



ON MAIN STREET, MIDDLETOWN.

MIDDLETOWN.

BY GRACE IRENE CHAFEE.

Middletown, or Mattabesett, the Indian name by which the town was first called, was not settled for some time after the Pequot war in 1637. although there were many settlements along the sound and further up on the river. One of the causes which concurred to prevent an early settlement here was the fact that a large Indian tribe, very hostile to the English, existed at the point where Middletown now stands. Their wigwams stood thick at all places desirable for settlement. Their great sachem, Sowheag, had his stronghold on the high ground, back from the river, and his warriors were clustered thickly about him. The English were, therefore, naturally unwilling to come and settle in the vicinity of so formidable a neighbor.

But on Oct. 30, 1646, the General Court appointed a Mr. Phelps to join a committee for the contemplation of a settlement in Mattabesett. We are not expressly informed how soon and thoroughly the ground was examined, or the site for settlement fixed.

The first few pages of the town records are lost, and others are nearly obliterated; consequently the names of persons, enrolled, who were preparing to occupy the land and put up dwellings, are not known. However, rapid progress was not made, and it was not until the year 1650 that actual settlement was begun. On March



THE GAYLORD PLACE.
The Oldest House now Standing in Middletown.

20, of that year, the addition was made of "Samuel Smith, senior, to the committee about the lands at Mattabeseck, in the roome of James Boosy." This committee reported that these lands might support fifteen families, but a greater number than that were soon here. These were settled north and south from Little River.

In 1651 the records state: "It is ordered, sentenced and decreed that Mattabeseck shall bee a Towne, and that they shall make choyce of one of

theire inhabitants according to order in that state, that so hee may take the oath of a Constable, the next convenient season."

"It is ordered that Mattabeseck and Norwaulk shall be rated this present year in theire proporcon, according to the rule of rating in the country, for



THE JEHOSEPHAT STARR PLACE.

theire cattle and other visible estate, and that Norwaulk shall present to Mr. Ludlow, and Mattabeseck to Mr. Wells, in each Towne one inhabitant, to be sworn by them Constables in theire several Townes."

In the autumn of 1652 the town was represented in the General Court, and in November, 1653, the name Middletown was given to "the plan-

tation commonly called Mattabeseck." It is probable that the name of Middletown was given to the township on account of its central location, because it lay between the towns up the river and Saybrook at its mouth. In 1654 the number of taxable persons was thirty-one.

Before the commencement of the settlement, a large tract of land comprising most of the township, was given to Mr. Haynes, the Governor of Connecticut, by Sowheag, for which a small consideration was given in return. But the Indian title was not wholly extinguished until about twelve years after. Then, Sowheag having died probably, a tract of land extending from Wethersfield (then including Glastonbury,) to Haddam, was, for a further and



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full consideration, given to Samuel Wyllys and others acting in behalf of the town. The original deed was written the 24th of January, 1672, in which the Indian proprietors of the territory gave "the tract of land within the bounds of Wethersfield on the north, Haddam on the south, and to run from the great river the whole breadth toward the east six miles, and from the great river toward the west so far as the General Court of Connecticut hath granted the bounds of Middletown shall extend, with all the meadows, pastures, woods, underwood, stones, quarries, brooks, ponds, rivers, profits, commodities and appurtenances whatsoever belonging thereunto, unto the said Mr. Samuel Wyllys, Capt. John Talcott, Mr. James Richards and John Allyn, in behalf of and for the use of the inhabitants of the town of Middletown, their heirs and



THE ALSOP PLACE.

assigns forever." A small tract of land was reserved to remain the possession of the heirs of Sowheag. The original deed with thirteen Indian signatures affixed is entered in the old Court Book of records, folio 70, April 5, 1673, by John Allyn, secretary.

In the district north of the city, now known as Newfield, the Indians held lands until 1713; and the reservation laid out on Indian Hill, they retained until 1767, when, having become reduced to a small number, they sold their right and united with the Farmington Indians.

