

As for "the curse" on the Hawthorne family, it is doubtful if Hawthorne really believed in its efficacy. "I should fancy from your books," wrote Hillard,<sup>24</sup> "that you were burdened with some secret sorrow, that you had some blue chamber in your soul, into which you hardly dared to enter yourself; but when I see you, you give me the impression of a man as healthy as Adam in Paradise."

Possibly also we do not believe in the "curse" of former generations—retribution is a term better suited to us and our modern beliefs.

Though the mills of God grind slowly,  
 Yet they grind exceeding small:  
 Though with patience He stand waiting,  
 With exactness grinds He all.

*Tennyson.*

Since the above was written, nearly half of Salem was destroyed in the great fire of 26th of June, 1914. Nearly every house in Hawthorne Street was burned, also Friends' Meeting House.

---

## A Short Convincing Sermon

---

In the days when the Erie Canal was projected many good people of various denominations seriously felt that it was flying in the face of Providence to build a canal from Buffalo to the seaboard.

If the Lord had intended that there be navigation across the State would He not have made a waterway there? In the midst of this weighty controversy it one day happened that a certain Minister attended a meeting where a most uncommercial, but wellmeaning, brother talked long against the effort to build the Canal.

Surely, he was quite different from most Friends, who are naturally quick to develop commerce. After he had proved to his own satisfaction, at least, the evil of the thing, a long, gaunt figure, with tense face and profound determination, if not disgust, depicted in every lineament, arose, the angular body reached forward, a long fore-finger was thrust out, while solemnly rolled forth this very pithy sermon: "And Jacob *digged* a well!"

WILLIAM C. ALLEN, in *The Westonian*, Pa., 11mo. 1913.

<sup>24</sup> George Stillman Hillard (1808-1879), American Journalist and Miscellaneous Writer. See "Nathaniel Hawthorne's Life," by Prof. W. F. P. Stockley, M.A., in *The Irish Educational Review*, 1914.