
1800

CAYUGA COUNTY

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

COLLECTIONS

NUMBER SIX

COLLECTIONS

OF

CAYUGA COUNTY

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

AUBURN, N. Y.

NUMBER SIX

1888

TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY COPIES.

NUMBER

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CONTENTS.

CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION.

We, the undersigned, citizens of the United States, residing within the County of Cayuga and State of New York, and being also citizens of the State of New York, of the age of twenty-one years and upwards, do hereby associate ourselves and form a corporation, pursuant to the provisions of the Statutes of the State of New York, known as chapter 267 of the laws of 1875, as amended by chapter 53 of the laws of 1876.

The name by which such corporation shall be known in law, is "THE CAYUGA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY."

Said corporation is formed for social, literary and historical purposes, and the particular business and objects thereof, shall be the discussion of general and local history, and the discovery, collection and preservation of the historical records of Cayuga County, aforesaid, comprising books, newspapers, pamphlets, maps and genealogies; and also of paintings, relics and any articles or materials which may or shall illustrate the growth or progress of society, religion, education, literature, art, science, agriculture, manufactures, commerce, and the trades and professions within the United States, and especially within the County of Cayuga and State of New York.

The principal office and place of business of said Society, shall be in the city of Auburn, Cayuga County, N. Y.

The said corporation shall be managed by seven trustees. The names of said trustees for the first year of the existence of said corporation are, Benjamin B. Snow, Blanchard Fosgate, James D. Button, Lewis E. Carpenter, David M. Dunning, John H. Osborne, and J. Lewis Grant, all of Auburn, N. Y.

It is hereby intended to incorporate an association heretofore existing under the name of "The Cayuga County Historical Society," but heretofore unincorporated.

In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands and seals the 23d day of January, 1877.

CHARLES HAWLEY, [L. S.]	BLANCHARD FOSGATE, [L. S.]
WILLIAM H. SEWARD, [L. S.]	JOHN S. CLARK, [L. S.]
JAMES D. BUTTON, [L. S.]	A. W. LAWTON, [L. S.]
B. B. SNOW, [L. S.]	W. D. BALDWIN, [L. S.]
F. L. GRISWOLD, [L. S.]	D. M. OSBORNE, [L. S.]
J. H. OSBORNE, [L. S.]	OTIS M. GODDARD, [L. S.]

W. A. BAKER, [L. S.]	BYRON C. SMITH, [L. S.]
D. M. DUNNING, [L. S.]	GEO. R. PECK, [L. S.]
L. E. CARPENTER, [L. S.]	JOHN UNDERWOOD, [L. S.]
DENNIS R. ALWARD, [L. S.]	CHAS. A. SMITH, [L. S.]
J. W. DUNNING, [L. S.]	E. S. NEWTON, [L. S.]
H. J. KNAPP, [L. S.]	J. T. M. DAVIE, [L. S.]
A. G. BEARDSLEY, JR., [L. S.]	JAS. SEYMOUR, JR., [L. S.]
S. L. BRADLEY, [L. S.]	D. H. ARMSTRONG, [L. S.]
C. J. REED, [L. S.]	GORTON W. ALLEN, [L. S.]
SAMUEL W. DUFFIELD, [L. S.]	W. H. CARPENTER, [L. S.]
NELSON B. ELDRED, [L. S.]	F. P. TABER, [L. S.]

STATE OF NEW YORK, } SS.
Cayuga County. }

On this first day of February, 1877, personally appeared before me, a Notary Public, in and for said county: Charles Hawley, William H. Seward, James D. Button, Blanchard Fosgate, Benjamin B. Snow, John S. Clark, Franklin L. Griswold, John H. Osborne, William A. Baker, David M. Dunning, Lewis E. Carpenter, Dennis R. Alward, Joseph W. Dunning, Horace J. Knapp, Alonzo G. Beardsly, Jr., Silas L. Bradley, Charles J. Reed, Nelson B. Eldred, David M. Osborne, Otis M. Goddard, Byron C. Smith, Charles A. Smith, John Underwood, George R. Peck, John T. M. Davie, James Seymour, Jr., David H. Armstrong, Frank P. Taber, Ed. S. Newton and A. W. Lawton, to me personally known to be thirty of the persons described in, and who executed the foregoing instrument, and severally acknowledged that they executed the same. CHARLES. M. BAKER,
Notary Public, Cayuga County.

CAYUGA COUNTY, SS.

On the 2d day of February, 1877, personally appeared before me, Samuel W. Duffield, Gorton W. Allen and William H. Carpenter, to me known to be three of the persons described in, and who executed the foregoing instrument, and severally acknowledged the execution thereof. CHARLES M. BAKER,
Notary Public.

The undersigned, one of the Justices of the Supreme Court for the Seventh Judicial District of the State of New York, hereby consents to and approves of the filing of the foregoing certificate.

Dated Auburn, N. Y., February 2, 1877.

CHARLES C. DWIGHT;
Jus. Sup. Ct., 7th Jud. Dist. S. N. Y.

BY-LAWS.

1. The name of the Society shall be, "The Cayuga County Historical Society."

2. The object of the Society shall be discover, procure and preserve whatever relates to the natural, civil, military, industrial, literary and ecclesiastical history, and the history of science and art, of the State of New York in general, and the County of Cayuga in particular.

3. The society shall consist of resident, honorary, and corresponding members. Resident members shall be nominated by a member in open meeting, and the nominations be referred to the membership committee, which shall report thereon at the next regular meeting. A ballot shall then be taken in which five negative votes shall exclude. Resident members only shall be entitled to vote. Honorary and corresponding members shall be nominateed only by the Board of Trustees and shall be elected in the same manner as resident members.

4. The annual dues shall be at the rate of ten dollars each year, payable on the first day of February in each year in advance. The sum of fifty dollars paid at one time shall be in full for all annual dues during life. A failure or refusal to pay annual dues within the three months after the same become due, shall work a forfeiture of membership, and the Trustees shall erase the name of such delinquent from the roll of members unless said dues shall be paid or remitted by a vote of the Society.

5. The officers of the Society shall be a President, Vice-President, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian, and seven Trustees, all of whom shall be elected by ballot from the resident members only, and shall hold their offices for one year, and until others are chosen to fill their places.

6. The annual meeting of the Society shall be held on the second Tuesday in February in each and every year hereafter, at which a general election of officers shall take place. In such election of officers shall take place. In such election of officers a majority of the ballots given for any officer shall constitute a choice; if no choice is

made on the first ballot, another ballot shall take place, in which a plurality shall determine the choice.

7. If a vacancy shall occur in any office the same may be filled by the Board of Trustees.

8. The Society shall meet statedly for the transaction of business on the second Tuesday of each month, at such hour of the day as may be decided upon, unless otherwise specially ordered. The President, or in his absence, the Vice-President, may call special meetings for special purposes, the nature thereof being fully set forth in the call.

9. At the stated meetings of the Society, the following shall be the order of business:

1. Reading the proceedings of the last meeting.
2. Reports and communications from officers.
3. Reports of the Board of Trustees, and of standing committees.
4. Reports of special committees.
5. Election of members previously proposed.
6. Nomination of new members.
7. Reading of papers, delivery of addresses and discussion thereon.
8. Miscellaneous business.

10. Seven members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

11. The President, or in his absence the Vice-President, or in their absence a Chairman *pro tempore* shall perform all the duties pertaining to that office.

12. The Corresponding Secretary shall have charge of all the correspondence and perform all the duties pertaining to the same.

13. The Recording Secretary shall have charge of the seal, charter, by-laws and books of record and perform all the duties pertaining to his office.

14. The Treasurer shall collect and keep the funds and securities of the Society, and they shall be deposited in a safe bank to the credit of the Society and only drawn therefrom on his check, for the purposes of the Society, and by the approval of the Executive Committee. He shall keep a true account and report the same to the Society and to the Finance Committee whenever either of them shall require.

15. The Librarian shall have charge of the Library and be general custodian of all the books, maps, pamphlets, pictures and all other property contributed to the Society. He may receive and arrange articles loaned to the Society and sign a receipt for the same to be returned when called for by the owners thereof.

16. Library regulations:

1. No book or other article shall at any time be lent to any person to be removed from the library, except by express consent of the Board of Trustees.
2. No paper or manuscript read before the Society and deposited therewith, shall be published except by the consent of the Trustees and the author.
3. All members may have access to the rooms at any reasonable times, and may consult and examine any book or manuscript except such as may be designated by the Trustees. But no person not a member shall have such privilege except a doner, or one introduced by a member, or by special authority of the Executive Committee.
4. Any injury done to books or other articles shall be reported by the Librarian to the Executive Committee, and the damage shall be required for such injury.

17. The Board of Trustees shall have charge and control of the business and property of the Society.

The Vice-President shall be *ex-officio* Chairman, and the Recording Secretary shall be the Secretary of the Board. They shall have charge and general supervision and management of the rooms and all the property and funds of the society. They shall meet monthly at the rooms, the evening before the regular meeting, and four members shall be a quorum to do business.

The Chairman shall appoint from their number:

1st, An Executive Committee.

2d, A Finance Committee.

3d, A Membership Committee, consisting of three members each.

4th, A Committee on Rooms.

18. It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to solicit donations and contributions, to propose and digest business for the Society; to authorize disbursements and expenditures of unappropriated money in the Treasury for the payment of current expenses of the Society, and for Library, purchase of books, printing and binding; but no expenditure or liability shall be made at any time, exceeding the amount of cash in the Treasury, and the available assets of the Society.

The committee shall have a general superintendence of the interests of the Society under the control and direction of the Board of Trustees, and report to them as often as may be required.

19. The Finance Committee shall examine the books and accounts of the Treasurer, and audit all bills and accounts against the Society,

and be able to report at all times the condition of the Society as to funds, etc.

20. The Committee on Membership shall report on all nominations for membership before an election shall be had.

21. The Committee on Rooms shall have the immediate care of the rooms and furniture of the Society and shall determine applications for the temporary use thereof for other than Society purposes.

22. The President shall appoint a committee of five members of the Society, to which shall be referred all papers and addresses presented to the Society, and said Committee shall examine the same, and give notice of the time of the reading of any paper before the Society. It shall also be their duty to solicit and provide some paper on a subject in the second by-law designated, to be read at each meeting; and shall give public notice of the same.

23. Amendments or alterations of the By-Laws may be made by a majority vote at any regular meeting, provided such amendment or alteration shall have been prepared and entered upon the minutes at a meeting held at least four weeks previous, with the name of the member proposing the same.

OFFICERS.

President,
WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

Vice-President,
BENJAMIN B. SNOW.

Corresponding Secretary,
FRANK W. RICHARDSON.

Recording Secretary,
DAVID M. DUNNING.

Treasurer,
NELSON B. ELDRED.

Librarian,
JOHN H. OSBORNE.

Historical Secretary,
D. WARREN ADAMS.

TRUSTEES.

JOHN H. OSBORNE.	NELSON B. ELDRED.
LEWIS E. LYON.	FREDERICK I. ALLEN.
D. WARREN ADAMS.	CYRENUS WHEELER, JR.
JOHN N. KNAPP.	CHARLES M. BAKER.
DAVID M. DUNNING.	FRANK W. RICHARDSON.
JAMES SEYMOUR, JR.	JOHN W. O'BRIEN.

WILLIS J. BEECHER, D. D.

COMMITTEES.

ON PAPERS.—Lewis E. Lyon, A. W. Lawton, Frank W. Richardson, Charles M. Baker, Thomas M. Osborne.

EXECUTIVE.—C. Wheeler, Jr., John H. Osborne, Willis J. Beecher.

FINANCE.—John N. Knapp, D. M. Dunning, John W. O'Brien.

MEMBERSHIP.—James Seymour, Jr., Nelson B. Eldred, Wm. H. Meaker.

ROOM.—H. D. Woodruff, D. W. Adams, A. W. Lawton,

LIST OF MEMBERS.

HONORARY.

Hon. Andrew D. White, Ithaca, N. Y.
Hon. Frederick W. Seward, Washington.
Hon. Henry Farnham, New Haven, Ct.
Hon. Roscoe Conkling,* Utica, N. Y.
William P. Letchworth, Esq., Buffalo.
Henry Ivison,* Esq., New York City.
Joseph Thomas, LL. D., Philadelphia, Pa.
Hon. Samuel R. Wells, Waterloo, N. Y.
Sevellon A. Brown, Esq., Washington.
Wm. H. Lewis, Esq., Katonah, N. Y.
Hon. James G. A. Creighton, Ottawa, Canada.

CORRESPONDING.

Dan'l Goodwin, Chicago, Ills.

RESIDENT.

Rev. Charles Hawley.*
Gen. William H. Seward.
Rev. Samuel W. Duffield.*
Benjamin B. Snow.
J. Lewis Grant.*
Dennis R. Alward.
David M. Dunning.
Dr. James D. Button.*
John H. Osborne.
Dr. Blanchard Fosgate.*
Lewis E. Carpenter.
Dr. David H. Armstrong.*
James Seymour, Jr.
William G. Wise.*
Dr. Sylvester Willard.*
Silas L. Bradley.*
Frank P. Taber.
Gen. John N. Knapp.
Nelson B. Eldred.
Lewis E. Lyon.
Horace V. Howland.
Clinton D. MacDougall.

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* Deceased.
† Removed from city.

Frederick I. Allen.
Edward H. Townsend.
James R. Cox.
George W. Elliott.
Willard E. Case.
Charles H. Carpenter.
Cyrenus Wheeler, Jr.
Rev. Charles C. Hemenway.
Rev. Prof. Willis J. Beecher.
William F. Wait.
Darius W. Adams.
Mrs. Hannah L. Howland.
Henry D. Woodruff.
William H. Carpenter.*
Albert W. Lawton.
Rufus Sargent.*
William H. Meaker.
Henry A. Morgan.
N. Lansing Zabriskie.
David M. Osborne.*
Otis M. Goddard.†
Franklin L. Griswold.*
Byron C. Smith.
William A. Baker.†
Charles A. Smith.
W. Delevan Baldwin.†
Gorton W. Allen.
Chas. M. Baker.
Dr. Amanda Sanford Hickey.
Mrs. T. M. Pomeroy.
Mrs. Wm. H. Seward.
Henry D. Titus.
James Lyon.
Richard H. Bloom.
Mrs. B. B. Snow.
Henry T. Keeler.
Mrs. Cyrenus Wheeler, Jr.
John W. O'Brien.
Frank W. Richardson.
Mrs. D. M. Osborne.
Mrs. James G. Knapp.
Warren A. Worden.
Thomas M. Osborne.
George B. Longstreet.
Miss M. A. West.
Miss J. C. Ferris.
Miss Anna Conover.
Eber O. Wheeler.
Dr. Carlos F. MacDonald.
Dr. Theodore Dimon.
Mrs. Elizabeth C. Bolter.
H. Laurens Storke.
John T. Hemenway.
Amasa J. Parker.
Rev. J. J. Brayton.
Rev. Prof. James S. Riggs.
Benjamin M. Wilcox.
Dr. M. S. Cheesman.
Miss Fidelia Olmstead.
F. E. Storke.
Dr. F. A. Lee.
Miss C. Dennis.
Dr. J. M. Jenkins.
Miss M. W. Bemis.
Rev. E. P. Sprague.
E. Gould Woodruff.
F. T. Peet.
Emmett Rhodes.
C. A. Smith.
Rev. W. H. Hubbard.
Wm. A. White.
Dr. Moses M. Frye.
E. Clarence Aiken.

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* Deceased.
† Removed from city.

EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES

OF THE

ANNUAL MEETING

1888.

The Annual Meeting of the Society was held at the Society Rooms, Tuesday, February 14th, 1888, at 4 o'clock P. M. The trustees and officers for the ensuing year were duly elected, and the reports of officers and committees were presented and read.

The president, Gen'l Seward, extended an invitation, on behalf of himself and Mrs. Seward, to hold the further exercises of the meeting at their residence in the evening. The invitation was accepted, and the Society adjourned till 8 o'clock, P. M.

About one hundred members of the Society and their friends gathered at the home of the president at 8 o'clock in the evening, for the literary exercises of the annual meeting.

Hon. Warren A. Worden read a memorial address on the life of the late Dr. Blanchard Fosgate, one of the charter members of the Society. Mr. B. B. Snow, vice president, read a paper detailing the principal local events of the preceding year. Prof. Willis J. Beecher, D. D., read an original poem entitled "*The*

Numerator," after which President Seward briefly addressed the Society, reviewing the work which had been done during the year, and congratulating the members upon the continued prosperity of the Society. In closing he extended to those present, in behalf of himself and Mrs. Seward, the unrestrained freedom of their home. An hour of social intercourse followed, during which the innumerable objects of interest of the "Seward home" were open to the inspection of all present. A more enjoyable inauguration of the new year could scarcely be conceived, nor one better calculated to promote the interests of the Society.

CULTURE AND MANUFACTURE OF WOOL IN CAYUGA COUNTY

FROM ITS FIRST INTRODUCTION TO THE PRESENT TIME.

A Paper read before the Cayuga County Historical Society, February 11th, 1887.

BY WILLIAM HAYDEN.

CULTURE AND MANUFACTURE OF WOOL IN CAYUGA COUNTY

FROM ITS FIRST INTRODUCTION TO THE PRESENT TIME.

In giving you a few incidents connected with the early raising of wool, and its manufacture in this county, you will allow me to state that it is not my purpose to give a minute account of what our large and well known establishments have done and are now doing, but to put on record a few facts and incidents connected with the manufacture of woolen goods, of which, to my knowledge, there is no documentary history. Most of the information possessed by me, except from personal knowledge, was obtained from my father, and other members of his family, who were among the early settlers, and nearly all connected, more or less, with the business.

In looking back through the past ages I am led to conclude that no material progress had been made in the manufacture of woolen goods, for the past 3000 years, until the last half of the 18th century, when the carding machine, the spinning-jenny and fly shuttle were invented, that of the spinning-jenny being the result of an accident. In 1760, James Hargrave, a poor, illiterate mechanic of England, who had sup

ported himself and a large family by spinning and weaving, made numerous attempts to so arrange spindles that he might be able to spin two or more threads at a time, only to meet with disappointment, until he had about concluded it to be impossible. By accident one of his children upset his spinning wheel while he was at work, and, retaining the thread in hand, was surprised at seeing the wheel continue to revolve while in a horizontal position with the spindle vertical. This little incident gave him new ideas and encouragement, which in a short time crowned his efforts with success and eventually led to a perfect revolution in the manner of spinning both wool and cotton.

Sheep have contributed to the comfort of man from the earliest time, as we find it the first animal named in the Bible — Genesis IV, 2: "And Abel was a keeper of sheep." From this time down through all the ages, sheep have been man's best friend, contributing of its fleece more to clothe the human family, than is derived from all other sources combined, while its flesh is largely used as a meat food all over the world and in many countries its milk is considered indispensable.

Wool was an article of commerce and high value among all the ancient nations, and we find that crowned heads were not above caring for sheep— II Kings III, 4. "And Mesha king of Moab, was a sheep master, and rendered unto the king of Israel an hundred thousand lambs and an hundred thousand rams, with the wool." Thus we learn that in this remote age flocks were owned in sufficient magnitude to satisfy the most ardent longing of a Texas or California ranchman. That wool was spun in those early days

we find in Exodus xxxv, 25-26, "And all the women that were wise hearted did spin with their hands," etc. "And all the women whose hearts stirred them up in wisdom spun," etc. The art of weaving dates to the earliest dawn of civilization, but in what country the loom was first invented, history fails to give an account. We find it practiced with great skill by the ancients of the East. In Egypt specimens have been found entombed with the dead that would do credit to any age or nation, which must have been wrought, long before the advent of the Israelites into their country. Nor would I say that power looms, propelled by machinery, were unknown to the ancients, for Job must have had something that moved with great rapidity, in his mind when he says "My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle." That the art of fulling was understood, we find sufficient evidence from numerous mention in the Bible of fuller's club, fuller's earth, fuller's soap, and fuller's field. We also have the best of reasons to believe that the art of dyeing had arrived to a high degree of perfection, since we find scarlet, crimson and purple in general use, all of which are colors requiring more than ordinary skill for their composition.

From the best evidence obtained I have been led to conclude that the first introduction of sheep into Cayuga county was a small flock of less than twenty, from the eastern part of Pennsylvania into the south part of the town of Ledyard, in the summer or fall of 1794, and probably another the same season into the town of Genoa, most of which were destroyed by wolves, or other wild animals which existed then in large numbers. A year or two later several small flocks reached the town of Aurelius, most of which

found a stopping place in that part comprising the present town of Sennett. This appears to have proved a better investment to the enterprising settlers, they having probably profited from the sad experience of their neighbors in Ledyard, and learned that eternal vigilance was, in those days, the price of sheep.

The new settler, after making a commencement by clearing a few acres on his farm, putting up a log house and procuring a cow, had a desire for a flock of sheep, but often felt that his means were too limited and the prospect of raising money sufficient for a cash purchase too uncertain, soon found a way to accomplish his purpose. Thousands of sheep were driven into the county with the object of "letting out to double," which meant to let a person have a certain number, to be returned at a time agreed upon,—in two, three or four years, in as good condition and double in number. A large rate of interest, but what proved in many cases the foundation of large flocks and so in time a blessing to many. Another system in practice was to let sheep for longer terms, the one taking them to return the owner a certain amount of wool per head (generally one and one-half pounds) each season, and at the expiration of his lease of six, eight or ten years, as had been agreed, to return as many sheep as good in age and all other conditions as those received and he retaining the increase.

To relate a little incident may not be out of place here: One of the early settlers of the town of Mentz, after a year's hard work on his purchase, having made a good clearing and put things in shape for housekeeping, returned to his former home in Washington county to claim his betrothed. After the marriage ceremony, the officiating clergyman was ten-

dered a liberal fee. He being of a generous disposition, handed the amount to the bride accompanied by a request that she invest the amount in sheep and have them put out to double on as good terms as possible and that they and their increase be so kept until her first born son should arrive to the age of twenty-one when all should be his. Supposing the number of sheep bought was eight, and the time twenty-seven years, when the son arrived at his majority the flock would amount to 4096.

From the year 1800 forward, by the continual introduction from the east, and natural causes, the increase of sheep in the county was rapid, while the facilities for the manufacture of the wool remained limited and primitive. Wool carding was all done by hand, with a pair of hand cards, while the spinning was done on a home-made wheel, which was often constructed by some member of the family or neighborhood who happened to be gifted with a sufficient amount of skill. The wheel was made sometimes entirely of wood, but generally with an iron spindle forged by some country blacksmith. The weaving of the yarn thus made, into cloth, was done by some women of the vicinity, educated in that line of work, on a loom equally as crude as the spinning wheel. Her pay was from four to six cents per yard, and enabled her to earn from twenty-five to fifty cents per day, according to her skill and the quality of yarn.

This is the condition in which we find woolen manufacturing in Cayuga county at the commencement of the present century, prior to which all woolen cloth made had been used as it came from the loom, and consequently was simply flannel. Aaron Hayden, of Conway, Massachusetts, in the spring of 1800, after a

five weeks' journey, with ox and horse teams, reached this county and located two and one-half miles north of Hardenburg's Corners, now the city of Auburn, and in the early fall of the same year erected the first fulling mill operated in the county of Cayuga. The mill was what is known to the craft as a crank mill, consisting of a stock and two wooden hammers, each of about ten by twenty inch face, worked back and forth against the cloth by a double crank, so that while one was driven back, the other was drawn forward to return at the next revolution of the wheel. This mill was of capacity to full sixty yards in twenty-four hours. The power was obtained from water flowing from a large spring on his farm. For the more particular information of the members of this Society, I will state that the spring here spoken of is about forty rods to the north-west of the North street forks, one road leading to Weedsport and the other to Sennett, and now owned by Joseph Price. Mr. Hayden used this mill for fulling such cloth as was made in the vicinity and brought to him for that purpose, until his death in 1804. Mr. Hayden also practiced dyeing and finishing or dressing cloth, in his primitive manner, using a five-pail brass kettle in which to do the dyeing, and for shearing a pair of shears consisting of two ponderous blades, and looking more like a pair of mammoth sheep shears than like a modern shearing machine. This machine was operated by the hands, the broad blades lying flat upon the cloth, which was spread over an evenly cushioned table, a man being able to shear from eight to twelve yards per day, according to his experience in the business. The second fulling mill is believed to have been erected two years later in the town of Ledyard, at what is now known

as Black Rock. In 1803 Mr. Tyler (grandfather of R. E. Tyler, of this city,) built a mill at the York street spring and thus gave his name not only to the spring, but to the whole stream, which is still known as the Tyler brook.

Eighteen hundred and four dates the first introduction of a wool carding machine, for carding wool into rolls, by one John Walker, which was located on or near the present site of the Lewis flouring mill, on Genesee street. From this time carding machines, and fulling mills, with all other machinery necessary for the dyeing and dressing of cloth, were generally built and operated together, and known as clothing works. In 1805 Levi S. Tryon (grandfather of Oscar Tryon of this city,) built what was at that time considered the most complete works of the kind west of Albany, and which he continued to operate successfully until it was destroyed by fire, in the winter of 1835. The location of these works was at the east end of what is known as the upper dam, where the Bench brothers now are. The number of such works increased with the demand until nearly every town in the county could boast of one or more, so that by the year 1836, or before, more than fifty set of carding machines were making rolls in the county. The season for carding would commence as early as the weather would permit of washing sheep, generally from the middle of May to June 1st. From this time forth machines would be run day and night, until September, all women being in a great hurry to get their rolls early, that the spinning might be done during warm weather. Knowing the capacity of a single set of machines, I think myself safe in asserting that not less than 500,000 pounds of wool must have been card-

ed into rolls each season for a number of years. This vast pile of rolls (containing about 150 to the pound,) necessitated their being handled a single one at a time, for the purpose of spinning, by women of this county. When help was hired to spin, the wages were usually seventy-five cents per week and board; one run and a half of warp and two runs of filling constituting a day's work. The standard run of yarn was 1600 yards, usually reeled on a two-yard reel in two skeins, which were subdivided into ten equal parts of forty threads called knots. The price paid for carding for several years was sixpence per pound, but competition reduced it to threepence for cash, or ready pay, and fourpence credit or barter, which was the more usual practice, farmers' products being the usual medium of payment. Wheat was a legal tender at one dollar per bushel, which, to turn into money, must be carted to Utica, put aboard of flat boats, and floated down the Mohawk to Albany. Many times I have heard my father relate that at one time he had wheat made into flour in this city, sent to Utica by sleighs, and sold for two dollars per barrel, to pay for dye woods. At another time, when he had allowed more than 3000 bushels to accumulate on his hands, in anticipation of being able to realize better prices, and a time arriving when it was necessary for him to sell, the only cash offer obtainable was two shillings nine pence, or thirty-four and three-eighths cents per bushel, delivered at a flouring mill where the city water works are now located.

Machine carding of wool, like many other great inventions and improvements, did not meet with the favor of all at the outset, some old ladies declaring that all wool carded by machine would certainly be

spoiled, while others were sure that all such innovations must be the invention of the evil one, and only intended to make their daughters lazy.

Most sheep in the county, up to about the year 1817, had been of the coarse wool, long legged, jumping kind. About this date a craze set in for something new, that would produce a finer article of wool. The Saxon sheep took the preference in this section, and in a few years they constituted a majority of the sheep in the county. At this time Cayuga was noted for its large and fine flocks, many of which contained a thousand or more sheep and possessed a national reputation. Among the noted breeders of fine Saxons, who were owners of flocks worthy of mention, I now recall the names of Joseph F. Osborn of Mentz, Judge Joseph L. Richardson of Auburn, Messrs. Aurelius and Elijah Wheeler of Aurelius, Frederick Gildersleeve and Gen. Joseph Pettit of Scipio, and John Marsh of Ledyard. The fleece of this sheep weighed only about two pounds each, but was fine of fibre and very free from oil or gum, giving a variety in quality of goods not possible before their introduction. That cloth made in the coarse and primitive manner described, entered into the formation of garments to any considerable amount some will think improbable. The facts in the case are otherwise; a large majority of not only farmers and mechanics, but of merchants and professional men wore these goods. From wool raised by Frederick Gildersleeve of Scipio, spun and wove in his house, was made cloth sufficient for a complete suit of clothes which was presented to America's greatest champion of protection, Henry Clay, which he considered good enough for him to wear

while occupying the honorable position of speaker of the house of representatives at Washington.