The records of the town are so deficient, it is not known who were the first settlers. The earliest remaining entry on the town books is Feb. 2, 1652, and that is a vote for building a meeting house. From this building as a centre was laid out, in 1663, the bounds of Middletown, four miles south, five miles west and three miles east. About this meeting house clustered the

dwelling of most of the settlers, at the upper end of Main street a little above Washington. A few others settled further south, at the southern end of Main street, and a portion settled in what is now Cromwell, then called the "Upper Houses," or North Society. In 1670 there were only fifty-two householders in the town, but thirty-five surnames, those being generally relatives. With two or three exceptions, these were of English extraction, coming directly from the British Isle, from towns in the eastern part of Massachusetts, or from earlier settled towns in Connecticut.

The increase of population in Middletown was very slow. There was nothing to invite a rapid immigration here at first. The country was rough,



BROAD STREET.

and the labor of cultivating even small portions of the soil was great. Markets for that which was produced were distant and difficult to reach. Imports were small, and were mostly limited to articles of necessity. The colonists suffered more from privations and hardships than we can calculate. They had little property and everything to begin anew. At first their dwellings were wretched, being hardly a shelter from the wind and rain. They had little furniture, and that of the plainest only. Their clothing was all of rude home manufacture. They were inexperienced in subduing a forest, deficient in implements for cultivating the ground, had scarcely any teams, horses, cattle or sheep. There were but few mechanics among them. An hundred pound lot was reserved to tempt a blacksmith to come among them, and it was not until Sept. 1661, that one appeared who pledged himself "to inhabit upon the land and to do the Townes worck of smithing during the term of four years, before he shall make sale of it to any other." Examination of the town records also discovers the fact that "at a towne meeting Feb. 9th, 1658, ther was granted to the shoomecker eagellston a peas of meddow that was



MAIN STREET, SHOWING POST OFFICE AND OLD COURT HOUSE.

intended for a shoomecker formerly, leying from creack to creack buting on the bogey meddow, as allso a howse lot beyond goodman meller in case not by and if by then to give him upland answerable to a howse lot and he ingaging to inhabit it seven year upon it as also doth ingag to indeevour to sut the towne in his trade for making and mending shoes." They looked to their clearings and forests for support. From the former they obtained their food and a few articles for barter ; from the latter, materials for boards, staves and hoops, which were also bartered for groceries and articles of clothing.

For the next hundred years settlements were made in Westfield, Middlefield, Portland, then called East Middletown, Middle Haddam, Haddam Neck, East Hampton and other places.

In 1679 the population was increased sufficiently for the building of a new meeting house, and on the 11th of November of that year "the town by vote



THE BENJAMIN DOUGLASS PLACE.

agreed to build a new meeting house, thirty-two feet square, and fifteen feet between joints." It was erected on Main street, on the east side, about opposite what is now called Liberty street. In this all the inhabitants worshipped at least twenty-three years, and the greater part of them more than thirty-five. By 1750 there were five local parishes formed in the township, all of them Congregational, and a church was organized by the inhabitants of the first parish of Middletown and Westfield, called a "strict Congregational Church."

The early settlers were a very religious people. All attended public worship, and before they had a meeting house they worshipped God under the boughs of a tree. Their first sanctuaries were humble structures, but they were grateful for the accommodations they afforded. Not long after the set-

tlement commenced, the people employed Mr. Samuel Stow, a native of Concord, Mass., and a graduate of Harvard College, as candidate for minister of the gospel. He preached to them for some time, but some difficulties arising in the town respecting him, a vote was passed to discontinue his ministry and look elsewhere. The difficulties came before the General Court, and a Mr. Nathaniel Collins was appointed to succeed, and was ordained Nov. 4th, 1668.

