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THE TOWN OF BECKET.

At a meeting of the Massachusetts Historical Society, on Thursday, January 9, 1890, Dr. Samuel A. Green made the following remarks: —

In a letter of our late associate, General Palfrey, written to me last summer, he quotes from Mr. Whitmore's article on the Names of Towns in Massachusetts, published in the Proceedings (vol. xii. pp. 393–419), and refers to the statement there made on page 405, that the name of Becket, as applied to the town in Berkshire County, "can hardly be traced." General Palfrey suggests that it came from Beckett, the name of the estate in English Berkshire, owned by the Lords Barrington. On mentioning the suggestion to Mr. R. C. Winthrop, Jr., he at once concurred in the opinion, and said, furthermore, that the name of the Barringtons was originally Shute, and that one of the family was Colonel Samuel Shute, Governor of the Province of Massachusetts from the year 1716 to 1723. A niece of Colonel Shute was married to Sir Francis Bernard, Governor of the Province from the year 1760 to 1769; and accordingly, when, in 1765, Governor Bernard was called upon to name certain towns in the western part of the State, he seems to have called one of them after the family-seat of his wife's cousin, Lord Barrington.

Akin to this subject, there is another statement, in the same article on the Names of Towns in Massachusetts, which

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will bear modification. In a note at the bottom of page 407, Mr. Whitmore refers to the town of Winchester, formerly called Arlington, and says that it was in Hampshire County, but that he "cannot find its present representative." This town was in territory once claimed by Massachusetts, but which, by the running of the new provincial line in 1741, was brought within the limits of New Hampshire, and comes now in Cheshire County of that State.

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