Fifty years ago no ready-made clothing for men was kept for sale in this county. Its first manufacture was commenced in the prison in 1838.

Again thousands of pieces were annually finished as flannel, by being dyed a madder red, a wine, or London brown, and pressed for woman's wear; five yards, of one yard wide, being considered sufficient for a dress pattern. Until after the completion of the Erie canal in 1824, but little dye woods had been used excepting such as were furnished by the native woods and barks, the principal being butternut, black walnut, sumac, oak, ash, soft maple and hemlock. When foreign dye woods were to be had they were brought in the stick, generally from four to eight inches in diameter, and four feet long, and usually converted into chips with a common ax, to prepare it for use. The old adage that every flock has its black sheep was literally more than true during the days of homespun, and instead of its being despised and rejected, as at present, was in great favor, and carefully protected from the butcher's knife. The black sheep's wool mixed with white, not only saved the trouble and expense of dyeing, but was the source from which was derived the coveted sheep's gray cloth. When knit into socks many believed them to be much warmer than when made from other wool, besides being a sure preventive and cure of chilblains. I have known of persons traveling miles to procure a small lock of natural black wool to place in the ear to cure or prevent its aching.

The first to engage in the manufacture of woolen

cloths in the county, as a special and distinct business, was William Hayden, a son of the operator of the first fulling mill. The principal advantage possessed over the usual mode of spinning was the introduction of the spinning jenny, making ten threads while the former made but one; and a newly invented (Parsons) shearing machine, containing three blades, two spiral, which revolved against a straight stationary one, and intended to be turned by hand with a crank. Mr. Hayden, believing water power to be much cheaper, and more steady than that derived from the average boy, conceived the idea and made the application, which proved a success, and it is believed he was the first to so operate a shearing machine, in this or any other county. Encouraged by the high price of cloth, caused by the war of 1812–14, Mr. Hayden commenced his new enterprise under most favorable auspices, and for a few years was very successful. The repeal of the non-intercourse laws with Great Britain, combined with a very low rate of import duty, invited an immense importation of foreign goods and reduced the price of domestics far below actual cost to the manufacturer. This, combined with the great scarcity of money, or its almost total drainage from the country, to pay for importations, soon caused a suspension of the business. The above business was commenced in 1817 near the present location of David Wadsworth & Son's scythe factory, now in this city, then in the town of Aurelius. Mr. Hayden continued to card wool and dress cloth, removing in the spring of 1824 to the present site of the Hayden factory, near Port Byron, doing a large share of such work until 1844, when, in connection with a son, under the firm name of William Hayden & Son, he added machinery for

the manufacture of a line of cloths, flannels and yarn, designed expressly for the home market, soon building up a retail trade unsurpassed by any of the kind in the state. Their goods in a short time were as familiar as "household words" throughout central New York, and known as Hayden's extra durable, no shoddy cloths and flannels. Some cloths manufactured by this firm became historical, notably the drab overcoat worn by Horace Greeley for twelve or fifteen years, when it was stolen. He mourned over the coat declaring that it had not outlived one-half of its days of usefulness. This mill has continued to be operated by its originators, or some one of the sons, to the present time, and is now the only one of the kind left in the county, out of fifteen or twenty that have at different periods been operated within its borders.

The second enterprise in woolen manufacturing was by Philip Winegar, at Union Springs, about 1823 or 4, and was continued in operation by himself or sons, until they removed to what is now known as the Canoga mills, in the lower part of the city. This latter building was erected for the purpose of a factory in 1820, by one Eels, an Englishman, but for reasons only known to himself, the enterprise was abandoned by Eels' sudden departure from the country.

In 1829 Josiah Barber, a manufacturer from Columbia county, obtained a contract, and commenced the manufacture of satinet in the prison, but soon after changed to carpets, which he continued with good success for a number of years, and until removed to his large buildings on Washington street, where, under the firm name of Josiah Barber & Sons, it is continued in connection with their ten set woolen factory for the manufacture of broadcloths, the two mills con-

suming more than 1,000,000 pounds of wool annually, and employing about 275 hands. These mills are now owned and conducted by the family of the founder of this immense industry. Mr. Barber was also at one time largely interested in the manufacture of cheap flannels at Throopsville.

Reuben and Alvah Riker operated a factory at the south end of the prison dam, for a number of years, and were the first to introduce indigo blue dyeing into the county.

John C. Barr built and conducted a factory a season, one-half mile south of Throopsville, selling out to an Englishman by the name of Midwood, who continued the making of excellent cloths for several years.

David Edwards, direct from Wales, a born manufacturer and well versed in all its branches, started another at what is now familiarly known as the boneyard, one-half mile north of the Canoga mills. Owing to a limited amount of capital, and a dispute in regard to his rights in the use of water, he abandoned the place and located near Ithaca, where better results favored his well deserved efforts. Other factories were built and operated in Locke, Moravia and Owasco, mostly for a few years, when they would be abandoned as unprofitable.

Of our large woolen mills I will make only brief mention:

The Auburn Woolen Company's mill, situated in the south part of the city, was first erected in 1847, since which time it has been much enlarged and improved, both in building and machinery, and is today one of the largest and most thoroughly equipped factories in the state, running twenty-five set of machin-

ery, using about one and one-half million pounds of the finest wool annually, and turning out fancy cassimeres in patterns and finish equal to the best imported, for which they are often sold.

The Canoga mills, owned and operated by parties interested in the Auburn Woolen Company, run five set, making goods identical. The mill is located one and one-half miles below.

The carpet factory of Nye & Wait (George F. Nye and William F. Wait), is located at what is familiarly known to all Auburn people as Hackney falls, and is possessed of the best water power on the Owasco outlet. Their buildings and machinery are all first class in every particular, enabling them to turn out one-half million yards annually of extra superfine carpets.

Another and radical change in the breed of sheep commenced in this county about the year 1836, when Joseph F. Osborn of Mentz, and one or two persons residing in the south part of the county, made a venture in the purchase of a few choice blood Spanish Merinos at prices which had been unknown in this section. Small flocks of Merinos had been introduced into Connecticut and Vermont early in the present century, with the idea of improving their native flocks. A few having been preserved in pure blood, it was demonstrated that no country in the world was better adapted to their greatest development. The rage to possess pure blood Merinos may be said to have culminated in 1865, when the choice of some of the noted flocks sold for fabulous prices, that of a sheep, in several instances, reaching as high as $10,000 to $20,000, and aggregating more than $50 per pound of live weight. Improvement in sheep culture has

continued with marked success so that at the present time flocks are not uncommon that produce fleeces averaging in weight more than twelve pounds each. Those of Howard Tryon of Fleming, and Newel Franklin of Ledyard, are deserving of special mention. The fleeces of today may be said to weigh more than three times those in the days of the Saxons, and not a single sheep of the latter is now left in the county.

The time of the last enterprise in the manufacture of woolen cloths in the county has now been reached. In 1866 William Hayden, Jr. and Richard T. Morgan, with firm name of William Hayden, Jr. & Co., effected a lease of a newly erected building at the dam a few rods below Auburn's present noted stone arch bridge. This building they equipped for a two set mill of new and latest improved machinery, the cards and jacks being the largest ever used in the county up to this time. With one of the latter, containing 264 spindles, a man was able to produce an amount of yarn that would have required the united effort of at least 200 women, with the spinning wheel, to have equaled in the same space of time. This firm manufactured none but honest goods, and found a ready market for all they were able to produce, and should have proved a fortune to all interested. Like the first enterprise of the kind in the county, this was commenced soon after the close of a war, when prices were highly inflated, and as a consequence conducted on a continually falling market. Soon after the expiration of their lease of the building the machinery was sold to J. S. Manro, who used it for many years in making the celebrated Manro yarns.

In taking a retrospective view, we find not less than three complete revolutions in the manner of manufact-

uring woolen cloths since the first year of the present century. At the first hand cards only were used, which were supplemented by the carding machine for making rolls; they in turn giving way to the small factories. And so complete is the displacement of the roll card, that of more than fifty machines engaged in that business less than fifty years ago, but one remains to remind us of the past. The single remaining machine is rendered historical as being the one on which Millard Fillmore, afterwards president of the United States, served his apprenticeship. The small factory in its turn is driven to the wall by the large corporations, which, with capital and skill, combined with a classification of labor, produce goods at a less cost than possible for the former. The spinning wheel was followed at first by the jenny, then by the jack and now by the mule. By the help of the latter a girl of fifteen, with much less bodily exertion, can accomplish more than was possible for a man with the best jacks, which I have before noticed were capable of doing the work of more than 200 women in the old manner. With later made machines for the purpose, one girl is able to shear more cloth, and in a much better manner, than could 1000 men 100 years ago.

Today ten persons with the labor-saving machinery invented and brought into use during the past century, are enabled to accomplish as much in the manufacture of woolen goods as would have been possible for 1000 to have done before. During the same time the wages of operatives have increased more than four fold, enabling them to dress and live much better than did proprietors in the olden times. But during the same time the manner of living has been revolutionized. What were then considered luxuries have now by

usage become necessaries, so that it is but little more frequent that property is accumulated by days' work than formerly, except by those who are satisfied to live as did our grandparents. I anticipate the question of future progress, many doubting its continuance possible, thinking each new improvement must be the culmination of perfection. From what direction, or in what particular line, the next great advance will be made is not for me to predict, but that it is sure to come is the firm belief of your historian.

MEMOIR OF DAVID THOMAS.

A Paper read before the Cayuga County Historical Society, December 17th, 1878,

BY J. J. THOMAS.

MEMOIR OF DAVID THOMAS.

[A peculiar interest attaches itself to the leading minds among the early settlers of the country, who entered as new ground the regions that had for so many centuries remained an unbroken wilderness, and which was first opened by them to the influences of civilization, and which will doubtless teem with enterprise, intelligence, and educated mind for long centuries to come. Within much less time than the compass of a single century, the forests have been broken and swept away, large cities have sprung up, innumerable and richly cultivated fields have spread over a vast domain, and through the agency of canals, railroads and other general improvements, this young country has assumed a commercial and social position on a full level with the long existing communities of Europe. Among the men who took an early and active part in these improvements, and whose influence was largely felt in promoting the general benefit of the people was the subject of this memoir.]

David Thomas was born on the banks of the Schuylkill, in Pennsylvania, on the 5th of June, 1776, or one month before the Declaration of Independence, and he was consequently a subject of George III, for that brief period. His early years were passed during the storms and commotions of that struggle for life and existence, the war of the American Revolution. His

father, although a member of the Society of Friends, took so great an interest in the conflict and possessed so much influence, that a commission as colonel of a rifle company was held by him, but he was never called into action in the field. David Thomas secured an English education and was so thorough a student in mathematics that at one time he nearly destroyed his health by the intenseness of his studies. After his marriage he removed in 1801 to the region of country in Lycoming county, then known as the Elklands, and also by the name of Beech Woods, where he purchased several hundred acres. He remained there about four years, during which time he gave special attention to the study of natural history and botany. He corresponded with the elder Prof. Barton of Philadelphia, one of the first botanists of that day, who named a new genus of plants after him, the Thomasia, but this name did not stand, as it had been previously applied to another plant, after a Swiss botanist of that name. The wild and magnificent scenery of that region naturally inspired a poetical imagination, and he wrote a descriptive poem entitled, "The Wilderness," which, however, was never published, but remains in manuscript, and as a brief specimen I copy the following descriptive account, addressed to a friend:

"Nor linger long,
While Allegany rises from afar,
Blue in the dim horizon. There behold
The land of fountains and perpetual rills,
Whose waters down a hundred rivers roll
To visit distant climes. And now they dash
The sun-deserted coast of Labrador,
Or sweep the deck on Hatteras' stormy cape,
Or meet in southern gulf the mighty tide

That hurries round the Atlantic. There thine eye
Shall range a region vast, which claimed its form
In the first period of the reign of Time.
Hills beyond hills in dim succession rise
And stretch along to meet the orient sun.
Midst these, from fancy's airy station, see
Where Burnet's lofty mountain bounds the view
And overlooks the wild."

He also wrote while there a short poem entitled, "The Wounded Duck," which was widely published at the time. It referred to an incident which occurred on the waters of the beautiful Elk Lake, in front of his dwelling.

He has often remarked on the suddenness with which thunderstorms arose and swept over these mountains, and on one occasion when a mile from home at work on the mountain side, he saw indications of a gathering tempest, and knowing the rapid progress of such storms, left immediately on a run for home. His quickness of foot in those young days has been compared to that of a deer, and on his way he had just passed under a large hemlock and was twenty yards from it when it was shivered to fragments by lightning. Some other unusual electric occurrences which he witnessed at different times, were of so interesting a character that it may not be out of place to narrate them briefly.

During his early residence in this county the lightning struck a large bass-wood on his farm and split it into portions about the size of fence rails, and he completed the work by cutting them of the usual length for building the fence. Some of his neighbors regarded him with much suspicion for what seemed to them almost sacrilege in employing an agent from the clouds to prepare his fencing material. On another

occasion, during a long horseback journey, he was overtaken by a dark and rainy night. Suddenly two flames or bushes of light sprung up from his horse's ears, an appearance which has sometimes terrified the ignorant, but which he knew at once to be the result of a negatively electric cloud overhead; the fluid escaping from the earth to the cloud above through the horse's ears, in the manner well known to electricians in the form of a brush of light. Again, after his removal to Union Springs, another curious occurrence took place. An electric discharge, as loud as the report of a musket, passed upward through the side of his house, boring a hole in the sill board, and throwing the mud on the window panes and against the cornice above. These marks remained for some years. While residing near Aurora, as he sat one stormy evening in his study, an intensely loud clap of thunder, followed instantaneously the flash of lightning which appeared to envelope the stove and pipe, in the room where he sat, in flame. The next morning the silver point of the contiguous lightning rod was found melted into a round ball; and the joist under the stove was covered with splinters, and many more had fallen on the cellar bottom. The rod had not brought down the whole discharge, and part had passed into the stovepipe and down through the two stories of the building, producing the result already described.

To return to the narrative. After remaining nearly four years at the Elk Lands he found that however excellent the country and beautiful the scenery, he was too far from all markets, and widely removed from the various facilities of civilization; and leaving his farm he removed to Levanna, in this county, and soon after purchased and settled on a farm in that

neighborhood where he long resided. This farm was a portion of the four hundred acres of wheat, sown as the first crop after clearing by Judge John Richardson, and his residence was known to his many correspondents as Great Field.

Although he had not received a medical education he had given much attention to medical reading, and possessed much knowledge, judgment and skill. When the formidable disease known as the "cold plague" prevailed in 1812, he was called upon by his neighbors, in the absence of a physician, and had a large number of patients under his immediate charge. Every one of these recovered, although the disease was fatal in many cases elsewhere. When, in 1815, he made a journey mostly on horseback to the Wabash river, at Vincennes, Terre-Haute and Fort Harrison the exposure of the journey brought on symptoms of rapidly approaching disease. He gave the following account at the time: "Paroxysms of that distressing sensation which physicians have denominated *anxiety* (the stomach being the seat of the disease) had daily increased; and my traveling companion, (Jonathan Swan of Aurora,) had marked the change with silent apprehension. On descending into the first flats of the Wabash river it returned with violence, and I entreated my companions to prepare an emetic without delay, but the proposal was rejected, for the air was replete with putrid vapor, the sky overcast and the ground wet with the late rain. In this comfortless extremity, without the means of preparation, I applied dry pearlash to my tongue till the skin was abraded, taking it rather in agony than in hope. The relief was sudden; the *fomes* of the fever were neutralized, and my recovery seemed like

enchantment. Repeated doses of this alkali in a few days completed the cure, and I have since witnessed its efficacy in others. Its action is chiefly chemical." This substance, the sub-carbonate of potash, has now given way to others in domestic use, and it is no longer to be had in shops.

Again, when he was appointed exploring and chief engineer of the Erie canal between Rochester and Buffalo, with ten or twelve assistants, the country being new and much of it unsettled so that the company had to carry and lodge in tents through the first summer, he directed that none of the men should drink water that had not been first boiled. The few who broke this order, were in every case prostrated with sickness; those who strictly observed it all escaped.

These few facts are mentioned to show the sound judgment and intelligence which he possessed on whatever subject was presented to him.

His journey to the west, already alluded to, led to the publication of a journal of his travels, which was chiefly occupied with notices of the natural history, topography, geology, antiquities, manufactures, agriculture and commerce of the western country. It was printed by David Rumsey of Auburn, and was issued in 1819. The merits of this book may be inferred from the fact that Governor Clinton (who had occasionally corresponded with David Thomas,) subscribed for twelve copies; and he subsequently remarked to one of the canal commissioners, then in the early history of the Erie canal, "The man who wrote that book will make an excellent canal engineer." He was accordingly appointed early the following year, as already remarked, chief of the company of exploring engineers for the line between Rochester

and Buffalo, and was occupied through the season of 1820 in laying out the line between these two points. This appointment was not of his own seeking; he had not asked for it nor expected it. It was a very unusual circumstance that one who had had no experience as such, nor in any subordinate position, should be at once placed at the head in so responsible a charge. He had, however, previously had great experience as a land surveyor in various parts of the country, in which his services were widely and continually sought. He had entire charge of this line, as chief engineer, till its completion.

As a proof of the wisdom of Gov. Clinton in selecting him, and of the skill which he possessed, it may be stated that he had two separate lines of levels run under his immediate inspection by two separate companies of assistants, from Rochester to Lockport, a distance of sixty miles. As this distance was a continuous level, it was of the utmost importance that it should be correctly run in order that the water in the channel might stand at a uniform height throughout, as well to satisfy the canal commissioners and the public as to guard against any possible error. When the two lines of level were completed, a comparison was made at the end of the sixty miles, and they were found to vary a little less than two-thirds of an inch from each other. Such an achievement in engineering skill, it is believed, had never been equalled at that time. He subsequently laid out and had charge as chief engineer of the Cayuga and Seneca canal, and of the Welland canal in Canada during the first year of its construction.

Soon afterwards the Canal Board of Pennsylvania applied to Gov. Clinton to select the best engineer he

could name to take charge of the public works of that state. He at once recommended David Thomas, and the Board invited him to that position with the privilege of naming his own salary. But on account of the lingering illness of a member of his family, he said that nothing could induce him to leave home, and he declined further service of the kind.

It was during his position as chief engineer on the western portion of the Erie canal, that the high appointment which he held and the great confidence reposed in him, awakened jealousy in certain persons who imagined that he had obstructed their paths and who consequently met him with bitterness. This treatment led to his intention of resigning. The following extract from a letter of Gov. Clinton (now in my possession), dated February 23d, 1822, will show in what esteem his abilities were held:

"David Thomas called on me to signify his intention of resigning the post of engineer. This I resisted, on the ground of his great usefulness and high reputation, and he promised to take the subject into full consideration, and to write to you. Mr. Wright says the services of Mr. Thomas are all important. Considering the weight which is due to this opinion, I trust you will not hesitate upon Mr. T.'s continuance. It appears that Mr. ———, a sub-engineer, treated Mr. Thomas with great rudeness, recently in Albany; and that his unaffected meekness shrinks from collision with such a rough and rude temper. I have written to Mr. Thomas that he must not resign. The report has excited great alarm among the friends of the canal."

A controversy arose on the place for the western terminus of the canal. A strong influence was brought

to bear in favor of ending it at Black-Rock, and making a large and expensive harbor at that point. This course was strongly opposed by David Thomas, who favored Buffalo as the place for the true harbor, and a long and heated controversy followed. De Witt Clinton and one other commissioner firmly maintained the ground assumed by David Thomas, but the majority went for Black-Rock. It was, however, decided to continue the channel, as a branch, to Buffalo. To any one who has seen the present condition of the two places, no comment is required. The business all went to Buffalo. It was during this controversy that Gov. Clinton said in private to Mr. Thomas, "I am willing to risk my reputation on the correctness of all your predictions on this subject." At the conclusion of one of the several documents which he published in this controversy, Mr. T. said, "I now submit the question to the elements, and if Buffalo harbor becomes a failure, I shall then, but not till then, confess my error."

One of his friends wrote, "I have heard Gov. Clinton say that Thomas only lacked impudence to pass for a much greater man than a certain Professor he then named. But with his habitual modesty and polite deference to the opinion of others, no man was more firm and decided when he knew he was right; and to this trait in his character, the great city of Buffalo is somewhat indebted for its present commercial position.

"Integrity and faithfulness in those who hold important public trusts was not too common even in those days; these virtues have not increased any in frequency up to the present time. During all the years in which he was employed as engineer by the state he maintained incorruptible and unflinching in-

tegrity, and he never permitted its financial interests, so far as they were under his control, to suffer by a single cent. Some of his associates thought him too particular, but he answered with emphasis, 'I intend to be as scrupulously accurate in all my money transactions with the state, as with a near neighbor or friend.' "

His interest in the study of geology and botany continued unabated, and he employed every opportunity to impart a taste for these sciences to the many young men who were in his employ at different times as assistants. Among these some have since become widely known for their eminent scientific acquirements. While thus employed in the field he commenced his rare collection of native and hardy exotic plants. Many of these, as they stood in the garden, had an interesting history connected with their collection. He has sometimes shown his friends a rare specimen which he secured from the woods near the middle of a moonlight night, while the stage in which he was traveling was changing its horses, and which he had previously marked at another time when it was in bloom. His eminent scientific knowledge subsequently led to his election as an honorary member of the Literary and Philosophical Society of New York, of which De Witt Clinton was president, and as a corresponding member of the Horticulture Society of London, and of the Linnœn Society of Paris. At the earnest request of Gov. Clinton a correspondence was opened and continued with his son, George W. Clinton, on scientific subjects, until, after the death of the governor, the young botanist was compelled to seek other studies.

During the last thirty years of his life he devoted a

portion of his attention to the culture of an extensive collection of fruits, and to the study of pomology.

The culture of flowers was especially attractive to him. His contributions on these subjects to the periodical press were highly valued, and largely contributed to the rapidly increasing taste throughout the country. He was a constant correspondent of the original Genesee Farmer, published by Luther Tucker at Rochester in 1830, and for many subsequent years. The publication of this paper opened a new era in periodical agricultural literature, as it had a wide circulation among practical farmers, and was especially adapted to their wants. The publisher depended largely on the assistance afforded by Mr. Thomas in this enterprise, which was given gratuitously, with the hope of benefitting its many readers, and of promoting the advancement of scientific knowledge and of improved cultivation.

David Thomas was a member of the Society of Friends. In the early settlement of the county large numbers fixed their residence in the region a few miles east of Aurora. For some years they held their meetings in a house built of logs, where many assembled. Among the transient attenders, which Mr. Thomas mentioned as having seen there was Judge Cooper (the father of Fenimore Cooper, the author), who had been educated in connection with this Society. A large and commodious building soon took the place of the log structure. Among the prominent men at that time connected with this Society were Jethro Wood and Jonathan Swan. In 1828 the widely known separation took place, and the two resulting bodies were known as the Orthodox and Hicksites, — the former holding what are known as evangelical

views, while the latter were mostly Unitarians, although announcing no prescribed belief. David Thomas was among the former, and of the prominent members who were associated with him were Joseph Tallcot, Allen Mosher, Humphrey Howland, Slocum Howland and Richard Tallcot.

Phebe Field (the mother-in-law of Humphrey Howland), well known for her charitable and religious labors, was also a member of the orthodox Society, as well as Sarah S. Merritt, who died last year at the age of 97, and of whom an interesting incident, in her advanced years, is worth mentioning. On account of her declining strength she was in the habit of taking wine regularly as a stimulant, supposing it necessary; at the age of 94 she discontinued its use as a matter of principle, whatever might be the result. Her health and strength immediately improved.

A more particular account of the character and labors of Joseph Tallcott is worthy of notice in this connection. He was descended from Gov. Tallcott of Connecticut, who died in 1741. He became early interested in the cause of education and his self-sacrificing interest in this cause was shown by an occurence soon after his marriage, which his wife related to the writer of this memoir. He then resided in Duchess Co., N. Y. where he had observed the deficient condition of the common schools. He became associated with others for establishing a boarding school for advanced instruction, and although his means were moderate, he made the liberal subscription of One Hundred Pounds for this purpose. And about the same time on the occasion of a visit to their relatives, he pursued so rigid a system of economy in order to meet this liberality, as to use a harness for his horses with traces

made of hemp ropes. He subsequently became deeply interested in the cause of temperance from having witnessed the destructive effects of the general use of alcoholic drinks. He wrote an address on the subject which he took to the Presbyterian Synod, held at Geneva in 1816. It was examined by the committee of overtures, approved, and he was invited to read it before the Synod. Resolutions adopted by that body show the appreciation in which it was held, declaring that from that time they would abandon the use of ardent spirits, except for medical purposes; that they would speak against its common use from the pulpit; that they would seek for and give preference to laborers who would comply with their views, and use all the influence they had to prevail with others to follow their example. These documents being copied into papers were extensively circulated and read, and doubtless contributed to the advancement of this great cause, then in its infancy. Soon after this occurrence, Joseph Tallcot, with the assistance of David Thomas, was engaged in the publication of religious tracts, and he continued their publication for a great number of years, (under the name of the Friendly Visitant), which were subsequently collected and bound in two small volumes. He was much interested in the improvement of our district schools, many of which he visited through the country. He died in 1853.

David Thomas was an uncompromising opponent of American slavery, and frequently wrote brief articles on the subject. He was well aware of the dangerous character and utter incompatibility of this system to our free institutions, and during the last years of his life, a few years before the breaking out of the war of the Rebellion he often asserted that a terrible retribu-

tion was coming upon the country, but he did not think he should live to see it.

It is impossible to depict the true character of such a man in his social intercourse, but a few incidents will throw some light on his kind and unpretending manners in his family. During the years in which he frequently contributed to the agricultural press, it was his practice when he had written any important article to read it to his children, and to invite their free criticism which was accordingly given and received as between companions and equals. Many years ago he had adopted political views not fully in accordance with those held by his sons, and although all of them were young, and a part of them not of age, yet out of respect to their opinions he abstained from voting and subsequently adopted their sentiments.

The latter years of the life of David Thomas were spent in the village of Union Springs, to which place he removed a large portion of his extensive collection of rare plants.

His entire withdrawal from business enabled him to devote much of his time to his favorite pursuit, the culture of flowers. There is no doubt that the interest and delight which the occupation afforded him, and the open air exercise which was connected with planting seeds, bulbs and shrubs contributed materially to the preservation of his health and to the lengthening of his days. His was emphatically a serene old age. His last illness continued but a few days. He died on the 5th of November, 1859, aged 83 years. Dr. Kennicott of Illinois, President of the North-American Fruit-Growers Association (an organization which was afterward merged in the American Pomological Society) gave the following testimony in an address after his decease :

"I would fain speak of David Thomas, our first President, and father of Horticulture in the West. His life had been as blameless as a child's, and his usefulness commensurate with his lengthened years, and the powers of a god-like mind, simplicity, beauty, truthfulness and grandeur. His history is written in the hearts of the lovers of science and on the long line of New-York's first great work of internal improvement."

One who knew him intimately wrote of him, "His various reading and large experience in life rendered him an admirable companion for the refined and cultivated, while his kindly disposition, playful and genial nature and simple habits, endeared him to all. His life was unsullied and his death marked by that positive serenity and composure well befitting the character of a Christian gentleman."

BIOGRAPHY OF WILLIAM BOSTWICK.

BY HIS SON,

HENRY H. BOSTWICK.

A PAPER READ BEFORE THE CAYUGA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, SEPTEMBER 11th, 1877.

BIOGRAPHY OF WILLIAM BOSTWICK.

In complying with your request to furnish a paper relative to William Bostwick, my father, I experience a delicacy which would not be felt by an indifferent person, not a relative.

There are many things which might with propriety be said by another, which I am restrained from saying: I shall therefore confine myself to a brief history of the *person* and his family: which is, I suppose, all that is desired by the Society.

He was a descendant of John Bostwick, who, with Arthur Bostwick and Zachariah Bostwick, three brothers of Scotch descent, came from England and located in Stratford, in the state of Connecticut, in or about the year 1668. He was the son of Arthur Bostwick, who was the son of Nathaniel Bostwick, who was the son of John Bostwick, one of the three brothers mentioned.