In the early settlements of Connecticut, people were assembled for public worship by the beat of a drum, and the place was guarded by armed men as a security from attacks by the Indians. The beat of the drum was necessary to collect the soldiers who acted as guard, and it also collected the congregation. Mr. Giles Hamlin gave a drum to the town, and never did a chime of bells sound sweeter. The people did not need it, that they might know the Sabbath



WASHINGTON STREET.

had come. It was on their minds through the week, and before the sun sank in the west on Saturday, worldly concerns were laid aside that their minds might be free to keep the day in a holy manner. But this told them when the time arrived for them to start for the sanctuary, and while there was danger from the Indians, when they might go in safety. A drum was used in the Upper Houses more than sixty years after the settlement began.

After the people in Upper and East Middletown had become distinct parishes, they undertook to build a new meeting house much larger than either of two houses that existed. In this church a choir was introduced. It was large and well trained. The elder President Adams, who attended worship here in 1771, says of the singing: "I heard the finest singing I ever heard in my life. The front and side galleries were crowded with rows of lads and lasses, who performed all their parts in the utmost perfection—a row of

women all standing up and playing their parts with perfect skill and judgment, added a sweetness and a sprightliness to the whole, which absolutely charmed me."

It has been said that the early ministers were superior men, men of talents and learning. Mr. Collins, the first pastor, was an excellent character, whose brilliancy illuminated the whole colony. Cotton Mather wrote an elegy on



COMMODORE THOMAS McDONOUGH.

him. He died in 1684, and was succeeded by the Rev. Noadiah Russell, one of the founders and trustees of Yale College. His son, Rev. William Russell succeeded him. The fourth pastor of the first church in Middletown, the Rev. Enoch Huntington, was a member of Yale College and distinguished for high scholarship. Beside the duties of his ministry, he engaged in teaching young men, preparing them for college or business. Many from abroad as well as from home vicinity, were under his tuition, and among the names of his pupils can be found those of many literary, distinguished and useful men.

Only one mode of worship, Congregational, was observed in Middletown for about a century after the settlement was com-

menced. The various other denominations now represented all arose after 1750.

Before leaving this period, however, mention must be made of a few eminent and influential citizens. Mr. Nathaniel White, who resided in the Upper Houses, was a man of high religious character and sound judgment. He was one of the first magistrates of the town, and held military commissions. Another whom the people delighted to honor was Mr. Giles Hamlin, as, also, his son John Hamlin, and his grandson Jabez Hamlin. Mr. Giles Hamlin was elected representative to the General Court twenty-two times. Mr. John Hamlin was a member for seven sessions, and then an assistant for twenty-six years. The excellence of Giles Hamlin may have contributed to bring forward his son John Hamlin; and his excellence combined with that of his father may have had more influence in bringing forward Jabez Hamlin. John Hamlin besides being advanced in military life to the rank of Colonel, was put into the commission of the peace as early as 1733 or 4; was a justice of the quorum for Hartford County, from 1745 to 1754, and then judge of that court thirty years. He was elected a representative to the General Assembly forty-three times, and was repeatedly Speaker of the Lower House. He was also for a time a member of the Council of Safety. He was judge of probate from the formation of Middletown district in 1752 till 1789, and mayor of this city from its incorporation in 1784 until his death. Jabez Hamlin was publicly educated and pos-

essed a well formed and well balanced mind, unusual sweetness and uniformity of temper, and courtliness of manner. He descended to his grave, rich in the esteem of men, and beloved of his God. He is buried in the old graveyard of Middletown, lying on the banks of the Connecticut river, which is one of the oldest in the United States. His inscription reads thus:—

"In memory of the Hon. Jabez Hamlin, Esq., son of the late John Hamlin, who deceased æt. 82, April 25th, 1791, having been honored by the public confidence from youth to advanced years and employed in various grades of office until he was called to higher duties of Magistracy. After a life of great usefulness in Church and State, he died in a good old age, respected, beloved, lamented."

