased with the wonderful tale, to give themselves the trouble to examine into its truth. But a physician of the island, who, in the exercise of the duties of his profession, has had frequent occasion to pass by the pond, assured the author, that this pond was like other ponds, that its water was lowest in a dry season, and highest after copious rains.

Martha's Vineyard is well supplied with ponds; but brooks are few in number. In Edgartown there are none; and not many in Chilmark. The largest brooks are in Tisbury: one runs from the north-west; another from the west; and both empty themselves into Newtown Pond, their mouths being not more than a hundred rods apart. A small brook discharges itself into Lumbert's Cove.

Swamps are more numerous; but they are chiefly found in the western part of the island, there being not many in Edgartown and Tisbury. None of the swamps in Chilmark are large. Several of them have been cleared, and converted into fresh meadows; but the greatest part of them are filled with bushes and small trees. Some of them have springs of good water, a few of which give rise to brooks; and others of them contain peat; which, as wood has grown scarce, begins to be much used.

The wells in the eastern and middle parts of the island are not deep, the water in them being on a level with the sea. In Tisbury they are from fifteen to twenty feet in depth. With a few exceptions, the water in them is soft and of a good quality, and will wash as well as rain water. About a mile from the village of Old Town there is a tract of ground, a mile in width, on both sides of a large swamp, where the water is hard. The water of many of the wells at Holmes's Hole is also hard, as they contain iron ore. The sandy beaches in every part of the island abound with fresh water, which can be obtained by digging a few feet.

The air is somewhat warmer, but more disagreeable, during the winter, than in Boston. Boisterous winds are frequent; and rain

more common than snow: there are not at this season six snows, which do not terminate in rain. The summer heat is more temperate: there are warm days, but few hot nights. The hottest part of the day is generally from nine to eleven in the morning, when there is less wind than in the afternoon: the sea breezes, which commonly spring up about eleven, cool the air. Fogs are frequent, but not unwholesome. The air, especially in the summer, and when the wind is south, is moist. Table salt can with difficulty be preserved in a dry state.

The greatest part of Martha's Vineyard is low and level land. Round Old Town Harbour there are a few elevated spots, which rise forty or fifty feet above the sea; and the land, where the above mentioned small pond is placed, is supposed to be a hundred and twenty feet in height. A plain extends from Starbuck's Neck eight miles, two miles of which are in Tisbury, and is from five to six miles wide, and about ten feet above the level of the sea. This plain comprehends the greatest part of Edgartown. The level land continues through the eastern and southern parts of Tisbury and Chilmark, with here and there a small elevation and depression. Round Holmes's Hole the land has the appearance of hills of a moderate elevation. From their summits the land subsides a little, and continues a plain to Edgartown and Tisbury. The hills, which form the high land of the island, begin a mile north-east of Lumbert's Cove, where they are three quarters of a mile wide; run in a chain parallel with the Sound; rise to the height of two hundred and fifty feet, and expand to the breadth of two or three miles; as the island becomes narrower, stretch across it to the south shore; are interrupted by Menemsha and Stone Wall Ponds; and terminate in Gay Head. These are the only hills which deserve the name: they are the back bone of the island, clayey and stony. The northwestern and western parts of Tisbury, and the northern and western parts of Chilmark are on this high land. Many of these hills afford an extensive prospect of the ocean, the Sound, the Elizabeth Islands, the shore of Falmouth, and the country beyond the islands. The scene is enlivened by vessels, which are continually passing. There are several pleasant vallies between the hills; and some of them in Chilmark, about a mile and two miles from the Sound, afford iron ore, near runs of

water and swamps.* It sells for ten or eleven shillings a ton on the Sound; and considerable quantities of it have been exported to the forges on the Main, where it is esteemed, when it is mixed with other ores. The stones and rocks, which lie on these hills, are granite; many of them are large; and some of them, of singular shapes. Several, in Chilmark, at a distance, might be mistaken for houses. One has a roof like a barn; one is almost a perfect cone, and is called the Sugar Loaf; and others of a smaller size, but weighing several hundred pounds, are hollowed out in the form of a bowl. The author has seen two of these stones, which are used for troughs, the largest of which will hold six gallons: They are entirely the work of nature.

The soil of Martha's Vineyard is good or bad, nearly in proportion as the land approaches to, or is removed from the hills. The soil of Edgartown is not as good as that of Tisbury and Chilmark: it is sandy and dry, but not unfavourable to the growth of corn. The soil of Tisbury is in general a heavy, gravelly loam; a portion of it is sandy, and a smaller portion inclining to clay. More than one half of these two townships is covered with shrub oak and bitter oak, is of little or no value, and is not enclosed. The soil of Chilmark is clay intermixed with sand, the clay predominating. There are several spots which are sandy. Both the clayey and the sandy places are stony. The plain on the south side of the township is a loamy soil. These several soils in Chilmark were naturally good; but they have been much worn and abused by bad husbandry. Snow seldom lies long; but the ground is generally uncovered during the winter. The violent winds, which so generally prevail here, blow away the soil, which has been loosened by alternate frosts and thaws, till at length it is carried into the sea. Gay Head, which is reserved to the Indians, contains the best land on the island.

The land produces, without manure, ten or twelve bushels of Indian corn to an acre, in Edgartown and Tisbury, and from twelve to fifteen bushels, in Chilmark; and from three to six bushels of rye to an acre, in the two former of these places, and from five to eight, in the latter. Corn is commonly raised without manure in Edgartown and Chilmark; but manure is generally

*See Coll. of Hist. Soc. IX. 257.

used in Tisbury. When the ground is manured in Tisbury, it produces from fifteen to twenty bushels of Indian corn, and about seven bushels of rye to an acre. In Chilmark, land which is manured will yield from twenty to twenty-five bushels of Indian corn to an acre, and from ten to twelve bushels of rye. Sufficient of these two grains are grown for the consumption of the inhabitants; and some Indian corn for exportation. Some of the land is favourable to oats and barley: they are not however raised in any considerable quantities, though even in Edgartown an acre yields from fifteen to twenty bushels. Little or no wheat is grown. Indian corn weighs about fifty-six pounds to a bushel. The land is generally horse-hoed with a harrow, not with a plough. Garden vegetables and potatoes are raised sufficient for the consumption of the inhabitants. The land is manured for potatoes; and the produce is forty or fifty bushels to an acre. Seaweed has of late been much used: it is laid on the potatoes, and covered with earth. The land is made to yield great quantities of pumpkins, which are green, thick shelled, and of a good taste.

There is more grass land in Chilmark than in the other two townships. Upland English mowing, in this place, yields about eighteen hundred to an acre; the salt marsh, a ton; and the black grass marsh, a ton and a half. This black grass is frequently overflowed by the water of the ponds, which it surrounds, and much injured. For the sake of drawing off the water, a passage from them into the sea is opened during the summer; but it is liable to be shut again with the first southerly gale. Another kind of grass, called creek stuff, grows on the borders of the ponds, and the greatest part of it in the water. It is a coarse sedge, and is worth about one third of English hay.—In Tisbury there are no upland English meadows, except those which are made by manure: they are of small extent, and produce about a ton to an acre. Bordering on the small rivers and brooks, which run into Newtown Pond, there are about seventy or eighty acres of fresh meadow, which affords hay of a better quality than common fresh meadow hay: the produce is about a ton and an half to an acre. There is very little salt marsh, creek stuff, or black grass, within the limits of the township.—In Edgartown there are about a hundred and forty acres of English mowing land; a hundred and thirty, of fresh meadow; and a hundred and seventy, of salt marsh. Very little

of the English mowing land deserves the name, the greatest part of it being strips of land on the borders of the salt marsh, between it and the upland. It produces a fine grass, resembling spear-grass, and from a ton to a ton and a half to an acre. The proper English upland mowing ground yields about fifteen hundred to an acre. The fresh meadow is on the borders of the ponds, is of a good quality, and produces about a ton to an acre. The salt marsh yields not more than a ton to an acre; and much of it, not more than five hundred: the grass is short sedge, and is of a good quality. Some of the marshes of late have produced black grass, and yield a great burden.—The best hay of the island is of an excellent quality; and affords more nutriment, than hay which grows at a greater distance from the sea.—Not much butter and cheese are made in Edgartown and Tisbury: in Chilmark there is a greater quantity; but of the former, not more than two thirds; and of the latter, not more than one quarter, sufficient for the consumption of the inhabitants.

Flax is grown in Chilmark, formerly enough for the use of the inhabitants; but at present not enough. A black speck has lately been seen on it, which kills the bark, and greatly injures the flax. Less flax is raised in Tisbury, and still less in Edgartown.

There are on the island several small orchards, the greatest part of which are in Tisbury. They afford apples sufficient for the use of the inhabitants, both in summer and in winter; but very little cider is made. The price of a bushel is from twenty-five to fifty cents. The most common sorts are the greening and the pig-nose. The latter, which is peculiar to the island, somewhat resembles a Newtown pippin, but is smaller and of a better taste. It is eatable in September, and may be preserved till May. These orchards bear fruit, when the trees are very young and small. There is now in Tisbury an orchard, containing trees well filled with apples, which have been planted three years last spring, and were grafted the autumn preceding, when they were only two years old. On one of the trees, which is the most productive, the number of fair apples which remain,—for many have fallen off,—has been counted, and it is found to be a hundred and thirty-seven. The circumference of the tree in its trunk is four inches and a half; and its height four feet two inches.—The other fruit trees are the common

red cherry, which formerly produced fruit in plenty, but of late years the trees have become barren; and a few peach trees, which bear an autumn fruit of little value.

The wild fruits are wild cherries; beach plums, in plenty; gooseberries; grapes, in plenty; cranberries, abundant at Gay Head, and a few in other parts of the island; whortleberries, three species, and blackberries in plenty; a few raspberries and strawberries; hazle nuts; and bayberries, from which many pounds of wax are annually made. A great variety of plants, which may be used in medicine, are also to be found here.

