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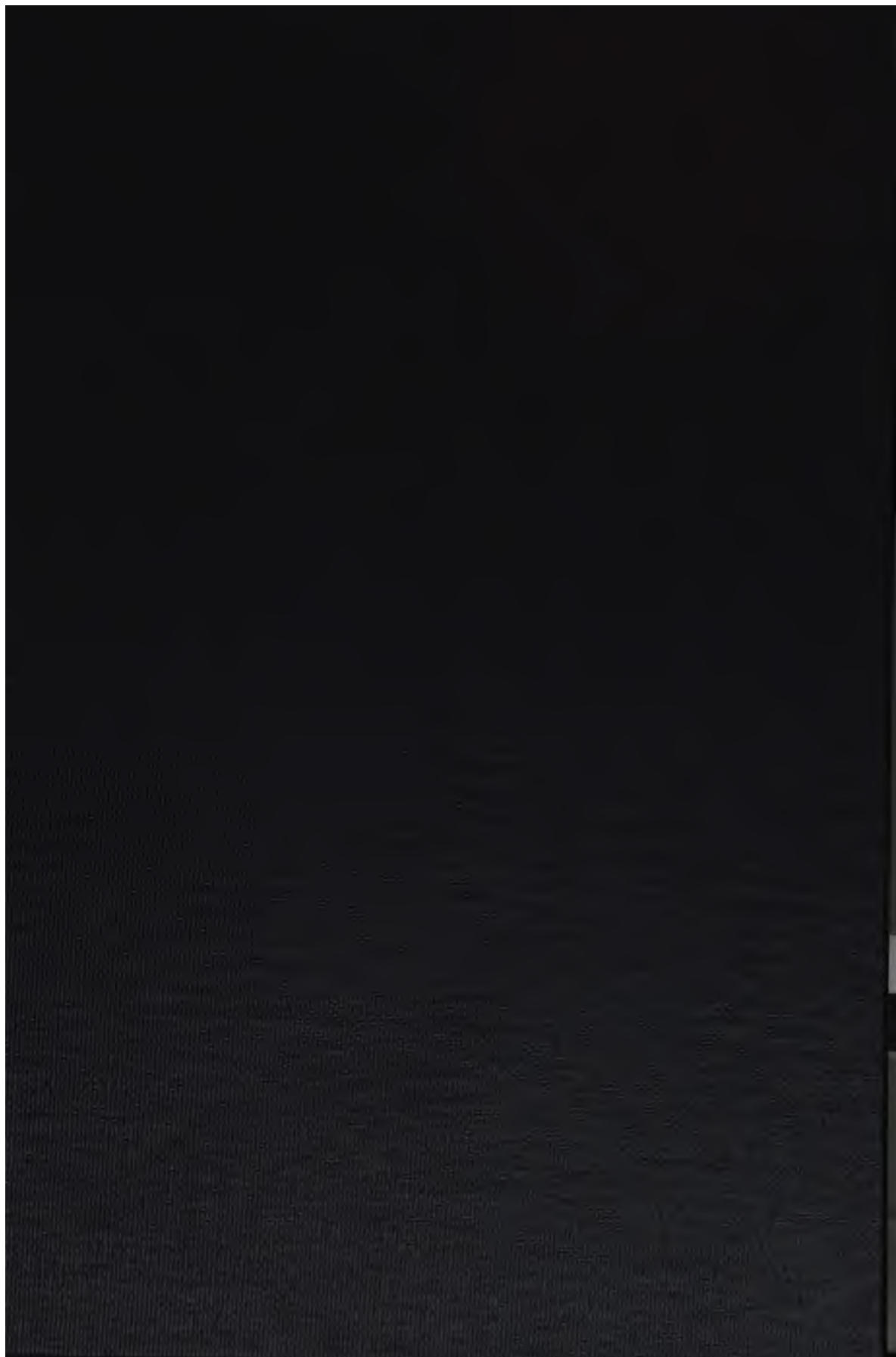
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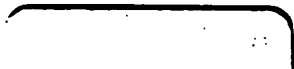
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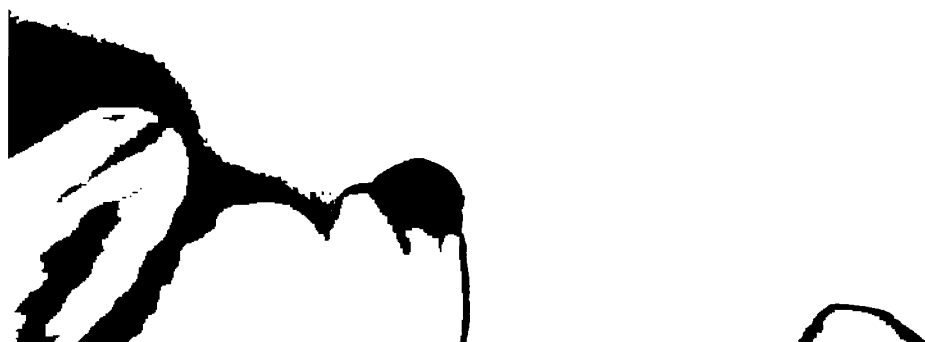
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COUNTY MAP.

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HISTORY  
OF  
PISCATAQUIS COUNTY,  
MAINE.

From its Earliest Settlement to 1880.

BY REV. AMASA LORING.

"The hills are dearest, which our childish feet  
Have climbed the earliest; and the streams most sweet  
Are ever those at which our young lips drank—  
Stooped to their waters o'er the grassy bank."  
*Whittier.*

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# A HISTORY OF PISCATAQUIS COUNTY.

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## CHAPTER I.

### INTRODUCTION.

It is proposed in the following pages, to sketch a brief geographical view of Piscataquis County; to state its early surveys, grants, proprietors and settlers; to present its natural resources; and to detail the progress of its pecuniary, social, literary and religious interests. We also hope to rescue from oblivion, those incidents of historical value, which are fast and forever departing to the grave, with those hoary heads, who in the sprightliness of their childhood and youth both witnessed and helped to enact them. These towns which compose it, have a history. So has every place which man has explored, or civilization entered. But for three-fourths of a century, time's busy pencil has been obliterating the past, in painting the present; and much that would enrich these sketches must slumber on in the deep sleep of unrecorded and forgotten history. Only when the chronicles of life have been carefully kept, can we say: "We are inheritors of all the past."

But all the dim footprints of these hardy pioneers have not been blotted out. Much that they told to their children, deeply engraven on the retentive tablets of early childhood, still abides with the surviving. With great pleasure I refer to Henry B. Sargent of Milo, Ezekiel Chase of Sebec, Eben Lambert and Mordecai Mitchell of Dover, Mrs. Sarah J. Greeley of Foxcroft, and Jefferson P. Moor of Abbot, who



have furnished facts and data still remembered by them. With praiseworthy readiness, the town clerks, so far as requested, have placed their town records before me. It should be added that the record of children's births, when the place thereof is given, becomes, in the lapse of time, of great historic value. The late Robert Low of Guilford, B. C. Goss of Sangerville, and Eben Greenleaf of Williamsburg, have been examples of carefulness in this respect.

Family records, too, possess a historical value, reaching far beyond the circle recorded in them. Several old family Bible records have done good service in settling dates of early settlements, which could not have been otherwise easily determined.

By the courtesy of the late J. S. Holmes Esq., the records of the Piscataquis Historical Society have been placed at my disposal. This was formed in 1824, while the first settlers of Foxcroft and Dover were living, to preserve the early historical incidents of that vicinity; and I have been essentially aided by them in compiling the histories of these towns. This record narrowly escaped the flames, when Mr. Holmes' office took fire, and thankful may we all be for its rescue.

By request, Capt. S. Chamberlain prepared a brief sketch of the early settlement of Foxcroft. This is preserved entire in the town records, and has been drawn from, in compiling the history of that town. So also have the records of the proprietors of the town of Foxcroft, kept by Col. J. E. Foxcroft, and also some of his manuscript letters.

The late Robert Low, Esq., kept a brief memorandum of events in the early settlement of Guilford. The writer, in his early boyhood, enjoyed the luxury of hearing it read. It was afterward burnt in the conflagration of Mr. Low's buildings, and he reproduced it, as best he could, from memory. This also has been examined, and though of substantial value, I am constrained to say, that "the old was better."

C. A. Everett Esq. of Dover, who has made the study of "land titles" in this county a specialty, has rendered very important assistance from his "plans," notes, and sketches.

The writer also is largely indebted to Greenleaf's Survey of Maine, published in 1829, for historical data of great value, and now not easily obtained, for this work, and likewise Williamson's History of Maine, though once furnished by the State, to all the incorporated towns, are now hard to be found. This troublesome destitution reflects severely upon the carelessness of former town clerks, and also upon the borrowing propensities of unnamable individuals, who do not believe it a duty to return a borrowed book to its lawful possessor.

In the history of the different churches and religious societies, I have depended upon the published and accepted Histories and Minutes of the different denominations; and the respective authors of these are responsible for their correctness.

No one who has ever attempted to gather materials for, or to write, history, will expect entire accuracy or desirable fullness in this work. Not every person, whose memory treasures the events of seventy years, can, in old age, be relied upon. Many statements evidently made in good faith and tenaciously held also, have been contradicted by others equally reliable, and sometimes by written documents. So, "with charity toward all, and malice toward none," I have diligently compared these discrepancies, and sifted and settled them as best I could.

In the following pages, after giving the original number and range of each township, and the temporary name of the early settlement, I have, for convenience sake, used the corporate name, though speaking of events which occurred before that name was given.

So also the entrance of the first family, for a permanent abode—not the felling of the first opening—gives date to the *first settlement*. And according to this event, if ascertained, the first settlers of these towns, are denoted.

As a lover of history, and an early inhabitant of the Piscataquis valley, I have undertaken this work. And as a personal apology for so doing, I recall the reason that a certain

autobiographer gave for writing his own life, to wit: "If he did not do it, he was satisfied that it never would be done." So I more than feared that if I did not now attempt this, the early and most desirable part of the history of this county would never be written.

Many would regret this, especially when the lapse of time makes all such narratives more valuable and more sought after. Deeply do I regret that some one possessing a more historical memory, and wielding an abler pen, had not undertaken it before so many of the early settlers had fallen asleep. For then, many dates would have been thoroughly substantiated, and with far less research than at this present time.

Any history would be incomplete without a brief sketch of the prominent men who shaped the financial, political, literary, moral, and religious state of society. But a true and faithful personal history, even of the departed, is a delicate task to undertake. Few realize, while making the journey of life, that their works will follow them. Yet all should feel that they, not posterity, frame their own characters and build their own most expressive monuments. No deeds are treated with intended severity, while worthy and virtuous records are drawn without overweening flattery.

Let then the historical errors of this work be corrected, its practical hints welcomed, its record of past events be treated with considerate indulgence.

## CHAPTER II.

### SITUATION, EXTENT AND BOUNDARIES.

THE whole territory of this county is on the polar side of the 45th parallel of north latitude, so it has a right to be cold in winter and temperate in summer. Early frosts and long winters with deep snows, are usual, though good and ripe crops of corn, grain, and other farm products, save in exceptionally cold seasons, richly repay the husbandman. When first entered, this territory was included in Hancock and Kennebec Counties, but when Somerset County was incorporated (in 1809), the western portion, amounting to three tiers of townships, was embraced in this new county, Norridgewock then being the shire town. In 1816, when Penobscot County was incorporated, all but the three western tiers of townships above mentioned, were included in that county, having Bangor for its shire town.