Ship building flourished in East Middletown about 1767, but quarrying became of more importance. The place was subsequently named Portland from Portland in England, whence freestone is transported in immense quantities



* GOLD MEDAL PRESENTED TO COMMODORE MCDONOUGH BY CONGRESS IN RECOGNITION OF HIS VICTORY ON LAKE CHAMPLAIN. OBTAINED BY CONGRESS. ACTUAL SIZE.

to London and other parts of the country, as the freestone from our Portland is carried to New York and other places in the United States. As early as October 11, 1669, an entry on the town records states that "It was at ye towne meeting granted unto Mr. Adams, shipwright, for building a vessel or vessels this winter liberty to get timber upon the commons and liberty of building place so that they doe not cumber ye passage of carts to ye landing place." In 1680 but one vessel was owned, and that was only 70 tons. There was only one other on the river, a vessel of 90 tons at Hartford. The trade was carried on in these two vessels. In 1730 only two vessels were owned here; both united rated at 105 tons. There were, also, but two merchants. One of these was James Brown, an excellent Scotchman from Edinburgh, who used to cross

* "The Medallie History of the United States of America," 1776-1876, by J. F. Loubat, LL. D has an engraving of this medal. There is one also in "Lossing's Field Book of the Revolution," but the reverse side is different. We incline to think that Loubat's book is correct and give it as he has.

the country to Boston on horseback, once or more in the year, to make his contracts. Some years later there were still but three or four merchants.

But in the latter half of the seventeen hundreds, a very profitable trade was opened with the West Indies. Middletown offered great advantages for



GENERAL J. K. F. MANSFIELD.

carrying on this commerce, being situated on the largest river in New England, having a fine harbor to which vessels could ascend drawing ten feet of water, with rich towns on its banks where articles suitable for the West Indian market could be easily procured. The most successful in this trade was Richard Alsop, who had been educated a merchant in the store of Philip Livingstone in New York. He knew well how to avail himself of these advantages. He came to this town and commenced business about 1750. He had his stores in the lower rooms of the old town house, standing on Main street, a little above Washington. He engaged in commerce and prospered so much that he sometimes insured vessels for others on his private responsibility. He was a man of integrity, generosity and public

spirit. His fellow citizens repeatedly elected him a representative to the Legislature. He died early in the Revolution. George Phillips, Col. Mathew Talcot and others were likewise engaged in the trade at this time.

This trade stimulated agriculture; and by this time the best lands in all the parishes were brought under cultivation, and yielded abundant crops of wheat, rye, barley, oats, flax, maize, and English grasses. Great quantities of provisions, and great numbers of cattle and horses were sent to the West Indies; and great quantities of rum, sugar, molasses and salt were imported. Provisions in large quantities were sent from the river to New York, to be consumed there, or re-shipped for foreign markets, and thence various articles of merchandise were brought back in return.



THE GENERAL MANSFIELD PLACE.

The West India trade, and almost all other trade, the Revolutionary War deranged, or rather suspended, but it was resumed after the war was over.

For fifty years previous to the breaking out of the war, Middletown had become gradually more and more prosperous. The increase in agriculture, domestic manufactures and other industries which the West India trade conducted to, had the effect of rapidly increasing the population. Ship-building was an outcome of the growth of commerce and was carried on at many points along the river. Carpenters, blacksmiths, wheelwrights, shoemakers, etc., had multiplied to meet the requirements of the enlarged population; and for many years the industry and frugality of the people was rewarded by prosperity. Some of the principal traders at this time were Elijah and Nehemiah Hubbard, Col. Lemuel Storrs, George and Thompson Phillips, sons of the George Phillips before mentioned, and General Comfort Sage; Joseph W. Alsop, a younger man, also succeeded in it.



GUN POINT.

To enter into the details of the effects the war had upon Middletown, and the history of the many lives influenced thereby, would require much time.



THE OLD COURT HOUSE.