Very little wood land is left in Edgartown and Chilmark. In Tisbury there is more than in both the other townships, about two thirds of the whole island. The trees are principally of white and black oak, and are about thirty feet high: few exceed fifty feet. In Chilmark there is not half fewel enough of wood for the consumption of the inhabitants; and in Edgartown the greatest part of the fire wood which is used is brought from other places, chiefly from Buzzard's Bay, Waquoit, and Coxit: the price of a cord is five or six dollars.

The roads of the island, except on or near the hills, where they are stony, are pretty good. One extends from Edgartown to within six miles of Gay Head. This road passes through Tisbury, from which there is a road to Holmes's Hole; and from this second road branches a third, which leads to Lumbert's Cove. There is a fourth road from Holmes's Hole to Edgartown. Many of the houses, particularly in Chilmark, have no roads leading to them. All the houses are within a mile or two of the sea coast: the internal parts of the island will probably always remain without inhabitants.—Where the land is enclosed, it is in the eastern part entirely fenced with posts and rails, which are chiefly brought from Buzzard's Bay. As many spots however are not worth enclosing, and are destitute of water, they are left in common. In the western part of the island, the land in general is fenced with stone walls. The stones are large, flat pieces of granite, and can be laid in such a manner, as to admit spaces between them; by which labour is saved.

Beside domestick animals, the quadrupeds which are found on Martha's Vineyard are these which follow: the skunk; the

musquash; the mink; four or five species of ground mice; the mole; the rabbit: four or five otters have been killed during the past ten years, and are supposed to have swum from the Elizabeth Islands across the Sound. There are no deer, foxes, nor squirrels.

Of amphibious reptiles there are the mud turtle and the various species of pond turtles.

There are also the toad, the tree toad, and the various species of frogs, except the bull-frog.

The only snakes found on the island are the black snake; the variety of striped snakes; the small green snake; the small black snake, with a white ring round his neck; the milk or house snake, speckled like a rattlesnake; all harmless.

The birds, which frequent this and the adjacent islands, are the crow; the hawk; the owl; the king bird; the swallow; the martin; five or six kinds of curlews; as many of plovers, some of which breed on these islands; the ground sparrow; the black bird; the bob o'lincoln; the lark; and other small birds, among which has been seen the humming-bird; the wood-pecker, two species, the red-headed, and the speckled or whaffer; the wood duck; the heath hen; both scarce; the whippoorwill; the heron; the black duck, of which many breed on these islands; the teal; the blue bill; the broad bill; the gray duck; the red-headed duck; the white-bellied duck; both excellent, very fat, and of a fine flavour, appear in spring and autumn, and are plenty; the whistler; the sheldrake; the wild goose; the brant; the shoal duck; the white winged coot; the little black coot; the old wife; the loon, of different species; the gull, in abundance. This is not a complete list of the birds; for many more might be enumerated, the names of which are unknown to the author.

Of insects and worms no exact account can be obtained; but they are supposed not to differ much from those on the Main. The sand flea is abundant on the beach: carcasses left there are soon devoured by them. Snails, the shells of which are about as large as a cent, are found in the woods. The same kind of locust, which has been observed in the woods of Sandwich and Falmouth, is also seen here; and it is said, appears regularly after an interval of fifteen years. There are found at sea the squid and

the man-of-war; the former excellent bait for bass; and the latter resembling a bladder, and when touched, blistering the hand.

Fishes on the coast, in the harbours, lagunes, and ponds, are numerous, and of many different sorts. But the whale, which was formerly so abundant on the coast, has almost disappeared, except the humpback and finback, which in the spring are frequently seen on the south of the island. Two have been taken during the course of the last twenty years. The porpoise is common, and frequently enters the harbours.—The shark of the different species, except the bone shark, is in abundance: many of them are caught for the sake of their livers; and during the past two years, their fins and tails have been dried in the sun for the China market, where they bring a good price. The sturgeon is sometimes caught, and principally in Cape Poge Pond. The dogfish is abundant. The sting-ray, the skaite, and the goose fish, or monk, or fishing frog, are common.—The puff fish, or swell fish, or bellows fish, is a cartilaginous fish. It is seven inches long; and when it is swimming and in no apprehension of danger, its proportions are those of a sculpion nearly. The skin is thick, and is armed with spines, a quarter of a line in length, and half of a line apart. The back is of a tawny colour; and toward the tail there are several slate coloured spots: the belly is white. It has breathing holes, but no gills. Its mouth is two lines wide; and has two teeth above, and two below. The eyes are large, and of a beautiful green: there is a fin behind each of them. It has a dorsal fin, near the insertion of the tail, and a very small anal fin: the tail is not forked. When an enemy approaches, it swells into the form of an oblate spheroid, its diameter being equal to twice its length. This swelling takes place in the under part of the fish; for there is a thin membrane inside of the skin of the belly; and another membrane separates the body and entrails of the fish from a bag which extends from the mouth to the tail. This bag has a communication with the mouth, through which water or air is pumped in; and a valve under the tongue opens and shuts at the pleasure of the fish, and when shut, prevents it from passing out. When the fish is in its natural element, it pumps in water: it keeps in the harbours; and when it is swollen, it is too large to be swallowed by the small fish which usually frequent them. It can thus escape its foes in the water;

but it cannot preserve itself from its foes on the land. Its most cruel enemies are boys, who frequently catch it, and make it swell for their diversion. They scratch it on the belly; it pumps in air, and swells immediately; they strike it violently with a club or stone, when it bursts like a bladder, with a noise as loud as the report of a pistol.—The pig-fish is of the size and form of a sculpion, but with a head not so large and bony. The grunter is of the same size: when it is taken out of the water, it makes a noise like the grunting of a hog, and soon dies.—There are two species of eels; one of which is called the silver eel. This fish is not slimy. If it is caught and laid in the sand, it soon buries itself in it, and finds its way to the water; and it is supposed that it penetrates the narrow beaches, which separate the ponds from the sea, and of which several are not more than fifty feet wide. It is fat, and is esteemed as good as the common eel: by means of pots it is taken in the ponds in October and November, and at no other time. The common eel is very abundant in all the harbours, lagunes, and ponds: fifteen barrels, when they are running from Old Town Harbour into a pond communicating with it, are taken with a net, in one night. The sea bass is caught in every season except winter. The common bass is obtained through the whole year: it is found not only in the sea, but also in the lagunes, especially in the winter. Cod and haddock are caught in the spring: the first is good; but the last is poor and small, not weighing more than from a pound and a half to four pounds. The rock cod is taken in autumn: the hake, in spring. The halibut, very large and fat, and much better than in Boston Bay, is caught only in the spring, from the first of April to the middle of May. The pollock, which is not plenty, is taken only in the spring. The mackerel passes the Sound in the spring, but does not come near Martha's Vineyard, and returns to the southward on the east side of Nantucket. The herring enters the harbours in the autumn and winter; but has not been much attended to: this fishery might probably become a source of profit. The alewife enters Old Town Great Pond by an artificial canal, which it is necessary to clear out every year: it runs up and spawns during the night. A thousand barrels, computing six hundred fish to a barrel, are every year taken in this canal, and when pickled, sell for three or four thousand dollars. From three to five hundred

barrels are annually caught in Newtown Pond; a few are taken in a creek, which runs into Lumbert's Cove; and still more at Chappaquonset. Chilmark Great Pond might also afford a profitable fishery of alewives, if a communication was opened from it into the sea; but it has not yet received much attention. The pond perch is small and lean. The sea perch is very large and excellent: it is caught in the spring. The smelt is taken at the same season. The but or plaice, which has its mouth on the same side as the halibut, is caught during the whole year. The tom cod does not appear here; but the flounder is known. The black fish, called the crow fish at Nantucket, is caught in the Sound and harbours in May and June. The skapaug in shape somewhat resembles the roach: it has a fin behind each gill, two ventral fins, the anal fin extending some length, the dorsal fin running nearly the whole length of the back, the tail forked: it is taken in the harbours and Sound from May to September. The tataug is taken in the harbours and lagunes, in spring and summer: it is not plenty. The cunner, called the perch in Boston Harbour, is taken in spring and summer. The mumchimmee, a small fish, four or five inches long, resembling an eel in shape, is caught in summer. The squittee, or drummer, is taken in the Sound, but principally in the harbours and lagunes, in summer. The manhadon is caught, with seines only, in summer and autumn. Beside which there are the bill fish and the gar; the latter opening a small mouth; the former opening its mouth like a snipe; being in other respects like each other.

Of shell fish, lobsters are caught only in Old Town Harbour, near the wharves, and are very scarce. There is the large crab, called here the blue claw. The king crab is in plenty. Small crabs are in abundance, particularly the sidling crab, five or six thousand of which are frequently seen together.

The oyster is found in Newtown Pond, and in two other ponds on the south shore, one of which is in Edgartown, and the other in Tisbury. It is fresh to the taste; but it is improved in its relish and rendered fatter, by digging a canal through the beach, and letting the salt water flow into the fresh water ponds. As the southerly winds soon fill up the canal, the digging must be renewed four or five times in a year. The poquau* is found in Old Town Harbour,

* Called the quahaug in the county of Barnstable.

at Cape Poge, and in Menemsha Pond: great quantities are exported. It is taken up with iron rakes in deep water; and in shallow water it is picked up by the hand. The siki, or common clam, is found on the borders of the lagunes and in several other parts of the island. It attains its full size in two years. Much examination has convinced us, that it has not the power of locomotion; but the poquau is able to cover itself with sand, and to move itself forward, though very slowly. Two thousand dollars worth of clams, at nine dollars a barrel, have been sold in Edgartown in the present year. They also begin to be taken at Menemsha Pond, and we believe in other places, and sold for bait. The razor shell and the muscle are scarce. The small scallop is in great abundance. The small scallop is able to move itself upwards to the surface of the water; this motion is effected by opening and shutting the shells alternately.—The periwinkle is univalve and spiral, and grows to the size of seven or eight inches in length. It lies in sand or gravel, which is intermixed with mud. At the opening of the spiral shell, there is a flat, oval shell, which the worm has the power of projecting forwards and drawing inwards, by moving the muscles which adhere to it. By this means it is capable of advancing forwards with a slow motion. The Author of nature makes a wonderful and copious provision for the propagation of this worm. Its spawn is a yard in length, or more, and consists of little cists or cases, covered with a skin resembling parchment, of the form of somewhat more than a half circle. The cists are nearly flat, are three quarters of an inch in diameter, lie one above another, their flat surfaces being a line apart, and are connected by a string, which touches the chord, or their straight side. Each cist contains about twenty spawns or eggs, and there are fifty or more in a string; so that each worm spawns at least a thousand eggs. It fixes one end of the string in the mud, throws out the spawns, and leaves the other end to float in the water. The cist at first contains a viscous liquor with some dark specks; but the shells soon begin to be formed in it: here they grow one year; at the end of which the cist opens, and they fall into the mud. Storms and other accidents break off and destroy the greatest part of the cists; so that very few of the eggs, perhaps not one in five hundred, attains the perfect state of the animal. The periwinkle is sometimes eaten; but it has a strong, sweetish,

and disagreeable taste.—There are beside these testaceous worms, the sweet meat, or half-deck, and several others, the names of which are unknown.

