

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION

OF

NEW ENGLAND.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

BY

A. J. COOLIDGE AND J. B. MANSFIELD.

BOSTON:
AUSTIN J. COOLIDGE,
39 COURT STREET.
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PELHAM, in the southeastern corner of Hillsborough county, adjoins Lawrence and Dracut, Mass., and is thirty-seven miles from Concord. The territory comprised in this town was included in the purchase of Wheelwright and in the patent of Mason. Although only distant about thirty miles from the capital of New England, no settlements were commenced here till 1722, a century after the landing at Plymouth. John Butler, William Richardson, and others were among the first settlers. Pelham was incorporated July 5, 1746, about five years after the establishment of the state line, by which a portion of the eastern territory of Dracut was taken from that town; the western part was under the jurisdiction of Dunstable (Nashua). Eighty-seven of the inhabitants of Pelham served in the war of the Revolution. A meeting-house was erected in 1747, and, November 13, 1751, a Congregational church

was organized, Rev. James Hobbs (Arminian in sentiment) being ordained pastor at the same time. Mr. Hobbs died June 20, 1765. Rev. Amos Moody was ordained November 20, 1765, and dismissed October 20, 1792, in consequence of opposition manifested by some of his charge, who had become so much dissatisfied as to form a new church, which subsequently, however, united with the original one. Rev. J. H. Church was ordained pastor, October 31, 1798, when the denominational sentiments of the church became more prominent than they had been under the previous pastors. Dr. Church was dismissed by mutual consent, September 30, 1835, after a successful pastorate of nearly thirty-seven years. Four divines have since occupied the pulpit at different periods.

The land comprises valuable meadow, productive pine, and good grazing. The soil is strong. Fruit is raised in considerable quantities, for which, and for the overplus productions of all kinds, a ready sale is found in Lowell, Lawrence, Nashua, and Haverhill. Pelham is rich in granite of a superior quality, which is carried to the above-mentioned places for building purposes. There are two business localities in Pelham, called the Centre and Butler's mills; two church edifices — Congregational and Free-will Baptist; six common schools, one high-school, and one post-office: also, one woollen mill, three grist-mills, four saw-mills, one pruning-shear factory, and two stores. Population, 1,071; valuation, \$560,936.