

CHAPTER VIII.

1794.

NEWBURYPORT WOOLEN MANUFACTORY, Byfield, Mass.

IN 1794 a woolen manufactory, for which it has been claimed that it was the first woolen manufactory in the United States operated by water-power, was started in the parish of Byfield, in the town of Newbury, Mass. In this history has been given the record of a woolen manufactory, a part of the machinery, at least, of which was operated by water-power, which was established some six years earlier in Hartford, Conn., and was still in operation at the time of the organization of the company at Newburyport, and appears to have been quite as successful as that was at Byfield, neither of them having realized the hopes of their projectors.

The circumstances which led to the organization of the company at Newburyport and the erection of the mill were these. On the 24th of March, 1793, Arthur and John Scholfield, natives of Standich-foot in Saddleworth, Yorkshire, Eng., sailed from Liverpool for America, and landed in Boston in the following May. They at once introduced themselves to Rev. Jedediah Morse, D. D., at that time minister of the First Congregational Church in Charlestown, with whose name they had probably become acquainted from the fact that his book, "Morse's Geography and Gazetteer," had a considerable circulation at that time in England. They stated to him that they were woolen manufacturers, thoroughly expert in the business, as it was then carried on in England. Dr.