It is not easy to obtain an exact account of the number of domestick animals. Valuations, it is true, are often made; but these, it is well known, are always short of the truth. On Martha's Vineyard, including those on Chappaquiddick, the horses and colts have been estimated at four hundred; the neat cattle, one year old and upwards, at twenty-eight hundred; and the swine, at eight hundred. Six hundred animals of the beef kind, part of which is sent to market, some of it to Nantucket, are perhaps killed every year. Many goats were formerly kept on the island; but they were of little profit to their owners, and have been greatly injurious to the present generation, by preventing the growth of trees on that vast plain of bitter oaks, which lies between Edgartown and Tisbury. These mischievous animals are still to be found in the same places, but their number is unknown. Of the number of sheep there are different estimates. One man raises it as high as twenty thousand; another supposes it to be half that number; whilst another says, that it does not exceed nine thousand. The following data will enable us to approach near the truth. Eleven thousand seven hundred pounds of wool have this year been purchased for exportation; the same number of pounds are annually manufactured into stockings, mittens, and cloths, chiefly flannels and blankets; making in the whole twenty-three thousand four hundred pounds. The sheep, one with another yield a pound and a half of wool annually: there must be then fifteen thousand six hundred sheep. The number of pairs of stockings knit for sale by the women of the island, in a year, are about fifteen thousand; of mittens, three thousand; and of wigs for seamen, six hundred. The stockings, which bring fifty cents a pair, and the mittens, one third of that sum, are sold to the traders on the island, and in New-Bedford, and paid for in goods. A pound of wool makes two pair of stockings. The wool, which is not manufactured, is principally purchased by persons who come for it from Connecticut, and who also carry away poquaus and dry fish: they pay for it about thirty cents a pound. The sheep run at large during the whole year, chiefly on the commons:

many hundred of them perish miserably by the famine and cold of winter. When it is killed and dressed, a sheep weighs from thirty to forty pounds: the tallow weighs from four to six pounds: the mutton is very sweet and tender. Few lambs are killed, but many sheep; about a thousand of which are sent from the county, including the Elizabeth Islands and Noman's Land, in the course of a year, principally in the autumn, to Nantucket and other places.

To prepare the wool for the manufacturers there is in Chilmark a carding machine, at which five thousand pounds are carded annually. Connected with it is a fulling mill, at which, in the year 1805, three thousand two hundred yards of cloth were pressed. In the year 1790, above four thousand yards were dressed at the same mill. There is in Tisbury another mill, at which about seven or eight hundred yards are dressed in a year.

Beside these mills there are, for the grinding of corn, four windmills in Edgartown, one of them on Chappaquiddick; one windmill and three watermills, in Tisbury; and five watermills, in Chilmark. These watermills are very small, and grind only two or three bushels of corn in a day.

Next in importance to the manufacture of wool is that of salt. There are in Edgartown three sets of salt works, containing twenty-seven hundred feet; and in Tisbury, five sets, containing eight thousand nine hundred feet. This manufacture is increasing, and probably in three or four years there will be more than double the present number of feet.

The other manufactures are not of much importance. There are tanners, sadlers, and hatters, a few; and mechanicks, as many as are necessary. The rest of the inhabitants are either seamen or farmers. In Edgartown the young and middle aged men are seamen, and are employed in fishing and foreign voyages; and sail principally from other ports. The elderly men are employed in cultivating the land. The same thing may be said of Holmes's Hole. But in other parts of Tisbury and in Chilmark, though several of the young and middle aged men go to sea, yet a majority of the inhabitants obtain their subsistence from tilling the soil.

The diet of the inhabitants is simple and not expensive. They eat fresh meat, when they kill sheep in autumn, and more

frequently in the villages of Old Town and Holmes's Hole, than in other parts of the island; salt beef and pork is their food a great part of the year. Fish is more common at the two villages, than in the south part of Tisbury and in Chilmark; but it is too cheap to be highly prized, and is not as much eaten as might be expected. It is not unusual for a dinner to be without either meat or fish, except perhaps an alewife or a salted cod. Beer and cider are scarcely known: the common drink is water, or tea or coffee, which constitute a part of the dinner in seven eighths of the families on the island. Molasses and water, especially when a little ginger is put into it, is a beverage which is highly valued: spirits and water are given as a treat: wind is seldom seen. The entertainment, to which company is invited, is tea in the afternoon, when bread and butter, pies, cakes, and in particular gingerbread, are presented.

The inhabitants are frugal, but not inhospitable. Strangers are treated by them with attention and kindness. Among other virtues which may be observed in them, the people, and in particular the women, are remarkable for their industry. As to religion, the majority of the inhabitants are Congregationalists. They were almost universally so, a few years ago; and the people lived on the most friendly and respectful terms with their ministers, whom they venerated and loved as fathers. But a party spirit and angry divisions now disturb the peace of several parts of the island. As however these unhappy effects have proceeded in part from good, or at least from innocent, causes, such as the love of what is believed to be truth, ardent zeal in what is thought to be evangelical religion, and a desire of making proselytes, it is to be hoped that they will in time subside; and that to union of sentiment, a valuable blessing it must be confessed, but which it is in vain to expect long in a free country, will succeed a virtue still more valuable, christian candour. These divisions were occasioned by the introduction of the Baptists, who were a very small number before 1803: but in that year they began to increase, and in 1805 they were incorporated into a religious society.

The evil resulting from a discordance of sentiment is the more sensibly felt; because the towns are not large, and even if all the inhabitants of each one were united in opinion, would not be more than competent to the support of a single pastor. For the

evil in this view of it, we have not reason to think that there will soon be any remedy; because the number of families in the county appears to be decreasing: in 1790 it was five hundred and fifty-eight; but in 1800, only five hundred and thirty-three. There has been, it is true, a small increase since 1800; but a war, or any similar calamity, would soon lessen the population again. The following Table exhibits the number of Houses, Families, and Religious Denominations in each town, as obtained by an exact enumeration, which has been made in the present month of August, 1807.

	No. of Houses	No. of Families	Congregation- alists	Bap- tists	
Edgartown including Chappaquiddick	185	193	174	18	1 Quaker
Tisbury	193	219	162	55	1 Quaker 1 Rom. Cath.
Chilmark	89	102	92	6	4 Methodists
Elizabeth Islands	18	19			
Noman's Land	2	2			
Total	487	535	428	79	7

Note, the inhabitants of the Elizabeth Islands and Noman's Land are at too great a distance to attend publick worship at Martha's Vineyard; for which reason the number of their Religious Denominations is not put into the Table.

This want of increase in the population of Martha's Vineyard is owing in part to the hazardous nature of the employments, in which some of the people are engaged; but still more to the frequent emigrations, which are made from the island. The climate is judged by those, who have had the longest experience of it, to be not unfavourable to health and longevity. The most fatal disease is, as in other parts of New England, the consumption. Other prevalent diseases are the dropsy, rheumatism, nervous and hypochondriack disorders. Fevers, the dysentery, and gout are not common. Many of the inhabitants live to old age, and

preserve their vigour to the last. Some of these observations will be confirmed by the following Results of Tables kept in Edgartown and Chilmark.

Died in Edgartown from Jan. 1st 1761, to Dec. 31st. 1786.

Under 1 year	79
Between 1 and 5	50
5	10
10	20
20	30
30	40
40	50
50	60
60	70
70 and upwards	59

307 Total.

Fifty-six persons, not included in the above, either drowned at home, lost at sea, or destroyed by casualties on board vessels: three perished by other accidents. Beside whom, in the years 1779 and 1780, a large number were lost at sea, or died in prison ships.

Died in Edgartown from Jan. 1st. 1785, to Dec. 31st. 1806.

Under 1 year	35 males.	26 females.	61 total
Between 1 and 10	11	11	22
10	20	2	14
20	30	5	24
30	40	6	7
40	50	6	8
50	60	9	10
60	70	7	15
70	80	16	17
80	90	14	16
90	100	2	3
		113 +	151 = 264

Forty-five males, not included in the above, died of malignant fevers abroad; thirty-five were either drowned at home, or lost at sea; and one was burnt to death: total eighty-one males, who were

all, except four or five, under thirty years of age. Of the females, who died between the ages of ten and thirty, the greatest number perished by consumptions. Not one young man has died of this disease since the year 1785. The annual number of births, during the past twenty years, has been about thirty-three. The whole number of marriages in twenty-six years and a half is two hundred and forty one: one third of the marriages of the women, during this period, have been with men who were not inhabitants of the town.

Died in Chilmark from Jan. 1st. 1788, to Dec. 31st. 1806.

Under	1 year	28
Between	1 and 5	6
	5 10	0
	10 15	3
	15 20	13
	20 30	9
	30 40	9
	40 50	9
	50 60	14
	60 70	13
	70 80	10
	80 90	21
	90 100	4

139 total, of whom

77 were males, and 62 females. Of the diseases, which were the causes of the deaths, 26 were consumptions; 4, pleurisy; 3, dropsy; 2, apoplexy; 2, palsy; 5, dysentery; 5, bilious fevers; 2, yellow fever; 1, atrophy; 1, mortification in the bowels; 1, diabetes: the rest are unknown. Beside the above, fifteen young men were lost at sea, or died abroad of contagious diseases. The number of births, during this period of nineteen years, is 152 males, 150 females, 29 sex unknown; total 331. The number of marriages during the same period, is 88. 49 of the married couples have removed from the town. Of the children, born within this period, 50 have died, and 99 removed from the town. About 80 other persons have also migrated from the town, and about 20 come in to it.

