

# Waltham

## THE AMERICAN WATCH

### How a WALTHAM WATCH Set England's Time

26 Ormiston Road, Westcombe Park,  
London, S. E. England, 10-2-'97.

American Waltham Watch Co.,  
Waltham, Mass., U. S. A.

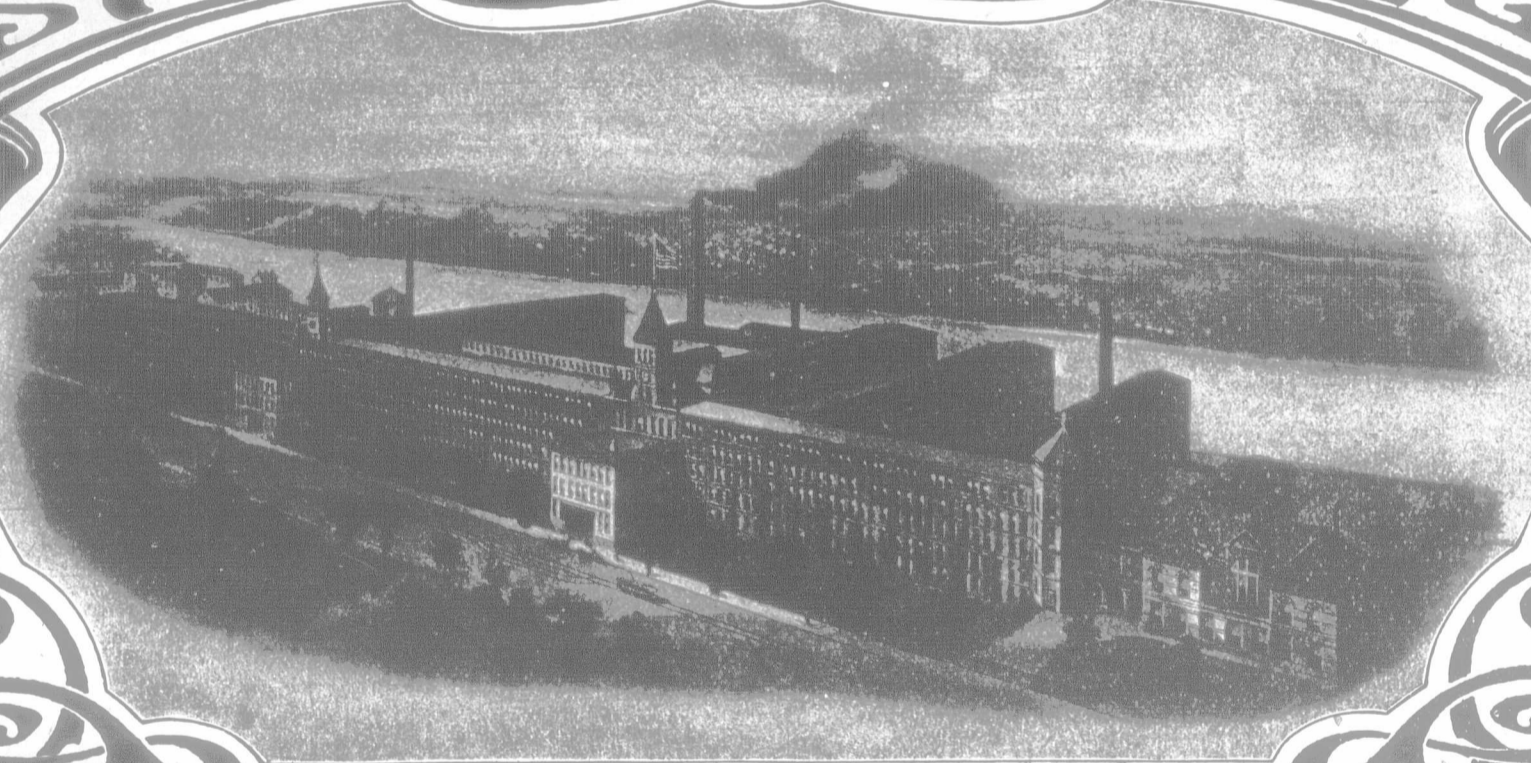
GENTLEMEN: About three years since, acting on the advice of a friend who had had one of your watches for about eighteen years, I purchased a Lever Waltham Watch. I am happy to say it has turned out a marvel of accuracy, and under the circumstances I feel I am only doing my duty in bringing this fact to your notice. \* \* \* But perhaps this most unique performance, and the one of which I am especially proud, is the fact that by its aid I was able to detect an error in the fall of the time-ball at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, which gives the standard time to the civilized world. It happened as follows: I make a practice of watching the fall of the time-ball each day at 1 o'clock P. M., whenever the air is clear enough, and one day, to my surprise, I found the ball had dropped some few seconds before I had expected it to. I had such confidence in my watch that I did not believe it was at fault, and felt sure that some mistake had been made at the Observatory. On telling some of my friends of my convictions, I was simply laughed at for my impudence in daring to pit my Waltham watch against the accuracy of the Royal Observatory. However, to set the matter at rest, I wrote to the Astronomer Royal, telling him of my conviction, and asking him if he would let me know whether I was right or wrong. In return I received a courteous reply from the Astronomer Royal, stating that I was quite right, and that on the day named, owing to an accident, the ball was dropped

