

CHAPTER VII.

Educational Institutions — Public Schools — Weymouth and Braintree Academy — Newspapers — Weymouth Historical Society — Social Libraries — Mutual Library Associations — Tufts Library.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.¹ — Next in importance to the ecclesiastical interests come those of education, of which the public schools form the prominent feature, and for these the town has always taken special care. In the early days of its history the records are exceedingly brief, and only slight and incidental mention is made of many things upon which now there is great need of fuller information. The first notice of matters connected with schools occurs on March 10, 1651, when the town voted to pay Capt. Perkins ten pounds for six months' schooling. Capt. William Perkins was a prominent man in town in thosedays, being "townsman," and probably held other important offices. In subsequent history it was found that it was to men of this character that the town intrusted the education of its children.

It is a singular fact, and one which shows that the interest of the town in education was not confined to its own borders, that the second mention should be that of a subscription of ten pounds sixteen shillings and sixpence by Weymouth to Cambridge College, in 1652. After Capt. Perkins, the next schoolmaster named is William Chard, who was also town clerk,

¹ The portion of this sketch relating to the public schools of Weymouth has been carefully compiled from the town, parish and other records, and is believed to contain as full an abstract as could be desired for a work of this character.