As Martha's Vineyard receives not many accessions of inhabitants from abroad, the names of its families, which have sprung from the original settlers of the island, are few in number. Thirty-two names comprehend three quarters of the population. The following Table exhibits these names, and the number of families belonging to each.

<i>Names</i>	<i>No. of Fam.</i>	<i>Names</i>	<i>No. of Fam.</i>	<i>Names</i>	<i>No. of Fam.</i>
Luce	41	Fish	13	Merchant	7
Norton	33	Coffin	11	Lumbert	6
Mayhew	24	Cleavland	10	Crosby	5
Smith	23	Cottle	10	Gray	5
Allen	19	Hillman	10	Stewart	5
Pease	19	Look	10	West	5
Tilton	19	Vincent	10	Worth	5
Butler	16	Manter	9	Adams	4
Dagget	14	Merry	8	Hancock	4
Dunham	14	Chase	7	Wicks	4
Athearn	13	Davis	7		

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Of these names the most distinguished is Mayhew. Thomas Mayhew, the founder of the family, deserves to be ranked with Bradford, Winthrop, and the other worthies, who established or governed the first English colonies in North America. The little band of adventurers, whom he boldly placed on an island, amidst numerous bodies of savages, have not become a large and flourishing people; his fame consequently is less; but his toils, his zeal, his courage were equally great. In prudence and benevolence he stands pre-eminent. Whilst on his part he abstained from all acts of violence and fraud against the Indians, he gained such an ascendancy over their minds, that they on their part never did him or his people the least injury, or joined in any of the wars, which their countrymen on the main land waged against the English. He seemed to come among them, not like a robber to dispossess them of their lands, not like a conqueror to reduce them to slavery, but like a father to impart to them the comforts of civilized life, and the blessings of the gospel of peace. Perhaps he had little success in this benevolent attempt: but his merit is the same; nor is he to be censured as extravagant for an undertaking, which the experience of almost two centuries has hardly

yet convinced his successors is fruitless.—His son, Thomas Mayhew junior, was a young gentlemen of liberal education, a good classical scholar, and eminent for his talents and knowledge. He was the first person who undertook to convert the Indians to the christian religion. In this pious work he laboured diligently a number of years; but in 1657 he was lost at sea, when he was only in the thirty-seventh year of his age. The writers of that period speak of him with great respect, and lament his death as a publick calamity.—Thomas Mayhew junior left three sons, Matthew, Thomas, and John. Matthew, the eldest, upon his grandfather, the governour's death, in the year 1681, succeeded him in his civil and military honours. In 1694, he published a small book, entitled *A Brief Narrative of the success which the Gospel hath had among the Indians of Martha's Vineyard, &c.* This work, which was written in the age of the Mathers, has much of the spirit of credulity, for which that renowned family was so remarkable. It contains however several facts; and those parts of it, which are fictitious, are at least amusing. The following extract is given as a specimen. "I can also inform of an Indian powaw, who, although he was not accounted religious, yet said he was a christian; who being questioned by some English of such matters reported of him, acknowledged, that designing to kill by witchcraft a certain Indian, who accidentally lodged in the house with him and his brother, while he went out to enchant a hair, his brother, who before lay from, now contrary to his knowledge lay next to, the fire, it being their then custom to lie bareback to the fire; he, when he came in nothing doubting but that it was his enemy, directed the enchanted hair to the back of his supposed enemy, which immediately entering his body, killed him; but in the morning it proved to be his brother. The thing was well known; and this powaw seemed with great remorse and sorrow to acknowledge the same to such of our English, who inquired of him concerning that matter."* This Matthew Mayhew, who was a preacher to the Indians† as well as a magistrate, died in 1710.‡ Thomas, his brother, was one of the justices of the court of common pleas, and died at Martha's Vineyard in the year 1715.§—John, the youngest brother, applied himself entirely to the work of the

* Matth. Mayhew's Narr. 44

† Gookin. Hist. Coll. IX. 4.

‡ Prince's Account of English Ministers. p. 302.

ministry. He was a man of great prudence and an excellent understanding; and he preached not only to the English at Tisbury, but to the Indians in various parts of the island. After labouring among them fifteen years, he died Feb. 3d. 1689, in the thirty-seventh year of his age.¶ —Experience Mayhew, son of John, in the year 1694, began to preach to the Indians. He was a man of superiour endowments of mind; and was so perfectly acquainted with the Indian language, that he was employed by the commissioners of the society for the propagation of the Gospel, to make a new version of the Psalms and the Gospel of John: he executed the work in collateral columns, English and Indian, with great accuracy, in 1709.¶ In 1727 he published his *Indian Converts*; to which is added some Account of English Ministers on Martha's Vineyard, by Mr. Prince. The *Indian Converts* is a well-written and entertaining book; but to those who are acquainted with the present state of morals and religion among the Indians on the island, or who remember what they have been during the past fifty years, it will appear a strange work; and they will think that the author is either describing the natives of some other place, or that the character of their own Indians has entirely changed since the days of their fathers. Accordingly the *Indian Converts* is by several inhabitants of Martha's Vineyard viewed, not as a piece of history, but as a work of the imagination. One gentlemen, great grandson of Matthew Mayhew mentioned above, and who is esteemed for his intelligence and candour, speaks of it in these terms: "Experience Mayhew's *Indian Converts* gained him considerable celebrity abroad; but [the accounts contained in it] were considered by his cotemporaries on the Vineyard as greatly exaggerated." But in vindication of the book and character of Mr. Mayhew it may be alleged, that he himself makes the highest claims to veracity. "The first thing I shall assert, says he in his preface, is my own fidelity and concern for truth in this performance. I know well that no lie of mine can be necessary for the honour of God, or the manifestation of his grace; and I can truly say, that I have not in this history imposed on others any thing, which I do not myself believe." It may also be alleged, that the united ministers of Boston bear witness to the truth of the

¶ Id. p. 305.

¶ Id. p. 307.

history, in their attestation prefixed to the volume. Among other things they say: "The author of this history is a person of incontestable veracity." And further: "We again say, his truth may be relied on, his fidelity is irreproachable." This attestation is given by men of respectable characters and stations in society, who well knew that they were responsible for their testimony, and who lived at the time when the book was published. In 1744, Experience Mayhew printed another book, entitled *Grace Defended*, which has been highly commended by those who have read it. He died in the year 1756. His sons were many.—Joseph was graduated at Harvard College in 1730, and was chosen tutor in 1739. He was a man of superiour abilities and learning.—Nathan was graduated in 1731. Jonathan was graduated in 1744. This is the great Dr. Mayhew, a man whose splendid abilities would adorn any age, or any country.—Zechariah, another of his sons, was a missionary, and continued to preach among the Indians till within a few years of his death, which took place March 6th. 1806.—Another member of this illustrious family was the late Dr. Matthew Mayhew, grandson of the first Matthew, a gentleman of uncommon powers of mind and of exquisite wit and humour. He was in all respects an excellent man; and he sustained the highest offices in the county.—The family has been almost as much distinguished for longevity, as for talents. The first Thomas Mayhew died at the age of ninety; Experience, at the age of eighty-four; John, grandson of the first John, at the age of eighty-nine; and his brother Jeremiah, at the age of eighty-five; Dr. Matthew Mayhew, at the age of eighty-five; and Zechariah, at the age of eighty-nine.

The late Dr. West of Boston, who was born at Martha's Vineyard, might also be mentioned among the names which do honour to the island.

For the sake of avoiding repetitions, we have arranged almost every article of our description under the general head of Martha's Vineyard. But as the island is divided into three townships, it is proper that some notice should be taken of each in particular. The townships are Edgartown, to which the island of Chappaquiddick is annexed; Tisbury; and Chilmark, which comprehends the Elizabeth Islands and Noman's Land.

Edgartown.

Edgartown, sometimes called Old Town, is in the eastern part of the island. The length from the East Chop to the South Beach is nine miles: the breadth, from east to west, and exclusive of Chappaquiddick, is five miles. It is separated from Tisbury partly by Holmes's Hole and the lagoon which communicates with it. There is a pleasant village near the harbour, consisting of eighty houses, which are in general two stories in height, and are neat and well finished. There is a decent court-house, a jail including a house of correction, a meeting house without a steeple, a school house, in which a hundred and twenty-seven children from seven to seventeen years of age are instructed. There are three other school houses in different parts of the township. A house lot, containing a quarter of an acre, near the harbour, sells for three hundred dollars; and for between ten and fifty dollars, at a small distance. A farm of two hundred acres, with proper buildings on it, would sell for two or three thousand dollars. Land on which the sheep feed is worth four dollars an acre. Old Town Harbour has natural advantages, which are capable of rendering the village near it a large and flourishing town; but not more than ten sail of vessels, containing in the whole four hundred and sixty-six tons and a half, are owned in it. Of these vessels two are fishermen, five are coasters, one is a pilot boat, one sails to the West Indies, one, a smack, carries fish to New York. Running into the harbour there are four small wharves, at which vessels may unlade their cargoes.—There is another village in Edgartown, on the eastern side of Holmes's Hole, containing not more than fifteen houses.—The family of Enoch Coffin, Esq. of this town was distinguished for longevity. He died in the year 1761, aged eighty-three, and left ten children: Love died aged eighty-eight; Hephzibah, aged ninety; Elizabeth, aged seventy-three; Abigail, aged eighty-eight; John, aged eighty-two; Enoch, aged ninety; Deborah, aged eighty; Benjamin, aged seventy-five; Daniel, aged seventy; Beulah is now living, in her eightieth year. There are in the town fourteen males, and thirteen females, between seventy and eighty, and six males, and seven females, above eighty years of age.

