

and to be beaten by a local preacher and a papermaker, was no less a surprise than the success of the democratic ticket in a strong whig town.

The subject of dividing the town had not been agitated until after this election, but now it quickly became prominent. Messrs. Dwight and French led in the movement and Judge Munson was active in its advocacy. Why no one proposed the name of Humphrey for the new town, we have been unable to learn. The bill to grant the petition was prepared and printed with the name "Richmond," but before it was put on its passage Judge Munson came to Mr. Smith and suggested the name "Seymour." Mr. S. replied, "It is short, our Governor and the Speaker of the House have that name, and it is an eminent name in Connecticut, and we will have it the name of our town." The bill was so amended and passed. Following is a copy of the

Charter of the Town of Seymour,

General Assembly, May Session, A. D., 1850.

Upon the petition of Lemah Chatfield and others praying for the incorporation of a new town, as will fully and at large appear by their petition on file, dated the th day of April, 1850, which petition has been duly served upon the town of Derby and was duly returned to and entered in the office of the Secretary of this State according to law.

RESOLVED BY THIS ASSEMBLY. That all that part of the town of Derby lying northerly of the following described line, to wit: commencing at the Housatonic River, thence running easterly in a straight line touching the most northerly point of Martin B. Bassett's stone building on the east bank of said river, thence running easterly in the same straight line to the north side of the dwelling house now occupied by said Martin B. Bassett, thence in a straight line easterly to the stone bridge in the highway, about twenty-five rods westerly of the house occupied by Pearl Carpenter, thence from said bridge following down the brook that runs under said bridge, till it empties into the Naugatuck River, thence from the mouth of said brook easterly, in a straight line to the intersection of the line dividing the town of Woodbridge from the town of Derby with the centre line of the Rimmon Falls Turnpike road; with all the inhabitants residing therein, be, and the same hereby are incorporated into a distinct town by the name of *Seymour*, and the inhabitants aforesaid, and their successors forever, residing within said limits shall have and enjoy all the powers, privileges and immunities which are enjoyed by other towns in this State, with the privilege of sending one representative to the General Assembly of this State.

Said new town shall support all bridges within their bounds, (except such as belong to turnpike companies or other corporations or individuals to support) and be released from supporting any bridges without the limits of said new town; shall pay and perform their proportion of the present debts and liabilities of Derby, and be allowed the same proportion of its credits, including the like proportion of the town deposit fund, and the same proportion of interest in the almshouse land; and shall take and support their proportion of the present town poor of said town of Derby; the proportion of the said new town in all the respects aforesaid being as the list of that part of the new town taken from the town of Derby for the year 1849, bears to the whole list of Derby, in the same year; and the selectmen of the said town of Derby and Seymour are hereby empowered to apportion and divide the present town poor, the debts,

credits, town funds and alms house land aforesaid, according to the rule aforesaid; and in case they should not be able to agree, then such apportionment shall be made by Samuel Meigs, Esquire, of Oxford, whose decision shall be final. And said town poor when so apportioned, shall be settled inhabitants for all purposes in the respective towns to which they are set and said new town shall be liable to maintain all such poor of the town from which it is taken, as are or may be absent therefrom; provided, such poor person or persons at the time of their departure belonged to the portion of said town of Derby hereby incorporated, or were residents therein as settled inhabitants at the time of such departure therefrom.

Resolved further, That the collector of town and state taxes of said Derby, be hereby authorized to collect the several taxes already laid, in the same manner as though this act had not passed.

Resolved further, That it shall be the duty of said new town to assume and perform the contracts and liabilities now subsisting between the town of Derby and any other person or persons for keeping in repair such portion of the roads of the old town of Derby as lie within the limits of said new town, and to save the said old town from all expense therefrom.

Resolved further, That the mileage of the said town of Seymour to Hartford be forty-five miles, and to New Haven be eleven miles.

Resolved further, That the first meeting of said town of Seymour shall be held on the fourth Monday of June, 1850, at the basement of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Humphreys Ville, in said town of Seymour; and Lemau Chatfield, Esquire, (and in case of his failure to attend the same, Harris B. Munson, Esquire,) shall be moderator of said meeting; and said meeting shall be warned by setting up a notification of the same on a sign post hereby established at the east end of the bridge over Naugatuck River, at said Humphreys Ville, and at such other place or places as said persons or either of them deem proper, at least five days before said meeting. And said town of Seymour shall at said first meeting, have all the powers incident to other towns in the State, and full right to act accordingly, to elect town officers; and the officers so elected at such meeting shall hold their offices until others are chosen and sworn in their stead.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT, ss. { I hereby certify that the foregoing
Office of Secretary of State, } is a true copy of record in this office.
In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of
said State, at Hartford, this 12th day of September, A. D., 1850.

{ SEAL }

JNO. P. C. MATHER, SECRETARY OF STATE.

January, 1850, was a remarkably warm month, and in the following month the snows were followed by heavy rains, raising the streams and causing considerable damage. In the freshet of Feb. 10th and 11th the lower bridge was considerably damaged and narrowly escaped being carried away. There was also a high flood March 1st.

The water lease of S. Y. Beach's papermill expiring in this year, it was pulled down and removed to its present location on Bladen's brook. Paper-making was discontinued June 15th and resumed Sept. 2nd.

A town meeting was held June 24th in the basement of the M. E. Church, as provided by the charter, Lemau Chatfield presiding as moderator. The principal officers of the new town were as follows:

Selectmen, Lemau Chatfield, Daniel L. Holbrook, Thomas Cochran.