

**select men.** Town council. In New England, the select men were a board of officers chosen each year to manage the affairs of the town or village.

**102. posthumous renown.** Renown after his death.

**103. apprehended.** Arrested.

**104. irrefragably.** Undeniably ; beyond a possibility of doubt.

**106. hasty-pudding.** See note on page 132.

**opprobrium.** Disgrace.

**Daniel Webster.** (1782-1852.) A famous American orator, lawyer, and statesman.

**turnpike.** Turnpike road,—a road having toll-gates.

**107. shaver.** Sharper.

**109. Old Nick.** The devil. The expression is probably derived from the Scandinavian word *Nikr*, the name of the demon that was believed to haunt the mines.

#### QUESTIONS.

1. Give an account of the character of Dominicus Pike, as illustrated in the incidents of the story.

2. What use does the writer make, throughout the story, of the fact that Dominicus was a tobacco pedlar ?

3. In the opening paragraph Dominicus is described as "inquisitive, and something of a tattler, always itching to hear the news and anxious to tell it again." Show how this description is borne out in his meeting with the man with the bundle (p. 95) ; the evening at the tavern ; the incident at Parker's Falls.

4. Show how the story of Mr. Higginbotham's murder grew, between the time when it was announced by the man with the bundle, and the arrival of the mail-coach at Parker's Falls.

5. What details does the writer give, to account for the fact that Dominicus could not resist the impulse to see for himself whether Mr. Higginbotham were hanging from the St. Michael's pear-tree ?

6. What special means does Hawthorne use to heighten the mystery of the story, so as to keep the interest of the reader till the close ?