In 1838 Piscataquis County was incorporated, taking four tiers of townships from Penobscot, and three from Somerset County, the most western tier being from the Bingham Purchase. It then extended, in its full width, to Canada line; but in 1844, its northern portion, embracing about sixty townships, was annexed to Aroostook County.

In its present extent, it is bounded, north by Aroostook, east and south by Penobscot, and west by Somerset Counties, containing more than one hundred full townships, with an area of 3,780 square miles.

These townships are generally six miles square, lying in regular ranges, which are numbered from the north line of the Waldo Patent (now a part of the north line of Waldo

County), and the most southern tier in Piscataquis County is the sixth range in this numeration. Nearly two-thirds of these townships are now covered with forests, wholly unoccupied by inhabitants, but more or less entered by those in pursuit of timber. In its length, north and south, it includes sixteen townships, and in its width, seven townships.

But the lakes and ponds embraced within its limits, make up quite an extensive waste of waters; and its mountains, though far less than in many parts of our state, materially reduce the quantity of its settling lands.

## CHAPTER III.

### NATURAL SCENERY.

It would be deeply interesting to present this region in its primeval grandeur, with its thick, tall, and robust forest growth, its mist-covered mountains, its sunny hill-tops and shaded valleys, its sleeping lakes and rushing rivers, its tangled swamps and marshes.

Not the pine alone, but the hemlock and spruce, the elm and maple, the birch and beech, towered far above the growth which now studs its woodlands in the settled parts of the County and State, and these last-mentioned trees, in the autumn,

"Took on their trailing drapery,  
Flashed with Tyrian dyes."

The Piscataquis valley forced upon its pioneers "heavy clearing," and richly repaid them with heavy harvests. The first lumbermen also found pines of surpassing height and dimensions, but the axe was unsparingly lifted upon these thick trees, and this glory of the "Pine Tree State" has largely departed.

But its hills and mountains, its fertile valleys and ridges, its streams and lakes still remain, and these have their charms for the appreciative observer.

The surface of this county is moderately hilly, a mountain rising here and there, in its own impressive solitude. Katahdin, the highest mountain in the State, towering 5000 feet and more above the level of the sea, its rugged steeps striped by the mighty avalanche, stands within its eastern border. It is

seen from many of the elevated ridges in the southern part of the county, but from the deck of the steamboats, when sailing up Moosehead Lake, and from the head of Chesuncook, the view is quite enchanting. It is about midway between the Chesuncook settlement and Sherman, and visitors reach it by drifting down the west branch of the Penobscot, in the light birch canoe, from the former point, and by a tramp through the woods of thirty miles, from the latter; and when they stand upon its bald and lofty summit, usually admit that they are satisfied.

Kineo, too, which so many visit, and so many have already described, lifts its bald and storm-stricken head, 700' feet above the surface of Moosehead Lake, whose precipitous sides make it a mighty pillar rising from the water's brink, and standing as a stern and fearless sentinel.

Squaw Mountain, near the western shore of the lake, Spencer Mountains, on the eastern side, Boarstone, in the Elliotsville township, and the Ebeeme Mountains, north of Sebec and east of Greenville, are all within this County, and have a considerable altitude. The last named mountains stand out in two distinct ranges. The eastern range runs nearly north and south, and the two highest peaks are known as Horseback and Spruceback.

Westward of this, another range stretches off, two of its peaks being called Chairback and Ore Mountain. Quite a depression, called the Gulf, separates Ore Mountain and Horseback Mountain, within which a small lake hides itself, and between this and Pleasant River is the Katahdin Iron Works. Some twenty miles above these, there is a marvelous Glen, through which the Pleasant River dashes along, leaping down in stupendous cataracts, and shooting between towering walls, so as to rival some of the famous "cañons" of the Yellow Stone regions. Flaming accounts of this Glen have been already given to the public, by its enraptured visitors, and quite as deprecatory ones, of its obstruction to "log-driving," by lumbermen.

Russell Mountain, in Blanchard, named for a man of that

name, who was taken sick and died suddenly upon it, many years since, is famous for the blueberries, which grow upon it, and which attract large companies, in their mature season. Its ascent, upon the western slope, has, with some difficulty, been made with carriages.

## LAKES, LAKELETS AND RIVERS.

Moosehead Lake, the largest body of inland water in New England, covering a surface of one hundred and twenty square miles, lies within the western border of this county. It is thirty-eight miles long, and sixteen miles wide in its widest part, where its broadest bays spread out, encircling its largest islands. In other places it is indented with capes and promontories, Mt. Kineo forming one of the most imposing of these projections. It encloses several islands, the chief of which are Sugar Isle, containing 5,000 acres, but not now inhabited, and Deer Isle, containing more than 2,200 acres, upon which a farm is cleared, and a small public house kept.

This lake is the source of Kennebec River, and is 1,070 feet above tide water. Many years since, lumbermen built a dam across this outlet, which retains seven feet of water upon the lake's whole surface, which they draw off at their convenience, in driving down lumber. For nearly forty years steamboats have moved upon its waters, puffing along its forest-clad shores, in towing rafts of logs from its extreme parts to its outlet, and in later months, to accommodate explorers and summer visitors, who go to gratify their wild-wood curiosities, to camp out in the "forest primeval," to fish and fowl in limits unstinted, to regale themselves with the delicious trout that are drawn from its deep and cool waters. Hotels, some of the first class, are found at the "foot of the lake" (Greenville), at Mt. Kineo, at the extreme "head of the lake," at the outlet, and upon Deer Isle. In the time of summer travel, regular trips are made to the head of the lake, and the public mail carried.

This lake does not receive a great amount of inflowing



water, its elevation being so great that the water-sheds pitch away from it. The west branch of the Penobscot, in its course to the Chesuncook, passes only about two miles from the head of this lake, and in two places is reached by carrying places, called the "North-East" and the "North-West Carry." This river receives all the streams flowing from the north.

In Greenville, only three miles from the lake, is Wilson Pond, the source of Wilson Stream, which flows in a south-east direction into Sebec Lake.

About three miles from the most southern part of the lake, the east branch of the Piscataquis rises, and joined by two other branches from the west, flows south and east into the Penobscot, after receiving the drainage of a wide extent of this region.

On the west, Moose River is its chief tributary, though several others come in on that flank, while Roach River, and a few other smaller streams flow in on the east side.

With some the question may arise, whence the name of this lake? and when discovered? We are indebted to the Indians for both. Some say they so named it, because seen from the summit of Mt. Kineo, its surface resembles the head of a moose; others, that many moose horns were found upon its banks; and others, that Mt. Kineo gave its name, as it appears like a crouching moose; either of which is possible.

The native Indians were early acquainted with it. One of their routes from Norridgewock to Canada, was by the way of the lake, the west branch of Penobscot, and the rivers Du Loup and Chaudierre; while another was by Dead river, Megantic lake and the Chaudierre. It is now certain that a Canadian engineer came through on this eastern route as far as Fort Weston (Augusta), previous to Arnold's expedition to Canada in 1775. A defective copy of his report is in Vol. I of "Collections of the Maine Historical Society."

Sebec Lake covers a part of number eight, eighth range, a part of Bowerbank, and narrowing as it proceeds eastwardly, crosses a corner of Foxcroft, and terminates at Sebec village.

Its whole length is fourteen miles, its width from one-half of a mile to five miles, its whole area being from eighteen to twenty-five square miles. It receives the contributions of more than twenty ponds, whose united surface would equal its own. This lake was once surrounded by valuable pine and other timber, all of which is not exhausted. It is also a place of popular resort, a small steamboat plying along its landing places, and a hotel is kept at the head of it, toward which travel is now drifting.

Sebec River carries the surplus water of this lake into the Piscataquis, affording several fine water privileges, two of which, one at Sebec village, the other at Milo, are utilized, and will be fully described in the sketches of those places.

Schoodic Lake, in the township next east of Brownville, is twelve miles long, and four miles wide. This also discharges its waters into the Piscataquis, in Medford, making a first-rate water power, upon which mills have been erected.

Chesuncook Lake, about twenty-five miles north-east from the head of Moosehead Lake, is fifteen miles long, and from one to three miles wide. A small settlement of whites and Indians is found at the head of this lake, who depend for employment upon cutting and driving timber.

The west branch of the Penobscot passes through this lake, and a large amount of lumbering is usually done in this vicinity. The travel to this place in summer is across the carries from Moosehead Lake, and down the west branch in birch canoes.

The northern unsettled townships abound with lakes, ponds and streams, too numerous to mention, several of which pass into the St. John River. Without them many of its timber tracts would have been comparatively worthless, but they have been made the highways of immense quantities of lumber.

Hebron Pond in Monson, Davis Pond in Guilford, Northwest Pond in Sangerville, Kingsbury Pond in Kingsbury and Mayfield, Center Pond in Sangerville, and Boyd's Lake in Orneville, all have dams at their outlets, and subserve man-

ufacturing enterprises. The flowage of all these is into the Piscataquis, except Center Pond and Boyd's Lake; Kingsbury Pond being the source of the south branch of that river.

Another strange feature in these water sheds is seen in the course of Main-stream. It rises in the north part of Garland, passes on westward into Dexter, near its northern line, receiving the outlet of Center Pond, and other streams in Sangerville, Parkman and Wellington, and falls into Moose Pond in Harmony. This pond vents its surplus waters into the Sebacook, and down this, into the Kennebec. Main-stream runs nearly parallel with the Piscataquis, in the opposite direction, and only about seven miles distant from it.

Black Stream and Alder Stream rise near the south line of Dover; and both of them flow northward, making available mill sites, both emptying into the Piscataquis.

The Piscataquis is the most note-worthy of its rivers. It suggested the name of the county. Upon this river the first settlements were made, and upon this and its branches are nearly all its settled towns. Upon its head waters, pines and spruces, of a most excellent quality, abounded, and early attracted the notice of lumbermen.

## CHAPTER IV.

### NATURAL RESOURCES.

THIS county has large tracts of fertile and easily cultivated soil, only a part of which has been well worked, and fully developed. Its first crops were unsurpassed in New England. Then it had only "to be tickled with the hoe, to laugh with a harvest." Corn and potatoes, grain of all kinds, and grass, sprang from its virgin soil in prodigal luxuriance. Nor was its primeval fertility soon exhausted. Its present show of crops declares that good husbandry will well repay the laborer's toil. Its intervals are beautiful and abundantly productive, while its uplands are far less encumbered with stones, than similar soil in the western parts of this State. In the agricultural quality of the soil, rests the chief and abiding productive resource of this county; and the farm the orchard and the garden must ever be the main reliance for pecuniary prosperity.

This county could once boast the most valuable timber lands in the State, with streams sufficient to float out their productions. But now, like other timber tracts in Maine, its pine is well nigh exhausted, though spruce, hemlock and cedar still abound, and promise to. In its hard wood growth, it also has immense resources. Birch, maple and ash, basswood, poplar and white birch are abundant, and are now turned to good account for various manufacturing purposes.

**WATER POWER.** No part of our State is better supplied. Nearly every town now settled has one or more good mill privileges, most of them, several, as the more detailed account of the several towns will evince.