The church was gathered in 1641,* and Thomas Mayhew junior ordained pastor: He died 1657. Thomas Mayhew, the father, preached to the Indians and white people after the death

of his son. Jonathan Dunham† was ordained in 1694. Samuel Wiswall was ordained 1713: He died Dec. 23d, 1746. For his character see Harris's Account of Dorchester in Coll. of Hist. Soc. IX. 184. John Newman was ordained 1747, and dismissed 1758. Samuel Kingsbury was ordained 1761: He died 1778. Joseph Thaxter, the present pastor, was ordained 1780.

Chappaquiddick Island.

The island of Chappaquiddick, which is on the east side of Old Town Harbour, is, including Cape Poge, six miles long, and three miles broad. The land is sandy, but is of a better quality, and has not been so much worn as the opposite land in Edgartown. There are about fifty acres of wood: the trees are white and black oak, and are from ten to fifteen feet in height. There are three hundred acres of shrub oak. The east and north parts are level; but the west part of the island rises into hills sixty feet high: Sampson's hill in the centre is seventy feet high. A sandy beach extends north from Washqua Point, where it joins the main island by a narrow neck, to Cape Poge, being about twenty rods wide. Within it west is Cape Poge Pond, a lagune of salt water, which is from three rods to three quarters of a mile wide. A narrow strip of salt marsh, with here and there an interruption, lines it on both sides. The lagune affords an inexhaustible supply of poquaus and eels: vessels, which are chiefly from Connecticut, frequently enter it, and procure poquaus from the natives. The beach widens at

*As this appears to have been the year before the Mayhews came to the island, the author wrote to the Rev. Mr. Thaxter for an explanation, and received from him the following answer, in a letter, dated Dec. 12th, 1814. "The account, which I gave you of the gathering of the church in this town, was taken from either a preface or an appendix to a sermon, preached at the ordination of Mr. Newman, by Experience Mayhew, and is probably correct. I have searched the records of the town: they are transcribed from a former record, and go no further back than 1661. It is said, the old record was for reasons now unknown destroyed. It is beyond a doubt true, that several years before the Mayhews had a grant of Martha's Vineyard, there were a number of families settled on the island; of which I gave you the traditionary account. I am confirmed in this by the division of the town: The Mayhews and their associates had twenty-five shares; and others were called half share men; and made the number of shares forty-two. These half share men, it is presumed, were settled here, when the Mayhews obtained the grant. It is highly probably that the Mayhews, at least the younger, had been on the island some time before the grant was obtained. He was a zealous preacher, and undoubtedly collected a church in 1641. Experience Mayhew must have had evidence of the fact; otherwise, it is presumed, he would not have said it."

† See Cotton's Account of the Church in Plymouth, in Coll. of Hist. Society. IV. 127 1st. Series.

Cape Poge, and surrounds sixty acres of arable land. On it stands a light house built of wood, which shows one light, sixty feet above the level of the sea. From the cape the beach turns in the form of a hook, and leaves a passage into the lagune, sixty feet wide, and two fathoms deep. Chappaquiddick Neck, which is of the extent of thirty or forty acres, and fifty feet high, protects the inner harbour from the north-east wind. A low, flat beach, called Chappaquiddick Point, runs from it north-west, and approaches the wharves of Old Town, at the distance of forty rods. Over this narrow strait a ferry boat passes from one island to the other.—There is a rock on the north-west part of Chappaquiddick, which possesses a strong magnetick quality: it attracts the needle of the compass, and fixes it south-west and north-east. Pieces broken from it retain the quality but a short time.—On the island are thirty-seven dwelling houses, and thirty-eight families of whites, who are included in the number of families belonging to Edgartown. Ten of these families are of the name of Fish or Fisher. Several of them live near Washqua Point, and are justly celebrated as bold and skilful pilots. Ships in storms get within the dangerous rips which lie off the island, and there appears to be no retreat. These men are constantly on the watch for them. The sea rolls like moving mountains on the shore, and the surf breaks in a terrible manner. As the waves retire, five or six of them lift a whale-boat till they reach the surf, and then jump into it with inconceivable rapidity. The boat frequently fills with water; and they are obliged to come to the land, to bale the water out, and to carry the boat down again. When at last they are so fortunate as to float on the surge, to a person standing on the shore they seem to mount up to the sky, and then suddenly to sink into the deep. With hard rowing they reach the ship, which oftentimes is at the distance of seven or eight miles. They come the messengers of safety; for with perfect ease they carry the ship into the harbour of Edgartown, where it is secure against every wind.

Tisbury

Tisbury, from the West Chop to the South Beach, is ten miles long, and four miles and a half wide from east to west; the length of its western line is seven miles and a half. Its court-house is eight miles and a half from the court-house in Edgartown. The

court-house and Congregational meeting-house are in the south-west part of the township. At Holmes's Hole there is a village consisting of about seventy dwelling houses, a meeting-house built partly for the Baptists and partly for the Congregationalists, and two school-houses. Two more school-houses are in other parts of the township. The village is beginning to flourish; and several new buildings have lately been erected. A house lot of a quarter of an acre sells for two hundred dollars: the rent of a house is sixty dollars a year. At Chappaquonset also and Lumbert's Cove, there are small collections of houses.—Belonging to the port of Holmes's Hole are eleven vessels, whose amount of tons is four hundred and fifty-two and two thirds: seven of them are coasters; three, pilot boats; and one, a fisherman. A line of telegraphs extends from Boston, and terminates at the West Chop.

John Mayhew began to preach at Tisbury in the year 1673, but was not ordained. Josiah Torrey was ordained in 1701. Nathaniel Hancock, in 1727. George Daman, in 1760; and was dismissed about 1779. Asarelah Morse was installed in 1784; and dismissed at his request April 5th, 1799. The present minister is Nymphas Hatch, who was ordained Oct. 7th, 1801. He preaches one sunday in three at Holmes's Hole.

The minister of the Baptist church is Abishai Sampson.

Chilmark

West of Tisbury is Chilmark, which is ten miles in length from north-east to south-west, and from two miles to five in breadth. The distance between its meeting-house and Edgartown court-house is twelve miles. This meeting-house, three school-houses and an alms-house constitute its publick buildings. It has no vessels belonging to it; and the number of its inhabitants appears to be decreasing.

Ralph Thacher was the first minister of Chilmark: the time of his ordination is unknown: he was dismissed at his request 1714. In 1715 William Holmes was ordained: he was the author of several pieces which appeared in print, was a man of worth, and died in the ministry. In 1746 Andrew Boardman was ordained; and died of the small pox in 1777. The present pastor, Jonathan Smith, was ordained Jan. 23d, 1788.

The Elizabeth Islands

The Elizabeth Islands are separated from Martha's Vineyard by the Sound; from the county of Bristol, by Buzzard's Bay, and from Falmouth, by a strait called Wood's Hole. Vessels bound from Nantucket to New Bedford go through this strait, where the current is rapid, and the navigation difficult. In Buzzard's Bay the navigation is also difficult, as it contains many rocks and shoals. The depth of water in this bay is from six to twelve fathoms.

Beginning north-east, the first island is Nanamesset. It is a mile and a quarter long, and a half a mile broad, and contains three hundred and sixty acres, fifty acres of which are wood land: the soil is as good as that of Nashaun. This island constitutes one farm, which is sufficient to keep twenty cows and a hundred sheep. There is on it one dwelling house, containing two families; and about nine hundred feet of salt works, built in the year 1805. In the southern and western part of the island there is a high hill, called Mount Sod, the base of which on the shore is stone, intersected with veins of clay.

The next island, Onkatomka, or Unkatemé, has no dwelling house on it, is three quarters of a mile in length, and half a mile in breadth, and contains ninety-one acres. It is separated from the island of Nanamesset on the south-east by a harbour, called the Hadleys, which affords good anchorage for vessels drawing not more than twelve feet of water. On the south-south-east it is separated from Nanamesset by a gut, which affords twelve feet of water, except at the southward, where there are shoals that extend about fifteen rods from the Ram Islands. On the south-west it is separated from Nashaun by a shoal, which is almost dry at low water, but which at half tide is navigable for boats, through the gut, into Buzzard's Bay.

Between Nanamesset and Nashaun, toward the Sound, there are two small islands, called the Ram Islands: they divide the gut into three branches, which, on the south, communicate with the Sound, and are navigable for boats, except at low water.

South-west from Nanamesset, and divided from it by the gut, is Nashaun. There is a small harbour under it, at its north-east

end, communicating with Onkatomka gut, and affording good anchorage for vessels, drawing not more than twelve feet of water, which may be brought within twenty feet of a wharf, built in the year 1803. This island is seven miles and a half long, and a mile and a quarter broad, and contains five thousand five hundred and sixty acres. There are on it four farms, four dwelling houses, at which are milked from forty-five to fifty cows. The soil in the eastern part is a sandy loam and good; in the western part it is light, and not so good. The principal part of the mowing land is at the east end; but bodies of salt marsh lie on the southerly side of the island. Nashaun is well wooded: the other Elizabeth Islands, except Nanamesset, have no wood. About three fifths of the trees are beach: the remainder of the wood is white and black oak, hickory, and a little pine. About one half of the island is in wood and swamps; and in the swamps grows white cedar. Some fire wood is sold, and transported from the island. Very little ship timber remains, not more than three hundred tons; but it is of a superiour quality. Tarpawling Cove, about the middle of the island, and opening to the south-east into Vineyard Sound, affords good anchorage in a clayey bottom. Small vessels can approach the shore at the distance of twenty rods, where there are from two fathoms to two and a quarter: at thirty rods distance there are three fathoms; and the water gradually deepens into the Sound. This cove is sheltered from all winds, except those which blow from E. S. E. to S. It is expected, that on its southerly side a light house will be erected by the government of the United States. On the other side of the island is a small cove, called Kittle Cove, which opens to the north-west into Buzzard's Bay. These islands are the property of James Bowdoin, Esq. whose stock on them consists generally in summer of about a hundred and twenty head of horned cattle, sixteen hundred sheep, seven hundred lambs, and twenty horses; and in winter, of a hundred head of horned cattle, seventeen hundred sheep, and twenty horses. About a thousand acres at the west end of Nashaun are set off into three farms, on which are generally kept three hundred sheep, forty head of horned cattle, and ten horses, exclusive of the above mentioned stock. The milk obtained from the cows is for the most part converted into cheese, which has a high reputation. On Nashaun there are about three or four hundred deer: seventy

were killed the last autumn.