He, William Bostwick, was born November 25th, 1765, and died at Auburn, N. Y., June 24th, 1825.

Hannah Bostwick, his wife, was born January 22d, 1768, and died at Auburn, N. Y., August 14th, 1851.

They were married March 10th, 1790, and had thirteen children, viz:

Sophia, — born March 23d, 1791, married to Ebenezer Hoskins, December 30th, 1812, and died November 23d, 1820.

Abigail Hawley, — born June 26th, 1792, married to George B. Throop, August 23d, 1815, and died February 4th, 1825.

Laura, — born March 13th, 1794, married to Hugh Hughes, January 27th, 1811, and died June 1st, 1815.

Harriet, — born September 30th, 1795, married to Erastus D. Tuttle, December 30th, 1812, and died May 3d, 1870.

Polly, — born September 28th, 1798, married to Samuel Graves, May 23d, 1819, and died February 9th, 1876.

William Warner, — born February 19th, 1799, married to Mary Lewis, April, 1828, and died October 6th, 1845.

Hiram, — born August 8th, 1801, married to Ann Cornell, January 1st, 1827, and died July 7th, 1853.

Philura, — born December 1st, 1802, married to Daniel W. Cole, December 25th, 1826, and to Lewis A. Cole (date unknown), and died October 27th, 1851.

Augustus Gideon, — born November 20th, 1804, and died May 6th, 1872 (never having married).

James Haney, — born October 21st, 1806, and married to Maria M. Gardner, December 22d, 1830.*

Jane Elizabeth, — born April 21st, 1809, married to Hiram Hugunin, October 27th, 1830, and died February 28th, 1842.

Betsey Maria, — born February 14th, 1811, married to Joseph P. Mott, November 7th, 1832, and subsequently to Simeon Ide, March 21st, 1859. (Still living.)

Henry Hobart, — born January 20th, 1814, married to Julia M. Ide, October 4th, 1860. (Still living.)

He moved his family to Aurelius, near Auburn,

* James H. Bostwick died June 20th, 1888.

from Whitestown, Oneida county, N. Y., in February, 1799; he having purchased the "States hundred acres" in Lot No. 46, Aurelius, bounded and described as follows: "Beginning at the S. E. corner of lot No. 46, and running thence North, thirty-one chains and sixty-three links; thence West, thirty-one chains and sixty-three links; thence South, thirty-one chains and sixty-three links to the South line of said Lot, and thence East, thirty-one chains and sixty-three links, to the place of beginning." The south-east corner being what is now the south-east corner of the homestead lot of the late John H. Chedell, in the centre of South street, the north-east corner being at the intersection of the centre of Genesee street and the centre of North and South streets. The north-west corner at the intersection of Clark and Benton streets; and the south-west corner in Fort Hill cemetery; embracing the heart of the city both sides of Genesee street from South street next to nearly the top of Genesee street hill; and from Clark street and a continuous straight line East therefrom south, to near the deep hollow in Fort Hill cemetery and the south line of the lands of the estate of John H. Chedell and all the rest of South street.

His first habitation was a log house situate on the north side of Genesee street on what is now known as 93 Genesee street, and his barn stood on what is now 105 Genesee street, and occupied as an elegant jewelry store.

In 1803 he built a frame house on what is now the west corner of Genesee street and Exchange, and moved into it in 1804, and opened it as a hotel, or what was, in those days, called a tavern.

This he occupied until the year 1816, when he sold

it to Canfield and Bela Coe, who continued it as a hotel, and sold to other parties, under whom and subsequent owners it so continued until the year 1868, when the building, consisting of the original structure with various alterations and additions, and known as the Western-Exchange, was demolished, and the buildings now occupied by I. F. Terrill & Co., Auburn City National Bank, &c., were erected upon the spot.

In 1816 he moved into the house situate on what is now the west corner of Genesee and James streets,* and there continued to reside until the date of his death. The consideration for the purchase of the hundred acres of land was $750, and it is evident that it did not immediately increase greatly in value from the fact that in the latter part of 1802, or early part of 1803, a bargain was partly consummated, to sell the whole for $700; all was agreed upon except an allowance for the cost of a lot of stone for the cellar of the frame house designed to be built upon the premises. This the purchaser would not agree to, and his refusal defeated the bargain.

He was identified with all of the projects of improvement of the day.

The location of County Seat was secured at Aurelius by his gift of an acre of land where the Court House, Jail and County Clerk's Office now stand.

He gave an acre of ground to the corporation of St. Peter's church, and contributed largely to the erection of the first edifice erected upon the lot, and was the architect and builder thereof.

He gave to the Auburn Bank the lot upon which the banking house now stands, and thus secured the location in the western part of the village.

* Now occupied by the First Baptist Church.

And he offered to give for a park, or public grounds, the land embraced in the triangle formed by Genesee, South and Exchange streets, provided the corporation of the village would agree to fence and keep it in repair.

He was a member and communicant of the Episcopal church, and so was his wife; and each and every one of his children became members and communicants of that church.

The first services of the church in Auburn were held in his house and were conducted by him as lay reader, and were so continued until a suitable house of worship was erected, with an occasional instance in the open air, under a large tree of the then forest.

He was one of the first vestrymen of St. Peter's church, and for many years one of its wardens, and contributed largely to its support.

And before the organization of the society he was one of the trustees of a Congregational society in the place.

He lived respected and honored by all who knew him; a true Christian and an esteemed citizen; and as he lived, so he died.

At this time only three of his thirteen children are living: James H. Bostwick, Mrs. Betsey M. Ide, and myself.

I am the only representative proper of the family now residing in Auburn.

Of the hundred acres of land, once the "Bostwick farm" and now the heart of the city, not a foot is owned by any of the children, except a triangular piece, of about three feet upon each side, at the intersection of the south line of Church and the east line of Pine streets.

Of the children, seven were born in Auburn, and each and every member of the family has been more or less identified with the growth and business of the place; but time with its unhalting strides, and death by its relentless claims, and the changes and chances of life have reduced the number now resident of the city to only one, myself; and though the youngest, sixty-three years of age. I have seen the rise and progress of the place, so far as it had advanced during my time, having made it my life-long residence, with the exception of a few years' occasional temporary absence.

I have grown up and been in maturity with the place and have well known its residents of village times and early city days.

But, when I look about me now, and find so many of the old residents dead and gone, I feel myself comparatively a stranger, in the changing increase of the population of the city, and am reminded that I, too, am growing old; and that I soon shall have fulfilled my allotted time.

I have now given, to the best of my ability, the record you desire, and trust it contains all that is requisite for the purpose named, and most respectfully submit the paper I have written.

HENRY H. BOSTWICK.

Auburn, N. Y., September 11th, A. D. 1877.

RECOLLECTIONS OF MY EARLY LIFE IN AUBURN.

BY MRS. DEBORAH BRONSON.

A Paper read before the Cayuga County Historical Society, March 8th, 1881.

RECOLLECTIONS OF MY EARLY LIFE

IN AUBURN.

In 1791 my father, Robert Dill, purchased lot No. 37, which formed the north-west corner of Auburn, and in 1806 he came here with his family to reside. He drove from Rome, where he had been living for several years, and brought with him my mother, my brother John and my sister Caroline. I know very little of his first few years in Auburn, except that at the time of my birth the family were living in a large stone house which stood on the corner of Franklin street and Seminary avenue, and which was long since destroyed. I am still waiting for the good luck which is said to attend the lives of those people who are born in stone houses. Seminary avenue was at that time a narrow road leading from Franklin street to the old Stone Mill and to the Centre house, which stood where Patten's market and Devitt's stores are now located. The tavern was a large two-storied wooden building with a broad piazza which faced toward East Genesee street, and its appearance was unchanged for many years. Market street was an almost unused lane which led to North street, passing the houses of Col. Hardenberg and Major John Compston, of which I shall speak further on. In 1809, my father built his

house on the ground where Mr. Howlet now resides,* and which for many years was called the "Mount House." There I passed my childhood, and lived until I was married in 1829. The Mount House was a large double wooden structure, with four great brick chimneys, and it stood a short distance back from the road. It had a large hall running through the centre, and four rooms on each story, with open fireplaces in each room, where we used brass andirons and fenders. The beds were large four-posted affairs with curtains and valance, and we had several carpets which my mother had brought with her from New York, also a solid silver tea-service, and which at this time were not by any means common in Auburn. There was a large piazza extending the whole length of the house in the rear, and underneath were the large cellar kitchens with brick ovens and cranes, while in the lower or basement hall we had a bunk built in the wall for the use of the servants. Our barns were on the site of the house where Mr. Dean now resides, and the pastures for our cattle and sheep were the fields now covered by Orchard and Clark streets, while on the site of Dr. Willard's residence was a thrifty orchard. There were large forest trees in our yard, with a few poplars interspersed, and almost no trees in the road except a clump of poplars about opposite Mr. Charles Ross' residence. I wish I could give you even a faint idea of Auburn as it appeared at the time of my father's death in 1813. So much has been written as to the localities of the houses and public buildings that you are doubtless familiar with them, and I may perhaps repeat much that you will not care to listen to. Washington street had not then been opened, but was sim-

* On north-east corner of Genesee and Washington streets.

ply "Dill's lane" leading to my father's factory and dam, which stood about where do the buildings of Josiah Barber & Sons. As children we often strolled down to see the hammers at work in the forge shop, wading the creek and amusing ourselves in the dense woods which extended in nearly every direction, stopping sometimes on our return to let down the bars and drive the cattle home to the house on the hill. Opposite the house where are now the residences of Messrs. Ross, Bradley and Case, was a large piece of woodland which extended south as far as the Owasco lake, to the east about as far as St. Peter's church, and over the hill nearly to Mr. Garrow's. These woods were separated from the street by a rail fence, which I have often climbed early in the morning, and then filled my pockets with the chestnuts brought down by some autumnal frost. The woods were full of wild grapes and thorn apples, in addition to the many chestnut and butternut trees, which were found in all directions about Auburn at this time. We had but few neighbors, for over the hill there were but three houses, one occupied by Mr. Garrow,* where Mr. Charles A. Smith now resides, and just opposite a small dwelling used by James Wilson, the father of Mrs. Silas Arnett. Between this house and my father's there was a large sand bank, from which for many years all our supply of building sand was drawn. Beyond Mr. Garrow's house was an old distillery and then came Eldad Steele's residence, which was just beyond the brook on Mr. Charles P. Wood's place. This was a disreputable old barrack, which afterward fell down from old age. Mr. Steele was a very inefficient man, of poor education, and we usually called him "steel dad."

* Now No. 226 Genesee street.

He had, however, two excellent sons, David and Daniel, with whom we used to attend school. There were no sidewalks at this time, and the paths were much nearer the center of the road than are the sidewalks of the present day. My father's garden extended down Genesee street to Thomas Finn's house, now occupied by Mr. Durston,* and the first board fence which I can recollect, separated the garden from the street. This fence was lined with currant bushes, which bore abundantly, as I know to my sorrow, having passed many hours in picking the currants. There was a great variety of peach and plum trees in the garden, and we had beside gooseberry bushes, great clumps of smellage, a plant which by cultivation, has become our modern celery. Behind it were open fields as far as the outlet. Just at the foot of the garden was a great barrack built for the use of the soldiers of the 1812 war. It was on our own ground, and as the companies usually stopped for some time in passing through Auburn, we had plenty of excitement. I recollect well how they used to march through our muddy roads, and the terror with which I and my sisters regarded them when they came to my father's well to fill their canteens. My Uncle, Samuel Dill, had charge of them when in Auburn, and I have frequently been down with him when he went to make his visit of inspection in the evening, and seen the floor covered with sleeping soldiers. The Indians were also a great annoyance to us and to all the villagers. There were reservations at Oneida, Onondaga, Buffalo and Union Springs, and the Indians with their squaws and papooses strapped on boards tramped incessantly through the towns, in parties varying from three to

* Now No. 189 Genesee street.

an hundred in number. They walked into a house without knocking, and were liable to appear at any moment in any part of it, begging usually for whisky, or for something which could not be conveniently spared. When David Horner and his family came from Savanna to Auburn, they lived with my mother for a time, and one night when Mary Ann Horner went up stairs to bed, she was naturally quite terrified to find a drunken Indian behind her door. She was so frightened that she did not stay to descend the stairs in the ordinary manner, but jumped directly over the balustrade to the floor of the hall, and calling for my Uncle Samuel, who happened to be in the house at the time she soon saw the Indian ejected. One day Mrs. Horner had put her bread before the open fire to rise, when an Indian walked in with his family. He asked for whisky, then for money, and being refused, for bread. Mrs. Horner could not accommodate him and told him so, when he replied, "Dam big house, to have no whisky, no money, no bread." I can recollect very little of my father, or of the circumstances of his death, as until about that time I was so small that I slept with my twin sister Jane in the trundle bed in his room. He died of the epidemic which prevailed extensively here in 1812 and 1813, and was attended by Dr. Cole, our family physician, who lived in the house now occupied by Dr. Brinkerhoff, on North street.* The character of the epidemic I have forgotten, but I know that the treatment of diseases was very different from the practice of the present day. Hemlock tea was a favorite remedy, and other decoctions of hemlock were used for bathing purposes. About the year 1814, my Grandmother Bower came up

* Now No. 60 North street.

from New York to make us a visit. She suffered acutely from rheumatism, and in hope of relief, a mode of treatment not uncommon in those days was adopted. A large hole was dug in the garden about five feet in diameter and four feet deep, and in this pit my grandmother was seated in a chair, and was steamed. I can recollect my fear that she would never get out from under the blankets with which she was covered. Dr. Cole was a very popular physician and an excellent man, who divided the practice of the town with Doctors Burt and Crosset. They each made their calls on horseback with saddle-bags behind them, and there being no apothecary shops or drug stores they carried their own medicines and put up their own prescriptions. After a time sulkies were used, and I remember very well their appearance in Auburn. You need no description of Dr. Burt, as his appearance must be well known to many of you by hearsay, if not by recollection. Dr. Cole was lame, having one leg somewhat shorter than the other, and the exact opposite of Dr. Burt in stature and complexion. Our next neighbor, the Finns, lived at the foot of our garden, as I said before, in a little unpainted house which is yet standing as the western part of Mr. Durston's residence. One daughter, Josephine Finn, was an intimate friend of mine for many years, and so was Azuba Terry (now Mrs. S. Barton Hunt), who lived in the next house beyond, where Mr. Myers' house now stands. The Terry house was a small, one-story structure, and Mr. Terry had a blacksmith shop where Mr. George Barber now resides.* Mr. Terry was a blacksmith, carriage and trunk maker, and he made the first trunk I ever had with a real lock and key,

* Now No. 187 Genesee street,

It was papered inside and out, and I used it when I went to boarding school in Skaneateles, in 1820. Where Mrs. Ivison now lives* was a small house occupied by Peter Fields, who afterwards had a small jewelry shop where the Cayuga County Savings Bank now stands. Fort street was at that time a cattle path, and Court street was not very different, although there was one house on it about where Mrs. Gilbert now lives, and one house on Love lane at the head of the street. I can not tell you when Wm. Bostwick built his house, which is still standing and is occupied by Mr. Gilbert Nichols,† but it was there in my childhood, and his celebrated flower garden is now covered by Mayor Walley's residence. Before Mr. Bostwick moved there, he and his family lived in the old Bostwick Tavern, which stood on Genesee street where the Dunning store is now located, and its large barns were directly on the street, about where are now Mr. Allen's book store and the Express Office. The Tavern garden extended from the barns west as far as William street, and I think it must have been after lots had been given from it to the Bank of Auburn and others that the family moved to the house on the corner of James street. Mr. Bostwick was a short, stout man, and resembled very strongly his son James, with whose appearance you are all familiar. James street had not then been opened, and nothing intervened between Genesee street and the outlet but open fields, in one of which, about where is now the corner of Orchard street, was a lumber yard, where we often played among the piles of lumber. Where Mrs. Hills'

* Now No. 179 Genesee street.

† Now occupied by the First Baptist Church.

house now stands* was a little brick building in which we attended school at one time, and where in after years the Gospel Messenger was published by Dr. Radd; while the site of Dr. Smith's house† was a good sized pond on which we often floated on rafts in the summer, and where the boys skated in the winter.

My sister Jane and I had been at school before we went to the parish school but we were so young that I recollect very little about it. We first went to a Mrs. Maxwell, who had a school for very little children in a room in the Irwin or Goodrich tavern, a large, two-storied wooden building, which stood on Genesee street about where is now the store of the glove and mitten factory.‡ I wish I could show you one of Mrs. Maxwell's cards or prospectuses, on which embroidery and the use of the needle was as prominent an item as Arithmetic or Geography. Next we went to Miss Bennett, now Mrs. Dr. Clary, who had her school up stairs where Keyes' book-store is now located.§ I do not know that it is the same building, although it looks very much as if it might be. We were still very young, so that we used lower benches than the rest of the girls; and at recess time we played in the field which now extends behind the Cayuga County Bank and the adjacent buildings. Dr. Tuttle's barn was in this field or flat, and we always enjoyed playing on the hay stored in it. Mrs. Clary asked me a few weeks since if she used to be very severe with us, and said that she was fearful that she had been. I know she sometimes kept us after school until dark, and I rec-

* Now No. 171 Genesee street.
† Now No. 173 Genesee street.
‡ Now No. 4 Genesee street.
§ Now No. 51 Genesee street.

ollect how dreary the long walk home used to be under such circumstances.

But to return to the parish school. Mr. Mott was our first teacher there, and he, as you know, afterward married Betsey Bostwick, one of his pupils. Our school mates were John, Henry, James, Augustus and Betsey Bostwick, Elizabeth Burt, Mary Wilson, Josephine Finn, Kate and Charles Richardson, John and Adeline Garrow, David and Daniel Steel, and as we always called them, "Ham and Josh" Burt. Our school hours were from nine until twelve o'clock, and from one until five o'clock in the afternoon, and we had a very different time from the students of the present day. We used the old Daboll's arithmetic, Webster's speller, and Willett's geography. Mr. Mott always set us our copies for writing. We wrote with quills, made and mended our own pens, and our slates had no frames, but were very like the roofing slates of the present day. The boys always brought us a pail of water in the morning, which we drank from a tin dipper, and the girls stayed by turns and swept the school house after the session closed in the afternoon. Judge Rumsey and his sisters used to be with us at school, and we bought our writing or memorandum books of his father, who kept a little book store down town. My sister and I would sometimes, in going to school, run out from our house on the hill, and catching on behind a stage, would ride down on the trunk rack. This was a forbidden pleasure, but we very often indulged in it. We always wore woolen dresses of brown or red Retinet, while for Sundays we had plaid worsted dresses. In winter we never thought of having an overshoe, but wore calico vandykes and aprons. For extraordinary occasions we had black silk aprons,

which were considered most extravagant articles. We had very few children's books at this time, though I remember the history of William Tell, Robinson Crusoe, the New England Primer and Catechism, and one book which I always especially admired, called Dorsina Gardner and Her Friends. As we grew older, we had The Scottish Chiefs, Thaddeus of Warsaw, The Children of the Abbey, and Charlotte Temple.

Next to the school house was St. Peter's Church, a small wooden edifice, which was destroyed by fire in 1832, just after it had been enlarged and renovated. The old church built in 1819, as I remember it, had three windows on each side, was painted white inside, and had a large stove in the south wall, part of which was in the body of the church and part in the vestibule. It had four large pews, occupied by Judge Miller, Mr. Phelps, our own family, and by Mr. Bostwick and his thirteen children. The singing was done in the Bostwick pew, and Mr. Bostwick started the tunes with his pitch pipe. After each celebration of the Communion, the service was carried home by either Doctor Burt or the Bostwicks, and taken care of until needed again. I recollect distinctly Dr. McDonald in 1813, Mr. Sitgreaves in 1824, and Lucius Smith in 1819, and it was not until Mr. Lucas' administration in 1833, that we ever had anything but morning and afternoon service. While he was here, we determined on a service in the evening, and the ladies of the parish at that time came together, brought a lot of oil lamps, cleaned and filled them, and commenced the night services which have since continued. The winding of the evergreens for Christmas decoration was in old times much more of an event than at present. We were engaged in it for many weeks and usually met at

Bostwick's in the evening, taking home with us a stock to work upon during the following day.

At the foot of the lake was a small wooden church on the site of the present Sand Beach Church, and here we went for the few years which preceded my mother's marriage to Dr. Pitney in 1815. This was a Dutch Reformed Church, as at present, and it stood on the hill side in the same position as the brick church which is now used. Dr. Ten Eyck, who is buried in the cemetery there, was then preaching, and he baptized my sister Jane and me. My brother John usually drove us out in time for the morning service, and we took our lunch and remained for the afternoon service, as was the custom in the country. The services were very plain. There was no choir, the singing being congregational, and the collections were taken up in small velvet or baize bags attached to the end of long sticks. I think that once or twice I went to the Presbyterian service held by Mr. Woodruff in the first or old Court House, which was built in 1809. This was a strong, two-story white building, and stood a little further back from the street than the present Court House, on the same site, with an audience room above, and accommodations for the sheriff and the county clerk on the ground floor. There was no office for the county clerk, and as I said before, simply a lane where Court street now extends.

I recollect perfectly the building of the First Presbyterian church in 1815 and 1816, for after school hours we children frequently walked down there to watch the carpenters, or to obtain some of the large shavings which were constantly falling from their planes. There was a very good choir in the new church when completed, the first, by the way, ever organized

in Auburn, and we used occasionally to be allowed to attend service there, where we greatly enjoyed the singing. The singers whom I best recollect were Mary and Caroline Burton, Alta and Sally Hyde, Laura Cole, Maria Hardenburgh, Margaret Lytle and Mary Ann Horner, who sat on one side of a semi-circular gallery at the end of the church. On the other side were the men singers, among whom were Aaron Pitney, Myron C. Reed, Henry Porter and Abijah Fitch, and just between them stood the leader, Wm. Brown, who started all the tunes with his pitch pipe. We always went early to church that we might get in the seat directly behind the singers, as we were much interested in the beautiful hats and feathers which they wore. The fashionable hats at one time were of pink uncut velvet with long white plumes. In my early days all marriages were celebrated on Sunday, and the first few people who were married on a week-day were thought to have done something not altogether proper. My mother was married to Dr. Joseph T. Pitney on Sunday, June 9th, 1815, directly after the afternoon service. My sister Jane and I sat on David Horner's lap during the ceremony, dressed in our best white dresses, but my brother John, not wishing to see his mother married, ran away with Jim Horner and hid himself in the woods.

Where St. Peter's parsonage now stands, was a small brick house in which Mr. Crowle our shoemaker lived. He had his shop in the house, and made us, for ordinary use, shoes with leather strings, at a cost of $1.50, while for our best satin boots he charged us $2.00. Of course our leather shoes had to be greased at least once a week in winter, to keep out moisture, and we always did it ourselves, on Saturday nights,

just as did all other girls in the village. Gentlemen sometimes wore leather "boxes," as they were called. They were large, heavy, square overshoes, of unsightly appearance, and were not by any means common. About this time Camlet cloaks began to be worn by the gentlemen.

The next house below Mr. Crowle's was Mr. Pomroy's, where Mr. Page VanVechten is now living.* Beyond that was a deep ravine, whose bottom was about on a level with Mr. Horace T. Cook's present garden, and there in 1816 was built the Stevenson house, now occupied by Dr. George.† In the palmy days of Col. Sherwood this was also his residence, but the house now looks very much as it did in my childhood. Mr. James Fitch's house came next, and then a small brown house, whose appearance I have almost forgotten, and then the celebrated Glover tavern. This was a large, two-storied wooden building (now standing on Clark street), which stood on the site of the present St. James hotel. It had a great piazza, and its barns stood to the east of it on the present site of the opera house. In one of these barns I first saw the elephant. Of course we had no circuses or menageries in those days, but occasionally there were exhibited on the streets or in tavern barns such animals as elephants or bears, which could be transported by their own powers of locomotion from place to place. These shows commonly arrived in the night, and they consisted for the most part of an elephant and one or two other living animals, but the most popular of all entertainments were the collections of wax figures, which came very often, and which were attended by every

* Now No. 165 Genesee street.

† Now occupied by Government Building.

one in the village. They were usually arranged in the large ball-room of the Glover or Bostwick tavern, and it frequently took two days to get them in order for exhibition. Among the figures invariably appeared Daniel Lambert and the sleeping beauty; but I can recollect them as distinctly as if I saw them at this moment. Bonaparte with enormous epaulettes and a sword, the Empress Josephine, Mary Queen of Scots, with all her jewels, the Babes in the Wood, the Irish Giant, and the Witch of Endor. The latter was arranged with springs and machinery, so that she suddenly appeared through the trap door of the platform in a most startling and lifelike manner, while the Sleeping Beauty was screened from general notice by a beautiful curtain, which was drawn at intervals, disclosing her asleep in a bed with elegant pillows and laces. The music at these entertainments was rather primitive, and consisted generally of that furnished by a fiddle, a triangle and a drum, though occasionally we had a very fine hand organ. The price of admission to these shows was a sixpence, and money not always being a plentiful commodity, we children took turns in our attendance. The foundation of the old Auburn museum was a collection of these figures which General Chedell purchased of travelling showmen who came to financial grief while exhibiting in Auburn.

Our first dancing master was a Frenchman by the name of Lalliett, who lived at Cayuga, and taught a dancing school in the Bostwick tavern. His classes were at two o'clock in the afternoon, and terms were two dollars for a quarter of twenty lessons. The boys and girls were taught separately, until the middle of the quarter, when they came together and met in the

evening. My life as a child, however, was not devoted to shows, nor to dancing schools, nor entirely to recreation. There was always much to be done at home, as there was in the house of every family in Auburn. We made all our own candles, and I have frequently dipped both large and small ones. You doubtless all know the tedious process, and if you have seen home made candles know how they looked when they were done. The first wax candles I ever saw were sent to my mother in 1815 by my grandmother in New York, and they were considered great curiosities. I have chopped sausage meat with a hatchet, as sausage machines were not then heard of; and until just before I was married I had never had a stocking except those I knit myself. I have picked and carded both black and white wool for hours at a time, for our woolen dresses were frequently made from the wool of our own sheep, which we sent to the factory to be spun and dyed. We had spinning wheels in the house, as our own flax was spun and made into linen, and they were frequently used, but I was never accomplished enough to spin, as my thread always broke. I have, however, in later years, spun a yarn or two for the entertainment of my friends, but never one quite so extended as this.

You must recollect that in my childhood there were few social or other distinctions in Auburn. We all dressed alike, and that very plainly, while our houses were furnished simply throughout the village. Mrs. Woodin and Mrs. Seward, then Miss Miller, attended one of the first parties ever given by my sister Caroline, and they wore ordinary bombazine dresses, which were entirely in keeping with the costumes of the guests.

There were no hotels or boarding house accommodations in early days as the taverns were filled by transient guests, and newcomers were dependent upon the hospitality of the villagers until they could build houses for themselves. Governor and Mrs. Throop lived at my mother's for a time, when they came here in 1809, and so did Judge Richardson, who came here a few years later. The Governor brought with him from the east a black servant, who was a source of great annoyance to us from his loose ideas as to property, and the Governor was obliged to whip him, in 1810, for stealing cakes from my mother's pantry.

Just below the Glover tavern was a small wooden house, which was at one time occupied by the Rev. Mr. Woodruff, who preached at the First Church, and this house was afterward replaced by the dwelling where Mr. George Rathbun lived for many years. Next below was a small house occupied by Wm. Brown, often called Bisop Brown, who afterward moved to the house on the corner of Genesee and Court streets. This house was afterwards sold to the Underwoods, and it is one of the few houses on Genesee street, which has stood unchanged for fifty years. Mr. Brown was a tall, handsome man, a leading lawyer, and an accomplished musician, while Mr. Underwood needs no description at my hands. On the site of Senator Pomeroy's residence was a house occupied by one Mr. Hall, of whom my recollections are indistinct; and the woods which I have mentioned before extended from this point over the hill to Mr. Garrow's.

The business part of the town was quite unpretending. The Bank Coffee House stood about where Mr.