**SLATE** also abounds in immense quarries, and the opening and working of these give much scope to productive industry. As early as 1828, Hon. Moses Greenleaf discovered a vein of argillite slate extending across the county. It has been opened in Brownville, Williamsburg, Barnard, Foxcroft, Monson, Blanchard and Kingsbury. One of these quarries, near Mr. Greenleaf's former dwelling, is successfully worked by A. H. Merrill Esq., and he has orders for slate from the Western States, and sometimes from Europe. He took the first premium on roofing slate, at the Centennial Fair in Philadelphia.

**GRANITE.** This county abounds with boulders and quarries of superior granite, much of it easily wrought out. It has been extensively used for various purposes; but as other building material is readily procured, it has not been used in the entire structure of buildings.

**LIMESTONE** is found in Abbott, Guilford, Foxcroft and Dover, from which a good fertilizer can be obtained; and which the soil much needs, in order to produce good crops of corn and grain. A certain kind is found in Foxcroft and Dover, which is used to advantage in the smelting of iron ore at the Katahdin Iron Works.

**MINERALS.** An extensive mine of iron ore is found in No. six, ninth range, which has been wrought by the Katahdin Iron Works Company. This has furnished a large amount of employment. Since the Bangor and Piscataquis Railroad has been operating, the transportation of its products by teams has been reduced to sixteen miles, and it may soon be farther reduced.

A bed of copperas has quite recently been struck, beneath the stratum of iron ore; and if this is as extensive as it promises to be, it will add another article of value and of profit to its productions.

The Iron Ore is found at the foot of one of the Ebeeme

Mountains, called Ore Mountain, and is also near the west branch of Pleasant River, and of the outlet of a small lake which sleeps beneath the shadow of the mountain.

Gold, silver and copper, in small quantities, were found in a ledge on the John Bennett farm in Guilford; and sanguine expectations raised that rich deposits were concealed beneath. A company conditionally purchased the location, and made large expenditures in tunnelling a long way into the hill, but no vein was struck, and the enterprise was abandoned.

**ANIMALS.** In early times wild beasts abounded in these forests, affording attractive game to the hunter. The moose was the largest in size, the most imposing in mein, and most desirable for food, of all. These are still occupants of the northern forests, and the killing of them is prohibited in the breeding season. Deer have been occasionally met, while wolves have ever been few and far between. Bears were once numerous, and in the early settlements often "made the night hideous," but were never known to attack a person, though they invaded the ripening cornfields and the sheep pastures. They still prowl about, and at times are decidedly troublesome.

About fifty years since, the loup-cerviers were more daring and rapacious than the bears, in destroying sheep, but their day was short, they soon departed.

The beaver was once here, and caught by the old hunters; but now they are unknown. The fox, sable, musquash, mink and such animals, are still found in diminished numbers.

The partridge, the pigeon and the duck, of all the feathery tribes, afford the most delicious food, and best repay the huntsman, though the sportsman can find keen entertainment in the chase of the loon, wild goose, eagle, crow and hen-hawk.

**FISH.** The lakes and rivers of this county once abounded with excellent fish. Alewives ascended the Piscataquis in immense quantities, and were dipped out and left to decay

in heaps upon its banks, in mere wantonness. Proposals to choose fish-wardens, and regulate the business were treated with ridicule. Salmon, too, ran up the main river, and its principal branches, affording rich supplies of fresh provisions to the early pioneers. The building of mills and dams has proved to be an obstruction, yet they were found below Foxcroft dam as late as 1825. Now they are nearly unknown in this river. Trout of the largest size, and of the most delicious flavor, were found in its lakes. In Moosehead, the largest were caught, and in Sebec Lake and Hebron Pond some of good size and quality were usually taken; these are not yet exhausted.

## CHAPTER V.

### SALES, GRANTS AND SURVEYS.

After the war of the Revolution, and the adoption of our National Constitution, both the National and State governments, were deeply in debt, as they now are. But the State of Massachusetts had a wide domain of unsettled lands, all in the district of Maine. To avoid oppressive taxation, the State government resolved to put these into the market, to raise a revenue from their sales, and to make them taxable.

Commissioners had been appointed soon after the close of the war, to investigate the claims of settlers, and of other claimants; and these earlier titles had been adjusted. The State adopted a "lottery scheme," selling tickets for a certain price, which would draw a proportionate amount of wild land, in some specified township. By this way large portions of eastern lands lying between Union River and the Province line were disposed of. This waked up a lively interest in wild land, and from 1785 to 1810, a smart land speculation was in full blast, in which the State won considerable profit. But it was soon found that this was crowding too much wild land upon the market, that settlers could not be found to occupy it, and then it wound up this method of disposing of it.

A land office was established, but instead of a Land Agent, a Committee of three was appointed to conduct the business, and they sold townships, or small tracts, on certain established conditions. In each township sold, the purchasers were required to reserve four lots of three hundred and twenty acres each, of average quality and quantity, for pub-



lic uses; to wit, one lot for the use and benefit of the State itself; one, for the first minister of the gospel that the town after its incorporation would vote to settle as their minister; one to produce a ministerial fund, the income to go for the annual support of the acting ministry in town; and one for a school fund, the income of which should go for the support of common schools.

Purchasers of townships were required to have a certain number of actual settlers residing in the township by a specified time. Some, however, failed, and by petitioning the General Court, obtained an extension. Hallowell and Lowell found this necessary, to confirm Vaughan's title to Charleston and Dover.

These sales required the running out and numbering of new townships. Toward the close of the last century a wide breadth of wild lands was surveyed and prepared for sale. Plans and minutes of surveys, now in the land office show, that Ephraim Ballard and Samuel Weston, run out the sixth range, the most southerly tier of towns in Piscataquis County, from Lagrange to Wellington, in 1792. Also that Mr. Weston, aided by his brother Stephen, run out the seventh and eighth ranges in 1794. The eighth range is now known to be seven miles wide or more; why, it does not appear, but it gives its included townships an increase of acreage. Grants in the ninth range attribute the running out of that range to Mr. John Boardman, but the date thereof is not known. The lotting out of each township will be noticed in its respective history.

During this same period the State pursued a very liberal policy toward institutions of learning, and other works of public improvement. Large grants were made to Colleges and Academies; also to aid in opening canals, turnpikes, and free bridges over large rivers, and public roads through unsettled places. Several townships in this county were thus granted and conveyed by their grantees to their respective purchasers.

In the act, incorporating Bowdoin College, passed June,

1794, five full townships of the unappropriated lands of the State, were granted to that institution. They were to be selected and laid out under the direction of the State Committee for the sale of wild lands. The grantees were to reserve, in each township, three lots of three hundred and twenty acres each, for public uses, and to have fifteen families settled in each township within twelve years of the passage of said act. In pursuance thereof, the College Committee selected the Dixmont township; and also four contiguous townships on the north side of Piscataquis River, Numbers Four, Five, Six and Seven in the Seventh Range, now known as Seboc, Foxcroft, Guilford and Abbott.

At a later date the General Court granted two other townships, numbers seven and eight, tenth range, lying east of Greenville, to the same institution. The Monson township was granted, the west half to Hebron Academy in this State, the east half to Monson Academy in Massachusetts. One-half of the Greenville township was granted to Saco Academy, and the other half to Saco free bridge; and one-half of the Katahdin Iron Works' township was a grant to Warren Academy.

The west half of Medford was a grant to David Gilmore, for making the Dixmont road; and number nine, ninth range, eventually Wilson, was granted to the Massachusetts Medical Society.

Other townships were early sold by the State to individuals, and though at extremely low prices, and on liberal conditions as to introducing settlers, they sometimes failed to meet their engagements, and the land reverted to the State. Previous to 1820 the State realized only twenty-five cents per acre, as an average price.

## CHAPTER VI.

### HOW, WHEN, AND BY WHOM FIRST ENTERED.

It must be borne in mind that this region, when entered by its pioneers, was remote from other settlements; consequently without open roads, or convenient passage by water. Hence some of their greatest hardships. The lowlands and swamps were miry, and, as the snow usually fell early, they would not be frozen and passable till deep snow obstructed traveling. Hence heavy burdens were brought in on horseback, and on rude "cars", the transportation of which sledding would have facilitated. Hence several of the women who were the first to occupy these wilderness homes, rode with their babes in their arms, on horseback, their husbands tracing out a spotted line, which alone marked a dim and winding way. Late in winter, when settlers would frequently attempt to move in, the roads would be full of loose snow. Some heavy articles were boated up the rivers to Brownville and Dover, but stemming the rapids was laborious, and at the steeper falls they were obliged to unlade their boats, and carry their cargoes around them.

Most of the early settlers from the central and western parts of Maine, came by way of Skowhegan (then Canaan), thence to Cornville, Athens, Harmony, Ripley and Dexter. Those from Massachusetts and New Hampshire sometimes took passage by water to Bangor, and found a road to Charleston. By the autumn of 1803, Capt. Ezekiel Chase moved his family from Carratunk to his opening near the present Sebec and Atkinson bridge, with teams; but Benjamin Sargent brought his on horseback from Bangor, at the

same time. The road through Atkinson to Sebec Mills was opened early, and many of the settlers of Brownville came in by this way. As early as 1804, single horse teams brought families into Amestown; and in 1806 teams came into Guilford in the winter; and in the autumn of that year, Capt. John Bennett reached there with a loaded ox-cart. In the fall of 1807, Capt. Samuel Chamberlain and Ephraim Baker moved their families, provisions, and household effects from Bangor to Foxcroft, on an ox-wagon. They were two days in getting from Charleston to Foxcroft, fifteen miles, having to bridge streams and swamps, and often to widen the way before they could pass. Thus detained, they were under the necessity of camping out over night,—quite a rough experience for the women and children, as they had not expected to do it, and were not prepared for it,—while their team had but a scanty supply of fodder.

After a few years, a shorter way from Skowhegan to these parts was opened from Harmony, through the present towns of Cambridge and Parkman. Probably about 1812 this was done, but several years elapsed before it became a good carriage road. Previous to 1814, a road was cut out from Sangerville to Garland, and this opened a way to Bangor, for the upper settlements on Piscataquis River.

**THE FIRST SETTLERS.** It may be interesting to know who were the first to break into this “howling wilderness;” to brave the hardships incident to introducing civilized life and progress into these boundless forests; which of the towns was first settled; and who was the first permanent settler of this county. Certainty, in respect to dates, after so long a period, and after all these first pioneers have fallen asleep, is not easily arrived at, on all points, but the more important have been secured by patient research. The best sustained conclusion may be stated thus: Abel Blood felled the first opening on Piscataquis River, in the Dover township, as early as June, 1799. It is not certain that any beginnings were made the next year. But in 1801, Moses and

Stephen Snow and Benjamin Sargent felled openings in the Milo township; Moses Towne on a part of the Blood purchase; and Col. J. E. Foxcroft hired Samuel Elkins to fell twenty acres on his newly purchased township; and it is said that Jonas Parlin felled a few acres on the Burrill interval, but did not proceed to occupy it. In 1802, Ezekiel Chase felled an opening in Sebec, Bylie Lyford, in Atkinson, and Phineas Ames, in Sangerville townships, respectively. In 1804, the first openings were felled in Guilford, by Low and Herring, and the next year, one in Abbott, by Abraham Moor, Esq.

