

and newspapers devoted to politics, so that a boy could learn little except the partisan doctrines from this source.

At the age of 21 he married Miss Nancy Glidden, daughter of Mr. John Glidden of Exeter, and his wife Anne Scribner. He had early a military office, but that was not to his taste. His great strength was in intellect, and the people soon recognized it by choosing him to many civil offices. The town chose him Moderator about 30 times, and Selectman 17 times. He was nine years Representative to the Legislature. His principles through life were of the Jeffersonian school of politics and the most liberal doctrines in religion. Perhaps he would not have called it religion, himself, for his belief was only philosophical. Some of his old friends tried to turn him against Gen. Jackson, but in vain. The name "Democracy" was dear to him to the last.

He used to say, "If Jefferson was a Tory, I am one."

His thirst for knowledge was a wonder and amazement to all his neighbors. They had never seen anything like it before. For forty years he read from six to ten hours every day, and his memory was good. His books used to come from neighboring libraries and Dartmouth College, where were being educated one of his sons, two grandsons, and a great grandson.

He read history, both sacred and profane, travels, and some fiction, but mostly scientific works and poetry, of all the great Greek and Roman, as well as English masters of song. Natural science was his favorite subject to the last day of his life. Astronomy, Chemistry, Botany, Philosophy were alike his delight. He would often read the same book over more than once. One of his learned acquaintances estimated that he read on an average from one hundred to two hundred pages daily; and that during his lifetime he could not have read less than six thousand octavo volumes of four hundred pages each. The day before his sudden death, he passed the late hours of the forenoon reading before his door.

He loved to converse about what he had read and showed plainly that he had well digested the whole. His company was much sought by the intelligent and the lovers of knowledge.

It is still related how he would enjoy receiving a new book, and how he would smile at the sight of a fresh, ponderous volume, and take it up as if he loved the very paper and every part of it. His comments on books were learned and correct, and showed he had the same discernment that had distinguished his father.

Many people thought his sight would be injured by so much reading, but it was not so, and, to the last he could read by the aid of spectacles the finest print with ease and comfort.

He was of a retiring nature and kept himself aloof from the din and strife of the political arena, although he was capable of filling the highest offices of the State. He used to say he hoped his children would be fond of reading.

He was a noted peacemaker, and gave legal advice to all inquirers without money, and to their great advantage. He died July 2, 1843, aged 77 years.