At the distance of half a mile north from Nashaun, in Buzzard's Bay, are three small islands, called Wepecket's Islands, the largest of which is not a quarter of a mile long. On one of them are kept in summer from fifteen to twenty-five sheep.

West of Nashaun, and separated from it by a strait, called Robinson's Hole, is Pasque; which is a mile and three quarters long, and a mile broad, and contains a thousand and two acres. The soil is light, and more stony than the other Elizabeth Islands; and of a quality inferiour to that of any of them. There are on it two families. The number of sheep is unknown: it probably does not exceed five or six hundred. Robinson's Hole is about twelve feet deep; and the channel is very crooked.

South-west of Pasque, and separated from it by Quicks's Hole, is Nashawenna. This island is three miles and a quarter long, and a mile and a quarter broad; and contains fifteen hundred and sixty-five acres. There are on it six families and a thousand sheep. A ship from sea, bound to New Bedford, enters Buzzard's Bay, either at its mouth, or through Quicks's Hole. In this strait there are from three to eight fathoms of water, good anchorage, but a rapid current. The ship enters the Hole on the east side, on account of a spit which makes out from the west side. It keeps in the middle of the strait, till it has passed through it, leaving a rock, called the Lone Rock, on the left hand. It runs north, till it gets into five fathom, hard sand, which will be west of a rock, named the Black Rock, six miles from New Bedford. It then runs N. N. W. for the town. On the north side of Nashawenna is a cove, in which the water is shoal.

Cuttyhunk lies west of Nashawenna, from which it is separated by shoal water, and is two miles and a half long, and three quarters of a mile broad. It contains five hundred and sixteen acres; and has on it two families, six hundred sheep, and sixteen cows. The soil of this island and of Penequese is rich, and is the best land in the Elizabeth Islands. Cuttyhunk has cliffs of clay, which are continually breaking down, and of consequence the island is diminishing. The other Elizabeth Islands are also wasting gradually. "At the west end, on the north side, is a pond of fresh water, three quarters of a mile in length. In the middle of its breadth,

near the west end, is a rocky islet, containing near an acre of ground.”* On this islet Dr. Belknap, in 1797, had the satisfaction of finding the cellar of a store house, which was built by Gosnold, when he discovered the Elizabeth Islands in 1602. It is a vestige of the first work performed by Europeans on the New England shores. Here they first penetrated the earth; here the first edifice was erected. Only two centuries have passed away; and from this humble beginning have arisen cities numerous, large, and fair, in which are enjoyed all the refined delights of civilized life.

North of Cuttyhunk is Penequese, which is three quarters of a mile long, and half a mile broad. It is of the extent of ninety-seven acres; and on it are three families and a hundred and fifty sheep.

Three quarters of a mile east of Penequese is Gull Island, which is not a quarter of a mile in length.

The Elizabeth Islands are stony. Stones lie on the upland, and along the beaches, as in the opposite beaches of Chilmark; but the shores are not iron bound, like those of Marblehead. There is here and there a sandy beach, particularly at Tarpawling Cove.—Cows are kept on all the islands; but they are most noted for their sheep, which are larger, better fed, more effectually sheltered, and which have finer and more abundant fleeces, than those which are on Martha’s Vineyard. One with another a sheep yields two pounds of wool annually. The wool, except a small quantity which is manufactured by the inhabitants, is sold, and carried principally into Connecticut.—The fishes are the same as those of the vicinity; but lobsters, which are scarce at Martha’s Vineyard, are caught in great abundance at all the Elizabeth Islands.—Though these islands pay more than one third of the tax of Chilmark; yet in proportion to their extent they are thinly peopled. They have no grist mill, no school, and no church; but such are their natural advantages, and so easily can the means of subsistence be obtained, that they are capable of supporting a much larger number of inhabitants. At Tarpawling Cove, in particular, if lots of land were sold to industrious and enterprising settlers, a village might without difficulty be raised up; and it would probably soon rival the villages of Holmes’s Hole and Edgartown.

* Belknap’s Biog. II. 114.

Noman’s Land.

The last island to be mentioned is Noman’s Land; which is four miles from Squipnocket Point, and six and a half from Gay Head. This island is a mile and three quarters long, and three quarters of a mile broad, and contains about six hundred and fifty acres. The land is composed of hills of a moderate elevation, and of several small swamps. There are no trees; but there are bushes in the swamps, some of which afford peat. The soil of the upland is warm, and in general inclining to gravel, and is used for the feeding of sheep, of which there are about six hundred. Beside two dwelling houses, there are twenty huts, which shelter the pilots, who go to the island, principally in the winter, to look out for vessels which are coming on the coast; and the fishermen, who frequent it in spring and autumn, for the purpose of catching the cod and other fish which are found in its neighbourhood. The fish taken by them are excellent table fish; about five hundred quintals annually.

History

The history of Duke’s County might constitute a separate paper for these Collections, and would best be supplied by an inhabitant of Martha’s Vineyard, who can easily have access to its records, and who has an opportunity of making himself acquainted with the traditions, which are treasured up in the memories of its aged men. All that the author of this Description can do, is to give a few facts and dates, which have fallen in his way.

These islands were discovered by Bartholomew Gosnold in the month of May, 1602. He landed on Noman’s Land, which he called Martha’s Vineyard, passed round Gay Head, which he named Dover Cliff, anchored in Vineyard Sound, probably near Menemsha Bite, and built a store-house and began a fort at the island of Cuttyhunk, to which he gave the name of Elizabeth, in honour of the queen. “For what reason, and at what time, the name of Martha’s Vineyard was transferred from the small island so called by Gosnold, to the large island which now bears it, are questions which remain in obscurity.”*

The next year, in the month of June, Martin Pring entered the harbour of Edgartown, which he called Whitson Bay, and anchored

* Belknap’s Biog. II. 113.

under the shelter of Chappaquiddick Neck, to which he gave the name of Mount Aldworth. Here he spent several weeks collecting sassafras; but about the beginning of August, the Indians appearing inclined to hostility, he sailed from the island, and returned to England. A particular account of these two voyages would be entertaining; but it is unnecessary to give it here, as every reader can find it in Dr. Belknap's popular work. This ingenious author conjectures, that the appellation of *Martin's Vineyard*, which is common in the old writers, was derived from the christian name of Captain Pring.**

In the first volume† of the Biography of the same author, will be found the interesting adventures of Epenow, an Indian of Martha's Vineyard, who had been treacherously taken from his own country, and who by his ingenuity obtained a ship to convey him home, in the year 1614. In the year 1619, "Captain Thomas Dermer, at Martha's Vineyard, met with this Epenow, who suspecting that his intentions were to carry him back to England, conspired with his countrymen to seize him and his companions, several of whom were killed in the fray: Dermer defended himself with his sword, and escaped, though not without fourteen wounds."* This is the last time that the soil of Martha's Vineyard was stained with human blood; for from that day to the present, no Indian has been killed by a white man, nor white man by an Indian.

At the beginning of the year 1623, however, the people of Plymouth received information, that the Indians of Martha's Vineyard and others had joined in a conspiracy with those of Massachusetts to extirpate the English.‡ But the principal conspirators at Massachusetts being slain, such a terrour was struck into the minds of the other Indians, that they forbore to execute any act of hostility.

Afterwards, in what year is unknown, but before the arrival of Thomas Mayhew, eight or ten English families settled in Edgartown. They first landed at Pease's Point, which is part of Starbuck's neck. The ship in which they came was bound to Virginia, but fell by accident into this port; and being short of provisions, these

**Belknap's Biog. II. 113.

* P. 362.

† P. 357.

‡ Winslow's Relation. 49.

families preferred remaining and taking their chance with the Indians, to proceeding on the voyage. Four of their names have been handed down to us,—Pease, Vincent, Norton, and Trapp, the three former of which still remain on the island. They landed late in the autumn, and were supplied during the first winter with fish and corn by the Indians. These hospitable natives led them to Great Pond, and showed them their manner of taking fish, which was as follows: A passage was opened from the sea into the pond, and through it the fish entered. There are many coves in this pond. At the entrance of the coves, the Indians placed hurdles under water, in a horizontal position; and when the fish had run over them into the coves, they went in their canoes, lifted the hurdles upright, by which means they prevented the escape of the fish, and with their spears stuck them in the mud. This event has been preserved by tradition both among the natives and whites; but has not before appeared in any printed book.

Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, and the Elizabeth Islands were not included in any of the New England governments. William, Earl of Stirling, in consequence of a grant from the crown of England, laid claim to all the islands between Cape Cod and Hudson's River. James Forett, agent for the Earl, on the 10th of October, 1641, granted to Thomas Mayhew of Watertown and Thomas Mayhew, his son, Nantucket and two small islands adjacent, and on the 23d of the same month, Martha's Vineyard and the Elizabeth Islands; with the same powers of government which the people of Massachusetts enjoyed by their charter.* The elder Thomas Mayhew had been a merchant at Southampton in England; and when he first came to America, he followed the same employment. He settled himself at Watertown, where he had a good farm and profitable mill; but meeting with losses in his business, he sold his property in Massachusetts, and determined to emigrate to a new colony.† Accordingly, having obtained the grant of Martha's Vineyard, in the year 1642, he sent his son and several other persons thither; and they established themselves at Edgartown, the east end of the island. The father himself soon after followed, and became the governour of the colony.‡ Gookin supposes that he was the first Englishman who was settled on the island; but this supposition is erroneous, as he was preceded

* Hutch. I. 161.

† Gookin. IX. 1.

‡ Prince's Account. 180.

by the families whom we have mentioned above.