Abel Blood, with a hired man, spent the summer of 1800 on his clearing, raising and harvesting a crop. Col. Foxcroft's account of his exploration of Number Five, Seventh Range, confirms this statement. In the spring of 1802 the Townes,—Thomas Towne, the father, Moses, and probably Eli, his sons,—came to their opening, bringing Moses' wife, who camped with, cooked and washed for, them. In the fall, Eli and Mrs. Moses Towne returned to Temple, N. H., but Thomas and Moses Towne continued through the winter, hunting, fishing, and as spring came on, making maple sugar. In the spring of 1803, Eli Towne, with his wife and child one year old, started from Temple, N. H., for the Piscataquis settlement. They reached it May 8, 1803. This may be confidently set down as the first family that moved into the county. In the autumn of 1803, Capt. Ezekiel Chase moved his family into Sebec; Benjamin Sargent, his, into Milo; and Phineas Ames, his, into Sangerville. In the spring of 1804, Bylie Lyford moved into the Atkinson township, and Lyford Dow and Abel Blood, probably, brought their families into Dover. These dates accord with the best data that I have been able to collect, and with the best recollections of the survivors of those early families, excepting the Benjamin Sargent family of Milo. And here the reasons which led to those conclusions shall be given. That Abel Blood purchased a square mile of land in the Dover township, and located it where East Dover village and its surroundings now are, is unquestioned. The statement that he felled the first trees on it, in

June, 1799, was recorded when some of the men employed to do it, Seth and John Spaulding, were present. Col. Foxcroft's statement, that he found Blood there in the autumn of 1800, and that he had raised a crop of corn and other vegetables that year, corroborates that date. Col. Foxcroft also stated that it was in June, 1801, that Samuel Elkins felled the first opening in his township. This is confirmed by the statement of two writers, who give the early history of Dexter, to wit, that Samuel Elkins spent the summer of 1801 in building the first mills in Dexter, and that in 1802, his health failed, and his brother Daniel came and finished the mills, and put them into operation. Messrs. Foxcroft and Johnson, when they came to explore Number Five, left their horses with Samuel Elkins in Cornville; and as he was at Dexter during the summer of 1801, he could quite conveniently repair to the Foxcroft township, and do that job with his workmen, at the proper season.

Reliable records show that Alvin Towne, the child which Eli Towne and wife brought to their home on horseback, was born in Temple, N. H., April 24, 1802, confirming the date of his incoming to be, as Mr. Towne always gave it when living, May 8, 1803.

Ezekiel Chase jr. affirmed that he was five years old when their family moved to Sebec; that it was in the fall of the year; that the Sargent family was at their log-house when they reached it; and that Bylie Lyford's family came the next spring. He also recollected that his older brother Francis, and Moses Towne made maple sugar together, near Towne's opening, the spring before the Chase family moved in, living upon boiled corn and maple syrup. If this was the spring of 1803, Moses Towne and his father had been camping there all winter, but not the year before, and had raised a crop of corn the previous summer. Mr. Ezekiel Chase was born March 6, 1798, and died in Sebec, July 25, 1879, aged eighty-one years and four months,—the last survivor of those families which entered this county in 1803. His brother,

Charles V. Chase, was born in Sebec, July 15, 1804, and this affords us another reliable date.

Bylie Lyford's son, Thomas, was born in Atkinson, Nov. 11, 1804, and the family, it is said, moved there the March previous, making Lyford's removal, March, 1804, and Chase's, in the fall of 1803. But Mr. Henry B. Sargent, son of Benjamin, and other members of that family, were quite confident that their removal to Milo was in 1802, but they had no early records that established it. They rested upon the family tradition, that their brother Nathan, the youngest of the family, was then but two years old. If it was in 1802, he would have been two and a half; if in 1803, three and a half; large, to be sure, to be brought in his mother's arms. But as she came on horseback from Bangor, and the other children walked, that was the only way that he could come, even if three and a half years old. And Mr. Henry B. Sargent, then five or six years old, recollected that they were at Chase's log-house when the Chase family arrived, as stated by Ezekiel Chase jr. So the two families must have come the same year, and the same month. The balance of proof, then, evidently gravitates to 1803; and Mr. Sargent's first entrance to fell his trees and make a beginning, is known to have been when his son Nathan was about two years old. In the records written by one of the Sargent family, several years afterward, it is stated, that on the eighth day of May, 1802, snow fell in this region to the depth of eight inches. Eli Towne and wife were wont to relate that, on their last day's journey to their new home, that same depth of snow fell. This was assuredly May 8, 1803. Though this is not certain proof, it verily looks as if the Sargents antedated their record one year, and that they, like many others, were honestly mistaken.

Phineas Ames had a child born in Harmony, in March, 1803; so he had not removed to Sangerville then; and as the tradition runs that his wife did not see a white woman for more than a year after her removal, and as Weymouth and

Brockway moved in by sledding, early in the winter of 1804-5, Ames evidently came in the same autumn as Chase and Sargent, to wit, 1803. And their family tradition was, that Mrs. Ames rode in on horseback, with a babe in her arms, her husband leading the horse from the Dexter settlement, guided by a spotted line only.

A descriptive and historical sketch of the towns constituting this county will now be given, arranged according to the dates of their settlement. The situation and boundaries of each can be learned from the accompanying map.



## CHAPTER VII.

### DOVER.

THIS town was originally Number Three, Sixth Range. It is in the southern tier of towns in the county, and lies, excepting a narrow strip on its northern border, on the south side of Piscataquis River. It contains, according to Greenleaf, 22,444 acres. It is well watered, having three superior mill privileges on the Piscataquis, and another on Black Stream in the southern part of the town. The Great Falls at Dover village, are occupied by Hon. S. O. Brown's woolen factory and flouring mill. In a distance of three hundred and twenty-five feet, the fall is twenty-three feet, and is estimated to be equal to two hundred horse power. One hundred rods below this, there is another fall of six feet, which has been made use of, but is now unimproved. Two and a half miles further down, at East Dover village, there is another fall of eight feet, and the same amount of head. On this dam F. H. Brown has a saw- and grist-mill, and Gray & Co., a wood-pulp, and a pasteboard mill. The Dover South Mills are situated upon Black Stream. A dam twelve feet high flows a large bog, and makes a very permanent water power. This drives a saw-mill, and a shingle machine, which are now known as "Brann's Mills."

Dover is one of the best townships of farming land in the county, has a large extent of interval, and but few lots that are not under improvement. It is the shire town of the county, and the largest in wealth and population, having, according to the census of 1870, 1,983 inhabitants, and a valuation of \$675,000. All of the county offices and court-

rooms are contained in one substantial, two-storied, fire-proof building. No jail has ever been built, but according to an act of the Legislature, the jail in Penobscot County is used for the confinement of the criminals of the county.

**PROPRIETORS AND SURVEY.** Near the beginning of the present century, this township and the one adjoining it on the east, were purchased of the State, by Robert Hallowell and John Lowell, with the conditions that the usual amount should be reserved for public uses, and a certain number of families should be settled upon them, within fifteen years. But the real purchasers, however, were Charles Vaughan and John Merrick of Hallowell. Hallowell and Lowell were merchants in Boston, relatives of the Vaughans, and so acted as their agents. Lowell had done a similar thing, in purchasing the Charleston township for Mr. Vaughan, some five or six years previous.

As these men, Vaughan and Merrick, were the actual proprietors, and settled the township, we will give them a passing notice. Benjamin, John, and Charles Vaughan, three brothers, and John Merrick, a brother-in-law, belonged to a wealthy, highly cultured and well connected family in England. For some reason they left their native land, and came to the United States. It was thought that they sympathized with the Colonies in their struggle for independence, and thus lost caste with the hot-blooded aristocracy. John settled in Philadelphia, the other two brothers, Charles and Benjamin, and Mr. Merrick, in Hallowell, Me. This was about 1793, and having come from Boston to Gardiner, by water, for want of a carriage road, they walked from thence to Hallowell, both men and women. Charles Vaughan early began to invest his capital in wild land, buying, some time before 1795, Number Two, Fifth Range (Charleston), and introduced its first settlers. But having failed to get the required number of settlers, Lowell and Hallowell, in 1814, petitioned the Legislature for an extension of time, to complete the stipulated number of families to be settled in both

townships, Charleston and Dover. An extension of three years was granted, provided they would give sufficient security to the State, that they would pay thirty dollars forfeit, for each settler below the agreed number, when the extension should expire.

Vaughan and Merrick are both well reported of, as proprietors. They were indulgent to the poor, hard working settlers, sometimes letting their notes run on unpaid, till they had expired by the statute of limitation, and losing the debts. Mr. Merrick built a meeting-house at his own expense, on Bear Hill, and gave it, with twenty acres of land, to the Methodist society, in 1836. He also gave the land for a small "common," now a park, in Dover village. But Mr. Vaughan, by building a flouring mill, and afterward a factory, at Dover village, greatly increased the business of the place, and also benefited the whole community. These will be more fully dealt with at the proper date.

There is a tradition that the first lotting out of the township was not satisfactory. But it is now certain that Lemuel Perham was employed in 1803 to lot out the greater part of it. At a later date, S. C. Norcross lotted out several ranges on the west side of the town, and by his survey and plan, those lots were sold and deeded.

**THE FIRST SETTLERS.** Abel Blood now comes into more distinct notice. He purchased the first tract of land for settlement, felled the first opening, and was the first pioneer to come into the county. At an early date, some time before 1799, he purchased a square mile, having the first choice in locating it, on terms that cannot now be fully ascertained. Eben Lambert, long the proprietor's agent, thought that he purchased it of the State, before Vaughan and Merrick had bought the township. He selected his tract on the north side of the township, embracing the water privilege at East Dover, and the beautiful intervals and slopes on either bank of the Piscataquis. And this quantity was run out to him by the surveyor, as the first thing to be done in lotting the

township. We deeply regret that the incipient movements of Mr. Blood have not been more definitely retained. A dark, mysterious shadow hangs over them.