about eighteen seconds too soon. This seems to me such a remarkable proof of the reliability of your watches that I feel justified in bringing it to your notice. If you would care to have the Astronomer Royal's letter as a memento, I should be pleased to hear from you to that effect. Wishing every success and prosperity to your deservedly world-famed Company,  
I remain, Yours very sincerely,  
THOMAS WHEATE.

### "Taken from the Enemy"

The following is a translation of a part of a speech delivered in Switzerland, November, 1876, by M. Edw. Favre-Perret, the chief Commissioner in the Swiss Department and member of the International Jury on watches at the Centennial Exhibition at Philadelphia, and is worthy the attention of every good American.

"Gentlemen, here is what I have seen. I asked from the manager of the Waltham Company a watch of a certain quality. He opened before me a big chest. I picked out a watch at random and fixed it to my chain. The manager asked me to leave the watch with him for three or four days, that they might regulate it. On the contrary, I said to him, 'I want to keep it just as it is to get an exact idea of your workmanship.' On arriving at Locle I showed this watch to one of our first adjusters . . . who took it apart. At the end of several days he came to me and said literally: 'I am astonished; the result is incredible. You do not find a watch to compare with that in 50,000 of our make.' This watch, I repeat to you, gentlemen, I myself took offhand from a large number, as I have said. One can understand by this example how it is that an American watch should be preferred to a Swiss watch."



RALPH WALDO EMERSON  
From a drawing made in 1857 by  
J. W. Rowse, now in posses-  
sion of C. E. Norton.

RALPH WALDO EMERSON, the Concord Philosopher, used the Waltham Watch as a type of the highest development when he wrote in one of his Essays on Eloquence, in speaking of a man whom he described as a leader, and a Godsend to his community:

"He is put together like a Waltham Watch."

HERBERT SPENCER in his Autobiography, Vol. II, Page 167, American Edition:

"The presentation watch named in Prof. Youmans' letter, was one of those manufactured by the Waltham Watch Company. . . . It has proved a great treasure as a time-keeper, and has excited the envy of friends who have known its performances."\*

\* I find in a letter written in December, 1880, after the watch had been in my possession fourteen years, a paragraph respecting it which may be quoted:—"I have several times intended to tell you how wonderfully well my American watch has been going of late. It has always gone with perfect regularity, either losing a little or gaining a little; but of course it has been difficult to adjust its regulator to such a nicety as there should be scarcely any loss or gain. This, however, was done last summer. It was set by the chronometer in July, and it was half a minute too slow; never having varied more than half a minute from the true time since the period when it was set. The Admiral says, one might very well navigate a ship by it." (In 1890 it went with equal nicety, lost 42 seconds in half a year.)



HERBERT SPENCER

"The Farmer's Advocate" will send an illustrated book of interesting information about watches, will be sent free upon request.

AMERICAN WALTHAM WATCH COMPANY, WALTHAM, MASS.