Van Laer's music store is now located,* and was kept by one John Bacon. This was Auburn's most celebrated restaurant, and had a large dining room on the first floor, on a level with the street, while the second story was divided into small rooms occupied by many of our young merchants. This was a very stylish place, and held about the same relation to Auburn as the Osborne House of the present day. Then came Miss Cornell's millinery shop, and next beyond, on the corner of State street stood a small grocery store, kept by the father of Col. Wm. H. Carpenter. State street was then the narrow, muddy lane so graphically described by Mr. Hall, in his "History of Auburn," with rail fences on either side. I have often been down there to the swamp, and have climbed along on the fence rather than venture in the muddy path. Even after the prison was built in 1817, it was a perilous journey to it by the way of State street. Below State street on Genesee, were the stores of Messrs. Fitch, Porter and Beach, and about opposite Exchange street in a pleasant, large garden stood the dwelling of Reuben Porter, afterward occupied by Dr. Burt. The Porters were New England people, and they followed the custom of keeping Saturday night, while on Sunday evenings they knit or sewed, and pursued other week day avocations; and so did Col. Hulbert's family, who afterward lived in the same house. It was a large, two-storied structure, and one of our favorite visiting places. The configuration of Genesee street has been much changed since that time, for there was a great hill at the corner of North street, which was cut away in 1827 to the depth of twelve feet, and the ravine near St. Peter's Church was then

* Now No. 133 Genesee street.

filled up here. At the time of which I write, however, these changes had not been made, so the stores of Eleazer and Horace Hills, on the corner of Genesee and North streets, were on level ground. Afterward they were reached by a flight of steps from the sidewalk, and stood in this position for many years.

The Bostwick Tavern was rather larger and better than the others in town. It had a finer ballroom, and two piazzas, one on each story, while the others had but one, belonging to the first story. The upper piazza had no roof over it, and it was not until it was remodeled and converted into the Exchange hotel, that the upper rooms were added, and the roof brought forward over the steps. Where General Seward's Banking House is now situated, was Mr. Archy Kasson's store, facing on Exchange street, and he lived in the second story of the same building with his family. Then followed the Irwin or Maxwell tavern, and directly opposite, between Mr. Porter's house and the Hills' store, was a small store kept by one Mr. Hazen. He was a bachelor of rather fixed notions, and he used to keep for sale the glass beads, which we as children so highly prized. Of course he could not always replace his stock at short notice, and he occasionally refused to sell us a string of red or blue beads, saying it was the last string he had, of that shade, and he did not wish to break his assortment. Where Mr. Sutton now has his drug store, was a little watch shop kept by Peter Fields, and near by Mr. Guernsey had a saddlery and harness shop. Robert Muir's store was about on the site of the Exchange Bank, and we always went there to purchase our nuts and raisins as he gave such excellent measure. Indeed he often gave us our raisins and then handed us back our pen-

ny that we might come again. The Post Office was kept in a little wooden structure where the Cayuga County Bank is situated, and Dr. Crosset was our first post-master, but a millinery shop occupied a greate portion of the building. Where Mrs. Morgan now resides was the dwelling of David Hyde, and below it, next to the Baptist Church, stands the house where David Horner lived for many years, and which was afterward occupied by Colonel Sherwood. The church had not yet been built, and about on its site was a little white house occupied by the Patty family, and in which most of the children were born.

The Patty tannery stood back a little from the street and was reached through the lane which is now Mechanic street. From the bridge there was an uninterrupted view up and down the stream, and I have often joined the crowds which gathered upon it on such Sunday afternoons as the Baptists immersed their converts in the creek. The immersion generally took place about two o'clock, in a pool, which is I should think, now covered by the Coventry tobacco factory. The largest attendance, I recollect, was on the occasion of the baptism of Mr. Garrow by Elder Blaine. Mr. Garrow was a very large, tall man while Mr. Blaine was rather slight and delicate. It was evidently feared that there might be some difficulty for these reasons, in bringing Mr. Garrow to the surface after he had been once under the water, for he had tied around his waist a large, strong, red silk handkerchief in order that the Elder might have something firm to hold on by. It of course had a very singular effect over his black baptismal robe, but the ceremony went off without accident. I once saw an immersion there, when they were obliged to break the ice before they entered the water. The Center House on the

point at Market street, the Demaree tavern, where is now the National and the Stone Mill are the only prominent buildings which I recall in this quarter of the town. Mr. Horace Hills lived in a large frame house on North street, where Walker's market now stands, and it was the first house I ever saw with inside blinds. The house, I believe, has been moved back, and is still standing behind the brick block of stores. Just opposite was Mr. Oliphant's tailor shop, in the old brick building so long occupied by Mr. Alexander, the shoemaker. The family lived up stairs over the shop before they moved to their William street house in later years. Mr. Oliphant always declared that he had once made a pair of breeches for George III, before he came from London, and whether he had or not, he called himself "breeches maker to the King." Lyman Paine lived in a small house near the stream, and I often went there to see his daughters Mary Ann, Sally, Huldah and Fanny. Old Major Cumpson lived then in a wooden house directly where our Town Hall now stands, and in front of it was a long green sward extending to North street. This was a little in front of the Hardenburg house, which stood nearly on the site of the present residence. I frequently went to the Hardenburg's during my childhood after the Colonel's death. The family then consisted of his widow and two children, John and Maria. The latter died in early life. Mrs. Hardenburg was a woman, of agreeable manners, tall and angular, and was very much beloved by the children of the village, who called her Auntie Hardenburg. She usually sat in the chimney corner and smoked her pipe after each meal, and took snuff constantly. She took her pipe with her when she went out socially among her neighbors, and she

wore one of the large poke bonnets which were commonly seen in my early days. The house was a large wooden structure with a huge chimney which would hold and burn wood cut six feet long, and in which you could stand and look directly up to the sky. It had double swinging doors, which opened directly into the living room, and there was a great well sweep in the yard behind it. I recollect Mr. John Hardenburg as a young man very distinctly, and that when the Academy burned down in 1817 he was sleeping in the building, and only saved his life by jumping from the second story window. I saw the flames and the light of the fire from our house on the hill.

On the site of Mr. Osborne's residence on the corner of North and Seminary streets, was the Estes tannery. I have frequently been there, crossing the stream by a foot bridge on State street. South street was not much built upon as yet. On the ground now occupied by Mr. Harmon Woodruff's residence there stood a small wooden school house, in which I once attended school for a short time, being taught by Mr. Conrad Ten Eyck. Opposite was a long, low, wooden house on the site of the present Universalist Church, which was for many years occupied by Colonel Hulbert's family after they left the old Porter house on Genesee street. The house was a roomy and pleasant, though unpretending dwelling, and it was here I saw in after years the first piano ever brought to Auburn. Col. Hulbert's daughter had been at school at Pittsfield, and had learned music, so he bought her the piano on her return home. It had eight spindle legs with brass castors, and it was considered a very massive and elaborate instrument. At the time of which I write, however, pianos had not been thought of here. Be-

yond this house on South street were fields and woods, and it was many years before the street was levelled or much built upon. A lane ran where School street now extends, and Lincoln and Cumpson street had not been opened. About where Mr. Nelson's lumber yard is located stood Samuel Cumpson's spacious residence surrounded by a beautiful flower garden, and the lane continued past it, reaching South street near the site of the Second church. The distillery was near by, and the family, I recollect, depended for their supply of drinking water on the large spring, which is still flowing in the grounds of Mr. Henry Koster's house on Lincoln street.

Of course, as time rolled on, Auburn improved, and the manners and customs of the people became less primitive. My father's land was gradually sold, and many new people came in. The stages began to run with regularity, and the houses, fences and sidewalks became better. Immigration was very large, and for years it was no infrequent sight to see a family moving West through the town with four or five loads of household goods in large canvas covered wagons. I have seen the statement in "Hall's Travels in America," published in 1816, that in the year previous sixteen thousand of these wagons passed over the bridge at Cayuga, and I should not think it exaggerated. You might, however, think I was drawing on my imagination if I should attempt to give you an idea of the mud which prevailed here at any other season than midwinter or summer. When in 1832 I lived in the house since occupied by Gen. Chedell, we had only a single plank for a sidewalk and were glad to avail ourselves of the help of the rail fence. South street even at this day was so little built upon, that I could

sit at my side window and see the congregation distinctly as they ascended or descended the steps of the Second Church.

A great feature in our early days were "general trainings" when the county militia disported itself for several hours on the Court House green and on Genesee street. These festivals were usually under the charge of Dr. Hurd of Scipio, who was very fond of such entertainments, and it was principally owing to his influence that they were not abandoned long before they were. The troops were some on horseback, some on foot, and I think there were a few small cannon which figured in the procession as it marched and counter-marched on Genesee street. Our friend, Mr. Marshall, always appeared with a cart of ginger bread and beer, early in the morning, and sold his stock with fearful rapidity. The Masonic Fraternity flourished also at this time, and David Horner, who was head of the Order, gave much of his time and attention to their meetings. He was the Grand Master, I think, at all events, he was very often called "King David." The lodge room was on Genesee street, near the present Cayuga County Bank, and after each meeting the lamps were carried across the street to Mrs. Horner's to be filled and cleaned. We sometimes availed ourselves of the fact that the lodge door was open at these times and went over to look at the velvet regalia and other wonderful things said to be there. I do not recall, however, that we ever saw anything very remarkable, and I think that in late years I have heard the statement that in Masonry the realities did not always equal one's anticipations.

Every one drank bitters in these days, and I have seen my uncles and other relatives take them with

tansy before breakfast, in the morning. The practice was universal, but I never recollect seeing more than one or two men intoxicated. One of these was one of my Uncle Samuel Dill's hired men, who went down town from the Mount House one St. Patrick's day, and came home in a very deplorable condition. Although he was an Irishman between forty and fifty years of age, my uncle took his horse whip, and gave him a sound thrashing. I sat on the cellar stairs and saw him do it, and the man had apparently no idea but that it was entirely the correct thing. Reuben Swift, who lived on South street, on the corner of the present Swift street, as you know, was a confirmed drunkard, and seldom went home sober. In my early days tracts were distributed by the temperance people, detailing the evils of drunkenness, and dwelling particularly on the danger of spontaneous combustion after a long indulgence in strong liquors, and we children have watched Mr. Swift often and often, wondering if we should ever see the flames issuing from his mouth as he went reeling home.

In 1820 my mother died and her funeral sermon was preached by Dr. Lansing at the First Church. Shortly after, it was thought best to send my sister Jane and me to boarding school, and we were accordingly transported to the seminary kept by Uncle Caleb McKeel at Skaneateles. This was a celebrated and popular Quaker school, and we remained there two years. I took with me my papered trunk made by Mr. Terry, and beside my other apparel it contained two dresses, which were thought at the time an abundant supply for any school girl. We had also a stock of colored cotton pocket handkerchiefs, and a few linen ones made from our own flax and spun at home. The

school was an excellent one, and it was conducted by Mr. McKeel as principal, assisted by Mrs. Lydia P. Mott and Miss Sarah Underhill. I have my certificate signed by each of them dated in 1823. There were forty scholars, and we slept in one large room over the school room in twenty beds. This room was warmed only by the pipe from the large wood stove in the school room, and as the fire usually went out in the night time, by morning we were comfortably cool. We had one wash stand, and one looking glass, and we made our own beds, as was the universal custom at country boarding schools. The fare was rather indifferent. We had a great deal of codfish, and once a week mush and molasses. Still we learned a great deal and enjoyed our life there. Mr. McKeel was a bachelor and very fond of visiting, so that we had very many pleasant rides in winter and summer. He would occasionally bring us to Auburn for a few hours, and once he took us to Scipio to be present at the marriage of the two daughters of Jethro Wood. They were married at the same time in the Quaker meeting house, and a great crowd of Quakers were in attendance, many of which after the usual quiet ceremony signed the marriage certificate.

Our Quaker meetings at Skaneateles were always held on Thursday mornings, and we were all obliged to be present, but on Sundays we were allowed to attend the Episcopal services in the village church, conducted by the rector, Mr. Converse. As our Quaker meetings were usually of the silent kind, my sister Jane and I took the opportunity to learn our Bible lesson for the next Sunday. Miss Julia Legg used to come and take us to pass the Sabbath at her mother's in the village, and you can imagine how pleasant the

change was from the school discipline to the liberty of a village family who lived so delightfully as the Leggs. We were very fond of Mrs. Mott, the assistant principal. She was a celebrated Quaker preacher, who went often to quarterly meeting, where she preached with great acceptance. Of course when she returned we were always very eager to see her, and like all school girls to obtain her first kiss. She had a son Arthur who was aware of this fact, and one day about the hour of his mother's expected return, he dressed himself in her clothes, and wrapping himself up somewhat, walked slowly to the door from the front gate. We rushed out as usual and about a dozen of us kissed him before we discovered the deception. I undertook one day to decorate myself by curling my hair, and accordingly began by decorating it with two knobs over my forehead, securing it with pins. I ran down stairs to meet Mrs. Mott, as she came in, when taking my face between her hands, she said, "Why, Debby, has thee got horns a growing?" I never see a curl to this day, that I do not recall her words, and my mortification. On Saturdays, we all went to the school room, and darned our stockings, or mended any rents which we found in our dresses. The Quakers were very particular in the matter of needle work, and if a dress of two or more colors was to be mended, we were obliged to have an equal number of colored threads, and to match the figures exactly. We made a great many little needle books and pin balls, and were taught to stitch them very neatly. Among other accomplishments, I learned to play whist at this school, although it was not one of the regular studies. I was active and vigorous at this time, and after I returned home used often to ride over on horseback to

visit the school, and back in the same afternoon. Once I walked over and back in the same day, and once with a party of girls I walked to Cayuga and back.

After our return from school, we continued to live in the Mount House with my Uncle Samuel, until he moved to Camillus; and after that time with my sister Caroline, who had recently married John Hulbert. After my marriage it was sold to Abijah Fitch, and having changed owners several times, it was finally used as a young ladies' seminary, until it was destroyed by fire in 1849. I soon began to enjoy the delights of society and I recall with pleasure our frequent sleighing parties, when we drove to Elbridge, Skaneateles, Cayuga or Seneca Falls, very much as do the young people of the present day. We commonly started in the afternoon, or early in the evening, and would after reaching Seneca Falls or Cayuga, order supper at a tavern, drive on for a ways, and return about the time it would be ready for us. We occasionally had oysters, and before each person at the table was a chafing dish, in which they were cooked to suit each individual taste. Once we took a dinner box from a sleigh which was before a tavern door at Cayuga, as we passed. At this time travellers were obliged to carry their own provisions when making long journeys, and a "camp chest," or as we called it a "dinner box" was a necessity. Once we drove to Syracuse, starting early in the day, and arriving there in time for dinner at one o'clock, taking supper at Elbridge on our return. This we only accomplished by having relays of horses at several points on the road. We did not consider it improper, if we were chilly, to stop at a tavern door and drink some brandy, with sugar, although we

usually called for bread and milk. The tavern keepers knew by experience what we wished for. Our balls, too, were very enjoyable. They commenced usually, at six o'clock in the afternoon, and lasted until two o'clock in the morning, except on extraordinary occasions, like our elaborate Fourth of July balls, when we stayed until dawn. They were held in the ball room of the Bostwick, Glover or Goodrich tavern, and the tickets were printed on small bits of paper, some of which I have kept to this day. We danced "Monie Musk," "Scotch Reels," and a figure called "French Four," which I believe is now extinct. The music was generally made by one violin, and the illumination by means of candles hung round the walls of the room in candlesticks. At twelve o'clock we had supper, and all sat down to a long table in the dining room. Roast chickens and turkeys were standard dishes, and after six hours of dancing something substantial was very refreshing. Our ball dresses were white muslin over black silk skirts, and we had one breadth for the front, another for the back, with a gore on each side, while the young gentlemen usually wore swallow tailed coats, rather short trousers, and vests cut square across at the bottom. At the commencement of a ball, we usually waited in the dressing room until the dancers were all assembled, when we walked into the ball room with our partners to the music of a march played on the one violin.

The young people whom I best recollect, were Josephine Finn, Mary and Cornelia Pitney, Eliza Benedict, Mary Seymour, Huldah Paine, Fannie Paine, Eliza Pease, Mary Ann and Eliza Horner, Whitfield Hatch, John Garrow, Levi Lundy, John Bird, George Jaycox, Butler Sheldon, M. S. Myers, Michael Foote,

Richard Paine, James Horner and Isaac S. Allen. The latter was a great beau in those days, an excellent dancer, and very gallant. I recollect that once Col. Hulbert and his wife were called to Rochester by the death of a relative, so that with the house all to ourselves, we sat up all night with the Hulbert girls and sewed on the dresses which we wished to wear on the next evening.

About 1824, my sister and I were sent to boarding school at Ballston, a place which then had as much reputation as Saratoga has now—in fact, Saratoga was a little place of entertainment, to which we occasionally drove, never thinking that it could eclipse Ballston with its tremendous summer hotels and throngs of visitors. My brother John usually went with us during the long stage ride of three days and two nights from Auburn to Schenectady. After the opening of the canal we used sometimes to go to Syracuse by stage, thence to Utica by canal, and then to Ballston by stage again. The roads were still very wretched and we were often obliged to get out and wait by the road side while the driver and passengers pried the wheels out of the ruts with rails from the nearest fence.

Sometime before I went to Ballston the military funeral of General Fleming took place in 1823. It was a great event for Auburn and it was attended by an enormous crowd of people from all parts of the country. The militia marched with reversed arms, and the General's horse with all his military accoutrements, was led in the procession by one of his colored body servants. The body was brought to town in a wagon and taken to St. Peter's church, where appropriate services were held, after which it was placed on

a bier, and carried to the North Street Cemetery, where the usual salute was fired over the grave. Hearses were not heard of in Auburn in 1823, nor for some time thereafter, and I think that the first one ever used here was brought by the Richardsons in 1835. The use of biers was universal, and when my first daughter died, she was carried from the house, now occupied by Mr. S. L. Bradley, to St. Peter's Church yard in this manner.

On June 1st, 1825, Lafayette made his celebrated visit to Auburn. Great preparations were made for it, and on the morning of his arrival, guns were fired in order that the people in the surrounding towns might know of it, and come to Auburn to see him. Arches were erected and decorated with evergreens on Genesee street, and there was a very large one near us on the hill. He was met at Cayuga by a large delegation from town, and he entered riding in a coach drawn by six horses, accompanied by Governor Throop, Judge Richardson, and my uncle John Dill. The latter had served with him in the army, and had known him intimately, as had Major VanValkenburg, who came over from Skaneateles to meet him. The procession drove to the Exchange hotel, and my sister and I were there with Mrs. Seward on the upper balcony. After a time he came to the ball room and shook hands with each one of us as we stood around the walls of the room. We all said "Welcome Lafayette," and I can recall his appearance as distinctly as if he stood before me at this moment. In the evening there was a grand "Lafayette Ball," which my older sister and brother attended, but to which I did not go. In 1827, however, I attended a ball and met for the first time Mr. George H. Wood, whom I afterward married. It

was customary at this time at all balls, to have a room for card playing, and we played whist the entire evening against Eliza Horner and Consider Carter. The latter was a young man employed by the Sherwoods in their stage office. He was a very agreeable and capable person and much attached to Miss Horner, to whom he offered himself unsuccessfully several times.

When I was married on the 14th day of May, 1829, the peach and apple trees were all in bloom, and the stage in which we went on our wedding journey was trimmed with the boughs from these trees and flowers. We were married in St. Peter's Church by Dr. Rudd at eleven in the morning, and my brother John and Miss Worden were married at the same time. We engaged a stage for the trip and drove to Buffalo, the same driver going and returning with us, changing horses only at the usual stations. Eliza Horner, Amanda Worden and my sister Jane went with us, making just a coach full. We stopped at Canandaigua and Rochester, and at Lockport to examine the locks, which were great curiosities in those days. We eventually arrived at Buffalo, and were gone from Auburn just two weeks.

Buffalo has changed very much in fifty years. There was no Delaware Avenue then, and where are now the largest stores and warehouses, was a cemetery. While at Buffalo, we went to the old theatre to see Charlotte Cushman play "Cinderella, or the Little Glass Slipper." I saw her frequently in New York in later years at the Bowery Theatre. She was playing there when it was rebuilt in 1828, after it was burned, and I saw her the first night that the new theatre was opened.

The American hotel was opened on New Year's day,

1830, by Thomas Noyes, and I took tea there, the first meal, dinner, having been given to a party of gentlemen. Mr. and Mrs. Noyes were New England people, and they kept the hotel so acceptably that it soon became famous. Mrs. Noyes always sat at the head of the table and poured the tea or coffee for all the guests, and my seat was directly next hers. The patronage was so much greater than was anticipated that I was often obliged to assist her in making sheets and counterpanes, as the stock she brought from the East was far too small. We had twelve stages daily, and the stage office was under the front piazza, in the basement, at the right side; and it was usually occupied by Milton and John Sherwood, who sat there in their broad-cloth coats and ruffled shirt bosoms, and managed the affairs of their celebrated "Telegraph Line" of stage coaches. This was about the time of Auburn's greatest prosperity, which as you know reached its climax in 1836 and 1837. The passenger traffic was enormous, and when the cars first came to Auburn in 1838, I was again at the American, whose popularity had not waned.

The Railroad was laid up Franklin street from the station near the prison to the livery stable now occupied by Mr. Doan, and those passengers who chose to do so, got off at the prison station, while others preferred to ride to the terminus. The first cars were very small. They had doors at the side like a coach, and two seats facing each other, with places for six passengers in each car. There were usually three cars in a train and we were drawn by horses to and from Syracuse. It was at the latter place I first saw a locomotive, sometime before one had been brought here. After the cars had begun to run with regulari-

ty the Auburn House was built, and being near the railroad, it soon became a popular resort, as passengers could get off at its door. Auburn had now ceased to be a country village, and was noted for the ability of its lawyers, its promising water-power and its social advantages. The Pattys, Burts, Olmsteds, Horners, Compstons, Hughes and Stevensons began to disperse and their successors entertained very many strangers and celebrities who came here as the means of access became less arduous. Judge Miller, Judge Richardson, Christopher Morgan and Secretary Seward had many visitors, and I have met here at various times Silas Wright, Martin and John Van-Buren, Thurlow Weed, Daniel Webster and Henry Clay.

In 1836, we built the house now occupied by Mr. Theo P. Case, and while it was being completed Daniel Webster was here. He was so much pleased with it that we had the plans duplicated and sent them to him. In 1839, Henry Clay was on one of his customary political tours through the country, and he came to Auburn from Canandaigua, attending a supper given for him at the American hotel. He called on me in the morning before leaving for Syracuse at noon, and as he was at the time very much interested in house building, he examined ours very thoroughly. Mr. Casey again drew the plans, and we sent them to him as we had Mr. Webster. Mr. Clay's pleasing manner and wonderful conversational powers strengthened the devotion of his many political friends here, most of whom then saw him for the first time.

There are many things I should like to mention, but I cannot venture to trespass too far on your good nature. As we sat at tea one evening in 1832, an alarm

of fire was given, and following our usual custom, every one in the village rushed to the street. It turned out to be the fire which destroyed St. Peter's Church, and when I arrived on the ground, the streets were filled with people, who stood and watched the fire as it slowly consumed the enormous timbers of the Church. We saw the spire fall at last with a great crash. I do not recollect whether at this time our fire engine was used or not, but at the first fire in the prison in 1820, the water was all passed from hand to hand from the creek to the prison doors in our leather buckets. Every family in the village had several of these, numbered and marked with the owners' name. We had six marked "S. Dill."

In this same year there was a profound revival at the Methodist Church, and I find noted in Mr. Wood's journal the fact that Amos Underwood and General Chedell were much excited and took their places on the "anxious seat."

I am conscious that I have written much which may seem to you trivial, and of little interest to any one save myself, but I cannot otherwise give you an idea of our life in Auburn in its early days. The events which I have noted seemed to us at the time of great importance, and perhaps you should after all, expect from me nothing very different from what I have written.

I have only alluded incidentally to David Horner, whose picture before me, and his public spirit, his desire for the education of the young, and his fine literary taste, deserve something more than this. He had a library, which would be valuable even now, and we wonder that in this remote region, that he could have kept pace with the literary events of the world

as he did. His time and money were freely rendered whenever any public or educational measure came up, and while he lived without pretension or extravagance, he was one of the men most looked up to in my childhood. The Cumpston's also, Samuel and Egbert, were foremost in all affairs of the village, and did much to make our lives pleasant. The Flemings who were prominent, not only here but in Newburg, before they came to Cayuga county, lived in Scipio, in a manner remarkable for hospitality and ceremony. They had six hundred acres of land there, besides other large tracts in adjoining towns, and they entertained handsomely at their "seat," as their home was called in the published notices of the General's death. In the inventory of his estate, there were wines and liquors enough for the largest landholder in Virginia.

REMINISCENCES OF MY EARLY LIFE IN AUBURN.

A Paper read before the Cayuga County Historical Society, January 11th, 1881.

BY MRS. S. BENTON HUNT.

REMINISCENCES OF MY EARLY LIFE IN AUBURN.

My maiden name was Azuba Terry. I was born at Auburn in 1810.

My father, Abel Terry, was the fourth son of Shadrach Terry, of Enfield, Connecticut,—a citizen of exemplary character, and a farmer of considerable importance.

At the early age of 21 my father married Louisa Chapin, also of Enfield. He had a family of four children. The sudden death of my grandmother made it necessary to sell the farm, in order to give to the several heirs the due proportion of his estate. My father, during his life, made it a rule to bring each one of his sons to a "calling" or certain occupasion, by which in after life he could support himself. Thus it transpired that his oldest son, my Uncle Alvah, became a wonderful scholar in his native town, giving his attention to navigation, trigonometry, algebra and mathematics, shutting himself within his small chamber, furnished with the severity of a monastic cell. Surrounded by his precious books, utterly ignoring every sight and sound of the busy farm life around him, dreaming, perhaps, oft-times of wealth and fame as the result of his scholastic labor, time sped on.

One day he was missed from his accustomed seat at the table; his mother and sister called from room to room for Alvah! But there never came response. His brother advertised in a Hartford newspaper, desiring information of his whereabouts, and describing his person. All that was ever learned of him was that a young man answering to the description of his person embarked in a sailing vessel at Boston, bound for the Mediterranean sea, and as the vessel was richly laden, and as there were at this early period of our history many piratical ships afloat in that distant region, my grandparents concluded that they had been captured by Algerine desperadoes or pirates.

The next serious change in the domestic circle of my widowed grandmother was the departure of my Uncles Shadrach and Apollos, the eldest and youngest of the brothers, for the then "far west." Both settled in Auburn, or Aurelius, as it was then called. Two years later my father and mother and their four children, viz.: Hannah, Alvah, after the truant brother, Louisa and Lucien, together with my grandmother and maiden sister of my father's, entered into the little, but aspiring village of Auburn, being about the period of 1804. The families at this time were few and far between, but were closely united by christian fellowship and sympathy. "Auburn! Sweet Auburn, loveliest village of the plain," was a refrain often repeated by different members of my family in my childhood as a convincing proof of their fondness for their home in the west.

Mr. Shadrach Terry, father of Mrs. Oscar F. Knapp, pursued at this time the business of wagon and plough making, while my Uncle Apollos found employment as a farmer during the summer and as school-master

in the winter. As I have before observed, my grandfather brought the entire talents of his sons to bear upon his farm in Enfield. And as a smith's forge was an imperative necessity upon the farm, he built a shop upon his premises, and there my father spent much of his time in making and repairing farm utensils. Upon making up his mind to marry he decided to follow the forge instead of the farm. And old Auburn never knew a more ingenious mechanic, nor a more industrious man than he! He was as strong as the metal he worked in, as true, too, as steel, yet malleable withal to all good purposes and influences. He loved reading and spent every hour of his leisure in pursuing the Edinburgh Encyclopedia, which books I will here mention were lent by him by his intimate friend, Mr. John D. Cray. He had Lavater's and Rochefoucauld's Maxims at his tongue's end, Seneca's Morals, Plutarch's Lives of the Ancients, Goldsmith's Citizen of the World, and the works of Mrs. Hannah More, also, those of Mrs. Chapone, Zinumerman on Solitude, Ossian's poems, Esop's Fables and Gulliver's Travels. For his daughter he bought Mark Akenside's poems, Scott's Lady of the Lake, and Young's Night Thoughts. But he was much opposed to the reading of fiction. Lord Chesterfield's letters were much esteemed by him. He showed his taste in dress by wearing the best broadcloth (black), and the finest boots which were made in Auburn, and by dressing on Sundays in a ruffled shirt—washed, ironed and plaited by my eldest sister Hannah.