In the year 1644, by an act of the commissioners of the United Colonies of New England, Martha's Vineyard was annexed to the jurisdiction of Massachusetts. § It is not known whether this was done at the request of the inhabitants, nor how long the connexion continued. If it was an act of usurpation on the part of the commissioners, the royal authority in England was at that time too weak to correct the evil.

Mr. Mayhew having established himself peaceably on the island, undertook, with the assistance of his son, to civilize and christianize the native inhabitants. Of the attempts, which were made to convert the Indians to the faith of the gospel, we shall not speak, except so far as may be necessary to show with what prudence and moderation Mr. Mayhew conducted himself in his intercourse with the natives. The sachems of these islands were absolute in their government; but they were subject in certain respects to the sagamore of the Wamponoags,* to whom they were obliged to do homage and make annual presents. This subjection was irksome to their minds; and they were ready to repel any new attempt to impose an additional yoke upon them, or to withdraw their subjects from the obedience which was due to their princes. When therefore they perceived the English missionaries among their people, they became jealous that in their animated harangues, they were aiming to attach them to their own persons, and that under the pretence of religion they were invading the authority of the sachems.

Mr. Mayhew observing this jealousy and the causes of it, took an opportunity of addressing the sachems in the following terms: That by an order from the king of England he was to govern the English who inhabited these islands; that his royal master was in power superiour to any of the Indian sagamores; but that he was just as well as powerful; that therefore he would not in any manner invade their jurisdiction; but on the contrary, assist them, if necessary; that religion and government were distinct concerns; and that the sachems might retain their authority, though their subjects were christians. By such prudent speeches, he soon brought them to entertain a good opinion of the christian religion.

§ Hutch. I. 137.

* Gookin. II. 4.

When afterwards the number of christian Indians increased, he prevailed upon them to admit the counsels of judicious christians in their controversies, and in cases of more than ordinary consequence to introduce a jury for trial; promising his own assistance to the sachems, whose assent was always to be obtained, though they were not christians. Thus in a few years he established a happy administration of justice among them, to their great satisfaction; and records were kept of all their proceedings in their several courts, by those who had learned to write, and who were appointed to the office.

By his prudent conduct and arguments, he convinced the sachems themselves of the distinguishing excellence of the English government; and in his administration, he gave them so fair an example of its happiness, as not only filled them with a strong desire of adopting the same form themselves, but even induced them voluntarily to make a publick acknowledgment of their subjection to the crown of England; though at the same time they were careful to have it understood, that they retained their authority as subordinate princes.

In his administration he was always ready to hear and redress their grievances, on the first complaint, without the least delay; by which means he wisely prevented any unfavourable impressions being made on their minds, through a neglect of justice. Whenever he decided any causes between them, he not only gave them equal justice with the English, but he also took pains to convince them that what he determined was right. He would not suffer any one to injure them either in their goods, lands, or persons. They always found in him a protector and a father: by the dignity of his manners, he excited their reverence; and by his condescension and benevolence he secured their affection. In consequence of this discreet and virtuous conduct, no difference took place between the English and natives on these islands, as long as he lived among them, which was near forty years. The Indians admired and loved him as a superiour being, who always did what was right, and who had no other object than to make them happy.*

Such is the praise bestowed on Mr. Mayhew by a writer, who lived not long after his death. Perhaps it will appear too much

* Prince's Account. 296.

like the language of panegyrick; but the author is esteemed judicious and temperate; and his representation is not contradicted by the testimony of any preceding or succeeding writer.

In 1664 the Duke of York received from his brother Charles II. a grant of New York and several other territories; among which were Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, and the islands adjacent, which had been previously purchased of Henry, grandson and heir of William, Earl of Stirling, who resigned and assigned them to the Duke. These islands in consequence became a part of the province of New York; and it appears, that notwithstanding the grant to Thomas Mayhew, the Earl of Stirling, and his successor the Duke of York, retained the jurisdiction of them. The titles to real estate were confirmed by the governour of that province: and according to a tradition, of the accuracy of which however there may be some reason to doubt, the inhabitants of Martha's Vineyard not only chose their governour and all other officers, but also made their own laws. It was whilst these islands were connected with New York, that they were made a county by the name of Duke's County. July 8th, 1671, both Edgartown and Tisbury were incorporated by Francis Lovelace, governour of New York. Before the incorporation, Tisbury was called Middletown.

At this time the peace of the colony of Plymouth was in great danger of being disturbed by the Indians within its limits. To prevent therefore the hostile spirit from extending itself to Martha's Vineyard, Mr. Mayhew, accompanied by some chosen Englishmen, visited all the Indian towns, and prevailed on the inhabitants solemnly to promise, that they would, if required, fight against the enemies of the King of England and his subjects. After this he went to New York, and obtained from the governour there a commission to govern the Indians on Martha's Vineyard and the Elizabeth Islands. When he returned, he sent for all the sachems and chief men, and made them acquainted with the commission which he had received. With gratitude they and many others who were present, as well those who were not christians as those who were, promised submission to the governour's act; and every person, holding up his hand, solemnly engaged to advance the worship of God.*

* Coll. of Hist. Soc. VI. 196.

In the year 1675, the war, which like a black cloud had hovered during four years over New England, burst with fury on the country. Almost all the Indian nations on the Main were united against the English. Alarm and terroure were diffused on every side; and the white inhabitants suffered their minds to become unreasonably exasperated against all the Indians without distinction, and even against their christian friends. Of this jealous spirit were several persons at Martha's Vineyard, who with difficulty could be restrained by Mr. Mayhew and others, associated in the magistracy with him, from attempting to disarm the Indians by whom they were surrounded, and whose number greatly exceeded that of the English.†

For the satisfaction of these jealous persons Capt. Richard Sarson was sent with a small party to the west end of the island, where least dependence was to be placed on the Indians, because they were nearest the continent, and were the last who had embraced christianity. He made known to them the suspicions of some of the white inhabitants and returned with this wise and amicable answer: That the surrender of their arms would expose them to the power of the Indians, engaged in the present war, who were not less enemies to them than to the English; that they had never given occasion for the jealousy which now seemed to be entertained of them; that if by any means, without hazarding their safety, they could afford further proof of their friendship and fidelity, they would readily do it; but that they were unwilling to deliver up their arms, unless the English would propose another method, which would be more likely to ensure their preservation. With this answer they sent a writing, which was drawn up in their own language, and in which they declared: That as they had submitted freely to the crown of England, so they were resolved to assist the English on these islands against their enemies, whom they accounted as much enemies to themselves, as to any other of the subjects of the king. This paper was

†Mr. Prince says that the Indians were twenty times as numerous as the English: but as this would make the latter only fifteen families,—because we are told by Mr. Mayhew himself, that he had often counted the Indian families, and that in the year 1674, they amounted on Martha's Vineyard and Chappaquiddick to three hundred,—this author, who is generally accurate, may be considered here as having made use of a hyperbolic expression. See Gookin. IX. 4.

subscribed by persons of the greatest note and power among them.

The governour, Mr. Mayhew, was so well satisfied with the answer which was sent, that he employed the Indians as a guard, furnishing them with the necessary ammunition, and giving them instructions how to conduct themselves for the common safety, in this time of imminent danger. So faithful were they, that they not only rejected the strong and repeated solicitations of the natives on the Main, but when any landed from it, in obedience to the orders which had been given them, they carried them, though some of them were their near relations, before the governour, to attend his pleasure. The English convinced by these proofs of the firmness of their friendship, took no care of their own defence, but left it entirely to the Indians: and the storm of war, which raged on the continent, was not suffered to approach, but these islands enjoyed the calm of peace. This was the genuine and happy effect of Mr. Mayhew's wisdom, and of the introduction of the christian religion among the Indians.*

By the charter of William and Mary, which arrived in 1692, these islands were taken from New York, and annexed to Massachusetts. During the season of anarchy and confusion which preceded this event, the Indians behaved in a peaceable manner; and on one occasion in particular forebore to resent the injuries, which were inflicted on them by some of the English, who were unrestrained by law and government.†

In the year 1695, Martha's Vineyard, the Elizabeth Islands, and Noman's Land were by the legislature of Massachusetts separated from Nantucket, and made a distinct county, with the ancient name of Duke's County. From this date till the present time we have few events to record. During the period the white inhabitants have become possessors of the greatest part of the land, and have gradually increased in their number, whilst the Indians have gradually wasted away.

The western end of Martha's Vineyard, called Nashouohkamuck by the Indians, was the last which was settled by the English. There was however a town here before the close of the seventeenth

* Matth. Mayhew's Nar. 34. Prince's Account, 295. †Matth. Mayhew's Narrative. 36.

century. Whilst it was under the government of New York, it was called the manor of Tisbury; but it was known by the name of Chilmark as long ago at least as 1698.* March 28th, 1705, the first town meeting was held in this place; and in 1707 it first sent a representative to the general court. It was incorporated by the name which it now bears, October 30th, 1714.

By a census which was ordered in 1763, and taken in 1764, there were found in Duke's County three hundred and twenty-eight dwelling houses, three hundred and ninety-four families, two thousand three hundred white inhabitants (of whom 924 were in Edgartown, 730 in Tisbury, and 646 in Chilmark) forty-six negroes, and only three hundred and thirteen Indians.

From this period to the revolutionary war, the island was in a flourishing state. The land was well stocked with cattle and sheep, fifteen or sixteen sail of whalemens were owned by the inhabitants, and the cod-fishery, which was carried on in a number of small vessels, was a profitable business. In March 1776, when another census was taken, the families were found to have increased to four hundred and eighty-two, and the white inhabitants to two thousand eight hundred and twenty-two, of whom 1020 were in Edgartown, 1033 in Tisbury, and 769 in Chilmark: there were fifty-nine negroes; but the Indians were not enumerated.