He must have explored this region, and made his pitch, previous to his coming in, with men, to fell the first trees, for they came directly to it. Of this adventure, we have a written report drawn up by a committee, one of which, John Spaulding, was one of that band. This report was presented to the Piscataquis Historical Society, Dec. 16, 1824, and in a condensed form it will be repeated. In June, 1799, Abel Blood left Norridgewock for this selected lot, with seven men, viz., John and Seth Spaulding, Jonathan Parlin, Jonas Parlin jr., Charles Fairbrother, Samuel Carleton, and Robert Kidder. These men started with the necessary implements for felling trees, utensils essential to camping, and supplies of food for a fortnight. A tramp of fifty miles, most of it through a trackless forest, was before them. For want of roads, teams could convey their luggage only to Athens, about fifteen miles. Thence they carried their burdens to Moose Pond, in Harmony. Here Mr. Blood hired two men to bring their burdens, in birch canoes, up Main Stream, the company pushing on along its banks. About ten miles brought them to the "carry" from this stream to the pond in Parkman. Here they had to shoulder their loads, and bear them three miles to the water. Floating down to the outlet of the lower pond, near the site of Sangerville village, Blood dismissed the boatmen, and they walked and carried their loads the remainder of the way. We here observe that this boating route was the northern one, which the roving natives sometimes used in their light canoes, in passing from the Kennebec to the Penobscot. The load equally divided among these men was estimated to be one hundred and twenty pounds each. Thus freighted, they followed the course of Piscataquis River, twelve miles, to the place selected for a strike. This was on the south bank of the river, a little below the end of the East Dover bridge, now known as the farm of Benjamin Dow jr. Here for four or five days the

majestic forest trees came crashing down, leveled by the sturdy stroke of those stalwart axe-men, startling the inhabitants of those wild regions, with echoes to which they had ever been strangers. But the woods then swarmed with greedy blackflies and mosquitoes, which eagerly improved so rare an occasion to gorge themselves. Their provisions grew ominously less, so that, before they had worked their intended time, they unanimously concluded that it was time to beat a hasty retreat. Breaking camp, they struck for the shortest route home, using a compass to direct them. On the second day of their return, they came out to the late Jona. Farrar's hill, above Dexter village, and here they divided the residue of their provisions, amounting to only two ounces of bread, and one of meat to each man. On this they traveled the next day, and at its close reached the settlements in Harmony. One day more brought them safely home. The next year (1800), the first entrance was made by a spotted line into Dexter, from Harmony, and preparations made for building mills and introducing settlers. Were it not for Col. Foxcroft's statement, we should lose sight of Abel Blood for the next two or three years. From him we learn that Blood was there in October, 1800, and had raised a crop of corn and garden vegetables, as already mentioned. So Mr. Blood must have followed up the beginning made in 1799, burnt his felled piece, and planted corn in the year 1800, harvesting the first crop raised in this county, though he was not the first to bring in a family. It is not known at what date he did this; certainly before the spring of 1805, for May 16, 1805, he and his wife executed a deed here, conveying two hundred acres of his land to Eli Towne. He seems to have been an enterprising, athletic, and industrious man, but not a good manager. In October, 1804, he and John Spaulding contracted with Col. Foxcroft to build and put in operation a saw- and grist-mill, upon the upper falls in Foxcroft, and have them running by Jan. 1, 1807. But Blood transferred his contract to Eleazer and Seth Spaulding, who with their brother John, proceeded to build them. He made and burnt

the first kiln of brick in the town and county; and from this, Chamberlain and Baker procured brick for a chimney, in 1807. His brother, Royal, also settled here, and occupied a part of Abel's land, but the title afterward passed to Mr. John Dow, and from him, to John 2d, and Benjamin Dow. Blood then moved to Sebec.

These Bloods were from Temple, N. H., sons of Gen. Francis Blood, a Revolutionary officer, who obtained an honorable record in the service of his country. But Abel Blood did not sustain so desirable a reputation. It is well known that, about 1811, he fled suddenly to parts unknown, and his brother Royal assisted his family to return to Temple. Some twenty-five years later, he turned up again in Ohio. One of his old neighbors, who also found it for his interest to seek a new home among strangers, emigrated to the far West, and there fell upon and recognized Mr. Blood, the first pioneer of this county. But they did not revive their old acquaintance. Both were willing to remain strangers, to let "by-gones be by-gones," and to strive mutually, as we may hope, to secure a fairer future.

**THE TOWNE FAMILY.** As stated before, to Eli Towne, belongs the honor of being the first permanent settler of Dover, and of this county; but his father and brother Moses preceded him in the first steps toward it. Thomas Towne and his three sons, Moses, Eli, and Abel, then grown to manhood, resided in Temple, N. H. It seems that Moses Towne first bargained with Abel Blood for a part of his land on the north bank of the river. There was a rumor that a man from Carratunk, by the name of Baker, felled an opening on this lot in 1779, but it appears to have been further down the river. Col. Foxcroft mentions no such opening in 1800. But in 1801 trees must have been felled, as Thomas and Moses, and probably, Eli Towne, spent the summer of 1802, raising a crop on it, and enlarging the opening. As cold weather came on, all but the old gentleman and Moses returned to Temple, but these latter continued on the soil, as Mr. Thomas

Towne was greatly addicted to hunting, and here he had an unstinted range. As they were expecting Eli and family in the spring, and as the Chase family were preparing to move on to the river, a few miles below, the next fall, Moses Towne and Francis Chase made maple sugar together on the interval below Towne's place, living on hulled corn and maple syrup, both Blood and the Townes having already raised and harvested corn.

At this time let it be remembered that, though openings had been made in several townships on the river, no homes with women and children had been established in this county, and but comparatively few families then lived in the next tier of towns, Dexter, Garland and Charleston.

In this state of things, Eli Towne, with his wife and one child, the late Alvin Towne of Sebec, then about one year old, started from Temple, N. H., to plant a pioneer home on the banks of the Piscataquis. They first came to Portsmouth, and from thence took passage by water to Bangor. His own account of the journey from Bangor to his waiting cabin, given to a committee, and afterward to his sons, nearly fifty years after the memorable event, is here compiled and amended. For the want of a carriage road, they started on foot, Mr. Towne carrying the child, thirteen months old, in his arms, and he and his wife, the indispensable outfit, as best they could. In this way they proceeded to the Levant settlement, thirteen miles, now Kenduskeag village. At Levant a grist-mill was then running, and all the settlers in the region north of it, resorted thither to get their grinding done. Fortunately, Mr. Towne found at that mill, a boy from Charleston, with a horse. He hired him to walk home, and let his wife ride on horseback with the grist. But the roads were so rough and muddy that Mr. Towne had to carry the babe a large part of the way. Arriving at Charleston, he hired the same horse for completing the journey, and started the next morning for their wilderness home. There was no road, no bridges over the streams and swamps; only a spotted line marked their toilsome way. Dark clouds

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deepened the gloom of the dense forest; about mid-day, a damp, fleecy snow began to fall and make the progress more slow and wearisome. Mrs. Towne used to relate, that for the last eight miles she was so weary and utterly desponding, that she was as willing to die as to live. Nearly that whole day was spent in making those last fifteen miles. As the day declined, they reached the banks of the well-known river. Eagerly they looked across upon their opening, some forty rods below, which Mr. Towne said was burnt and planted with corn, potatoes, beans, etc., the season before, but "the black logs, big old fellows," were still lying thick on the ground. A solitary log-cabin, in which the father and brother had spent the winter, alone animated that sombre scene. Mrs. Towne's quick imagination, true to itself, asks, is this to be her future home? No female associates, no roads, scarcely a footpath through the dense forest, no mills, stores, or physicians near! Falling tears were a fit salutation.—

"Tears more eloquent than learned tongue,  
Or lyre of purest note."

These shed, and woman's power of endurance rose to the stern demand of the crisis. They crossed the rolling tide, and made that humble meagerly furnished cabin a sweet 'lodge in the wilderness.' A reinforcement of men with brave hearts and strong hands soon arrived to resume their clearing, and to prepare the way to bring in their families also. "But before winter," said Mr. Towne, "they all returned to their homes, leaving us to winter alone." Their arrival, be it noted, was May 8, 1803; and let it be distinctly marked as an important era in our historical calendar, for this confirms the correctness of other leading dates and statements given above, and corrects some of those which conflict with them.

Necessity had to be the mother of invention with this isolated family. As they must carry their corn thirty miles upon their shoulders, to get it ground, they hollowed out a mortar-shaped cavity in a solid rock, and bruised it therein with a rough stone pestle. As there were no boards for



doors, floors, and shelves, to their cabin, they would rift out splints from the pine and cedar, and shape and smooth them for these purposes. The old gentleman Towne, by his skill in fowling and fishing, made the forest and streams their pork and beef barrels, and the growing crops, rejoicing in the richness of the virgin soil, charmed away the perplexity and weariness of laboring among pestering flies and in smutty cut-downs.

Moses Towne sold out his interest on the Blood Purchase, to his brother Eli, and took up the Burrill place, and cleared up that beautiful interval. At length he sold this also, and moved into Foxcroft, and in 1833, or afterward, went to Ohio. Eli bought two hundred acres of Abel Blood, embracing the greater part of Blood's land on the north bank of the river.

By the consideration named in his deed, it seems that he paid one and a half dollars per acre, and he used to say that he brought the money in silver dollars from Temple, in saddle-bags, to do it with. This deed was executed in May, 1805, and sent to Castine, to be recorded. Upon this lot Mr. Eli Towne and his father spent the remainder of their days, turning the wilderness into the fruitful field, in due time building a dam and mills, and preparing the way for the flourishing village now found there. It appears from Mr. Towne's statement, that they had no family near them for the first year, except Ezekiel Chase's, four miles below, in Sebec, which came the next September; but in the spring of the next year, 1804, others came in,—Abel Blood's, Lyford Dow's and Moses Towne's, probably. In February, 1805, John Spaulding moved his family from Norridgewock, into a log-cabin near Mr. Towne's, and in March, John Dow arrived with his, moving his wife, with a child in her lap, all the way from Temple, N. H., more than two hundred miles, on an ox-sled. He had a house prepared for them on the Sturtevant place, which he had commenced clearing. By this time several other beginnings had been made, some of them higher up the river, opposite to Foxcroft village.

A brief personal sketch of Messrs. Thomas and Eli Towne, and we will take leave of them. Thomas Towne was a Revolutionary soldier, and having practiced sharp-shooting at the "red-coats," he was a good shot, and liked to handle the musket. Hence he became a mighty hunter, and took to the howling wilderness. In some of his adventures he displayed unusual daring. On one occasion he fired upon a bear which was swimming across a pond, and wounded him. As the bear neared the shore, the hunter's dog swam in, and attacked him. Bruin, in pure self-defence, seized the dog, and plunged his head under water. The old veteran rushed upon the bear, and thrust his head beneath the surface, too, crying out, "drown my dog, will you!" The bear was soon conquered, and the dog rescued. He once set a trap for foxes, near a spring of water. Starting one day to go from his field to his house, he went to that spring to slake his thirst, and found a wolf in his trap, struggling hard to free himself. He was empty-handed, for he had taken neither gun nor axe. Not willing to give the wolf time to escape, while going for them, he wrenched a limb from a fallen tree, and brought down such stunning blows upon his wolfship, that he soon ceased to snarl and breathe. So he shouldered his bloody trophy, and bore it home in triumph.

In 1806, the first Act granting pensions to the Revolutionary patriots, was passed; but it restricted them to those only who were likely to become a public charge. Not long after, in 1818, it was extended, and Mr. Towne was entered, and continued on the list through life. He lived to see his hunting grounds give place to pleasant fields smiling with generous productions; mills turned by the falls, whose murmurs lulled him to sleep when reposing upon his couch of boughs; the militia mustering upon those broad intervals reclaimed by hardy pioneers from the majestic forest trees which once overshadowed them; and the face of nature all around, marked with amazing improvements. In the latter period of his life he became totally blind, and finally passed away in May, 1824, aged eighty-three years.

Eli Towne was a blacksmith, and this trade was of great use to him and his neighbors, in the new settlements. For a few years he was obliged to live in a rude cabin, but when the Spauldings built the saw-mill in Foxcroft, he could rear a more comfortable habitation. At his house the first public religious meeting was held within the limits of Foxcroft and Dover. He always sustained a good reputation, was a Justice of the Peace, an officer in the first military company organized here, and often held important plantation and town offices. In March, 1805, his wife bore him a daughter, the first child born in Dover, the fifth in the county. She still survives in East Dover, known as the widow Sybil Dow. Not long after this event Mrs. Towne departed this life, and was buried on the banks of the Piscataquis. Over her grave the willow should wave its pendent branches, and upon her monumental stone be engraven: The first female settler of this county. Mr. Towne married again, and left several other children. He lived to be nearly eighty years of age, and died in Christian peace, in 1852, dividing his patrimony between two of his sons, Obed and Ezra Towne, who still occupy that historical homestead.