Three children were born to my father and mother after they settled in Auburn: my brother, Mr. Owen Terry; another brother, who was named Orpheus, who died young, and myself in 1810. Alas! The terrible

fevers common to all newly opened countries, and the cares of a large family now began to tell upon the constitution of my devoted mother. Having nursed my eldest brother Alva through a course of typhoid fever and seeing a favorable turning or crisis of the same, she realized a few hours' relief, and sought the repose so long denied to a watchful mother, when she was overtaken by the symptoms of premature labor. Meantime my brother who had risen from bed and exposed himself to the dangers of taking cold and various imprudences of diet, suffered a relapse and died after two days' illness. Oh ! this unhappy event. My suffering mother knew nothing. To her question of "How is Alvah?" the reply was "All is well." Her strength had been spent for others, she was resigned to death. She expired in giving birth to a silent child. She being only thirty-six years old, and this her eighth child.

So there were three lying dead in one house ! How many times in after life, while sitting on my father's knee, I have listened to the heart-rending recital of his trouble at this period of his married life.

I was then only eighteen months old, and I know all these events only by hearsay.

My father never married again, and I have no recollection of a mother's tender care. My grandmother, my father's maiden sister, Aunt Stella, and my sister Hannah, nearly twelve years old, assumed all the duties of housekeeping for my father.

And now I have fairly arrived at my earliest recollections of my Auburn life. We lived at this time very near to the first Episcopal Church built in Auburn, St. Peter's.

I was about six years old when I remember going

there on Saturday afternoons to recite my catechism to the Rev. Wm. Henry Northrop, a clergyman of great piety, quite young, and of delicate and refined organization. I think he was a Carolinian by birth. At any rate, the rigor of our northern winters soon undermined his health, and he was forced to resign his parish and return to his native place, where he died, giving evidence of "the peace which passeth understanding" and joy in our Lord and Master. So reads the record kept by my oldest sister, Hannah, one of the youngest communicants of the old St. Peter's Church.

At this period my sister and Miss Polly Bostwick were the chief lady singers in the church choir, of which Mr. Wm. Bostwick's son was the leader, and a grand bass voice had he! It was sufficient to arouse the "seven sleepers of old" to hear him pour out his soul in song to the tune of Old Hundred. He used a tuning fork in setting the air, and once upon a time, having selected an air to suit the measure of the hymn propounded by the minister, he rose to name the air he had chosen, as was his wont, and in his most stentorian tone exclaimed BRAY! at which announcement there was a visible smile all over the face of the usually decorous congregation. How these matters stick in one's memory when matters of moment lie buried under heaps of sober human experience!

In order to give my earliest recollections of the community in which we lived during my childhood, I must refer once more to the great grief which befel my father in the loss of my mother and two of her children.

Although I was too young to be personally cognizant of the kind offices of our immediate neighbors,

the story of their ready help, and the sweet influence of their sympathy and devoted service, was so often related in my presence, and with so much real pathos and gratitude by every member of my family, that today those names stand out in bold relief upon the leaflets of my memory. Among those were the names of Mr. and Mrs. Bostwick, the family of Stephen and Hugh Hughes, the names of Esq. and Mrs. Wm. Brown, and Dr. Hackaliah and Mrs. Burt. These persons were present at my mother's funeral. The officiating clergyman was the Rev. Wm. Clark.

A little later (perhaps I may have been five years old) I remember being called in by Mrs. Brown frequently, and being patted on my head, she would sigh and exclaim, "My poor motherless child," and with many gentle words and caresses, she would soothe my half-orphan heart, giving me also a bit of delicate cake, apples, doughnuts or gingerbread.

And here I must mention the toothsome dainties afforded me by my little friends, Jane and Betsey Maria Bostwick. Mrs. Bostwick as far back as I can remember had two slaves in her household, Sybil and Eleven, her husband. Now Sybil was a superior cook and she knew it. Oh, the pies and preserves and pickles made by those faithful old ebony hands. "What a cook!" Sybil was wont to say, "Ef I du say it is wittles fit for a guv'ner to eat!" And it was a fact that nobody denied.

One of Sybil's sons lived with Esq. Garrow, one of the magnates of Auburn. The boy's name was George, a great wag and about as full of darkie pranks as any one the race ever produced. Whenever a country fellow presented himself from Owasco or Cayuga, asking "ef the Square was to hum?" George

would reply, "To be shore. It hangs up in the wood house." Another of Sybil's children, Flora by name, lived with Mrs. Enos T. Throop. Flora died young of hasty consumption.

Speaking of Mrs. Enos T. Throop I recall a medium sized lady, elegantly attired; and I remember I used to watch for her appearance in her pew, and I am afraid the costume she used to wear attracted me more than the music or the services of the church.

Judge Miller and family, Judge Joseph Richardson, to whom the "gamins" of Auburn gave the sobriquet of old "square toes," were the regular attendants at old St. Peter's. Young America was not one whit more respectful then than now.

The second incumbent of St. Peter's parish was the Rev. Mr. McDonald, a very able scholar and an edifying preacher, so said the vestry or elders of the church. I remember that there were two large box stoves in the vestibule, from which pipes were carried through the entire body of the edifice, and these afforded only an apology for warmth. However, many people brought foot-stoves, which the sexton filled with glowing coals and with noiseless steps carried them to their several owners. When the warmth was somewhat expended, I would sit at the feet of my aunt, resting my head on the huge muff which she used to wear. I'm sure it was of the size of a modern pillow! and there, unless attracted by Mrs. Throop's new winter costume or a stunning pelisse worn by one or more of Judge Miller's family, I would lay down my head and sleep until I heard the Doxology being sung in the wonderful bass tones of Warden Bostwick. Now my head goes nid, nid, nodding, sitting in the gloaming, reviewing the scenes of "Long Ago," while a longing for

rest comes over me and I recall the words from a favorite hymn :

> "Rest comes at length, though life be long and dreary.
> The day must dawn and darksome night be past,
> All journeys end in welcome to the weary,
> And Heaven, the heart's true home will come at last."

It is a fact somewhat curious in the history of my family, that each one of us found in the family of Mr. Wm. Bostwick, one of the earliest pioneers of Auburn, an intimate friend. The eldest son, Wm. Bostwick, Jr., afterwards an Episcopal clergyman, was generally accorded to my sister Hannah, as escort to all the tea-parties and other village gatherings ; Hiram, a second son, became an admirer of my sister Louisa ; while sister Hannah found in Miss Polly Bostwick, afterwards Mrs. Samuel Graves, a congenial companion, and life-long friend. At the same time my sister Louisa and Miss Philura Bostwick were like "twin cherries growing on one stem." My brothers, Lucien and Owen, were mated by Augustus and James, third and fourth sons of the same family. And I found daily delight in the society of Jane Maria and Betsey Bostwick, the two youngest daughters of the family numbering thirteen, belonging to that household. With them I attended the district school, attached to the church, or built within the lot on which the church stands. It was a substantial brick building. The first teacher whom I remember was a man of the name of Rowley, originally from Vermont, rather clever in arithmetic, but ignorant in many studies necessary to become a teacher of the boys and girls of Auburn. It was discovered that he had recently pursued the occupation of drover, but his experiment in teaching school proved to him that the

boys and girls of Auburn were not like "dumb driven cattle," and he was compelled to return to the green pastures of his native state. After him came Mr. Alexander Chalmers, a smart young bachelor, quite acceptable to the society of Auburn. He became afterwards a merchant in New York. Next came Mr. Charles Todd, who eventually turned his attention to the Episcopal ministry. He had a florid complexion, fiery red hair, and a temper to match it.

Subsequently I attended the school of Mr. Conrad Ten Eyck. Here I became acquainted with Miss Fanny Goodwin, and Sarah, her sister. Both of these girls were superior scholars. Miss Sarah Brinkerhoff and Isabella, her sister, were of my class in geography and arithmetic. Also, Mr. John Beach, John Garrow, Charles Lynde, George Leitch and Mr. Levi Parsons. We had spelling matches, which I have some pride in recollecting, as I frequently stood at the head of my class, though the heads of almost all of them were above mine. I must not forget Lorenzo Pease, also Jessie and Morton Taintor, also "Dan" and "Dave" Steele, sons of, perhaps, Elihu, or Elisha Steele, who lived near the toll gate, beyond the handsome residence of Esq. Garrow. And this reminds me of the Graham family, Sophia and Susan and Elizabeth. They lived nearly opposite Esq. Garrow's. The mother always an invalid, I think they came from New York, and finally returned thither.

My next schooling was under the auspices and tutorage of Miss Almira Bennett, a pattern of propriety and decorum and rare amiability and piety. Here I met the daughters of Mr. Horace Hills, Miss Elizabeth Porter, and my friend Betsey Maria Bostwick. At recess we were permitted to entertain, and to make

calls and visits, and here I was initiated into the forms or rule of social and polite society, thanks to Miss Bennett, now the venerable Mrs. Clary of Auburn. My last appearance at school in Auburn was at the Girls' Department, in a wing of the Theological Seminary, under the management of Prof. Noble D. Strong, and Miss (Sarah, I think) Goodwin, afterwards Mrs. Dr. Smith. Here I knew Mary and Cornelia Pitney, Huldah and Fannie Payne, Phœbe Williams and her brother, Warren Worden, Throop and George Martin, Walter and Blanchard Fosgate. The girls of the school frequently recited in the boys' class room, and at recess we all held high conference in the hall.

I remember most of the notable men of Auburn, who occupied (I mean) the first positions in society. Among them Messrs. George and Enos T. Throop, Samuel and John Dill, Judges Miller and Richardson. Wm. H. Seward was a student at law with his future father in-law when I was about ten years of age. He was a young gentleman of rather slight but compact figure, having a large aquiline nose, a sanguine complexion and very red hair. He used to pass our house every morning before sitting down to study, bound for his daily walk. I saw him often with ladies of Judge Miller's family, the Judge's sisters, Miss Patty and Miss Clara Miller, and his two daughters, Miss Lizette and Miss Fanny Miller, afterward Mrs. Seward. There appeared also at times a sister of Mr. Seward's, rather petite and ladylike, with a lovely complexion and hair of glorious tint, looking as if dyed in ruby wine. They sometimes rode on horseback, and I can recall their many peals of laughter and hilarious voices as though it were but yesterday. Miss Lizette Miller was a young lady of very independent charac-

ter, possessing a manner decidedly pronounced. I recall seeing her at church one hot afternoon remove her large Leghorn flat, then the latest novelty in millinery, from her head covered with dark beautiful chestnut curls, and adjusting them with same coolness as though standing in her own dressing-room, despite the remonstrances of her very stately Aunt Clara, then replace her hat as if she had done nothing *outré* or indecorous. It was necessary to the Lizette Miller, and it was done. These young ladies graduated at the Troy Seminary, the principal of which institution was the renowned Mrs. Willard. They were elegant and high-bred in their general deportment, and their father had all a father's pride in his charming daughters. The most notable entertainments given in those days were those given by Judge Miller, Judge Hulburt and Esq. Garrow. The garden at the Garrow mansion was a favorite place of resort for the young people of Auburn, equalled only in floral splendor by dear Mrs. Bostwick's. The song and the dance were frequently heard in the Squire's generous abode, and hospitality was the order of the entertainment—peace to his ashes! Judge Hulburt had a lovely daughter, Caroline by name. Her marriage upon Christmas Eve was an event notably impressed upon my mind. Though I was not present I heard all the details and treasured them in my mental storehouse. The beauty, elegance and modesty of the bride, the dignity and gracious bearing of the bridegroom, Dr. Francis Cummings, of Rochester, were the themes of common discussion. The younger of the same family were my school fellows, Sarah and Maria at Miss Bennett's, and John, Charles and Henry at Mr. Ten Eyck's school.

I have the most distinct remembrance of Dr. and

Mrs. Hackaliah Burt. The Dr. was one of the pillars of St. Peter's church. His tall, angular figure was to be seen at his post rain or shine, in hot or cold weather, accompanied by his faithful wife, a woman of rare domestic virtue and goodness. Her children had, indeed, reason to "rise up and call her blessed."

The good Dr.'s manner of responding, "The Lord h-a-a-v-e mercy upon us miserable sinners," often repeated in the Litany, was something which, replete though it was with pious unction, always appealed to my risible muscles, despite the gravity of the man, and the solemnity of the place. I have reason to remember both Mr. and Mrs. Burt for many acts of kindness and friendship towards my family, and I shall continue to respect their virtues as long as I live. Their children were my schoolmates at various times during my childhood; Elizabeth was a favorite with me.

I have also a very clear remembrance of the Rev. Dr. Lucius Smith and his family. He had a very agreeable wife. His daughter, Miss Amanda, was regarded as a very precocious young lady, and it was certain that her education was far in advance of the generality of the daughters of Auburn at that time. The Dr. had also three sons, Junius, Lucius and David. The Dr. was hospitable to a fault. Oh, the merry-makings I have seen there during the holidays! The good Dr. was fond of games of forfeits, himself taking the lead in all. Full of the thought of making everybody happy, he was himself the impersonation of cheerfulness and good nature, and the parsonage under his management was really a homelike resort for all his parishioners, and a Paradise for children. What, though he had some taint of moral

weakness, as who has not, yet may God remember him in mercy, for his truly generous nature made him a friend to all.

The Misses Sarah and Mary Ann Payne, daughters of Judge (or Esq.) Payne, were the reigning belles of Auburn about the year 1820, from that period to 1824. They were, indeed, exceedingly fair girls, and their suitors were innumerable, making it an exceedingly difficult matter to select from their forces, a lord and master. These lovely sisters were intimate friends of my sister Louisa, and from taking note of their conversation, my young ideas began to shoot into the mysteries of and miseries pertaining to love affairs. I dare say their grandchildren have listened to the romantic details of mother's "*affaires du cœur*" many a time.

Miss Eliza Horner was another of the beauties of Auburn. She was gay and brilliant, a brunette, and a great favorite in society. Miss Maria Hardenburg was her intimate friend, she was a splendid woman. I recollect her queenly appearance upon horseback. She had a glorious pair of eyes, and a cheek which resembled a ripe peach, yet she became a victim of consumption.

I recollect Michael VanSchoonoven Myers as one of the most popular young men in Auburn. I was about ten years of age when he made his appearance in Auburn society. I recall the many peals of laughter which issued invariably from our humble parlors whenever he visited my sister. Mr. Myers was a literary critic and his opinion was incontrovertible on all matters of taste or fashion.

I never shall forget how he clipped the wings of my ambition for fame. I was fond of scribbling little

romances, and young as I was, I had read at this time most of Shakespeare's plays, which I had borrowed from Mr. James P. Fitch's library. I had written a little story, embodying the history of a flirtation at Saratoga, and was pouring out my secret in an epistolary confession to my dearest friend, in which I deplored having lost my heart to a tall, emaciated stranger, whose every feature bespoke the nobility of his soul, and the grandeur of his nature. This effusion of my youthful brain fell into the hands of my sister Louisa, with whom Mr. Myers was a great favorite. I heard them indulging in side-splitting laughter and catching now and then a word or two of their conversation, found to my great mortification that my novel was being cut up for their amusement. Mr. Myers declared it was too good to keep. At the same time he burst forth into laughter in which my sister joined, and they kept up such prolonged merriment, that I resolved that I would never write anything again as long as I lived. At any rate I was convinced that Mr. Myers' conception of my ability as an authoress was not what I desired or had anticipated. But I have forgiven him long since, and despite his discouraging comments, here I am scribbling for your society today.

I recall, also, the face of Mr. George Fleming, a young lawyer of Auburn. He was remarkably handsome but his convivial habits over-mastered his better nature, and he fell a victim to intemperance, at a very early age. I recollect, also, the funeral of his father, Gen. Fleming. It was the first military pageant I had ever witnessed where the sound of the muffled drum was conspicuous in the band. The horse of the former owner being led by the General's body servant,

the military boots of the soldier being reversed and hanging on either side of the saddle of the rider, now being borne to his last resting place, made it a solemn spectacle, and one which drew together a large concourse of citizens and strangers.

The woods in the rear of the old Fort Hill were my favorite resort, also of my companions and schoolmates, Deborah and Jane Dill, nieces and wards of Mr. Samuel Dill, one of the early settlers of Auburn. These woods became the scene of a thrilling adventure to the above named girls and myself, and Jane and Betsey Maria Bostwick. The surface of the wood was undulating, there being many deep hollows, and as many butter hills, as we used to call them. Now when once we found ourselves far away from the noise of the town, the shadows of the forest trees above and around us, the gloom and the stillness made it a solemn place to be in, and once we saw high up among the branches of the oak tree the form of a rough looking man. "Oh," exclaimed one of our party, "suppose he should be a robber." It was no sooner uttered than we scampered away for dear life, but, alas, deeper into the wood. However we had not proceeded far when in the shade of some thicket underbrush we descried a large black trunk, a rope lying by the side of the same. Well we were amazed. It had evidently been rifled of everything of value, only some clothing of children being left. But we called a council of war and resolved to draw the trunk home or to the nearest dwelling, which was Mr. Bostwick's. I imagine our labor. Up hill and down hill, with the help of the rope we had found, we finally reached our destination. After asking us a few questions, Mr. B. told us that the stage had been robbed the night before, and that

the parties who had lost the trunk were waiting at the hotel to hear, if possible, some tidings of the same. Next day we, the finders, were rewarded each one by the owner of the trunk, with as bright a half-dollar as ever was seen. There were at the time that I mention this incident just four houses between St. Peter's Church and the big house at the mount. These were Mr. Wm. Bostwick's, Mr. Peter Field's, Mr. Robert's, my father's and Mr. Thomas Finn's, my father having bought a lot, built a small two story house upon it, where I have been told Mr. Myers now resides. I recollect well the large fire which partially destroyed the Auburn prison. We could hear distinctly the roar and crackle of the devouring element, though the creek then almost a river, ran between us and the scene of disaster.

At this time of my life, being a child of rather delicate organization, I was not allowed to go to school. How often I stood at the front gate of our little court yard, watching the long emigrant trains ploughing through the heavy sands of a new road, common in those days, drawn by oxen sometimes, and the canvas covered wagon, revealing the faces of men and women and children all bound for the far west.

Uncle Peter Field must not be forgotten in these sketches. He was a retired watch maker and jeweler from New York. He was a man of much thought and research, disposed to dwell in peace with his neighbors. He was looked upon as an oracle of wisdom, especially in the matter of regulation of time. All Auburn went by the tick of Uncle Peter Field's clock. He had two fair daughters, Deborah became the wife of Mr. Samuel Dill, and Maria a very beautiful woman who was deserted by her husband. How charmingly

she dressed. Her father kept to the strictest cut of the quaker garb, her sister, Mrs. Dill, was always seen in sober attire, but Mrs. Hall, that was her name, was as bewildering in her costume as any Parisian belle of to-day. She attracted my attention and delighted my young eyes, like a bird or a butterfly; she lived and died like one of these leaving two children to the care of her aged parents.

I remember the Rev. Dirck Lansing whose terrible denunciations in the pulpit acquired for him the sobriquet of DR. BLAZES! owing to his graphic pictures of the torments of the wicked world doomed to everlasting damnation in the flames of hell. I wonder what became of his own precious boy, a pretty little fellow, but given to many crooked ways which somehow seem to afflict ministers' boys. Does he live?

There was in the Dr.'s congregation a certain Deacon Oliphant. Let me see, was he a printer? I believe so. I think he was an Englishman. He was a devout man and once carried away by the fervor of his feelings, he prayed God to pour out his spirit upon all the uninhabited portions of the earth, making it to blossom with the fruits of his grace. The said deacon had a large family, and it was the custom at this time for neighbors to sit up, that is, watch with their sick neighbors, performing every duty of a professional nurse. Now "patience is a bitter herb, but wholesome withal." But the ills to which the Oliphants were heirs, outgrew the sweet charities of the community in which they dwelt. All agreeing, however, that in the good deacon's family there was at least as much watching as praying.

I recall the portly form of the dignified Judge Miller blessed with health, a competence and a charming

family. He looked and walked the impersonation of worldly ease and enjoyment. He had a negro servant man commonly called Pete, who had a face as round as the moon and who was as good natured and handsome a specimen of his race as it falls to one's lot to see in a life time. He followed the gracious example of his master, and was noted for his politeness becoming the master of ceremonies at all the balls and gatherings for young and old in Auburn. On one occasion at a party given by a daughter of one of the dignitaries of Auburn, the gallant Pete so impressed a young girl just entering her teens, by urging her to take another bit of cake or may be some fruit, that she unwittingly rejoined, "No, I thank you dear," a circumstance which made Pete more pompous than ever, but which covered the face of the fair novice with blushes of deepest hue.

I cannot pass over the real enjoyment realized by my family in the music afforded us by the skilful flute players of those days, I mean Mr. Wm. Bostwick, jr. and Mr. John Hardenburgh, and a little later, Mr. Ashael Munger. The two former gentlemen used to go over to the brow of old Fort Hill and play from early twilight till nine o'clock in the evening, and as our house was near, we heard their dulcet notes distinctly. At other times they came to our house and sat on the porch, discoursing sweet music, and chatting with my sisters. John Hardenburg sometimes held me on his lap. We were indebted to Mr. Bostwick for some valuable services in our garden, for instance, a common peach tree was made to put forth the loveliest almond blossoms, and a purple lilac exhibited white clusters of flowers of the same species at the same time. He was an amiable gentleman, a great student, and

dear as the apple of their eyes to the hearts of his worthy parents.

I recall the faces of John Henry Bacon also his brother Frank, Messrs. Harvey, I think, Beach and William Beach. I remember Laura and Mary Coles, Eloise Finn, afterwards Mrs. Munger, and the Misses Sophia and Henrietta Garrow.

The Misses Lizette and Fannie Miller introduced the fashion of visiting cards at our house, when I was about ten years of age. It was an epoch in the social history of Auburn society, these same cards. Miss Fannie was a very winning and gracious lady. Once when calling on my sisters she noticed some work in which I was engaged, a work which had set the young people of Auburn, of the working class, all agog. There having been established a cotton factory on the creek at the Falls, below Uncle Sammie Dill's saw-mill, there was a great call for carding machines. The teeth and leather backs were sent to those who undertook the work. I was setting these into the leather prepared, when Miss Fannie said, "I can do that. Let me see if I can not." Down she sat and she did.

I grew to have a great respect for the name and character of Mr. Seward. I watched his career with intense interest, noting the ups and downs of his eventful life. After the dastardly attempt at his assassination at Washington, which so nearly cost his life, and after he had resumed his place in the cabinet, I wrote him a letter which he answered with many kind expressions of interest towards myself and family. And again after his return from his journey round the world, I wrote him, this time answered by his amanuensis. I have both letters, and I intend keeping them as heir looms, transmitting them to my only grandchild.

I love Auburn, but there are few persons left here now who will remember me. Nevertheless,

"Lives there a man with soul so dead,
Who never to himself has said,
This is my own, my Native Land."

and loved it correspondingly !

CAYUGA JOINT STOCK COMPANY

OF 1849.

A Paper read before the Cayuga County Historical Society,

April 25th, 1883.

BY W. A. OGDEN.

CAYUGA JOINT STOCK COMPANY OF 1849.

It was in the winter of 1848 when first the gold mines of California were discovered, and men's minds were excited and filled with the wonderful stories of the marvellous wealth that could be gained in that far off country. The excitement produced on the Atlantic coast as well as in foreign countries cannot be described.

Thousands from all parts of the world started in search of the new "Eldorado," believing that there they would make the fortunes which represented to them ease, pleasure and happiness.

In December 1848, or January 1849, many in Central New York were attacked with the California fever. It was about this time that word came of a company which was being organized in Auburn, known as the "Cayuga Joint Stock Company" to which every one of good, fair reputation and standing, could, by enrolling his name and paying in $500, become a member receiving all the advantages then supposed to be derived from such an association. The Company was organized in accordance with the prevailing fashion at that time, for mutual interest, protection and profits. Losses were not counted in as who could lose in such a land of gold as we were bound for! Mr. Abijah Fitch, of Auburn, acted as our purchasing and disbursing agent, and too much can not be said in praise of his

honesty and integrity in purchasing the stores and all the accessories needed for such a long voyage. Every thing was of the best that could be found in the market. The ship, a Baltimore Clipper of five hundred tons, called the barque, Belvidere, purchased by the advice of Captain Barney, was the best that could be secured for the money. It had long been pronounced so unseaworthy that no responsible insurance company would insure a life that sailed with her.

The organization of the company was not completed until we arrived in New York, where we met in the dining-room of the Western Hotel, in Cortland street, and elected officers for the year. Mr. W. W. Sheppard was made president, J. H. Stearns, John P. Yawger, George H. Preston and Edwin Jones were elected directors. Captain Barney was a member of the association, as were also the two Gardners, the first and second mates. Dr. W. A. Grover of Syracuse was our physician. Articles of association, which were prepared by the president, were adopted by the Company and signed by each member. Believing that they are an important part of this history, and will prove interesting, I have made a summary of them as follows :—

The preamble states that the object of the Company "is to engage in mining, trading and such other business in the territory of California, and at such other places as shall be deemed by the Company for the best interests of the same."

Article 1st, provides that the officers shall consist of a president and four directors, "who shall have the control and management of the business of the Company."

By Article 3, the president and directors are required on the first Monday in each and every month "to

make a written report of the business and financial condition of the Company, so far as they shall be able to do so."

Article 4, provides, that each member shall have the right at all times to examine the books of the Company, to "call any officer to account" and to "actual inspection of any property or funds."

Article 5, reads as follows :—"Each and every member shall faithfully devote his time, his personal services, and his whole energies, except in case of sickness or other physical inability, to the sole use and benefit of the Company. But in case there shall be a dividend of any profits before the the expiration of the term of this organization, each and every member shall in that case have the privilege of making any investment of any such dividends to his own use and profit, provided the same be limited to one transaction and each member shall not deprive the Company of his time or services to its injury. And no member shall in any case bargain, sell or speculate on his own account, or enter into any private speculation or traffic in any manner, unless the same be authorized by the President or directors."

By Article 6 is provided, that any one can leave the Company at any time "in case a majority of the members shall so decide, but such majority shall have the power to prescribe the terms and condition upon which such members shall be premitted to leave."

Article 7 is as follows :— "Each and every member of the Company shall, unless prescribed by a physician, or in case of sudden and imminent sickness, abstain from the use as a beverage of all intoxicating liquors, and if any member shall become intoxicated, upon proof thereof, such member shall forfeit for each of-

fence, the sum of one hundred dollars, nor shall any member indulge in gambling in any manner whatever. And if any member shall become unable to labor, or otherwise to discharge his duties as a member of the Company, in consequence of indulgence in any vice, he shall forfeit such a proportion of his interests in the Company, as the time during which such member shall be so unable to discharge his duties shall bear to the entire period of service in the Company. And the members of the Company shall have the power to expel by a vote of two-thirds, any member who, through drunkenness, gambling or any other vicious excess, shall jeopardize or endanger the interests of, or render himself useless to the Company; and any member so expelled, shall forfeit not more than one-half, nor less than one-quarter of his entire interest in the Company, to be determined by a like vote of two-thirds of the members."

Article 8, "If any officer or member shall fraudently serve, secrete, embezzle or abscond with any funds or other property of the Company, or be found guilty of any breach of trust, such officer or member shall forfeit his entire interest in the Company, unless by a vote of two-thirds of the members of the Company, shall impose a penalty other than entire forfeiture and then such penalty shall be in lieu of the entire forfeiture in this section mentioned. And if any member shall desert this Company, he shall forfeit his entire interest in the same. And this Company by a two-thirds vote of the members, shall for any offence under this section have power, in addition to the penalties or penalty herein imposed, to expel such officer or member from the Company.

Article 10 provides that "the President and direct-

ors, at the expiration of one year, shall declare a dividend of one-quarter of the net profits," and the same at the end of the second year, and they are enjoined from making dividends which shall exceed the proportions stated, unless authorized and directed by a unanimous vote of the Company.

Article 11. In case any member shall be taken sick, such member shall be faithfully attended to, by and at the expense of the Company, and the interest of such member shall in no wise be affected by such sickness, unless as in these articles otherwise provided. "In case of the death of any member hereof, the proportionate interest of such person shall be struck, up to the time of his death, and duly paid to his heirs, &c."

