

7224

also — as was the custom in those days, although I have never seen any pieces bearing his name, nor do I know of any existing. He accumulated a sufficient competence to keep him in comfort during his declining years; but he did not live long to enjoy it, for he passed away on November 19, 1852, at the age of sixty-seven.

James Hervey Putnam, the other partner in the firm of Bailey & Putnam, was born in Charlestown, New Hampshire, in 1803, the son of David and Hannah Bailey Putnam. His mother was a sister of Timothy Bailey, who was, therefore, Putnam's uncle. Very little is known of his early history, nor is it known when he came to Malden; but, from such information as I have been able to obtain, it seems probable that he came with his parents soon after Bailey settled there. It is said that he entered the employ of his uncle, serving his apprenticeship and afterward becoming a partner.

Just when this partnership was in operation I am unable to state with definiteness. The most diligent search has failed to discover any information. It is known there was such a partnership and that there are marked specimens of pewter to prove it. I fix the date tentatively about 1830-1835 — partly from hearsay evidence and partly because it could not have been before 1824, when Putnam became of age, nor after 1836, when the Massachusetts state census shows that there were two tin ware shops in Malden employing twenty hands and manufacturing goods to the value of thirty-one thousand dollars. As the largest number of hands employed by Bailey was eight, we may reasonably infer that the other twelve were employed by Putnam — for, other than these two shops, there were none of a similar kind in Malden at that time.

The business of Bailey & Putnam was conducted at Bailey's house — the partnership being, I imagine, an incident of comparatively short duration. Their output of pewter must have been of limited extent, if one may judge from the very few marked specimens of their work that are

known to exist. In Figure 7 is shown a whale oil lamp made by Bailey & Putnam; and Figure 8 pictures their regular mark.

After the partnership had been dissolved, Putnam opened his own shop in the brick building which still stands at the corner of Main Street and Eastern Avenue, then called Haskins Street, while Bailey continued as before. In his own establishment Bailey seems to have done a large and prosperous business. His principal manufacture at first, like that of his uncle, was tin ware; but eventually the making of pewter and britannia seems to have become of much greater importance. The state census for the year ending June 1, 1855, records that in the one establishment in Malden for the manufacture of pewter and britannia ware (one only, for Bailey had died in 1852) the value of the goods produced as eighteen thousand dollars; the hands employed were eighteen.

On June 8, 1826, James Hervey Putnam married Mary Hill of Malden. Both were of old New England stock. Eleven children were born to them, but none of them is now living, so far as I know. One connection of the family, a son-in-law, has just died at the age of eighty-five years. He was my near neighbor and friend, an active and honored citizen whose mind was bright and clear to the last.

The pewter made by Putnam was of the usual variety. It was of excellent quality, fine workmanship and good design. In the New England *Business Directory* of 1849, Putnam is classed with Israel Trask and Eben Smith of Beverly and Roswell Gleason of Dorchester. Specimens of his work are not very difficult to find and they are well worth collecting. In Figure 9 are shown two of his pieces — a coffee pot and a teapot; and in Figure 10 is shown a whale oil lamp. Figure 11 shows Putnam's regular mark.

James Hervey Putnam died in May, 1855, at the age of fifty-two years. Several children survived him, but as they were too young to carry on the business the shop was closed.

The Cleaning of Pewter

THE subject of pewter cleaning is one that is often under discussion. Each collector has his own theory on the subject and his own method of procedure.

It is possible to have pewter too clean or, at any rate, too bright. In that fact lies one objection to wheel burnishing. The process removes not only rust but the precious mellow patina which is a desirable attribute. It tends to give pewter a skinned look which is distressing to the eye of the sensitive collector.

For occasional cleaning of pewter nothing is better than soap and water followed by conscientious rubbing. But, for the piece which, through years of neglect, comes to hand in a profound state of grime and rust, a more heroic form of bath must be prepared.

Certain types of corrosion in pewter are incurable. They are due to changes in the constituent antimony. Eventually these changes will produce holes and apparently nothing can be done to prevent.

H. J. L. J. Massé in *The Pewter Collector** suggests various methods of dealing with ordinary black tarnish. One of these is

the use of hydrochloric acid applied with a brush. This is a risky procedure, however, as the acid attacks not only the tarnish but the metal as well. Hence, wiping the treated part must follow close on the heels of the acid application.

Soaking in kerosene for some hours, followed by more hours of patient rubbing is likewise recommended by Mr. Massé. Soaking in hot water in which a small quantity of potash — a heaping teaspoonful to a quart of water — has been dissolved is, perhaps, as efficacious.

Various applications of powdered brick with acids are suggested by different English writers. The American owner of pewter will find it easier, and quite as satisfactory, to invest in a ready mixed metal polish.

Some persons clean pewter with the aid of soap and sand; but the latter should be very fine in quality, and various commercial abrasives are safer to use and more easily procured. For the final rub use chamois skin.

Antonio De Navarro in his *Causeries on English Pewter* urges patience in cleaning. Long polishing by hand he maintains brings that "quiet lustre" which is a special attribute of pewter and one not to be jeopardized by get-clean-quick methods.

*New York, 1921, p. 35.