

and continuing the business. To secure the services of one who was acquainted with the customers, they offered Alvah A. a small interest in the business and a partnership in the firm. So on the 1st of January, 1846, he commenced business for himself as one of the firm of Wilkinson, Stetson, & Co. He retained this connection for nearly seven years, leaving it in October, 1852. Upon the 1st of January, 1853, he formed a copartnership with Noble H. Hill, his brother, Charles H. Burrage, and Chas. J. Danforth, under the style of Hill, Burrage, & Co. This connection continued for six years; the firm dissolved in December, 1858. The two brothers then took in two other partners and continued the business under the style of Burrage Brothers & Co. Under this name, with different partners, they carried on the business for fifteen years, until Dec. 31, 1873, when the copartnership was dissolved and Alvah A. Burrage retired from active participation in trade.\* A little more than a year before this event, on the 9th and 10th of November, 1872, occurred the disastrous conflagration in Boston, which destroyed about one half of the business portion of the city, and property estimated at

---

\* Wilkinson, Stetson, & Co., while Mr. Burrage was a partner, occupied the store in Milk Street to which Richardson & Burrage had removed in 1842. Hill, Burrage, & Co.'s store was the hall and chamber of the old "Julien Hall" building, at the corner of Milk and Congress Streets. Burrage Brothers & Co. at first occupied the chambers of the granite and brick warehouse at the corner of Franklin and Hawley Streets, Nos. 33, 35, and 37 Franklin Street. Subsequently, during 1871 and 1872, until the fire, they occupied the lower floor and basement of the same building.