Article 12. "Each and every member shall be employed at such business or occupation, and in such manner as the President and directors may require."

Article 14. No member shall, during the continuance of the organization, devote his time to labor or other secular employment, unless in case of necessity, on the Seventh or Sabbath Day.

Article 15 contains these provisions. "Nor shall the president and directors, or any members, have authority to make any investment of the funds of the company in real estate, unless the members of the company shall authorize them so to do by a unanimous vote. Nor shall the said directors, president or any member, engage in any other business or transactions in behalf, or with the funds of the company, unless so authorized by a like unanimous vote of the members.

Article 16 provides "In case there should unfortunately occur any personal difficulties, dissensions and disputes between any individuals who are members of

this company, the same shall be referred to the adjudication of the president and directors thereof, who, after hearing a full statement of the facts on both sides, and examining witnesses, if necessary, shall have power to impose a fine of not less than ten nor over one hundred dollars upon each, either or all of the parties who have been found guilty of violating the just rights of any other member. But such fine may be remitted or increased by a majority vote of the company.

Article 17. In case of any violation on the part of any member, of any article of this association, or any part thereof, and such member shall render himself amenable to the company or its officers, charged with any adjudication herein, and shall refuse to submit to the determination of the company or its officers, such member shall be expelled by a vote of the majority, and upon such terms as the majority shall impose.

Article 18 is in part as follows, "Upon each and every dividend, and upon the final distribution, each member shall be entitled to his proportionate and equal share with every other member in any and all funds, property or profits belonging to, or which shall hereafter belong to this company. No member of this company shall be entitled to any salary or pay for his services, aside from his interest in the company unless by a vote of two-thirds of the members.

Article 19. The company shall supply each and every member free from all charges or expense, with provisions, tents, if required, beds and bedding, medical attendance in case of sickness, and such tools and utensils as are necessary in the profitable employment of the members in whatever occupation they may be engaged. And no charge shall be made against any

member for passage out or provisions, or on the return of the vessel belonging to the company.

Article 24. These articles of co-partnership or association shall continue in force for the period of three years from the date thereof, unless by a vote of at least nine-tenths of the members at an annual meeting it shall be otherwise determined. Nor shall these articles or covenants be in any wise altered or changed unless by a like vote of at least nine-tenths of the members.

Our cargo consisted of mining tools, provisions for three years, and quite a large amount of lumber for building purposes and merchandise. The disbursements and receipts of the company, as indicated by my memoranda, were as follows: The ship and supplies cost $14,716.71; drugs and medicines, $500; goods &c., $24,235; commission $1,710.63; amount paid in by members, $39,000, showing 78 men. There were in fact 79, but Capt. Barney did not pay as he was allowed $500 for services. We received for passengers $250.

Each man had an immense sea-chest, in which were his personal supplies for a three years' absence. Judging from my own effects, I should say each had a five years' supply instead of three. As our ship was not ready, we were detained some time in New York, but on the 28th of February about 9 o'clock, word came that she would sail at 11 A. M. We were all on board in time, and as we left the pier gave three cheers for those who had come to add their good wishes to our bright anticipations. Five of the company remained behind to take the Isthmus route, going ahead as pioneers to survey the ground, and select the best places. They were W. W. Sheppard,

E. L. Finch, Asher Markham, Wm. Stark and E. S. Sayles.

One of my townsmen, Mr. Alfred Avery of Genoa, who had manifested much enthusiasm in regard to the enterprise, came to New York to see us off. I can still see him, at he stood on the pier, hat in hand, his gray hair streaming in the wind, bidding us "Goodbye" and "God Speed."

Of the members of the company but few were personally acquainted. They were true, manly fellows, with brave hearts, and courage for the new life, and enthusiasm which nothing could daunt. So great was the anxiety among all classes to go to California that our sailors were hired at one dollar per month. This amount was given in order that they should sign the ship's papers, and thus become subject to the laws and regulations of the ship. D. C. Richardson, G. W. Richardson, Lawrence White, and some other members of the company, who had previously had experience as sailors, also signed the ship's papers, and did service through the entire voyage. A large portion of the company assisted in sailing the vessel, and soon became expert seamen; so much so, that when we entered port, our ship was brought to anchor, and sails furled equal to a man-of-war, our captain being highly complimented on the manner in which our ship entered the port of Callao.

Our passage to quarantine was pleasant. Coming to anchor about 3 P. M., having to wait for a favorable wind that would take us, with five or six other vessels, out to sea. March 2nd, the wind being all that could be desired, a pilot came on board, the anchor was raised and we were at last started on our long voyage to the Pacific coast. The wind was blowing hard from

the north east, and our sail from quarantine to Sandy Hook was a rapid one. Here the pilot left us, departing amid the hearty cheers given by those on board. But I doubt if, six hours after his departure, a cheer could have been raised on our ship. We were beating into the wind, and the vessel with its heavy cargo of lumber, rolled fearfully. A large number of the chests between deck, broke from their lashings, and were sliding and tumbling in all directions. The confusion and noise were indescribable. When we left the Hook all were on deck, feeling happy and jolly, each asking the other who would be the first to succumb to sea sickness. It came quickly to all except two of us.

On each side of the vessel next to the bulwark, were lashed some heavy spars, which were made a convenient place for sitting, being just high enough so that a person could put his head on top and look into the sea. In a very few hours seventy odd men were seated in a row on the leeward side of the vessel, looking into the sea, and acting as near alike, and in concert, as possible. As night approached, one and another of the poor fellows made their way to their staterooms, some trying to joke and smile, others mad to think they were sick, and many in tears. One gentleman from Auburn exclaimed in his misery, "Oh! why did I leave home? I who had so good a home! Why does not the captain run into some of these ports along here?" It is unnecessary to mention that the ports wished for were many miles distant.

We received during the first day two alarms, one being a narrow escape from collision with an outward bound vessel, the other, that of fire, caused by the

bursting of a barrel of coal tar, which had broken from its lashings. Much dissatisfaction was felt at first from the manner in which the provisions were served until we were organized into "messes," when all difficulties seemed to vanish. Each "mess" was composed of twelve men, except one, and that was made up of one man, possessed of such an insatiable appetite that no one would venture to mess with him. I will not mention his name, but every man in the company, now living, will at once recognize him.

We "spoke" many ships on our way, receiving from all a hearty recognition. On the 30th of March, we sighted the Cape de Verde islands, and though we did not leave the ship, the sight of land was very pleasant. We had the long wished for opportunity of sending, through a fishing party, near one of the islands, our first letters to the friends at home. The 8th of April we struck the trade winds. Our Sundays were passed quietly, a part of the time occupied with religious services, A. C. Hall, of Auburn, addressing us often on the evils of intemperance and swearing.

The 16th of April we had what might be termed a family row on a large scale: Captain Barney, who was very sensitive and quick to take offence, had heard some criticisms by members of the company in regard to his management. He called the company "aft" on the quarter deck, and gave us a speech, threatening that unless apologies were made and he was sustained by the company, he would take the ship into Rio Janeiro and deliver her over to the consul. After much talk, and some high words, a vote was taken, and the captain sustained. This quieted the waters for the time being. We were very much like a large family;

differences would occur, and two or three times it required a vote of the whole company to quiet matters and keep peace.

On the 14th of May we had the heaviest gale of the voyage,—many seas breaking over the vessel. I was awakened about midnight by a lurch of the ship, and by the voice of the third mate telling me, that if I wished to see a regular "buster" to turn out, and come on deck. I could not stay there very long, as every sea made a clean sweep over the ship. But there was no more rest that night, as we were all occupied in keeping a horizontal position. We were much interested in the strange birds that we sometimes succeeded in catching. One called the "Nellie" was about as large as a turkey. An albatross that we caught was about three times as large as a goose. The bill was from four to six inches in length, and crooked at the end. It measured from tip to tip of its wings, eleven feet.

The 3rd of May we made the Falkland islands; they are large, but with low lands. They are said to have been settled by an English colony, but after the settlers became pirates, they were dispersed by an American man-of-war. The islands abound in wild horses, cattle, bears and sea elephants, and all species of sea-birds. The winds were contrary, the sea running mountains high, and we drifting with the wind.

On the 1st of June we had our first snow storm. It was cold, unpleasant and dispiriting. About eighty of us collected together in the hold of the old ship without a fire, and hardly sufficient light to read by. When the cold became too intense we sought the warmth of our berths. For about a month we made no progress. Time was passed in playing cards, chess,

reading and arguing on the articles in the constitution of the company. We were now in latitude 57°, longitude 75°, and June 21st was our shortest day, being only five and a half hours long, the sun rising above the horizon only 8½°. On June 23rd, we could congratulate ourselves on having at last rounded Cape Horn, and were now running from four to six knots an hour.

We celebrated the 74th anniversary of America's independence by firing guns and pistols. The Stars and Stripes were fastened to our masts, and flying in the wind. The order of exercises for the day were, 1st, prayer by E. A. Mills; 2nd, singing by the whole company; 3rd, music by the band; 4th, reading of the Declaration of Independence; 5th, oration by H. C. Hall; singing by the whole company; 7th, music by the band. Last but not least, dinner, which comprised all the luxuries the ship afforded. It will be noticed that we had "music by the band." It consisted of members of the company, and was something to be proud of. The musicians were W. D. Farrand, violinist; Lawrence White, cornet; L. H. Fenner, trombone; H. T. Graves, flute; Chas. H. Stewart, tambourine; G. W. Richardson, triangle; M. L. Remington, clarionet. We were much indebted to them, for in that long wearisome voyage their music contributed in various ways to our happiness. When we reached San Francisco, our band played in the streets, and drew a large and enthusiastic audience. We were informed that it was the first band ever heard in the streets of San Francisco. It was frequently employed on festive and public occasions, and received from $50 to $75 for its services.

On the 29th of July we sailed into the harbor of

Callao, and for the first time in five months set foot on land. The ground seemed to rock to and fro, rendering it impossible for us to walk without staggering. Everything looked new and strange. Lying in the open air, we saw great piles of wheat and different kinds of merchandise. Upon inquiry we learned that it never rained here. Around the docks were stalls with all kinds of tropical fruits for sale, oranges, bananas, etc., etc. The people were a dark and miserable set of beings. The streets were very irregular, but well paved, as also were the walks. The houses were generally of one story in height, and built of mud and cement. The markets were most tempting for a hungry sailor, well paved, with fountains, and delicious fruits.

After exploring the town we started on an investigating tour through the country, where half a mile from town we came to a large monument with a cross on top. It was said to have been the spot where a Peruvian man-of-war was thrown up at the time of the great earthquake in 1715, which also destroyed old Callao, sinking part, and flooding the rest. In company with an American, who had resided there six years, we explored the ruins, where we found arches of many of the churches, and remains of houses.

One morning, another and myself started to walk to Lima, a city six miles distant. We found the road a very good one, from four to six rods in width, with a low wall on each side. The sand made the walking laborious, but there were many restaurants where we could rest. The road was crowded with people going and coming, some on horses, others on mules. Within two miles of the city, the roads were bordered by

side-paths, beautiful gardens, with seats for weary travelers, and fruit trees. We passed unnoticed by the sentinels at the gate, and entering Lima, found it very much like Callao. Many of the houses were only one story in height, though there were some fine residences. The cathedrals were very beautiful, decorated in the richest manner with gold and silver. We went from the cathedral to the president's palace (a remarkably fine building), where we saw the president, who greeted us very politely. We visited the cotton factories, markets, museums, and Peruvian Library, which contained at that time more than 20,000 volumes. The people were finer looking than at Callao. We could not form a judgment of the ladies, for all that we could see of their features was one eye, the rest of the face being closely veiled. We returned to Callao the next day.

On August 7th, we lifted anchor, and bade adieu to old Peru, starting again with a good wind for California. After our little dissipation in Peru we had no money left; we were obliged to sell some of the extra spars, which in order to avoid duty, were lowered over the sides of the ship during the night, being towed away by the ships which bought them. We did not feel our poverty, for were we not bound for the land of gold? Our time was now occupied in making tents, gold-washers, etc., in anticipation of our new life. We were troubled now with sickness, as a result of our holiday on land, and one of our number, Walter W. Tuttle, of Auburn, died very unexpectedly to us all. It was our first death, and experience of burial at sea. He was a true and manly fellow, esteemed by us all, and his death cast a heavy gloom over the ship. There was a singular incident

connected with that sad event. The day before his death a very handsome black bird, about the size of a dove, came and lit on the combings of the main hatch within a few feet of where poor Tuttle was lying, and remained there all the afternoon, permitting itself to be handled by any one who came along. Just before dark it rose, and making a circle around the ship, lit on the fore-top gallant yard, where it remained until a few minutes after he died, when it flew away, and was not seen again.

An incident happened at this time which afforded us not a little amusement. One of the party, W. D. Farrand, who afterwards figured somewhat prominently at Peru, was an expert with the boxing gloves. One day, while sparring with others on deck, he challenged the Rev. Mr. Godfrey to put on the gloves and try him. After much persuasion, Mr. Godfrey accepted the challenge. After receiving several hits from Farrand he became somewhat excited, and letting out his long arm gave Farrand a blow on the nose which floored him, "and the subsequent proceedings interested him no more." The time seemed very long now, and we waited impatiently for the end of our journey. We were delayed three weeks by calms and head winds, but on the 8th day of October, after being over seven months, or 212 days, on shipboard, we entered with loud cheers the Golden Gate of California.

When we arrived in San Francisco, the company was out of funds, and we all went ashore seeking work, which each man found for himself, turning the avails into the common fund. The day laborers received $1 per hour. Some were quick and successful others not so; a few indicating that labor was not the

first thing they wished for, but they were most willing to assist in spending money. Our tents were placed on the shore, men being left to care for them, and attend to the cooking. We worked in this way several weeks, coming to our meals at the camp, until funds had accumulated. Then a mining party, consisting of nineteen men, was organized to go to Stockton, on the way to the Mariposa mines. We took the long boat which could carry ten tons of freight, filled her with tents, camp equipages and provisions sufficient for a winter's supply, and started in a whale boat towing the long boat. The voyage was very tedious, as much of the time we were compelled to use the oars. A few nights we were unable to land, and had to remain in our boats, resting as best we could. On arriving at Stockton we hired a train of mules to pack us in to the mines, paying freight at the rate of fifty cents per pound, everything being carefully weighed. The price at that time seemed immense, to us, not being used to it.

Our march to the Mariposa mines was a long one. We were detained for a day or two by the floods on the Stanislaus river. Here we had great fun catching salmon, which were plainly to be seen going up the river by the thousands. We shot them and killed them with clubs. Those speared by the Indians, weighing ten or twelve pounds, were sold for ten cents apiece. Here I found my first gold, picking it out of the rocks with my jack-knife.

After leaving the Stanislaus we journeyed through a rough hilly country, often with nothing but a mule trail for a guide. Once, while passing around a mountain, one of the mules, on which was packed a barrel of pork, missed his footing and went rolling down the

mountain until brought to a standstill by some trees. After unpacking the mule, and working the barrel of pork up to the trail, we repacked it, the mule not being harmed in the least. On our arrival at the Mariposa mines, we encamped on a side hill, dividing into squads of four, each squad looking out for itself, and finding its own work. G. L. Mead, of Splinter Hill, near Moravia, was the hunter of the party, being very successful in supplying us with venison, etc. Every thing in the eatable line being very expensive, costing one dollar per pound, excepting venison, which cost 25 cents, and Spanish beef which was 50 cents. At one time we weighed out in gold $125 for 100 lbs. of flour. Potatoes were not to be had at any price.

We remained in the mines, being fairly successful, until spring. We then broke camp, hiring mules of the Ithaca company to pack our baggage and provisions down to the junction of the San Joaquin and Mercede rivers, where we expected our boats to meet us. Finding on our arrival at the mouth of the Mercede, that our boats were not there, one of the party swam the river so as to reach the ferry, which was on the San Joaquin. The ferry boat carried us across the Mercede, where we waited for our boats. But as they did not come, our party divided, part resolving to wait, the rest buying two horses and going to San Francisco, by the way of Pachaker's Pass and San Jose. Our party made the pass in one day's travel, which was thirty miles, if my memory serves me right. This was the first and last time my strength failed me. I was compelled to lie down on the plains, waiting until the party had gone to the ranch, unpacked the horses, and came back for me. However, the next morning found me strong as usual, and in

advance of the party. We had to camp in the rain, with only our oil blankets to protect us. One part of the way we had to march through water eighteen or twenty inches in depth. It was a most disagreeable trip.

On our arrival at San Francisco, we found a sorry looking company of men. Many were sick with the fever, some had died, quite a number had left the company, and had gone into business for themselves, among whom were Captain Barney and the Gardners. Only part of the company went to the mines, the balance remained in San Francisco through the winter, and labored in various ways; some at their trades, some in the mint, some as day laborers. They had come from all professions and conditions of life, and they could do everything from preaching to horse stealing.

Let no one draw unfavorable conclusions from this statement. The members of the company were (with a few exceptions) true, noble, wholesouled fellows—but it would be a marvel if there should not be found some black sheep in a flock of seventy-nine which had been brought together as we were.

Three buildings were erected by the company, with material which we carried with us. We lost one, as we shall find through defect of title. One of the others was rented as a hotel. Those who were in the city lived in the other and made it headquarters. As there was much sickness, one part of this building was used as a hospital for the sick members. Mr. John Choate had charge of it. It soon became evident that, as a "Company" we were not a success, and the feeling was unanimous that we must disband. This was delayed until the annual meeting, when the

votes stood decidedly in favor of it. Parties were selected to dispose of, and see to the property as far as possible, dividing the same equally. J. H. Stearns, one or two others and myself were selected to attend to the business. We sold all that was valuable belonging to the ship, stripping her of her rigging, and disposing of her at auction for $2,500. It was hauled up in the mud, and made a storehouse of. Afterward, I have been told, she was cut down to low water mark, filled in with sand, and became the foundation of a large brick store.

Before the ship sailed from New York we invested some $15,000 or $20,000 in lumber, spars, beef, pork, boots and shoes, iron and molasses, which were taken with the expectation that large profits would be made when sold in California. Marvellous stories were told and published of the fearful prices everything brought in the land of gold. We did do well on some of our purchases, but our anticipations of making a fortune on our investments were not realized. Part of the lumber was used in a building which was erected on a lot, of which we were subsequently dispossessed, thus proving a dead loss to the Company. It will be remembered that we paid for the ship and its supplies about $15,000, hence in selling the ship for $2,500, another serious loss was sustained.

In view of these facts it will not be wondered at that the "Cayuga Joint Stock Company" was not a financial success. Each member paid in $500 when the company was formed. Two dividends were made in the spring of 1850, one of $208 and one of $70.92. We had then some real estate unsold. This was placed in charge J. H. Stearns to sell. I do not remember what we realized from the sale of the real es-

fate, but I am sure that the last dividend was small, if anything.

As soon as the Company dissolved, new combinations were formed, the parties leaving immediately for the mines. Some remained in the city, and obtained employment in the mint. Our party consisting of Timothy L. Barker of Auburn, Volney Hughitt and John T. Randal of Genoa, and myself, located on Bear river, and remained there several months. Then we moved down to a place on the Big Auburn ravine, called Ophir, three miles from Auburn.

While we were on Bear river we used the "cradle," which has recently been described in the Century, but it was slow, laborious work. "It is the rudest and simplest of all machines employed for the separation of gold from the gravel, through which it is distributed. It embodies, in a small way, nevertheless, all the essential features of the more elaborate machine used in other forms of placer mining." For a day's labor each man was expected to wash one hundred pails of dirt, not regarding it as paying unless it yielded six to eight cents per pail. After coming down to the Auburn ravine, where few were working as the ravine was dry on the surface, we found that a claim, as it was called, consisted of fifteen square feet for each man. This ravine had been and was a sort of camping ground for those who had been during the summer or dry season, working on the rivers, and who, during the winter or wet season, came back to the ravine, where there was plenty of water on the surface. While here, we adopted the "Long Tom," by which we could accomplish much more than by the "cradles," it paying us to go over the same ground we had worked with the cradles.

As I have stated, a claim was but fifteen feet square. This was miner's law, and held good by the courts, or Alcaldes, which answered for our Justice of the Peace.

As a meeting of the miners could be called at any time to change the law, we concluded to call one and enlarge our claims. So many miners had returned to the rivers, but few gathered at the appointed place, after the notice was posted. We easily enlarged claims, giving to each man sixty feet up and down the stream, and on each side as far as high water mark. Having staked our claims before the meeting was called, we had secured a fair portion of good paying ground, which was on a long wide bar, and at the foot of a rocky cañon. We dug a trench across the stream to the bed rock, within 160 feet of this cañon, filling it in with closely packed surface dirt, taken from the valley near by. This made a tight water-proof dam, causing the water to come to the surface. Then we built another dam from three to four feet in height, so that during the night a sufficient quantity of water would collect to run our "Long Tom" through the day. As soon as ours proved a success, dams were constructed along the entire ravine, giving to all work for both summer and winter.

When our winter friends returned, they found the claims enlarged and the ground occupied. They made a few efforts to jump our claims, but used no violence, for it was miner's law, and they had to submit. We worked every day, unless it rained, from sunrise to sunset, excepting Sundays, when we did our marketing and washing, this not being considered as working.

When we first came to Ophir we lived in tents, cook-

ing outside by a stump or log. Becoming dissatisfied we finally bought a log cabin, with a canvas roof and Missouri chimney. It was situated in a small valley surrounded by low lying hills, and near a cold spring of never failing water. The low, wide-branching oak trees scattered here and there, with the green lawn, marred by no underbrush, reminded us strongly of the luxuriant apple orchards of the states. It was truly a pleasant place to live in, and here we were visited by a great many Cayuga county people, many of whom remained in our camp until they could obtain a good position. The town of Ophir was but a short distance from us. It was like many other California towns, small, with two hotels, two gambling houses, plenty of supply stores, and some residences. Gambling was as public as the selling of goods and groceries. As all stores sold whiskey, they became a general rendezvous for the gamblers, who did nothing but drink, gamble, and occasionally fight. Miners they studiously avoided.

I remember one day, being in a store purchasing apples and supplies, hearing a great noise up the street, I looked out and saw from ten to fifteen gamblers rush excitedly out of the gambling houses, each with a revolver in his hand, and all threatening to shoot. I hurried around the corner of the store and cautiously looked out to see the fun. It happened, however, that there was no shooting. I did not think until it was all over that the house behind which I was so safely concealed, had only canvas sides and that I might as well have been on the street as behind it, as far as safety was concerned.

One time I was one of a lynch jury in trying a man for robbery. Being found guilty he was sentenced to

be hung, the jury intending to thoroughly frighten him and obtain a confession and the gold, but not to take his life. Not securing either gold or confession we released him, giving him so many hours to leave the ravine. Not going, he was retaken near the town, and received a severe whipping on the bare back. There was no question but that he committed the robbery, taking from an old man all his hard earned money, amounting to $400, which I am glad to say was made up to him again by contributions of the miners. Generosity was a never failing characteristic. If a man was sick, needy or in want, there was no difficulty in raising funds to assist him, all classes giving freely and willingly. For instance, there was one poor fellow, a Cayuga county man, who had been at our camp for many weeks sick, and indeed was nothing but a skeleton of his former self. Finally he made up his mind to come home if he could obtain the money. He started on a begging tour through the town, raising before night sufficient money to take him home as a cabin passenger. The result was he found it so profitable that he went into it as a speculation. After obtaining several hundred dollars he started for home, but only reached the isthmus where he died.

We gave little attention to our dress, wearing only the plainest, our better clothing being left in San Francisco. At one time, having been appointed a delegate to a county convention, the question arose whether I should go in my mining suit or store clothes. The latter being determined upon as the most fitting, I was puzzled to know where to find them, but at last decided that the only way was to borrow from one and another until the suit was com-

plete. I was obliged to call upon five different parties before my outfit was entirely satisfactory.

I remained in the big Auburn ravine until my return home in 1853. Barker left our party a year before. Rundell and Hughitt also returned to the states. Rundell afterwards crossed the plains with a drove of cattle, becoming very successful on a ranch. I know of no one in our party who became suddenly rich, or who made a fortune in three or four years. We shall find that some of those who started with us have never returned, some have died and others have wandered into far distant countries.

Little do people realize, in these days, when one week of travel will carry them to the "Golden Gate," how, but a few years ago, there was no great system of railways with all their facilities for ease and comfort, but that weeks, even months must elapse before they reached the promised land.

It is now thirty-four years since the Belvidere sailed out of the harbor of New York with her hopeful adventurers.

If today there should be a roll-call of the seventy-nine who joined the Cayuga joint stock company, twenty-nine at least would be reported dead. They are Walter W. Tuttle, D. C. Richardson, George H. White, Asa Strong, Capt. Samuel Barney, James F. Cain, Wm. Everts, D. C. Lum, S. B. Wooden, Geo. H. Preston, Robert Y. Patty, Jas. W. Ells, Wm. Jenkins, J. C. Nelson, Moses W. Lyon, Asher Markham, E. A. Mills, Volney Hewitt, A. F. Phelps, T. F. Greves, Henry Fitch, Charles H. Stewart, N. S. Benson, Charles Sheppard, S. A. Page, John T. Rundell, and P. W. Fisher of the Cayuga boys, and Edwin Jones and H. D. Allen of Wayne county. Fifty-

three of the company were from Cayuga county. Of these, only seven are known to be living in our midst, as follows: John Choate, G. W. Richardson and Lawrence White of Auburn, John P. Yawger of Mentz, H. C. Hall of Aurelius, S. D. Mills of Weedsport and Weston A. Ogden of Kings Ferry. Two others are known to be residing in the state, the president, W. W. Sheppard, at Waverly, and Nelson Fitch at Albany. Franklin Holmes is in Wisconsin, G. L. Mead in Deadwood, N. S. Clark in Illinois and Oscar D. Munson in Denver. Eighteen, if living, are in California and Oregon. They are J. H. Stearns, W. S. Lyon, J. G. Kellogg, R. Forbush, Jr., John B. Stowe, E. S. Sayles, Chas. H. Moss, T. M. Gardner, M. Hering, G. K. Godfrey, H. T. Graves, A. J. Haight, M. L. Remington, Edward G. Stearns, T. M. Barker, Wm. Stark, J. W. Jenkins and Dr. W. A. Grover.

Of the remaining eighteen nothing is known by the writer. They are A. W. Stratton, W. D. Farrand, S. D. Suits, Daniel Krim, Josiah Davis, N. Barnes, A. J. Travis, Charles S. Putnam, W. M. Eddy, Eugene L. Finch, G. W. Tallman, Thomas Hunter, Benj. D. Stevens, A. B. Northrup, L. Mason, M. B. Scott, John H. Gantley, L. F. Fenner and Coffin Gardner. I have said that it is thirty-four years since the "Forty-niners" sailed in the Belvidere. It is a long period in the life of an individual.

We were boys then, with our hearts filled with bright dreams and golden hopes. But now gray hairs and failing sight, and many other signs remind us that youth has long since passed. These thirty-four years have been eventful in the world's history. Wonderful have been the changes in our own country. And when the historian shall record them, and trace out the agencies which contributed to their develop-

ment, it will be found that the gold mines and the gold miners of California were important factors.

List of members of the Cayuga Joint Stock Company:

Auburn—Wm. W. Sheppard, lawyer; Wm. Stark, blacksmith; J. H. Stearns, hardware dealer; T. L. Barker, merchant clerk; George H. White, bookbinder; A. Strong, baker; Lawrence White, harness maker; Franklin Holmes, painter; J. W. Jenkins, mason; John Choate, tinsmith; Chas. H. Stewart, merchant clerk; M. W. Lyon, moulder; George W. Richardson, cabinet-maker; DeWitt C. Richardson, cabinet-maker; Nelson Fitch, merchant clerk; Henry Fitch, merchant clerk; A. J. Haight, jeweller; J. C. Nelson, carpenter; W. S. Lyon, merchant; J. G. Kellogg, merchant; T. P. Grieves, book-binder; Hiram T. Graves, nursery-man; R. Forbush, Jr., cabinet-maker; H. C. Hall, book-dealer; Oscar D. Munson, dentist; Wm. W. Tuttle, carpenter; G. K. Godfrey, carpet-dealer; J. W. Ells, printer; N. S. Benson, mason; Wm. Jenkins, tailor.