Suffice to say that Middletown took its due share in the derangement of commerce, suffering and disorder that the war carried in its wake for the next few years. Alarm and indignation was first excited by the passage of the Boston Port Bill, and the arrival of Gen. Gage in May, 1774 to enforce it by stopping the trade of that important town, and with it to a great extent, the trade of Massachusetts and New England. The House of Representatives, then in session at Hartford, passed strong resolutions against the unrighteous act, many towns did the same, and pledged their co-operation in defence of the rights of the people. On the 15th of June in this year, more than

five hundred inhabitants of this town assembled and gave such a pledge.

One measure, which was the subject of much consideration about this time was the breaking off from all trade with the mother country, so long as she should continue her arbitrary proceedings. How the people felt on this point is clear from an incident which occurred, when the delegates from Massachusetts were on their way to the first Continental Congress. Stopping in Middletown, Dr. Eliot Rawson, Mr. Alsop, Mr. Mortimer and others, the committee of correspondence Matthew Talcott and Titus Hosmer, Mr. Henshaw and



THE RIGHT REV. JOHN WILLIAMS.

many other gentlemen called upon them to pay their respects, and to assure them that they would abide by whatever was decided upon, even to a total stoppage of trade to Europe, and the West Indies. This assurance is the more noticable, because the wealth of the town at that time, was mainly derived from foreign commerce, and some of the gentlemen present were principals in carrying it on. Congress assembled, and formed an association for non-importation, non-exportation and non-consumption "of British goods." This measure, thus pursued here and elsewhere, was designed to show Great Britain that the Americans were determined not to submit to oppression, and that if they could not live peaceably, with her, they would endeavor to live without her. Trade, therefore, was rudely interrupted, and all prosperity and progress was for the time at an end.

After the Revolution had come to a successful issue, commerce began to revive, although it never afterward reached the prosperity it had enjoyed before the war. In order that commerce might be pursued to a greater advantage, a petition was signed and presented to the Legislature in 1784, that a part of Middletown, where commerce had been principally and almost wholly carried on before the war, might be invested with city privileges. The signers alleged that "many inconveniences were felt by them, as well as by strangers, for want of due regulations of the police of the town;" and that keeping the high ways in good repair, removing the ob-



RESIDENCE OF BISHOP WILLIAMS.

structions from the channel of the river and many other regulations for commercial convenience, were impossible to be accomplished without a separate and special jurisdiction. The petition was granted in May of the same year. At the same time Hartford, New Haven, New London and Norwich were constituted cities.

In 1815 there were in the city two hundred and nineteen dwelling houses, and three hundred and fifty-three families. In 1850 there were six hundred and three dwelling houses, and seven hundred and eighteen families. There were also seven Churches, four Banks, a Court-house, Gaol and Alms-house, the University buildings and a High School.

In connection with the war of 1812, one illustrious name must be mentioned, that of Commodore Thomas McDonough. He was the distinguished hero of



THE RUSSELL PLACE.

Lake Champlain. Although born in Delaware, his long residence in Middletown, and his alliance in the family of Mr. N. Shaler of Middletown, give us a claim to his memory. He received during his life numberless honors, medals and gifts from different states and towns. He was in the naval service till near the time of his death, and it was upon the sea that his death occurred, November 10, 1825. On the arrival of his remains at New York, the authorities of the city, in sympathy with the feelings of the nation, deeply mourned the loss to their country; the vessels in the harbor displayed their colors at half mast, and a detachment from the militia accompanied the hearse through the city. He is buried in the old "Riverside Cemetery" in Middletown, and his inscription reads:—

"Sacred to the memory of Thos. McDonough of the U. S. Navy. He was born in the State of Delaware, December, 1783, and died at sea of pulmonary consumption, while on his return from Command of the American Squadron in the Mediterranean on the 10th of November, 1825."