Lyford Dow was also an early settler. He came before his brother John, mentioned above, and settled on the river, a little below the Blood tract. From these two brothers a large number of that name, now dwelling in this vicinity, have descended.

Mrs. John Dow had the patience and resolution needful in a back-wood's life. One night when her husband was absent, and she was alone with her young children, a bear came out and made an attack upon their hogs. They fled for an asylum to the log-house, and as only a quilt served as its door, rushed in and took refuge behind the stone chimney. The blaze of the fire deterred the bear from coming in, too, and making an additional inmate. But he prowled about the door all night, but Mrs. Dow kept the fire burning till day dawned, and that sent her unwelcome visitor away. Mrs. Dow lived to see ninety-eight years, and quite recently died in Sebec.

In 1806, Peter Brawn moved his family on to the lot since occupied by Seth, Benjamin and Josiah Spaulding, successively. He had already made a clearing, and built a log-house. During the next year he lost his wife, and in 1808 sold out to Seth Spaulding, and moved to Moorstown (Abbot). There he remained until "the cold seasons," and then moved to Foxcroft, and afterward to Number Eight, and eventually died in Guilford. He married a second wife, and had an additional number of children.

Jonas Longley took up the northwest corner lot of Dover, and felled trees as early as 1806; and Mr. Fifield, a brother-in-law, began on the adjoining lot, afterward Dwelley's. Mr. Zachariah Longley, his father, brought a bushel and a half of seed potatoes, on horseback, from Norridgewock, which, planted on this newly cleared soil, produced seventy bushels. In the fall of 1807, Luke Longley, an older brother of Jonas, in attempting to take a boat and a raft across the mill-pond at the same time, fell in and was drowned. Mrs. Brawn and her children saw him fall, but could not render him any assistance. This was the first death in town, probably the first in the county. His body lay in the water till the next spring. As Mrs. Samuel Chamberlain was looking out upon the river, she saw a dark object rise to the surface, near the present Jordan mill, and float away. Mentioning this to her husband, he and others went out and found the body lodged on rocks above the Great Falls. It was buried on the bank of the river, not far from the end of the present bridge.

In 1808 (some say 1809), Mr. Zachariah Longley and Mr. Fifield, his son-in-law, moved from Norridgewock into town, Mr. Longley settling on the lot that his son Jonas had taken up. The old gentleman resided on it till his death in 1826, and then it passed to Mr. Ellis Robinson. Mr. Longley was a fifer in the Revolutionary army, and always exhibited certain habits then and there contracted. He blew long and loud on the field of Saratoga, and never forgot that proud day. He was a pensioner from the beginning. Jonas Longley came to an untimely end. In December of 1811, he

started, with his dog, in pursuit of a fox. The wary animal led him in a zigzag course into the thick, dark forest. Night came on, and the intense cold chilled and stiffened him. He attempted, with steel and flint, to kindle a fire, but failed. He crept under a log, and tried to revive his warmth and strength, but found them too much overcome already to rally. The roar of the falls was within his hearing, and his last efforts were in a bee-line toward them. Thus battling bravely for life, he became exhausted, and falling upon the snowy earth, expired within one mile of settlers, near the present home of Dea. John Woodbury.

Mr. Fifield, after occupying different farms for some fifteen years, removed to Aroostook, and died there.

In the year 1808, good crops were harvested, and several advance steps were taken in the settlement. Nathaniel Chamberlain, probably as early as this, took up the Dover village lot, felled the first opening, and built the first house there.

This year, Paul Lambert, from Winthrop, purchased five hundred acres of land for himself and sons, in the south part of the township, and felled an opening; and this started the settlement around the present South Dover meeting-house. The next spring Mr. Lambert came with his son Eben, then sixteen years of age, put in a crop, enlarged his opening, and made preparations for a future removal. Dea. James Rowe made a beginning that year, and in 1810, moved his family in. He cleared up a farm, and occupied it till his death. This man bore an important part in the arrest and conviction of the Exeter counterfeiters. As this adventure exhibits some of Deacon Rowe's characteristics, and unfolds a chapter of crime, we will briefly sketch it.

In the year 1829, a small company of men residing in Exeter, Me., obtained a set of plates, and commenced making counterfeit bank bills. One of them, a Mr. Hills, came up to South Dover, and bought Dea. Rowe's mare, paying him seventy-five dollars for her, getting five dollars back in good money, in making change, and passing off eighty dollars

of his counterfeits. Dea. Rowe soon discovered the fraud, but the rogue had defrauded the wrong man. No one could cheat him to that extent, without getting an after-clap. So the Deacon was soon mounted, and on his way to Exeter. Learning that Hills had started with his horse for Canada, he followed in sharp pursuit, and got on the track of the fugitive. They passed into New Hampshire and Vermont, where, in strictly legal proceedings, Rowe had no authority to arrest the culprit. But the deacon knew but little, and cared less about, legal technicalities, if he could catch the rogue. Hills reached the last house in Vermont, before crossing the Canada line, and not dreaming that an accuser or an officer was at his heels, stopped for the night. But a sheriff engaged by Dea. Rowe for the occasion, was soon there with a warrant in his pocket. He found Hills, and asking him if his name was Hills, he admitted it, and then he told him that he had a warrant for his arrest, for passing counterfeit money. In surprise he asked, "who brought it?" "Mr. James Rowe," was the reply. He answered that he did not know him. He then asked leave to retire to a private place, but the keen eye of the officer soon saw that he was concealing his pocket-book. Taking possession of this, he found it well filled with the same kind of bank bills, all of which were counterfeit. He raised no question as to their right to arrest him, and was brought back to Exeter, and kept in custody. The public was now thoroughly aroused; the neighborhood in which he resided was searched, and the shop, the tools, and the plates for turning out such counterfeits, were found and seized. Other persons were suspected, and several of Hills' associates were arrested. In this crisis, one of the band offered to disclose the whole plot, and testify against his accomplices. As the result, Hills and four others were committed to jail to await trial. At the next term of the Supreme Judicial Court in Bangor, they were tried, convicted, and sentenced to the State Prison. Dea. Rowe recovered his horse, for which he had received no real value, but lost the five dollars he paid in making change, the time

he spent, and the expense he incurred in his long pursuit of the counterfeiter; but had the satisfaction of feeling that he had broken up one of the most daring bands of villains that had ever infested this part of our State.

In March, 1809, Capt. Job Parsons moved into town, and settled on the lot which he occupied till his death. Artemas Parlin came about the same time, with much fatigue as the way was nearly impassable from the great depth of snow.

The same spring, Mr. William Mitchell, originally from Sanbornton, N. H., but having resided at Norridgewock and at Dexter, moved into the township, and settled upon the lot which he possessed till his death, and which was then occupied by his son Mordecai Mitchell. He had felled ten acres of trees, the summer previous, and had them burnt, but it was a "poor burn," and the labor of clearing it was slow and toilsome. He came with an ox-team, and crowded his large family into Eli Towne's already filled dwelling, until he could get up a frame and cover it. Boards could then be obtained at the mill in Foxcroft, and a house was soon made competent to camp in. To this they repaired, and soon brought it up to a comfortable shelter. When the ground became bare, he commenced clearing, for a crop from that opening was their sole dependence for their next year's bread. But the first day, by an unlucky stroke of his axe, Mr. Mitchell cut his foot so severely, that he was laid up through the whole of seed time. His only son was but six years old. He obtained a hired man to lead off, and his wife and daughters went resolutely into the smut and smoke, "niggering off the logs," and aiding essentially in clearing. By their indefatigable toil, an acre and a half was prepared for wheat in good season, from which sixty bushels were harvested in the autumn. The rest of the opening was "brushed up," burnt off, and planted with corn, potatoes, and other crops, so that their first hard year was rewarded with abundant supplies for the winter. Mr. Mitchell was a reliable and esteemed citizen, prominent among the early officers of the plantation and town, while Mrs. Mitchell will be long remembered for

her devoted and active piety. She pitied, and to the extent of her means, aided the poor when the cold seasons brought gaunt famine upon the land. Her name is written high in the religious annals of those early times.

We will now notice the removal of Mr. Allen Dwelley. As it was after that of Messrs. Longley and Fifield, I date it February, 1809 or 1810. He started from Paris, but upon reaching Mr. Hale's, in Ripley, the road was so poor, and his team was so worn out, that he could not proceed with his load. Upon hearing of his condition, Capt. John Bennett started from Lowstown, with a team, to help him through. On Bennett's arrival at Hale's, Mr. Dwelley started, leaving one daughter there sick, and another to nurse her, but taking his wife and seven other children, and their lading with him. Full ten miles of unbroken forest lay between Hale's and the next settlement. Deep and loose snow impeded their progress; they soon concluded that without more team, they could not get through the woods before night. So they sent William Dwelley (a lad of thirteen), forward on horseback, to raise more help. But darkness overtook him before he reached inhabitants, and he tied his horse to a tree, and camped out, as best he could, for the night. In the morning he found that he was only half a mile from a habitation. Making known his message, the people promptly started to aid the slow-coming party, and met them only about half way through the woods. They, too, had camped out through the night. With these recruits they pressed on, but were all day in getting to Dexter. Mr. Dwelley lived above the Spaulding place many years, and late in life removed to Oldtown. It was his yoke of yearling steers that got their heads caught in a large iron pot suspended on the river bank for washing purposes, and raising it on their heads ran into the river and were drowned; affording a literal instance of death in the pot. Mr. Dwelley served for a season in the Revolutionary army, but he never obtained a pension.

The settlement proceeded slowly. In 1808, it is said, there



were but seven families in the township, and in 1810, but eleven then residing here. The census taken that year reports ninety-four persons as inhabitants, and that included all the single men. By the year 1810, Nathaniel Chamberlain had built a framed house on the Dover village lot, and moved his wife into it. It stood upon the spot now occupied by S. W. Hall's office and stable. He was a carpenter and joiner, excelling in the former craft, and always employed to frame the more complicated structures. Nearly all the bridges on the river, familiarly called "ex-work," are specimens of his architecture. He was once called out to the State of Ohio, to construct one of these long bridges.