Genoa—H. S. Clark, Mexican service; M. L. Remington, machinist; W. A. Ogden, farmer and speculator; D. C. Lum, carpenter; S. B. Woodin, merchant clerk; N. Barnes, farmer; John Rundle and Volney Hewitt, farmers.

Moravia—G. L. Meade, farmer.

Weedsport—J. F. Cain, merchant clerk; F. Mills, tinner; Wm. Evarts, painter; S. D. Suits, merchant clerk; S. K. Page, sailor; Daniel Krim, sailor; Sam-D. Mills, tinner.

Springport—John P. Yawger, farmer.

Aurelius—Chas. Moss, farmer.

Port Byron—Wm. D. Farrand, painter; G. W. Tallman, mariner.

Conquest—Thos. Hunter, farmer.

Cato—Captain Samuel Barney, farmer, formerly whaleman.

Sennett—A. F. Phelps, farmer.

Wayne County—E. S. Sayles, Little Sodus, hotel keeper; E. L. Finch, Clyde, carpenter; Ed. Jones, Clyde, druggist clerk; George H. Preston, Red Creek, merchant; Robt. W. Petty, Little Sodus, farmer; H. D. Allen, Lyons, merchant clerk; John B. Stow, Clyde, merchant clerk; A. W. Stratton, Clyde, carpenter.

Onondaga County—Chauncey A. Markham, assayer; W. A. Grove, physician, of Syracuse; Wm. M. Eddy, Jordan, hardware clerk; P. W. Fisher, tinner; M. D. Scott, cooper; J. D. Travis, of Jordan, Benj. D. Stevens, shoemaker, of Elbridge; Josiah Davis, Elbridge, grave stone cutter; A. B. Northrup, Elbridge, clothier; Mark Herring, Marcellus, paper maker.

Ludlowville, Tompkins county—L. F. Fenner, tailor.

Utica—Chas. S. Putnam, cabinet maker, N. Y. city, Ed. G. Stearns, milkman, John H. Gantley, ship-chandler.

Canton—Leonard Mason, merchant.

Factoryville, Tioga Co.—Chas. Sheppard, farmer and artist.

Nantucket—Jared M. Gardner, first mate; Coffin Gardner, second mate; farmers, formerly whalemen.

Sailors who were employed by the company—Henry Swain, third mate, Nantucket; Levi Courtright, Red Creek; Messrs. Johnson, New York city; Cain, Weedsport; Hopkins, New York; Rockwell, Amsterdam; Huntington, N. Y.; cook, Mr. Reed, N. Y.

Ladies, passengers—Mrs. Barney, Mrs. Swain, Mrs. Gardner, Mrs. Mills and daughter.

BIOGRAPHY OF GEN. FLEMING

A Paper read before the Cayuga County Historical Society, June 12th, 1895

BY C. M. BAKER.

BIOGRAPHY OF GENERAL FLEMING.

The town of Fleming in Cayuga county was named after George Fleming, a captain in the revolutionary war, called by courtesy General Fleming, who settled in the town which now bears his name towards the close of the last century.

He was not in any sense a great man; he performed no acts and expressed no thoughts which distinguished him above his fellow men; and we are only interested in him because his name is given to one of our towns, and because his life was a fair example of the life of a pioneer of this region.

As no biography was ever written of him, and he has no descendants living among us, and his associates have all been dead many years, few facts in regard to his life can be ascertained. It is not even known where he was born, who his family were, or how he passed his earlier years. It is said, however, that he was of Scotch ancestry, and that his relatives settled in Connecticut, near the line between that state and New York.

General Fleming was born in 1748, and was consequently twenty-seven years of age in the year in which the revolutionary war commenced. There are two circumstances which indicate that he had not been long in this country at that time. First—The first deed from him which is recorded in this state de-

scribes him as George Fleming of Orange county, without naming any town as his residence, which would indicate that he had acquired no fixed residence in this country up to the date of that deed, which was in 1790. Second—The fact that he seldom recorded his deeds indicates that he had been brought up in a country where it was not customary to have evidences of title recorded.

We hear nothing of General Fleming until the organization of the regiment sometimes known as the New York Regiment of Artillery, sometimes as the 2nd N. Y. Artillery, but oftener as Col. Lamb's regiment. That regiment was organized in 1777, to take the place of a regiment formerly commanded by Colonel, (afterwards General) John Lamb, which had been the First New York artillery; composed of men who were enlisted for short terms; most of whom were captured at Quebec; after which the regiment was never gathered together again, as the terms of most of the men expired before they were exchanged for British prisoners. The new regiment was composed of several companies enlisted in the Hudson river country, one company enlisted near Bordentown, New Jersey; and two companies of Connecticut volunteers who were turned over by that state to New York in view of the nation's need of artillery men, although they had not been enlisted for the artillery service. General Fleming was probably among those Connecticut volunteers. He became a captain of one of the companies and served with the regiment until the close of the war, except during a short time while he was a member of the staff of General DuPortail.

The regiment was not often engaged in very active service, but was posted in the Hudson Highlands sev-

eral years doing garrison duty. Two of its companies were detached to accompany Sullivan's expedition, but General Fleming remained with the other part of the regiment at that time in garrison, and in September, 1779, he had the honor of presiding over a trial by court martial at West Point.

An orderly book kept by Captain Fleming, now belonging to the Cayuga County Historical society, shows that he and his company were posted at various places in the Highlands during all of the time which that record covers, which is a large part of the years 1780 and 1781. Among other events which occurred during that time were the capture, trial and execution of Major Andre, of whom mention is made in the book. The date at which that record ceases, is probably the time when Captain Fleming became a member of General DuPortail's staff. General DuPortail commanded the artillery of the allied French and American armies at the siege of Yorktown.

General Fleming participated in the march from New York to Virginia, and in the siege and capture of Yorktown; and he witnessed the surrender of Lord Cornwallis and his army.

It was probably while he was stationed in Orange county that General Fleming made the acquaintance of a little girl whom he afterwards married. Phebe Birdsye Yelverton, daughter of Anthony Yelverton of New Windsor, belonged to a family which had resided in Orange county for several generations. Her grandfather, John Yelverton, was a large land owner in that county. She was nineteen years younger than Captain Fleming and was fourteen years of age when Yorktown surrendered.

Little is known as to where General Fleming lived

or how he was occupied from the close of the war until his removal to Cayuga county. The delay in allotting bounty lands to the soldiers kept many of them in an unsettled state for years after the war closed, and Captain Fleming may have been waiting to realize upon his bounty lands before determining what to do.

A large tract of land known as the Military tract was set apart for the New York soldiers. It included portions of Tompkins, Schuyler, Wayne and Oswego counties, and all of Cayuga, Seneca, Onondaga and Cortland counties except certain lands reserved for the Indians. It was surveyed, and laid out into townships of 60,000 acres each. Every township had a name and number, and was divided into 100 lots of 600 acres each. Every lot had a number. Township number eight was called Aurelius, and included the present city of Auburn and towns of Owasco and Fleming, and most of the towns of Sennett, Throop and Aurelius. The remainder of the present town of Aurelius was part of the East Cayuga Indian reservation. The lots were selected by ballot. A soldier who drew a lot could pay the survey fees and receive a patent for the entire 600 acres, or he could have 550 acres and allow the state to sell 50 acres for expense of the survey.

The long delayed balloting took place in September, 1790, and Captain Fleming drew as his portion lot No. 95 in the township of Aurelius, lot No. 6 in the township of Locke, and lot No. 16 in the township of Scipio. He paid the survey fees on the two first mentioned lots and received the entire lots, but probably being in financial embarrassments by reason of the long delay, he sold his interest in lot No. 16 in Scipio

the same month of September, 1790, before it was determined who should pay for the survey. The price was thirty pounds, or about twenty-five cents an acre. That lot is next north of the one on which Scipio village stands, and is about eleven miles from Auburn. In September, 1793, Captain Fleming and Phebe, his wife, conveyed some land which had belonged to Mrs. Fleming's grandfather, by a deed which states Captain Fleming's residence as Orange county, without giving the name of any town as his home. As this is the first recorded deed in which they joined, and the one in September, 1790, was from Captain Fleming alone, their marriage probably occurred between the dates of the two deeds.

In 1796, Captain Fleming purchased some land in Newburgh by a deed which states his residence as West Point. Soon after that Captain Fleming removed to Cayuga county and settled upon lot No. 95 Aurelius, which was one of the three lots drawn by him. That lot is in the part of the old township of Aurelius which now forms the town of Fleming. The south line of the lot is the town line between Fleming and Scipio, and the west line is about half a mile east from the town line of Springport. The road from Fleming village to The Square runs through it. Families by the name of VanArsdale and Perry now occupy portions of it.

Captain Fleming's removal to that place must have seemed to his friends like an abandonment of civilization. Such roads as existed in the neighborhood were very poor and little travelled. The road through his farm was only laid out in 1795. The country was mostly covered with forests and was scarcely settled yet. The farm wasn't on the highway between any

large places. It is now on the main road between Auburn and Ithaca, but Auburn and Ithaca were then only beginning to show signs of becoming villages in the future. The nearest flouring mills were at Hardenburgh's corners and Ludlowville. There was a store at Aurora and three at Auburn, but no schools or churches in the neighborhood. There was no newspaper published in the county, and there were no mails. A letter might be posted at Oswego or Fort Stanwix, each forty or fifty miles away, but there was no postoffice at Hardenburgh's corners until 1800, and then the mail only arrived once a fortnight, but that was about eight miles from General Fleming's. Besides all that, the Indian reservation was only about half a mile from his farm, and that was a drawback, not only because the Indians were so near, but because there was a large tract of land withheld from settlement by the white men.

The early settlers of that region were many of them people of intelligence and education, who would not live many years without the comforts and advantages of civilization. The roads about them were soon improved, schoolhouses and churches were built, comfortable homes were created, and as early as 1801 there was a postoffice at Scipio, and a weekly newspaper was published at Watkins' settlement, about two miles south from General Fleming's, and another had been published at Levanna. In 1804 the mail at Hardenburgh's corners arrived semi-weekly, and soon the stages began to pass General Fleming's house.

The first few years of life in the new country must have been years of hardship. Roads had to be made, houses and barns built, lands cleared, wells dug, fences laid, tools had to be brought from a distance,

and crops carried a long ways to market; laborers were scarce, and besides all that there was a feeling of insecurity on account of Indians and wild animals.

The educated settler also had duties which do not devolve upon the farmer of the present day to any extent. He was frequently the surveyor for his neighborhood, the physician for his own family and servants, and sometimes conducted religious services among his friends and neighbors. To guard against some of the dangers and inconveniences of his new life, Gen. Fleming brought with him to his new home five dogs and seven negroes. Slavery had not been abolished in New York, and according to tradition his negroes were slaves, but the inventory of his estate does not show that he owned any slaves. He built a house somewhat in advance of his time, not such a house as we should expect to find in a forest at any time. It was a large, two-story frame house, with a wide hall running through the center of the main part, with two good-sized rooms on each side of the hall, the one used as a parlor being 17 feet by 19. The rooms on the second floor corresponded with those on the first floor. There was an extension to the house in the rear, which contained the kitchen and woodshed. The house still stands. It is on the north side of the road from Fleming village to the Poplar Ridge road, a short distance northeasterly from its junction with the town line road between Scipio and Fleming. It has a row of poplar trees in front of it. The grounds surrounding it, and connected with the house were spacious, and were formerly well stocked with fruit. The style in which the place was kept, was such that it was spoken of in the newspaper notice of General Fleming's death as "his seat in this

town." An idea of the manner of General Fleming's life can be obtained from an inspection of his house and farm, and the inventory of his estate, on file in Cayuga county surrogate's office, and from a knowledge of the people by whom he was surrounded.

The inventory of his estate shows that he was not the owner of a single stove, not even a cook stove, but he owned several pairs of large brass andirons and a pair of brass-tipped andirons. Each of the four rooms on the first floor of the main part of his house contained a large open fire-place, so large that only a tall person could reach the articles standing on the high wooden mantle which overhung it, and as wood was very plenty and very cheap, it was not difficult to keep warm, and it was not extravagant to keep cheerful fires burning. The fire-place in the kitchen was so large that a man might have walked into it when it was not obstructed by the large crane, with the kettle hanging from it. The family baking was done in a large brick oven by the side of the fire-place.

The house was lighted with candles, set in polished brass and plated-ware candle-sticks, and with one large oil lamp. It was carpeted, in which respect it differed from the houses of some of the neighbors. The walls were ornamented with engravings, and a map of the state of New York.

The large dining table was of mahogany; the other tables were of mahogany and cherry, but the most valuable piece of furniture in the house was the General's large side-board. He had also a fair supply of silver ware and decanters. Among other articles of furniture inventoried were a portable desk, a candle stand, a chest of drawers, a dozen Windsor chairs and a large easy chair.

General Fleming's library would not be considered a large one in these times, but it was larger than those possessed by his neighbors. The titles of the books indicate his taste in reading, and also show what books were useful to a man living as he did. He undoubtedly studied war as a science, for among his books were The Art of War, Rules and Articles of War, System of Discipline, Steuben's Exercise, Field Engineer, Vaughn's Fortification, Muller on Fortification and Artillery, M. DeBland on Defense of Places, Syme's Military Guide, and Smythe's regulations for ye army.

He also had a number of historical and biographical works, including Washington's Letters, Washington's Epistles, Ramsay's Washington, History of the War, History of America, History of Kentucky, Flowers of History, French Revolution, Life of the Queen of France, Life of General Moreau, Life of Bonaparte. His medical books were: Buchan's Domestic Medicine, Wallis on Diseases, Cullen's Practice, and Hedge's Strictures on Brown's Elementary Medicine. Among his religious works were Barclay's Apology, Addison's Evidences, Watt's Psalms, Sterne's Sermons, The American Preacher, The Gospel its own Witness, Beauties of the Bible, and Pilgrim's Progress. Among his miscellaneous books were: An Encyclopædia in eight volumes, The Constitution of the United States, Laws of the State of New York, two volumes, Farmer's Assistant, Fisher's Companion, Jones' Fireworks, a volume of logarithms, Locke's Essays, Seneca's Morals, Zimmerman on Solitude, Morse's Geography, two volumes, a French Grammar, French and English Dictionary, three English Dictionaries, Mair's Book-keeping, six volumes of the

New York Magazine, Thomson's Seasons, Don Quixote, Paul and Virginia, and quite a number of works of fiction not read at this time. Among other articles appearing in the inventory are one rifle, one fowling piece, one pocket pistol, two swords, belt and dagger case, one box of surveyor's instruments, compass and chains, old French watch.

The live stock inventories consisted of four horses, two yoke of oxen, five cows and twenty other cattle, one hundred and thirty sheep, twenty-six hogs and pigs.

The crops inventoried were wheat, corn, potatoes, buckwheat and hay.

The farming implements included two wooden plows, four iron pitchforks, a ditching machine, a fanning mill and a set of drag teeth. He also owned two two-horse wagons, one old coach, one cart, one cutter, two men's saddles and one side saddle. In the first years of his life in this county, he and Mrs. Fleming probably did most of their traveling on horse back.

General Fleming's family consisted of his wife and two sons, one of whom was named after his old commander-in-chief, George Washington Fleming, the other after the chief of the American artillery, Henry Knox Fleming. They both lived at home until the death of their father. Henry had an unfortunate appetite for strong drink, and became an habitual drunkard. George probably worked his father's farm on shares, as the general's interest in the crops inventoried was an undivided half.

John Yelverton who was probably Mrs. Fleming's brother, purchased a farm very near the Fleming's in the town of Scipio, and although he sold out after a few years and moved to Manlius, he was sometimes at

the Fleming's residence after his removal. He was there after the general's death, and assisted Mrs. Fleming in inventorying the estate by acting as one of the appraisers.

The Fleming's relations with their neighbors were pleasant. Among their near neighbors were Captain Edward Wheeler, whose biography has been read to this society, Reuben Doty, Nathaniel Adams, Lawrence V. Suydam, Gen. Joseph Pettits, Orange Wilkinson and Elijah Perry, most of whom have descendants in this county. They also maintained social relations amounting to intimacy with a few families in Auburn, such as the families of David Horner, David Brinkerhoff, Hugh Watson and George Leitch, the latter of whom was in some way related to them, or connected with them by marriage. General Fleming came to the backwoods for the purpose of leading a retired life. Although the town of Aurelius elected in some years over eighty town officers, including sixty highway commissioners and pathmasters, it does not appear from the election reports, recorded in the town record book, that he was ever elected to an office, or that he was ever a candidate for one. He was not ever elected to any state or county office either.

But although not an office holder, he was active in the discharge of the duties of a good citizen, and took an interest in matters tending to promote the public welfare. He was a member of the Cayuga Agricultural society, organized in 1818. He was occasionally charged with the execution of trusts by the surrogate's court of this county, the most important of which was the general guardianship of George F. Leitch, then the richest infant in the county. As his ward's property consisted largely of real estate the care

of it was a considerable responsibility. Together with Samuel Cumpson and David Brinkerhoff, he was an administrator of the estate of George Leitch, deceased. The administrators were required to give a bond for $120,000, which was a very large amount for any one in Cayuga county to give a bond for in that time. The fact that they could give such a bond and the character of the men who signed it, shows the estimation in which they were held in the community. The sureties on the bond were Mr. Jehiel Clark, after whom Clarksville is named, John H. Hardenburgh, Judge Joseph L. Richardson, Hon. Nathaniel Garrow, M. C., and Matthew Bevier, a son-in-law of old Col. Hardenburgh.

The newspaper account of General Fleming published shortly after his death, says that upon the outbreak of the war with Great Britain in 1812, General Fleming was among the first to offer his counsel and assistance to the government, and that he rendered valuable services during the war, but does not state what the services were. Judge Hall, whose researches in local history have been very extensive, is authority for the statement that he received an appointment of some kind from the governor of this state, and was at one time in command of the fort at Oswego. The appointment was perhaps only temporary, or may have required a confirmation from the senate, which it did not receive, as his name does not appear in the lists of officers in the militia records at Albany. In course of time General Fleming began to sell his land, and probably used the proceeds of the sale in improving his home. In April, 1812, Mrs. Fleming's father having died, she and her husband conveyed the land which she inherited from him in

New Windsor, to John D. Nicholl, who in the same year purchased part of General Fleming's land in Newburg. In 1812 they sold fifty acres of land in Locke for $225, or $4.50 an acre. In 1813, they sold 100 acres in Locke for $412.50. In 1814 they sold about 157¾ acres on lot No. 95, Aurelius for $3,626 to Orange Wilkinson. In 1815 they sold to Elijah Perry about 50¾ acres on lot 95, Aurelius, for $1,317.71 and in the same year they sold 15 acres lot No. 88, Aurelius, for $25. There is no deed for that piece of land to Gen. Fleming recorded, and that was probably only a deed for the purpose of making their boundary line certain. In 1820 they sold 15 acres on lot 95, Aurelius, to Elijah Perry for $450, or $30 an acre. Gen. Fleming died October 1st, 1822, in his 74th year, at his home, and his funeral which took place on the 3d of October was a notable event in the annals of the neighborhood. The funeral procession which started from his home at 2 o'clock P. M., included an escort of two companies of soldiers, Captain Lewis' company of dragoons, and Captain Wheeler's grenadiers, under command of Colonel Richardson. General Fleming's horse and military accoutrements were in the procession. The pall bearers were eight revolutionary veterans, Major B. J. VanValkenburgh, the most prominent revolutionary soldier in the county, was the most notable person who took part in the services. The Auburn bells were tolled from two o'clock until sundown, and a cannon was fired at intervals during the same time, on Fort Hill. About three miles from the village on the road from Fleming ro Auburn, the procession was joined by Col. Brinkerhoff with the officers of the local militia regiment in full uniform, and Captain Fitch's Auburn guards, and Captain Durs-

ton's artillery. A large body of citizens joined the procession on the South street road, about half a mile from Auburn. The procession marched to St. Peter's church, and from thence, after appropriate services, to the North street cemetery, where the Auburn guards fired a volley over the grave.

By his will, General Fleming gave his farm to Mrs. Fleming in lieu of dower. He gave to his son George the undivided one-half of 500 acres in Locke and one acre in Scipio, and lands in Newburg and New Windsor. With regard to his son Henry, he said: "I give and bequeath to my executors hereinafter named, in trust for my beloved son Henry Knox Fleming, the one equal undivided half part of all the lands above devised to my son George; but in case my beloved but unfortunate son, Henry Knox, should at any time after my death, become, in the opinion of my executors hereinafter named, capable of managing his own affairs in a decent and prudent manner, then and in that case, I do authorize my executors to transfer the property above devised to his own use, over to him, his heirs and assigns forever." The executors named in the will were Mrs. Fleming, George W. Fleming, David Brinkerhoff and Joseph L. Richardson. Mr. Brinkerhoff's death preceded General Fleming's about three months. The other three persons named administered the estate. Shortly after General Fleming's death the family removed to Auburn, where Mrs. Fleming purchased a house and lot on East Genesee street. The house was a small one, and stood a few feet back from the street on the westerly part of the premises now occupied by H. V. Howland, esq. It was removed about 1868, to a lot further east on the same street. Mrs. Fleming's neighbors in this place were most of

them people of education and intelligence and good social position. The neighborhood may have had some aristocratic pretensions. On the corner of East Genesee and Fulton streets in the house since occupied by Mr. Adam Miller, lived Mrs. Brinkerhoff, a daughter of Col. Hardenburgh, and the widow of General Fleming's intimate friend, David Brinkerhoff, who had been a man of large means. In the only house between them lived Gov. Enos T. Throop. Around the corner of Owasco street, nearly in the rear of Mrs. Fleming's lot, lived Capt. Obed Folger, the uncle of the late secretary of the treasury. On the western corner of East Genesee and Owasco streets lived Col. Samuel Bellamy, a liberal and public spirited citizen, a part founder of the Bellamy and Edwards professorship in the Auburn theological seminary. Next door to the westward lived Hon. Richard L. Smith, master in chancery, and district attorney of this county. On the eastern corner of Genesee and John streets the Rev. Dirck C. Lansing, pastor of the First Presbyterian church, resided. In the house now occupied by Dr. Forman, lived Mr. Conrad TenEyck, an instructor of young men, and between them lived the maternal grandparents of Dr. Frank H. Hamilton, who attended President Garfield. Here, surrounded by agreeable neighbors, Mrs. Fleming resided for about fifteen years. She enjoyed the esteem of the community, to many members of which, not her relatives, she was known as "Aunt Fleming." Her acquaintance was not limited to the persons residing near her: among her most trusted friends were Colonel Harvey Rhoades of Sennett and James S. Seymour, esq., of Auburn, whom she named as the executors of her will. Henry Knox Fleming resided with

his mother until his death, which occurred before hers. He studied law, but he never reformed his habits, which became so much worse that it finally became necessary to have a committee appointed over him.

George W. Fleming removed to Junius, Seneca county, and from there to Syracuse, where he is said to have died unmarried. Mrs. Fleming had the sorrow to see him follow in his brother's evil course. Such of his land in Locke as he had not previously sold was sold by the sheriff on an execution against him, Mrs. Fleming becoming the purchaser. Mrs. Fleming sold her farm in 1823 for $6,700 to Emanuel D. Hudson, who afterwards sold it to a Mr. Van Arsdale. The VanArsdale family have resided on it ever since. In 1837 Mrs. Fleming purchased the house next east of the First Presbyterian church on Franklin street, to which she removed. She died there in June, 1838, and was buried beside her husband in North street cemetery. In the minds of many of our elder citizens who knew Mrs. Fleming in their childhood, a pleasant recollection of her has survived her for half a century.

THE BURNING OF THE ST. JAMES,

WITH SOME ACCOUNT OF THE EARLY TAVERNS OF AUBURN AND VICINITY.

A Paper read before the Cayuga County Historical Society, November 11th, 1884.

BY B. B. SNOW.

THE BURNING OF THE ST. JAMES,

WITH SOME ACCOUNT OF THE EARLY TAVERNS OF AUBURN AND VICINITY.

The burning of the St. James, formerly the American Hotel, on the 26th of March last, was an event in local history, which is worthy of record. The American was the connecting link between the primitive inn or tavern of our forefathers and the hotel proper of modern times. It was a distinct institution of its kind in our community, which had many cherished associations, especially for the generation immediately preceding our own. But such associations were with the *American*, and the St. James did not inherit them.

When the hotel was purchased by Mr. Anthony Shimer, in 1870, the name was changed to the St. James. Why the name "American" should give place to "St. James" rather than to the apparently more apposite pseudonym "St. Anthony," or why it should have been changed at all, may at this day excite inquiry. But it was the result of far-sighted business sagacity. Hotel names are not exempt from the requirements of fashion. The name "American," as applied to hotels, had become *passe*, was "off color." "American hotels" throughout the country were reputed as second class. European styles were coming into favor, and St. Nicholas, St. Denis, St. Charles, St. James, and the like, in the absence of personal or

proprietary names, were taking the lead. So the "American" succumbed to the supposed popular prejudice of the travelling public.

The St. James, as the American Hotel, had many interesting historical associations. Its register could boast the names of distinguished native and foreign celebrities who had shared its hospitalities, and its halls had been the scene of many events of more or less local importance. Here the great expounder of the constitution, Daniel Webster, supt and slept, when journeying hither in a political campaign. It afforded a temporary refuge to the distinguished Hungarian patriot, Louis Kossuth, who came to appeal for aid to restore the lost cause of Hungary. From its portals the erratic Alvah Rude was unceremoniously ejected, eliciting from him the complacent remark that "he did not seem to be wanted there." In its halls, one of our business men of long standing, and still persistently active, though slenderly successful, commenced his career in our community, by teaching a spelling school, composed of the untutored clerks and salesmen in our stores, after closing hours in the winter evenings long ago. How many social and inoffensive games of whist have been played in its chambers, by magnates of the bench and bar, no record shows, none remains, except in the fading memories of a few who, in life's late afternoon, are rapidly journeying down the sharp descent which leads to the undiscovered country.

But I must not linger longer in the realm of fancy. History is relentless in its demand for facts. As so few facts relating to the American are obtainable at this day, I shall assume your permission to associate with my central theme, such particulars as I have

been able to glean concerning kindred institutions, which bear upon the transition from the tavern or inn of a past generation to the hotel of today.

I have found it not a little difficult to procure complete and satisfactory information upon my subject. The local journals of early dates, so far as I have secured access to them, are provokingly barren of local news. Political discussions occupy by far the larger space in the newspapers of those days, while the columns where we should naturally expect to find a record of events about home, are given over to what, in our early school readers, were termed "*Didactic Pieces.*" Nor has the tavern seemed to have been of sufficient importance to warrant definite mention in the early chronicles, or in the later compilations of those who have made researches into our early history. Not that the tavern was unimportant in its way. On the contrary, it seems to have been a kind of "stake and stones," a monument which everybody knew and from which he could take his bearings to other points. For instance, June 3d, 1818, Richard L. Smith advertises that "he has removed to his new office two doors east of Hufman's Tavern, opposite Lynch's Coffee House, and the Bank of Auburn." This is a little confusing to one who has known the staid Bank of Auburn for fifty years or more as identified with the red brick building nearly opposite State street. But the early settler solves the difficulty with the information that the Bank of Auburn was opened in 1817, in the brick building which was then Demaree's Tavern and is now the western part of the National Hotel building. March 19, 1820, Richard L. Smith and Parliament Bronson announce their co-partnership as "Attorneys and Counsellors at Law," with

their office "opposite Lynch's Coffee House, and two doors east of Hufman House," indicating that the bank had then sought other quarters, which was true. March 4, 1817, Garrow & Lynds, hatters, advertise their store, "directly opposite Coe's Hotel. March 21, 1825, Lynds & Carpenter, hatters, "opposite Hudson's Hotel, advertise a dissolution of co-partnership, Carpenter & Bodley continuing the business. Carpenter's hat store, at the present day in the same location, identifies "Coe's Hotel" and "Hudson's Hotel" with the later *Western Exchange*. May 20, 1824, Harvey Wilson advertises grave stones for sale, "a few doors east of the Auburn Center House." As Mr. Wilson was long identified with the store at the corner of Genesee street and Seminary avenue, the Center House is pretty accurately located by the advertisement, although no vestige of this once popular inn now remains.