In 1861 the Civil War broke out. The news of the bombardment of Fort Sumter was the cause of great excitement in Middletown, and called forth demonstrations of loyalty and patriotism from all classes. One illustrious name, of which Middletown feels justly proud, must be mentioned in connection with this period, that of General J. K. F. Mansfield. He was one of the State's most highly esteemed citizens. His whole life was one of military ser-



ON HIGH STREET.

vice. He was killed at the battle of Antietam, on the 17th of September, 1862. A special meeting of the common council was called to take action in relation to his death, and it was voted that a committee proceed to New York to escort the remains to this city; and another committee was appointed to make all necessary and proper arrangements for the funeral, which took place on the 24th of September following. He was buried with the military honors to which his rank was entitled, and the solemn occasion attracted a large gathering of people from all parts of the country.

The city is replete with historical legend. The illustration showing what is known as Gun Point is a spot up Little River with a story of Revolutionary times attached to it. The British were advancing up the Connecticut river

and had arrived at Essex. The citizens of Middletown, in expectation of having their stores and ammunition pilfered, carried their guns to this point on Little River and there sunk them in order that they might not fall into the hands of the British. Hence the place derives its name of Gun Point.

The old house on Washington street, immediately behind the Stueck block, is believed to be the oldest house now standing in the city. It was known as the Gaylord house, and was erected about 1722 by Samuel Gaylord. The initials of himself and wife, S. & M., are still to be seen cut in a stone on the side of a fireplace therein.

On South Main street is the old Kilbourn house, believed to be the second oldest house in existence in Middletown. It was known formerly as the Hub-



WESLEYAN CAMPUS.

bard mansion. The land with the unfurnished house was bought by John Kent in February, 1733. He occupied it until his death in 1775. It then became the property of his daughter, wife of Elijah Hubbard, and afterward of their son, the Hon. Samuel D. Hubbard, of whom Mr. Kilbourn purchased it in 1854. There are many other old houses in town.

The manufacture of woolen cloths and fire-arms was carried on early in the century in Middletown. In 1810 the Middletown Woolen Company built a mill on Washington street and did a successful business for a number of years. It was one of the first factories in this country that used steam as a motive power. In 1814 a woolen factory on Pamecha River was started by John R. Watkinson, and continued for over twenty years. Colonel Simeon North started a pistol factory at Staddle Hill about 1810. He is said to have been the first manufacturer of pistols in this country. He had a large government contract for many years, from 1812. Oliver Bidwell commenced about 1810 on the upper Pamecha to make guns, and had a government contract. Colonel

Nathan Starr, Jr., erected a factory at Staddle Hill in 1812 and manufactured government swords, and later, muskets and rifles.

In 1850 Middletown already possessed numerous manufactories, many of them now being immense concerns. It would be impossible in this article to enter into detail, but mention must be made of some of the more important ones then existing. In Pameacha there existed the factories of H. L. Baldwin and F. Baldwin, the first making bank and store locks, the last, closet locks. Another concern making locks was the William Wilcox & Co. manufactory. I. W. Baldwin had an extensive and profitable business in a sash and blind, flooring and planing mill. The Pameacha Manufacturing Company had the tweed or jean mill and a business of \$20,000. Machinery, castings, iron dirt scrapers, corn shellers, plows, etc., were made at the works of William Stroud.



THE HIGH SCHOOL.

In the South Farms, the Russell Manufacturing Company, with an invested capital of \$100,000, employed about two hundred operatives in the manufacture of India rubber suspenders, cotton and worsted webbing. In the city itself the establishment of W. & B. Douglas employed eighty workmen at their large pump manufactory. Jesse G. Baldwin was engaged in the silver-plating business, with thirty workmen employed. There were, besides these, many minor concerns of which none now remain. These were as follows: H. H. Graves & Co., britannia coffee and tea urns; Nathaniel Bacon, bank and safe locks; H. E. Boardman, gaiter boots; J. K. Penfield, patent grummets; Penfield & Camp, medicated liquid cuticle, a substitute for sticking plasters in surgical operations; H. Salisbury & Co., making of gold spectacles; C. F. Smith, man-

ufacture of sand paper. There were also manufactories in Cromwell, Westfield and Middlefield. Those here catalogued which remain at the present day are much enlarged and improved, and there are numerous concerns now existing then unknown.