On one occasion, while engaged in repairing Knowlton's mill in Sangerville, he had a narrow escape from death. Heavy rains had made a great freshet. The flume, having a depth of eighteen feet of water, suddenly burst its bulkhead, only a few feet above where he was at work. He was swept directly into a large pile of slabs, through which his mighty struggles and the rushing flood carried him. Thence, over a dam, and down over a succession of falls, he was drifted by the swollen, angry stream, until he providentially struck a projecting point, and crawled out on to dry land. He was bruised, sprained and lamed all over, but was neither killed nor drowned, for every man's life is insured till his work is done. He was a man of good natural abilities, and of fair education for the times, and soon obtained a notoriety in that growing community. He was early appointed a Justice of the Peace for Hancock County,—the first man thus honored within our limits. He was quite a genius, skillful in argument, a ready public speaker, though not especially oratorical. He was often called to manage cases before a Justice, and would pile his arguments as high and as strong as his opponent. One instance is not easily forgotten. A sheep was missing from an honest farmer's flock. He had a neighbor who had never learned the ten commandments. His premises were searched, and enough of the lost sheep found to justify a prosecution for theft. When arraigned, he secured

the services of an able lawyer to make his defence, while Mr. Chamberlain was appointed to act for the State. Though the testimony was clearly against the accused, his lawyer put forth all his ingenuity to secure his acquittal. The plaintiff's sheep had wandered away, and would soon come back all right. He had known cases where they had so got lost, and remained for a long time, sometimes all winter, and been found at length. So it undoubtedly would be in this case, and exonerate his client from all suspicion of the crime charged. Mr. Chamberlain drew his keen blade of sarcasm over this part of the argument. He, too, had known sheep to stray away, and to remain a long time in their seclusion, but he declared emphatically, that he never had before known a sheep, when about to stray away, to cut off its own head, and throw it out on the dungheap, and to take off its own skin, and hang it up over another man's hay-mow.

He was a decided and active politician, and in this, too, he had some memorable contests. On one occasion a mass convention assembled in Dover, not confined to one party. Hon. Gorham Parks came out in one of his brilliant speeches, set off in those musical tones, and pronounced with that impressive emphasis and mellow cadence, which he perfectly commanded. Parks then stood at the head of Penobscot bar, was rising fast in the estimation of his party, and already was regarded as one of its lions. When he finished, and the applause ceased, to the astonishment of many, up rose the rustic Mr. Chamberlain, to reply. In personal appearance, in diction, in manner of utterance, he was no match for the mellifluent Parks. But he took up point after point of that blazing speech, and so riddled it with answering logic, spiced with incisive sarcasm, that his sympathizers claimed that he had triumphantly demolished it. And so the gifted Parks learnt that he could not presume on awing every one into silence, or of passing unchallenged in any part of the county.

He was a man of honesty and integrity, and thoroughly reliable in fulfilling a contract. He was once sent to the

Legislature, and held many plantation and town offices, and was quite a manager of municipal affairs. He lived upon the lot which he cleared up, till 1819, and then exchanged it with Col. J. Carpenter, and moved into Foxcroft. Looking back from the present standpoint, we wonder at his egregious mistake. A village was beginning to rise, and must stand largely on his domain. And the sale of building lots, already begun, would be a source of income. With all his opportunities for accumulation, he never became wealthy, and eventually died in Foxcroft, above eighty years of age.

Resuming the train of events, we find that, in 1811, Mr. Joel Doore came to town, and began on a lot near Paul Lambert's. Previous to this, John, Eleazer, and Seth Spaulding had sold out in Foxcroft, and purchased lots in Dover.

In August of 1811, Eli Towne and others petitioned Isaac Wheeler to call a legal meeting of the inhabitants of that vicinity, to regulate the taking of fish in the Piscataquis River, evidently moved thereto by the prodigality hitherto practiced. The meeting was duly held in the mill-yard in Foxcroft, Jeremiah Rolfe, moderator. It was voted to choose three fish wardens, and Eli, Moses, and Abel Towne, three brothers, were chosen. Eli, taking this as an intended slur upon them, declined the office, and so did his brothers. They were all excused, and the meeting dissolved without choosing others, virtually sanctioning the lawless waste which had been outrageously perpetrated.

Paul Lambert had good framed buildings finished by 1812, and brought in his large family, having seven sons who eventually settled around him. In the summer of 1811, he raised his barn; then fifteen men only could be procured in the vicinity to do it. As large heavy timbers were then thought necessary in such frames, this was a small number for such a job.

Up to 1812, neither Foxcroft nor Dover had been organized as town or plantation. But this year is memorable for these historic events. In February, 1812, an Act was passed, incorporating Number Five, Seventh Range, as Foxcroft;

and August 3, 1812, the Dover township was organized as Plantation Number Three. It then had less than twenty voters. Seth Spaulding, William Mitchell, and Abel Towne were chosen assessors, John Shaw, clerk and collector of taxes. The next plantation meeting made some change in the officers. Nathaniel Chamberlain was chosen clerk, Artemas Parlin, one of the assessors, and William Mitchell, collector. They voted to raise money for schools, fifty dollars at first, afterward more, and also, for making and repairing highways. Mr. Vaughan made a proposal to the plantation, that he would pay the State tax, if the inhabitants would pay that of the county, and the plantation voted to accept it. They soon experienced trouble. The first collector appropriated the money to his own private use, and some failed to pay their taxes.

About this time, the seasons began to be cold and frosty, the harvests uncertain, and the population made but little increase. For ten years Dover remained as a plantation, longer than any other in the county. But they managed to secure most of the privileges of a town, and were not obliged to support their poor. In 1813, they cast nineteen votes, in 1820, only thirty-four.

In 1818, A. Moore, having sold his estate in Number Seven, came to Dover, and took up the Dover village lower lot, and built a grist-mill on the western side of the Great Falls.

Col. J. Carpenter moved on to the other village lot, the next year. He was elected to represent this district in the Legislature of 1822, then embracing Dexter, Garland, Sangerville, Guilford, and Dover plantation. About this time Col. Carpenter and Eben S. Greeley built a saw-mill on the Moor privilege, which was kept in operation till quite recently, the Greeleys being its last owners. In 1824, he moved down river, and eventually died in Houlton, being killed by the falling of a tree, when eighty-three years of age.

In 1821, Thomas Davee put up a store and potash factory, and commenced trading here in 1822. He also built mills on the falls below Brown's mills, now unoccupied, and sawed

boards and clapboards. In 1830, the dam was carried away, and never rebuilt, and the mills were taken down and converted to other uses.

About this time, Elder N. Robinson, a Baptist minister, came into town, and the plantation invited him, in public meeting, to remain. Afterward they voted to settle him, and give him the lot of land reserved for the first settled minister. He then brought in his family. But after the town was incorporated, in 1822, it put a negative on this contract. Again the subject came up, and the town voted to settle him, provided he would deed one equal half of said lot to the town, to be disposed of as it might determine. Elder Robinson assented to this, and settled on the poorer half of said lot, and eventually received thirty dollars of the town, to adjust this difference. The disposal of the other half remained for some time an open question. An attempt was made to give it to Elder William Frost, a Universalist preacher, who resided in town, but this was negatived. Again it was proposed to divide the income of it among the other religious societies in town, pro rata, excepting the Calvinist Baptist, which had received its share, and this secured a passage. Eventually this, and the ministerial fund, were appropriated to the support of public schools.

**INCORPORATION.** In 1822, the inhabitants of the plantation petitioned for an Act of incorporation, selecting Dover for the corporate name. An Act to that effect was passed, Jan. 19, 1822, Joshua Carpenter being named therein as the Justice who should issue a warrant to one of the inhabitants, to call the first town meeting. Abraham Moor was selected to give such notice, and on his call, a meeting was held at the dwelling house of Joseph Shepard, March 19, 1822, at which the town of Dover was duly inaugurated. Eli Towne was chosen town clerk, D. Lambert, E. S. Greeley and Eli Towne, selectmen. The young town displayed much vigor in locating new roads, establishing school districts, and in amending certain acts of its parental planta-

tion. Its first great effort was to build a bridge across the river, above Moor's mill. In the fall of 1823, a town meeting was held, at which it was voted by only one majority, to build such a bridge within two years, and money was raised, and committees appointed, to procure materials and superintend the work. To check-mate this, a meeting was called, to build another above Towne's mills, but this could not be carried. In the fall of 1824, another town meeting voted to raise seven hundred dollars to finish the bridge already begun at Moor's mills, and also to raise four hundred dollars to begin one at the lower falls. Before this time, in 1823, Eli Towne had built a dam on the falls, and put a saw- and grist-mill in operation. Soon after this, Dea. R. Barker started the hatting business, and then run a clapboard machine, and opened a store also in the place. Elder F. Bartlett also opened a store, and run a clapboard machine here, and mechanics began to settle in. So both bridges were found necessary, and after a little unavoidable delay both were completed. About this period there was a rapid increase in the population. In 1825, the town cast ninety votes, and three years later, one hundred and fifty-four votes.

As early as 1823, some one presumed that a village would grow up between these two water privileges. So Solomon Adams, a distinguished school teacher in Portland, was employed to lot out, and make a plan of, Dover village, prospectively.

In the summer of 1825, the decided step was taken, which pushed it on to a more rapid growth. At that date Charles Vaughan decided to utilize the water power on the eastern side of the Great Falls, and commenced blasting out the canal, to convey the water to the forth-coming mill. The next season, the dam and canal were completed. In 1826, a grist-mill, with three runs of stones, with a cleanser for wheat, was then put in operation, and it soon drew an immense patronage. This was the first cleanser,—that essential part of a flouring mill,—ever operated in the county; and then the smut and wild seed that befouled the wheat crop, was

very injurious to the flour. Cleansed of these, a vastly improved article was obtained. Hence, wheat was brought thirty miles to this new mill.

Mr. Sewall Cochran, already known to Mr. Vaughan as an excellent miller, was employed by him to take charge of this new mill, and this proved fortunate to both parties. Large crops of wheat were then raised in this part of Maine. The toll taken at this mill eventually rose to two thousand dollars worth per annum. Flour was put up and sent to Bangor, Kenduskeag, and other places, to supply merchants in that trade, a single dealer sometimes buying one hundred and fifty barrels per year. Mr. Cochran once bought eight hundred bushels of wheat of Guy Carleton, a mill owner of Sangerville, to supply the demand for his flour. Then other mills, all through the county were running cleansers.

Mr. Cochran, after running the mill three years as an employe, purchased one-third of it, and continued a part owner for more than forty years. As the grist-mill stood near the factory, when that was burnt, it went with it, but another soon arose upon its foundations, having four runs of stones, which is still known as the Dover Flouring Mill. In 1869, Mr. Cochran having been for forty-four years an honest, an accommodating, and a successful miller, sold his interest in the mill to the heirs of Hon. S. P. Brown, doffed his drab clothing, and retired from active business. He still resides in Dover, enjoying a "green old age," highly esteemed by his surviving acquaintances.

In 1827, Mr. Vaughan erected a carding and clothing mill on this canal, and employed S. P. Brown to operate it. In 1836, this mill was converted into a woolen factory, and Vaughan, Brown, and Sawyer formed a company to run it. This required an enlargement of the canal, and it was widened and deepened to its present dimensions, making it one of the best privileges in the State. After three years, Mr. Sawyer sold his interest to Mr. Vaughan, and entered into trade, continuing in it still, in company with Mr. Gifford, his son-in-law. In 1839, Charles Vaughan died, and his son

John became the mill owner. In March, 1840, the factory and grist-mill were laid in ashes. A generous and interested community assisted in replacing them, and Mr. Brown run the factory with varied success, until the breaking out of the Great Rebellion. During that struggle, this business paid unusual profits, and becoming wealthy, he bought out Vaughan's interest in it. In the year 1857, a great winter freshet swept away the dam, and injured the canal and the building, but these were repaired in a more substantial manner. In 1867, Mr. Brown built a large brick mill, on a safer spot, containing six sets of machinery, and giving employment to seventy-five operatives. Just before Mr. Brown had abandoned the old mill, and started up the new one, he was taken sick and died, greatly lamented. He had ever been an honorable and reliable business man, had held a seat in the Senate of Maine, and was highly esteemed for his Christian integrity. S. O. Brown & Co., took the business, and still continue it, now owning the flouring mill and the entire water privilege. The factory is now furnished throughout with the most improved machinery fixtures, and heating arrangements.