Finding the records of the day so meager in facts, I have pieced out my information by inquiries of some of the earlier residents of our city, who still remain with us. And here I have not found entire concord of recollection, nor definiteness in detail. The memory of the aged tiptoes around among important facts with the agility of a Highlander in the sword dance. The exasperating and continued presence of "Mr. What-was-his-name," in these interviews, tries the patience of the most complacent interviewer.

By persistent effort I have secured some facts which seem to me reliable and which I shall therefore present, well knowing that parties whom I have not seen and records which I have not found leisure to consult, could add largely to my imperfect sketch. I can only hope that what I present may induce others, who

have further knowledge of the subject to make it public.

Local histories are authority for the statement that Samuel Bristol opened the first public house or tavern in Auburn in the year 1795, in a log cabin on the northeast corner of Genesee and North streets. It seems to have run a short career as a tavern, for as early as 1805 it was vacant and for some time afforded temporary shelter to wayfarers. The site was afterwards purchased by Eleazar Hills and occupied for a grocery store as early as 1815. The next statement that I find is to the effect that William Bostwick built a double log house on the north side of Genesee street on the site of the present Beach block in 1798, which he occupied with his family in 1799 and soon after ward opened as a tavern. I am positively assured by descendants of Mr. Bostwick that the latter part of this statement is erroneous. The house was built on the site of the present store, No. 97 Genesee street, but was never opened as a public house. The hospitality of the pioneers was proverbial, and the latchstring was always out to the wayfarer at the home of William Bostwick. This, coupled with the fact that he was reputed to have been an inn keeper, prior to the time of taking up his residence in Auburn, doubtless gave rise to the statement. However, Mr. Bostwick did build a "new framed tavern" in 1803–04, at the corner of Genesee and Exchange streets, which may justly be claimed as the pioneer institution of its kind in Auburn. It was large and commodious, with ample barns, stables and sheds, "affording good accommodations for man and beast." On the 4th of July, 1805, the first public ball in Auburn was given in Bostwick's Tavern, commencing at 3 P. M. and "closing with the

approach of night" in accordance with the notions of propriety of our ancestors. The celebrated Lafayette ball was also given here in 1825. Mr. Bostwick kept this tavern until May 1, 1816, when he was succeeded by Canfield Coe. The business of the house being prosperous, Mr. Coe enlarged it by quite an extension on Exchange street. He conducted the house for about eight years, when he transferred it to Emanuel D. Hudson, who further enlarged and improved it, putting it in about the condition it was in its latter days. Mr. Hudson christened it the "Western Exchange," which name it bore till 1868, when it gave place to the three stores on the west corner of Exchange and Genesee streets, and the post office block on Exchange street. Benjamin Ashby was the last proprietor.

Next in importance, if not in the order of time, was the "Center House," which was located on the point of the flat iron where Genesee and Market (then Center) streets meet. This inn was begun by William Smith in 1805 and completed by David Horner in 1806, who conducted it about six years. Charles Reading bought it in 1812, and kept it about four years. I find a notice of an ordinance to build sidewalks, made by the village trustees, at a meeting held in Reading's Inn in 1815. In 1816, Silas Hawley was the proprietor, and to him succeeded Deacon Henry Amerman as appears by the following notice which I find in one of the papers of that period:

"TAVERN.

"HENRY AMERMAN, would inform his friends and the publick that he has purchased the tavern stand, lately occupied by *Silas Hawley*, in the village of Auburn, near the bridge, and has opened it for their

use as a publick house. From its central position, its large accommodations and his assiduous attention to the cares of those who call upon him, he hopes to merit the favours of his friends and the publick generally.

"No noisy rabbles will be allowed a place in his house whereby the rest of the weary may be disturbed.

"Liquors and other refreshments of first quality will be furnished.

"Auburn, Jan. 7, 1818."

Deacon Amerman kept the inn till 1822, and was succeeded by Andrew Brown. Abijah Keeler advertises the "Center House" for sale or rent, April 23d, 1828. The last proprietor was Rodman Seargent, in 1829, when it was bought by Ezekiel Williams, who built the block of stores now standing upon the site of the old inn. The building itself was removed to Fulton street, where it still stands and is occupied as a residence by William Lamey. This tavern seems to have been popular and well patronized in its day. Judge Richardson, in partnership with Enos T. Throop, opened their office here for the practice of law. The First Presbyterian Church Society was organized in the "long room" of the Center House in 1810, and the first Sabbath school for white children was organized in 1819, a similar school for colored children having been previously organized. I find a curious advertisement of Albert Hagerman, a barber, under date of February 10, 1818, to the effect that "as he wishes to attend Sunday school, he will attend customers until 9 P. M. Saturday evening and until school commences Sunday morning, and not after."

Next in order was the "Farmers' Inn," which was built in 1801, and opened as a tavern in 1806 by Cap-

tain (afterwards Deacon) Henry Amerman. This was the favorite resort of farmers, who were summoned to the village to attend court as jurors, witnesses, etc. Captain Amerman sold out to Mathias Hufman in September, 1816, and a little more than a year after became proprietor of the Center House. Hufman sold to Timothy Strong, and the property afterwards passed into the hands of Emanuel D. Hudson, who built the present brick structure known as the "Radney House," about the time that the freight depot of the Auburn & Syracuse R. R. Co. was located a few doors west—where the skaking rink now is.

In 1808, a tavern was built on the south side of Genesee street about midway between Exchange and South streets, by Watrous Pomroy for Jonathan Russel. Mr. Pomroy opened it and kept it for about two years, when Capt. Robert L. Tracy bought and conducted it. In 1816 it was known as Powers' Tavern, and James C. Field locates his store as opposite thereto. Capt. Tracy died, and Zenas Goodrich, who was the proprietor of a tavern on North street, near the R. R. crossing, hereinafter mentioned, being a widower, united his fortunes with those of the widow Tracy, and thus became the proprietor of this house, which in the fall of 1816 took the name of "Goodrich Inn." January 6, 1818, Zenas Goodrich advertises for a "good steady sober man as a bar-keeper," which would indicate that special qualifications were required for this position even at that early day. In 1824 it was known as John Griswold's Hotel, and Wilber Dennis locates his store three doors east of it. Holt and Curtis took the management in 1825, in which year the village trustees met there and ordered certain houses to be removed from the south side of

Genesee street as being encroachments upon the street. I find a call under date of July 15, 1828, for a Republican caucus to meet at Ellsworth's Hotel, which I surmise means this house, although I have met no one who could inform me as to "Ellsworth's Hotel." The management subsequently passed into the hands of several different parties, among whom were Harlow C. Witherell and Jonas White, Jr., and in 1835 gave way to make room for the present Exchange Block.

In 1810, Dewitt Clinton visited Auburn and in a letter giving some information as to the village, mentions the fact that it contains four taverns. These, I suppose, were the three hereinbefore described, Bostwick's, the Center House, the Farmers' Inn, and the Willard Tavern of which more hereafter.

Coming down to a later date I find the following:

"AUBURN COFFEE HOUSE.

"The large white building on the hill a few rods east of the postoffice in this village, and but two doors from the Bank of Auburn, has lately been fitted up for the accommodation of the public. The subscriber has been at great expense to render his house commodious for the traveler.

"Private rooms can be furnished for Ladies, Gentlemen and Families; and no pains will be spared to make their sojourning comfortable. Order shall be preserved through the house. The out buildings are convenient and the stabling good.

"LAWRENCE LYNCH.

"Auburn, Dec. 6, 1817."

The Lynch Coffee House was what is now the eastern part of the National Hotel. The Bank of Auburn

was opened in the brick building which now forms the western part of this Hotel. The bank must have been located here but a short time previous, as an election of directors was called to be held at the Western Exchange Nov. 13, 1817. This brick building was known as Demaree's Tavern. I have been able to learn but little concerning it except that Mr. Demaree was too much of a Teuton to keep a Yankee Tavern. The house was better adapted for a boarding house than for a tavern and leaned rather to the order of a boarding house, especially in the later stages of its career. It must have been opened as a tavern but few years at most before the date of the location of the bank there, and was probably continued as a tavern up to 1836, when it passed into the hands of Saterlee Warden, who occupied it as a private residence. It continued a private residence up to 1854, when it was purchased by Mr. E. B. Parmelee and united with the old Parmelee Tavern, under the name of the National Hotel, which name it still bears.

Smith & Parmelee became the proprietors of the Lynch Coffee House, succeeding Brigham Fay about 1829. Mr. Smith, (who was the Martin Smith of the old tavern at the head of Owasco Lake, where the Cascade House now stands,) remained only a year or two, but Mr. Parmelee conducted the house as Parmelee's Tavern until his death. This tavern was very popular, particularly with farmers.

In the papers of this date I find next the following:

"ENTERTAINMENT.

"ALLEN WARDEN

"RESPECTFULLY informs his friends and the public that he has removed to the village of Auburn, and has opened

A PUBLIC HOUSE

in the white building, which is pleasantly situated near the State Prison, where he trusts his accommodations are such, his assiduity to please, together with a stock of excellent liquors well laid in, and moderate charges that he will merit and receive a share of public patronage.

"N. B. A few genteel boarders will be accommodated on moderate terms.

"Auburn, Jan. 19, 1817."

This was the old Prison Hotel, corner of State and Chappel streets, opposite the Prison gate. I am informed by one of his decendants that Watrous Pomroy opened the tavern and kept it the first year. This I think must be a mistake, for the house was built by Isaac Lytle, who was contractor for building the Prison, and work upon this institution was not commenced till the summer of 1816. The tavern and adjoining buildings were burned on Sunday evening Augnst 24, 1828, and in the next issue of the paper Mr. T. J. Mc Master, Foreman, in behalf of the firemen attached to Engine No. 2, acknowledged the "attention of the Trustees and Fire Wardens of the village, the Hon. G. Powers and other citizens, in providing timely and necessary refreshments at the fire."

The tavern was rebuilt, but lost its reputation and stood for some time unoccupied, when on another Sunday, some years ago, it slowly burned to the ground, the efforts of the firemen to extinguish the flames being apparently aimed to make the work of destruction more complete

On the opposite corner where the New York Central Passenger Depot now stands, James Hickson, about the same time, built and opened the "*Red Tavern*,"

a name which explains the significance of Mr. Warden's "*white building*," while east of the Warden tavern, on the north side of Chapel street, adjoining the present railroad, was Thomas Hickson's tavern which has since continued to be kept as a public house and is now known as Saddler's Hotel.

There seems to have been at an early date a tavern at the south-west corner of North and York streets, which was known as the Goodrich Inn, kept by Zenas Goodrich. In 1829, it was known as Champlain's Tavern. March 4, 1818, Zenas Goodrich advertises for sale, the well known farm and tavern stand, situate one mile and a half north of Auburn, on the old Genesee road, (North street,) containing 84 acres of land, with stone quarry. A few rods beyonds tood another tavern on what is now the Sear's farm. Both have long since disappeared.

I must not forget to mention the old Sexton tavern, which stood near the south-east corner of Genesee and Division streets, opposite the present works of the E. D. Clapp Manufacturing Co. May 14, 1817, John M. Daboll advertises that he has taken this tavern of Z. & D. Hall and locates it as three-quarters of a mile west of Auburn. Mr. Sexton seems to have occupied it as early as 1828, for the 158th Regiment is ordered to rendezvous at Sexton's Inn, September 10th of that year.

In 1833, the Demaree block on Genesee street, near the entrance to Market street, was built, and in August 1839, the three stores in the center of the block were fitted up and opened as a hotel by Horace A. Chase, This was known as the Auburn House. It was for many years a popular house, its large and commodious assembly room making it an especial

favorite with the dancing public. Jenny Lind patronized this house in her visit here in 1851. About 1854 it was abandoned as a hotel, and a school was opened there. It was burned in the winter of 1856, if I recollect right, and being refitted has since been occupied for stores.

My record would be incomplete if I failed to mention the Bank Coffee House, located on Genesee street, some four or five doors west of the corner of State street. Here the Auburn Artillery are ordered to rendezvous July 16, 1828. Bacon & Maxwell are the proprietors. Here "the Old Line Mail, Pilot, Eagle and Telegraph Stages from the east, the Pilot and Telegraph from the west, and the Ithaca, Homer and Canal coaches arrive and depart daily."

Col. Wm. H. Seward, 33d Regiment Artillery, orders a court martial at the Bank Coffee House in May, 1830. Mr. Seward seems to have been so faithful and deserving a soldier as to have secured promotion, for under date of February 19, 1825, I find an order of Col. Gridley, Wm. H. Seward, Adjutant, calling a meeting of the 158th Regiment at the house of Azor Brown, which was situated on North street where the Columbian Block now stands. This house seems to have been a unique institution, peculiar to those days, part garden, part theatre, and part eating house. Here in 1820, the celebrated Edmund Kean played Othello.

I must not neglect to call attention to the name of the "Bank Coffee House." At this time and for some years previous "Coffee House" was a favorite and innocent sounding synonym for tavern, and every place of any importance had one or more "Coffee Houses."

I have thus sketched in brief, so far as I have been able to trace them, the houses of public entertainment in early Auburn. I resist the temptation to extend my researches beyond the village limits, for the recital would weary your patience. I am told that there were no less than fifteen taverns within a radius of five miles of Auburn, exclusive of those within the corporate limits of the village. There were eight between Auburn and Cayuga Bridge, in fact the famous Genesee Turnpike was literally lined with them. All the principal roads leading into the village were lonesome, if one could not find a tavern as often as once in three miles. What supported such a multitude of these houses? Transient travel mainly. It was the period of migration and settlement. Emigrants on foot, on horseback, in wagons, poured in a steady and continual stream from the east to the then wilderness of Western New York and Ohio. Stages loaded within and without with prospectors or with settlers, tore through the country at the rate of three or four miles an hour in "good going" and stopped at each tavern to water the horses, if for nothing more.

Another important interest was teaming. Loads of merchandize, in transit from Albany to Buffalo and intermediate points, and returning cargoes of grain were constantly passing over the great turnpike. In the then condition of the turnpike, three, four, and often seven or eight horses were required to drag the loads over the heavy roads. At Reed's tavern, a short distance west of Auburn, as many as one hundred of these draft horses were often stabled in a single night. Man and beast must be fed and sheltered, and the tavern rose to the emergency. True, the income was not extravagant, a shilling for a "meal," six-

pence for lodging, eighteen pence for stabling and feeding the team, three cents for "three fingers of whisky," sixpence for a draught of brandy, was a slow process of accumulating a fortune, but the age of millionaires had not set in.

When the canal was completed, the tavern became nervous and settled into a decline. When the railroad came thundering through, the tavern gave up in despair. The old stage coach was stored away in the shed and the grass grew green in front of the tavern where but yesterday the swift wheels of the coach raised clouds of dust. The numberless hosts from the old world were flying through the land on swifter wheels. The age of steam had dawned and the tavern of the early day had fulfilled its mission.

For the benefit of those whose memory does not extend back to the palmy days of the rural tavern, I venture to describe one which is typical of all, as I remember it in its later days.

A long two-story frame building, set flush with the highway, with a "stoop" or platform extending the entire length, for convenience of getting into and out of the stage-coach. A door, midway of the long front, opens into a hall, which extends through the main building to the dining-room in the rear. At the left as you enter, a door leads to a plainly furnished ladies' sitting room. Just beyond this door the stairs, leading to the "long room," which usually comprised the entire second floor of the main part. Opposite the door to the ladies' sitting room, a door from the hall leads to the bar-room, but an outside door, usually at the end of the house, is the more common entrance to this popular resort. On one side of this room a large open fire-place affords ample room for big blaz-

ing logs in winter. The bar in one corner exhibits decanters labeled "Whisky," "Brandy," "Gin," "Rum," etc., in gilt letters. To add to the effect, between the decanters of liquors are ranged glass cans of striped peppermint, or red-tinted wintergreen candies, and lemons. The assortment is completed by a few clay pipes, dull blue paper packages of fine-cut smoking tobacco, and perhaps on the top shelf one or two boxes of cigars, these latter only in later times. Adjacent to the tavern in rear, or across the way in front, stood the commodious barns, and ample sheds, under which any one might shelter his team and feed without cost, if he brought his own fodder. Prominently in front of the tavern was the well, with its wooden pump and pail for watering the horses of any who chose to avail themselves of the privilege. If the "lay of the land" admitted, as was not unfrequently the case, the waters of a spring on a neighboring hill were enticed through pump-logs to the end of the long stoop where a "pen-stock" poured the limpid water into a log trough set at a convenient height for watering a horse. Not unfrequently three or four speckled trout would be imprisoned in this trough, so plentiful were they in our streams in the early days. One thing more must not be forgotten. In front was the sign post. This was a post some twelve feet in height, surmounted by an oblong or an elliptical sign-board, decorated usually with some kind of trimmings, and here appeared the name of the proprietor, "CANFIELD COE, INN." Sometimes simply the proprietor's name, sometimes simply "TAVERN." Sometimes in black letters on a white back-ground, sometimes in gilt letters on a dark blue back-ground. Such was the tavern.

The host of the tavern of early days is an extinct

species. He was a man of character, and respected in his community. He neither desired, nor sought promotion outside the line of his work. His aim in life was to make his guests comfortable and "keep tavern" well. He silently disappeared when the old-fashioned tavern gave way to the hotel.

Who were the frequenters of the taverns in those days, aside from the transient guests? Everybody, more or less regularly, who lived in the vicinity. Day time and evening during the dull season of winter, the oracle of the village occupied the best seat in front of the fire, and others were ranged around in the order of importance. The Ishmaelite usually stood leaning against the bar, or hanging on to the mantel over the fire-place, but rarely said anything unless spoken to. Politics were discussed, and crop prospects and local matters talked over. A game of chequers was usually in progress in some part of the room. When "the spirit moved," one would approach the bar and take his bitters, drawing from the depths of his pocket the required three coppers to pay the expense. Then he resumed his seat or went home. He rarely asked anybody to drink with him. It was a free show and any one was at liberty to buy his own whisky.

Was there as much drunkenness in those days as at present? Upon this point opinions differ—the weight of the evidence seems to be that there was not. The tavern had not become a resort for drinking, saloons were unknown. Still every household had a supply of liquors. A barrel of whisky was regarded essential to the campaign of haying and harvesting, as much so as a mower and reaper is to-day. Nearly everyone drank more or less, but the number who drank to excess was limited. With the decline of patronage from

teaming and staging, resulting from the completion of the canal, the taverns which continued in operation were forced to resort to various devices for keeping up their income. Dancing parties became more frequent, and at these and other gatherings immoderate drinking was rather encouraged, especially at taverns of waning fortunes. The natural result was the agitation of the Temperance question. On the 2d of April, 1828, a number of citizens of a neighboring village met "according to previous agreement for the purpose of considering whether anything can be done for the suppression of vice and immorality, and particularly intemperance." "After much discussion a committee was appointed to draft resolutions," which were reported and adopted. The first was as follows:

"*Resolved*, That we will not use distilled spirits as a fashionable beverage, or suffer them to be used in our families or by our workmen, unless it shall appear to be necessary for the preservation of health."

A prominent physician being a member of the committee, perhaps accounts for the saving clause in the resolution.

I have adverted to the dancing parties of early days given at the Tavern. I would not be understood that these were always scenes of dissipation. On the contrary, public dances in those days were quite the thing, and our best citizens did not hesitate to countenance and take part in them. Particularly in our rural taverns the entire neighborhood turned out to these festivities. The fourth of July was a favorite day for a "ball." Carriages would come streaming up to the tavern by noon, and early thereafter the "long room" would be a place of gayety which often continued until sunrise of the following day. These

were not "*Germans*," but old fashioned, solid dances, "*Monie Musk*," "*Scotch Reel*," and later the staid Cotillions interspersed with "*The Tempest*," "*Spanish Dance*," etc. The lady or gentlemen who could not spring at least a foot from the floor and "cut a pigeon wing," was not counted an expert.

The following notices which I clip from a journal of the early days will bring back pleasant memories to some of our older residents.

"MR. ANDREWS' PUBLIC.

"MR. JOHN C. ANDREWS respectfully informs the LADIES AND GENTLEMEN of Auburn that his first Public will take place on Thursday, the 20th inst., at the Western Exchange, at 6 o'clock P. M.

☞ Parents and Guardians are respectfully invited to attend.

"Auburn, 11th March, 1828."

"AUBURN ASSEMBLY.

"THE Managers give notice that the third COTILLION PARTY will be held at the Western Exchange on Thursday evening, January 29, 1830. Carriages will be in readiness at 5 o'clock P. M."

These cards of a later date may not be without interest:

"DOCTOR PERES' COTILLION PARTY.

"You are respectfully invited to attend a COTILLION PARTY at the WESTERN EXCHANGE, in Auburn, on Thursday next, at 7 o'clock P. M.

"October 31, 1842.

"Carriages in attendance at 7 P. M."

"W. B. SMITH'S

"SCHOOL AND POLKA HOP,

"THE LAST FOR THE SEASON, AT THE
"AUBURN HOUSE SALOON.

"Your company is respectfully requested at the Auburn House, on Monday evening, March 9, 1846, at 6 o'clock.

"☞The *Polka*, *Polka Quadrille* and *Love Chase Waltz*, will be performed by a number of Mr. Smith's pupils, during the evening.

"Auburn, March 2, 1846."

The "Third Annual Ball of the Auburn Guards" is announced for January 22, 1847, at the Auburn House.

Mr. A. M. Cobleigh announces that his Dancing School will commence at the Auburn House Tuesday, November 7, 1848, and adds this modest note.

"A. M. C., deeming it unnecessary to enter into particulars with regard to the advantages his school may possess, or dwell upon his own qualifications as a Teacher, would simply refer those who may be desirous of patronizing, to his former friends. At the same time he would suggest, that a Teacher of Dancing should not confine his exertions merely to the movements of the feet, but should endeavor to give to his pupils that confidence and ease, with a graceful carriage of the body, so necessary for their intercourse with genteel society."

I must not weary your patience with further detail of these particulars. Let us return to the "*American*."

The American Hotel was built in 1828–30, upon the site of the old Willard Tavern. This tavern must have been built prior to 1810, as it doubtless is one of the four referred to by Dewitt Clinton in his letter descriptive of Auburn in that year. The first proprietor whom I have been able to trace was Watrous Pomroy,

who took charge about 1810, and continued proprietor during the War of 1812–15. A recruiting officer was stationed here at this period. Mr. Pomroy was succeeded by Zadoc Hall. The Inn though limited in accommodations, was popular with the traveling public and well known throughout the length of the Turnpike. Loring and Emmory Willard owned the property for many years, Emmory being the proprietor, from whom it took the name of "Willard's Tavern." Loring transferred his interest to Emmory in 1824, and in August, 1827, Emmory sold the property to Justus S. Glover, father of Mrs. C. H. Merriman, for $5000.

In 1828, Isaac Sherwood, who was an innkeeper at Skaneateles, and his son John M., both of whom were interested in the important line of stages through this section, projected the American. The Willard Tavern building was removed to Clark street, where St. Mary's church now stands. When that lot was purchased for the church, the old tavern building was removed to West Seymour street, opposite, but a few doors east of the present Seymour street or No. 5 School, where it is doing the duty of a double tenement house in the interest of Mr. Dennis O'Mara.

The American was a "four story" stone building, nearly square, with two piazzas extending across the front and east sides, supported by columns of the Ionic order of architecture. The top of the second piazza afforded an uncovered promenade for the fourth story. A modest cupola completed the architecture of the hip roof. The central entrance opened into the main hall; on the left front was the Guest's Parlor or Reading Room, on the right the bar room. The Ladies' Parlor was on the second floor. The second and third floors were devoted to boarders and tran-

sient guests, the fourth to servants, except that when the house was overcrowded, it was utilized for guests. The front hall opened into the Dining-room in the rear. The house stood well up from street. Steps led to the front entrance and another pair to the front entrance of the bar-room. In the southeast corner of the basement was the stage office, the realm of the dignified Consider Carter, in the palmy days of staging. When staging ceased, the office was transformed into a barber's shop. There was no "long room" or ball room, but a select few were occasionally granted the use of the dining room for a social hop. It will be seen at once that the American differed materially from the old tavern. Its habitues marked the distinction more forcibly. The magnates of the village, men of leisure in those slow-going days, sauntered up and seated themselves upon the verandah for social converse. Judges holding courts and lawyers from a distance made it their headquarters. The style of the house, its appointments, the character of its guests, rendered the American rather forbidding to the masses. Of course its charges were higher, and it lacked the democratic element which characterized its compeers and made them successful. I think the American was never a pecuniarily profitable institution, after stage coach travel ceased, about the year 1842.

In the papers of the day I find frequent notices of political caucuses, notices of foreclosure sale under mortgage, and other notices of transactions at the different public houses of the city, but rarely one at the American.

The house was quite a favorite place for boarding, especially with those who were disposed to pay liberally. I am told by a gentlemen who boarded there in

the early days of the hotel, that bottles of brandy were placed upon the dining table, at intervals of three or four feet, and that this was the uniform practice in all first-class hotels of the day. The bottles were rarely touched, however, except by a transient guest.

The American Hotel was opened to the public on the first day of January, 1830, as appears from the following local in the *Cayuga Republican* of January 6, 1830:

"The new stone edifice recently erected in this village by the Messrs. Sherwoods, has been opened for company by the name of the AMERICAN HOTEL, under the superintendence of Mr. THOMAS NOYES, formerly of Rochester. On New Year's day by invitation many gentlemen visited the establishment and dined with Mr. Noyes, and in the evening several who had been detained by attendance at the Anti-Masonic Convention also went over, and were cordially received and entertained. All felt highly gratified at the politeness and hospitality of the host, and expressed many good wishes for the success of the establishment, which is indeed a credit to our village. In short, we doubt whether any place in Western New York can boast of two more splendid and well kept public houses than the WESTERN EXCHANGE and the AMERICAN HOTEL."

I have not deemed it necessary for the purpose of this paper to trace the different proprietors of the American down to the time of its dissolution. Joshua Jones succeeded Noyes. Wm. B. Wood was an early proprietor and was succeeded by William Gamble in 1846, who adds to his modest card "N. B. *Passengers* conveyed to and from the cars—FREE." I think

Jonas White, Jr., succeeded him, and after White came Benjamin Ashby, who was the irate projector of Alvah Rude from the front steps, on the day of the Kossuth reception. Hiram L. Swift was proprietor in 1854.

When purchased by Mr. Shimer about 1870, it was unoccupied. The last proprietor, Mr. S. P. Chapman, who took it of Mr. Shimer, in 1870, struggled hard to restore the fading fortunes of the house, but in vain, and in 1879 he abandoned it in despair. From that time on, it remained untenanted as a hotel. The furniture, beds and bedding remained as if awaiting the coming of a new lord—but none came. Meantime the owner entered upon a series of architectural experiments, extending the front out flush with the street, and fitting up three stores therein. Unostentatiously and slowly, but persistently, the work went on, with the avowed determination of the architect that he "would run her clean through to Clark street." But, alas! his ambition was checked before fruition. One dull, sombre afternoon in March, a dense smoke was seen issuing from the rear, which soon burst into flames. The elements seemed to regard the situation with complacence. The wind started up sufficiently to encourage the flames, and then died down. Lest adjoining property might suffer, a heavy rain set in, and continued until the fire had exhausted itself, and nothing but the blackened stone walls of the old American remained.

The curious throng who had gathered to witness the holocaust, sought shelter in their homes from the drenching rain, and darkness closed down around the flickering flamelets, which seemed determined to enjoy to the utmost the last revel in the old Hotel.

The "AMERICAN" was no more.

I can only justify myself in presenting to you a subject so apparently unimportant, upon the claim that the tavern of the past was an index of one phase of social life, peculiar to a past generation, which no longer exists. The slow going means of travel made frequent houses of entertainment a necessity. The more expeditious canal, followed swiftly by the hurrying railroads, blighted forever the prospects of the tavern, and its doom was fixed. Scattered all over our county today may be seen these sleepy old monuments of a by-gone age, some hastening to decay, weather-beaten, neglected, solitary—others transformed into pleasant, rural homes, not one of them a tavern as of old. Were the proud stage-coach of three-quarters of a century ago to come rattling over the Genesee turnpike to the Auburn of today, the passengers would find no vestige of the hospitable inns they were wont to see, unless possibly some might recognize the old Parmelee Tavern in the home-like National Hotel.

In closing, I would extend my thanks to the old residents who have so patiently submitted to my inquisition, and have racked their memories for facts and incidents which have given to my narrative whatever interest may be claimed for it.