With the war began a series of calamities. The vessels of the inhabitants were all taken and destroyed; their young men were captivated, and many of them died on board prison ships. They were plundered of their cattle by the enemy: General Gray, in the month of September, 1779, carried off at one time a hundred and twenty oxen and ten thousand sheep, leaving on the island only about four thousand of the latter. To induce the people the more readily to surrender their cattle, the sheep were appraised at two dollars, and the oxen at sixty dollars a head. Two years after an agent was sent to England; but he could obtain payment for no more than one third of the sum which was due. From the depressed state, occasioned by these losses, the island has not yet recovered. The cattle and sheep have indeed been restored to their former numbers; but the whale fishery has entirely ceased; and the cod fishery has hardly begun to revive. There was however a small

* Coll. of Hist. Society. X. 131.

increase of population during the war; for in the year 1783, the families were enumerated at five hundred and twenty-two, and the white inhabitants at three thousand and fifty-six. Since that period, the number of inhabitants has not much varied. In 1790, it was, exclusive of Indians, three thousand two hundred and sixty-five, and in 1800, three thousand one hundred and eighteen.* The number of inhabitants may this year, 1807, be estimated at three thousand one hundred and thirty.

The Indians.

The Indian name of Martha's Vineyard, according to Gookin, was Nope; but according to all others of the old writers, it was Capawock. Gookin, who appears to have taken pains to ascertain facts, and in whose Collections there is an air of simplicity and truth, is not to be charged with having invented this word Nope; but the probability is, that the island had two names. At the time in which it was discovered by the English, it was full of inhabitants; and as they continued to be numerous, when it was first settled by the English, it may be concluded that it was not visited by the pestilence of 1617. Not less than three thousand Indians, it has been generally estimated, were on the island, when it was entered by Mayhew. As it seems capable of supporting scarcely a greater number of white inhabitants, who occupy much less space than savages, it may be asked, whence did so many of these children of nature derive their subsistence? From the account which has been given of Martha's Vineyard, it will be easy to answer this question. The truth is, that its harbours, coves, lagunes, and ponds afford an inexhaustible supply of food. They could obtain the shell fish, which lie in such profusion on its shores, without the exercise of much invention; and they had discovered several ingenious methods of entrapping the eels and other fish, which swim in its waters. The island besides was not destitute of game; and innumerable birds haunted its woods and coasts, which would sometimes be pierced by the arrows of the Indians; not to mention that the sandy soil was peculiarly favourable to the cultivation of squashes, beans, and maize. It was a knowledge

*By the census of 1810, the number of inhabitants is three thousand two hundred and ninety.

of these things, which induced so many of the savages to press to these islands, and the parts of the sea coast which resemble them: they appear barren to those, who think that no country is fruitful, where the fields are not green; but to an Indian they were the most fertile parts of America. That Martha's Vineyard then was capable of sustaining a multitude of inhabitants, is evident; and that this was the fact may with some degree of probability be inferred from the great number of proper names in common use. There was not a hill, a cove, a point of land, or a pond, however small, which had not its own appellation. Many of these names are familiar to the white inhabitants; and many more, which have become obsolete, are still to be found in deeds of land and ancient books. Words follow the steps of men; and where a country by distinct names is subdivided into many minute parts, there is always reason to suppose that it has a numerous population.

But though there is no room for doubting the testimony of the writers who assert, that when these islands were first settled by the English, they were well filled with inhabitants, yet it appears, that the people began to waste away, soon after the whites appeared among them. In 1643, and at several other times they were visited by a general disease.* This was probably the yellow fever, which was, with the consumption, the disorder, of which they commonly died.† In 1674, they were reduced to five hundred families, or about fifteen hundred souls.

Like the other savages of New England, they were in a low state of civilization; and they had attained few of the arts, which contribute to the comfort of human life. Their houses were small, mean, and generally filled with smoke; and their weapons of war were feeble and pointless, as is evident from the stone heads of their arrows, which are still frequently picked up. They were however a hospitable and tractable people. When therefore the younger Mr. Mayhew attempted to introduce the gospel among them, they received him with kindness, and with readiness listened to his exhortations. The wonderful progress which the christian religion, through the zeal of this eminent evangelist and his worthy successors, made in Martha's Vineyard, surprised and delighted

* Prince's Account. 282.

† Coll. of Hist. Soc. I. 140. 1st. Ser.

the pious of that age; and they failed not to note with minute attention its various circumstances. Hence the most ample narratives of the conversion of these Indians have been given to the publick; so that however barren all other parts of the history of the island may be, we have no reason to complain here of any want of events. As one of these accounts has already been published in these Collections,† and as every history of New England gives the same story, and some of them in a very interesting manner, the reader of this Description will not expect that its author will go over the same ground again. It will be sufficient for him to state in general terms, that the younger Mr. Mayhew laboured in this benevolent work, with diligence and fervour, till his death; that it was then assumed by his father, and after him by his son; and that it has been carried on in the same family to the present day: that in less than thirty years almost every Indian on the island had become a professed christian; that at first they were only catechumens; but that they were formed into a church in 1659, from which another church arose in the year 1670.

The Indians were converted to the christian faith; and attempts were made to reduce them to a state of civilization. But "they who have been conversant with the Indians will often repeat, how unprofitable the labour hath been either to civilize or convert them. Much money hath been expended to little or no purpose; and every method to educate them has failed. They who met with most success, such as Mr. Eliot and Mr. Mayhew, had they lived longer, would have wondered to see how soon their disciples returned to their former ignorance and stupidity; or how little difference was made in the face of the wilderness: if it blossomed for a while and yielded some little fruit, the season was short; and what was not covered with weeds proved a cold, barren soil."*

The Mayhews, however pious and benevolent, did not much benefit the Indians; but the English derived the most essential advantages from the ascendancy which was gained over their minds: they were disarmed of their rage: they were made friends and fellow subjects. At length they ceased to be formidable from another cause: their numbers dwindled away, their courage

† Gookin's IXth. chap.

* These are words of Dr. Eliot.

abated, and they sunk into a mean and depressed people. The progress of their decline to the year 1764 is exhibited in the following Table.

Number of Indians in Duke's County at five different periods.

A. D.	No.	A. D.	No.	A. D.	No.
1642	3000	1698†	1000	1764	313
1674	1500	1720	800		

The present state of these Indians has not much to excite attention or interest curiosity. Beginning east, the first collection of them is found at Chappaquiddick. On this island they have a tract of land reserved to them, containing about eight hundred acres. They are much intermixed with white and negro blood, very few of them being pure Indians; and they have been improved in their industry and general habits by the intermixture. Several of them live in framed houses, are good farmers, and are tolerably neat in their persons and habitations. The old men only are farmers, and are assisted by the women, who sow and hoe the corn: the young men are seamen. Their lands are not enclosed; but their cattle are kept with a tedder. They are destitute both of a meeting house and a minister,* but they have the privilege of attending the pastor of Edgartown. Their numbers, which are probably increasing, are sixty-five, of whom nine are strangers intermarried with them. The framed houses are ten; the wigwams two.

Near Sangekantacket, adjoining the lagune, at a place called Farm Neck, there was formerly a large town of Indians; and twenty persons of a mixed race still remain, who live in six houses, are divided into six families, and retain near two hundred acres of land.

At West Chop in Tisbury there is one Indian family, consisting of five persons.

In the north-west part of Tisbury there is a tract of land, called Christiantown, assigned to the Indians, who are placed under guardians. They consist of nine families and thirty two souls, of

† See Coll. of Hist. Soc. X. 131.

* Since the above was written, Frederick Baylies has been appointed missionary to these Indians.

whom one male and six females are pure: the rest are mixed, chiefly with whites.

The great body of the Indians is at Gay Head. They have here a tract of excellent land, containing three thousand acres, reserved to them. It is destitute of trees; but there are many swamps, some of which afford peat, and others springs of good water. The land is broken into hills; and there are no roads. The Indians have twenty-six framed houses and seven wigwams. The framed houses are nothing better than mean huts: some of them have two apartments; but the greatest part of them, not more than one. There are three barns, and two meeting houses, which are small buildings, not more than twenty feet square. The number of families is thirty-four; and of souls, a hundred and forty-two: beside whom about a hundred Indians are absent from Gay Head; some of whom are children put out to service in English families; and others whale-men; making the whole number of proprietors, men, women, and children, about two hundred and forty. Every native, whether he lives off or on the island, is considered as a proprietor; and every child born to him is entitled to a right, which is equivalent to the pasture of three sheep. No sheep are kept; but a cow is reckoned equal to six sheep: an ox, to eight; and a horse, to ten. Formerly a child's right was six sheep. Of the Indians nine men are pure, and still more of the women; the rest are intermixed, chiefly with negroes: the mixed race is better than the pure Indians. Almost all of them have cows; and a few of them, oxen: they own as many as twenty horses. A part of their land is every year let to the whites; and the income is appropriated to the support of their poor. The Indians raise very little corn, but have pretty good gardens. They annually sell a hundred or two hundred bushels of cranberries, which grow in great plenty in their cranberry bogs. The rest of their subsistence is derived from fishing; and from the sale of clay, which they dispose of on the spot for three dollars, and when they carry it to market, for five dollars a ton. Small as their numbers are, they have two preachers; one of whom is a Baptist; the other, a Congregationalist; and both of them, Indians. Beside the houses at Gay Head, there is one Indian house and three wigwams in Chilmark; all the inhabitants of which, except a woman living in one of the wigwams, have rights at Gay Head, and are included in their numbers. The Indians in this part of the island are generally unchaste, intemperate, without forethought, and many of them dishonest. They are however more industrious, and neater in their persons and houses, than is common for Indians.

Some Publications

OF THE DUKES COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY ON SALE
AT ISLAND BOOK STORES AND IN THE SOCIETY'S LIBRARY.

The Mammals of Martha's Vineyard by Allan R. Keith. Illustrated, paper. 50¢. If ordering by mail please add 15¢ for postage.

Whaling Wives by Emma Mayhew Whiting and Henry Beetle Hough. A new edition. 294 p., illustrated. Cloth \$4.50.

Capawack Alias Martha's Vineyard by Warner F. Gookin. 58 p. Cloth \$1.00.

Martha's Vineyard A Short History and Guide. Eleanor Ransom Mayhew, Editor. New edition with added index. Maps and illustrations. 191 p. Paper \$2.50.

Our Enchanted Island by Marshall Shepard. An attempt to prove that Martha's Vineyard is the Island of Shakespeare's *Tempest*. Paper, 50¢.

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