Middletown of to-day, as a place of residence and natural beauty, has few equals. Its wide streets, numerous trees, general healthfulness and charming location render it delightful. Picturesquely situated in the bend where the river makes its graceful turn eastward, about twenty-seven miles from its mouth, the city stands on a gentle slope, gradually stretching up west from the banks of the river to an elevation of 155 feet. It is surrounded on all sides by charming scenery, the character of the country being strikingly and pleasantly diversified. Perhaps no place in Connecticut enjoys a more lovely site, or



SOUTH GREEN, SHOWING SOLDIERS' MONUMENT AND M. E. CHURCH.

abounds more in the picturesque. It is impossible for an observing student of nature to acquaint himself with its variety of scene without being enchanted at the ravishing little picture spots that meet him everywhere. The river itself, with its windings in and out, contributes no small share to the beauty of Middletown's environment.

As a whole, perhaps the city may be best viewed from the grounds of the last new building at the State Institution for the Insane, which, standing on an eminence around which the river sweeps, commands a magnificent prospect of the whole scene in all its details to its utmost boundaries. The view of the surrounding country, with the long line of blue hills in the far distance and the winding river immediately beneath, the city in the middle distance nestling in the bend of the river, its spires and towers peeping through a thick growth of trees, is like a panorama.

The insane asylum itself is a collection of splendid buildings and attractive grounds. In 1866 the town of Middletown granted to the state, for the

purposes of a hospital, 158 acres of land, and the cornerstone of the original building was laid June 20, 1867. The institution has been enlarged from time



CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE.
Main Hospital.

to time, so that 460 acres of land are now occupied. It is one of the largest institutions of its kind in the world.

Wesleyan University is located in Middletown. It was chartered in 1831. Although it is under the patronage of the Methodist church, it is not a sectarian school. It is well situated at the highest part of the city and occupies extensive grounds. The five principal buildings—North College, South College, Chapel, Library, and Orange Judd Hall, all of stone and of fine architecture, stand in a line on the front campus facing High street and extending from



CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE.
Middle Hospital.

College street beyond William. Beside these buildings are others in the rear; an observatory and its transit house, the physical and electrical laboratories, a large and elegant gymnasium erected in 1894, beside the residence of the president of the college in one corner of the campus, and Webb Hall, the ladies' dormitory, opposite. There are also many elegant society club-houses in connection with the college, which in beauty of architecture contribute largely to

the adornment of the city. The illustration showing High street gives a small view of Webb Hall, the Psi U and the D. K. E. club-houses.

Berkeley Divinity school occupies a large area at the corner of Main and Washington streets. Beside the school proper, chapel and library, there is also the residence of the Rt. Rev. John Williams, bishop of Connecticut and senior bishop of the Episcopal church in the United States.

In the southwestern portion of the town stands the Connecticut Industrial School for Girls. It is a private institution under the patronage of the state. It was among the first institutions of its kind organized in the United States. It was incorporated in 1868, received its first inmates January, 1870, and was formally opened the 30th of June following.

Middletown has improved rapidly within the last few years. The old court house, built in 1832, has been torn down and a handsome new municipal building erected in its place. A large and elaborate new high school has been built on the corner of Pearl and Court streets, in which the city feels a just pride. Many other improvements are noticeable. Middletown is undoubtedly awakening from the lethargy which has characterized it for so many years. It has been termed, and perhaps not inappropriately, "the graveyard of Connecticut." But the name will apply no longer. Our quiet but beautiful little town has awakened to a tardy recognition of its advantages, and an activity heretofore unknown now marks it.