Piscataquis County was incorporated in 1838, and Dover was made the shire town. This gave a new impulse to the growth of the village. Stores, mechanic shops, hotels, meeting-houses and dwellings were added to the existing number, with unprecedented rapidity. In dimensions, and style of architecture, too, there was a marked change. The Court-house, containing rooms for the Courts and the County offices, was erected in 1844, by T. H. Chamberlain, at a cost of two thousand nine hundred dollars, the inside finishing not included,—a small sum it would seem to us of the present day,—and the whole expense reached but three thousand seven hundred dollars.

Soon after this county was incorporated, George V. Edes removed to Dover, and started a weekly newspaper,—The Piscataquis Herald. Its name was soon changed to Piscataquis Farmer, and in 1848, to Piscataquis Observer, which it still retains. Mr. Edes continued to edit and publish it to the time of his death, and now it is continued by his young-



est son, Samuel D., and a partner, F. Barrows. Mr. George V. Edes was connected with the press from his boyhood, and at the time of his death, was the oldest printer in the State. He assisted in printing the *Herald of Liberty*, in Augusta, in 1810; in 1815, set the first types in Penobscot County, to print the *Bangor Register*,—a paper known to some of us in our boyhood; was then in Hallowell, one year, 1822, printing the *American Advocate*; then he removed to Norridgewock, and in company with Mr. Copeland, established the *Somerset Journal*. After editing and publishing this, fifteen years, he came to Dover. He was candid, quiet and cool in his temperament, ever generous toward all men, of marked reliability, and without an enemy in the world. He married Susan Witherill, in 1825, and only a few weeks before his death, they observed their golden wedding. He was then able to go to his office, but his health soon failed, and he died Nov. 26, 1875, aged seventy-eight years, deeply lamented by all who knew him.

The completion of the Bangor & Piscataquis Railroad to Dover, in 1869, marked another era in the growth and prosperity of this village. The town of Dover took \$35,000 worth of stock in it, and individuals, some \$10,000 more, to push the enterprise through. It has not yet proved lucrative to its stockholders, but it gave a new impulse to the business of the place, and largely increased the valuation of the town, while its terminus was here. In December, 1871, it was extended to Guilford, consequently the business to and from the upper towns centered there, and fell off here. Still Dover and Foxcroft is a business center for the county, and does a large amount of mercantile, mechanical, and professional business.

The farm upon which the upper portion of the village is built, passed from Col. J. Carpenter to J. B. Everett, and from him to Hon. J. G. Mayo, in 1844, who possessed it till his recent death,—a gem among the farms on the river. He erected large and expensive buildings upon one of its village lots, and occupied them till recently, but latterly he resided in Foxcroft, where his factory and foundry are, and where he

had erected a still more magnificent dwelling. But he owned a large amount of real estate in Dover at his decease. The building of the different meeting-houses will be noticed in the history of the churches.

**MERCHANTS.** Several men have been in trade in Dover village, of whom no mention has been made. Among whom, near the Great Falls, Hon. T. Davee and A. S. Patten (with whom C. Blanchard was a silent partner), J. L. Philbrick, D. Bryant, G. W. Sawyer, C. E. Kimball, C. H. B. Woodbury, and B. C. Lowell are prominent. Near Foxcroft bridge, trade was commenced more than forty years ago, and was continued by different persons. A. L. Ober, J. W. Loud, E. D. Wade, E. Coburn, are among the more recent.

**HOTELS.** E. R. Favor opened a small hotel in 1827; but in 1832 purchased the house of T. Davee, and moved into that. This house was destroyed by fire in 1834, but was soon replaced, and is continued as a public house to the present time. Maj. I. Blethen built the Blethen House in 1845, and in 1869 the American House was erected by Harvey Greeley, only a part of which was ever occupied as a public house.

**LAWYERS.** C. P. Chandler, J. B. Everett, W. Blake, A. M. Robinson, H. G. O. Morrison, J. S. Wiley, J. Rice, S. R. Hall, C. A. Everett, James Rowell, and J. B. Peakes have practiced law in Dover.

**PHYSICIANS.** Drs. Hiram Canon, Mr. Jacobs (Thompsonian), J. Smith, Benjamin Johnson, E. A. Thompson, J. B. Cochran, and S. W. Elliott (Homeopathic), have been in the medical practice here, the last three still continuing in it.

Hon. Thomas S. Pullen, after leaving Monson and residing a few years in Guilford, removed to Dover. Here he justly merited the respect and confidence of his fellow citizens, and was elected to several State and County offices. He died in 1865, while Judge of Probate, leaving the treasure of a good name, as well as a good estate, to his family. His oldest son, Stanley T. Pullen, has long been editor-in-chief of the Maine State Press, and Portland Daily Press, and twice has had a seat in the Legislature. Two younger sons are well educated, and are now in Colorado.

## CHAPTER VIII.

### SEBEC.

SEBEC was originally Number Four, Seventh Range, the eastern of the Bowdoin College townships. Its area is 22,228 acres. Its soil is fair, with some fine intervals, and many good upland farms.

SALE. It was lotted in 1802 by Moses Hodsdon, and a portion sold about that time, but the name of the purchaser is now unknown.

In May, 1803, the Treasurer of the College deeded sixteen thousand acres to Richard Pike of Newburyport, embracing all, not already sold, and not reserved for public uses. He paid about seventy cents per acre. In 1804, Mr. Pike sold one-sixteenth of this to Capt. Benjamin Wyatt, and soon after, David and Charles Coffin, Mary Pike and Phillip Coombs bought equal shares, and became proprietors. For a while these proprietors held, and sold out, their land in common, but eventually had the unsold lots divided among them by legally appointed commissioners. Only a few lots are now non-residents.

MILL PRIVILEGES AND MILLS. At the outlet of Sebec Lake there is a fall of eighteen feet, in a short distance, making an excellent mill privilege. Its supply of water is unfailing, freshets are not felt, and water-wheels are seldom troubled by ice. On this fall the first mills in the county were built, and around it Sebec village clusters.

In 1804, Samuel Kimball, Mark Trafton and others here built a dam, and put up a mill, the first framed building raised in the county. Roger Chase of Carratunk, built the gearing, and put a saw- and grist-mill in operation. In

these, the first boards were sawed, and the first grain ground in the county. In April, 1805, Kimball and Trafton, each, sold one-eighth of the mill, dam, and land connected, to Moses Greenleaf. He was then trading in Bangor, but intending to settle in the Williamsburg township, and as rafts could be run out from this mill to tide water, he early secured an interest in it. By the account book of Stephen Snow of Milo, we are assured that this grist-mill was running in the summer of 1806, probably earlier.

**FIRST SETTLERS.** Capt. Ezekiel Chase was the first to clear an opening, and to bring in a family. He had been a Revolutionary soldier, loved to roam the forest, and had become a successful hunter. He once took four hundred dollars worth of furs in a single hunt. He penetrated these forests, and explored these hills and vales in their primeval luxuriance. In 1802, he selected his lot on the bank of the river, near Sebec Depot, and felled his first opening. He bought his land of Vaughan and Merrick, as it lay in their township, although brought into Sebec by its act of incorporation. In 1803, he raised his first crops, cut and stacked meadow hay, built a log cabin, and in September moved his family, the second planted in the county. He came with teams, bringing his family and household effects on sleds, as the most convenient vehicle. He also drove in other farm stock, the first on the river. When they reached their new home, they found Benjamin Sargent and family there, who, on their way to Milo, were resting in their weariness. Henry B. Sargent and Ezekiel Chase jr., then five years old, both recollected that incident. The next summer, July 15, 1804, they had a child born, Charles Vaughan Chase, the first white child born in Sebec, or in the county. Capt. Chase purchased more land, and resided there till his death. He was a self-taught physician, skillful among the sick, using simple remedies which he learned while in the army. He became a pensioner, had commanded a company before his removal, and was prominent in the march to Bangor. In politics he was active, and was once chosen a Presidential elector by the Democrats.

Abel Chase, a brother, early settled in town, and raised up an enterprising family. Captains Joseph, Daniel and Abijah were his sons. Ezekiel Chase jr. was a worthy citizen, and ever lived in town, departing, July, 1879, aged eighty years and six months.

In 1803, James Lyford, Mark Trafton and a Mr. Hill made openings in town, and these men camped together while clearing. James Lyford cleared the lot which his son John now occupies; Trafton, the M. G. Lyford farm; and Mr. Hill, the Moulton place. Mr. Lyford moved his family to Bangor in the winter of 1804, and had a daughter born there on the fifth of April following. She is still surviving in Bowerbank.

Mark Trafton planted one of the earliest and largest orchards in the county. Parts of it still remain on the Moses G. Lyford farm. Mr. Trafton, after "beating the bush" for a few years, moved to Bangor. He was a deputy sheriff, and afterward a military officer, finally General Trafton. He was the father of Hon. and Rev. Mark Trafton, an eloquent and successful Methodist clergyman, and once a member of Congress. Gen. Trafton, after several years' absence, returned to his farm, and resided in town for a season, but eventually sold out and returned to Bangor.

Jona. Lyford, a brother of James, was another early settler. These Lyfords were natives of Canterbury, N. H. Jeremiah Moulton, from Exeter, N. H., was early here, and in 1822, his brother Ephraim came. In 1806, Mr. Johnson and others settled on the river, toward Milo, and about this time Peter Morrill began at Chase's Corner.

By 1812, N. R. Lowney came in. He was a leading man in town affairs, and was, in 1819, sent as delegate to the Convention for framing a State Constitution. He was a wealthy and esteemed citizen, but, in his old age, sunk into a state of despondency, and ended his life about 1850.

**INCORPORATION.** Sebec is the oldest incorporated town in the county. The Act was passed Feb. 27, 1812. By this, the Piscataquis River was made its southern boundary, annexing a small part of Dover and Atkinson to it, and leaving a smaller portion of Sebec to Atkinson. In 1810, it had one hun-

dred and fifty-seven inhabitants, second only to Atkinson, of all in the county. John Whitney issued a warrant to James Lyford, to notify the meeting of organization. The same was held in his own dwelling-house, March 21, 1812, the act of incorporation accepted, town officers chosen, and this first town in the county stood upon its feet.

The minister's lot of land was voted to Elder Asa Burnham, a Free-will Baptist, who labored in town as long as he was able, and died here in 1852.

Bylie Lyford began on the Harriman place, and built a barn there. It was burnt when full of grain. He then sold to Mr. Silas Harriman, who abode upon it till his death, having accumulated an estate of \$25,000.

Dr. Francis Boynton, a grandson of Gen. F. Blood, settled on the place still known as "Boynton's Point." Already an opening had been made upon it. He practiced medicine, and taught school, also vocal and instrumental music. Some of the aged will remember his red coat on the muster field, others, the sweet tones of his clarionet in religious meetings, and others, his thorough instructions in the rude school-room. In running a raft of boards from Moor's mill to his farm below, he was thrown from it, in passing the rips, and though a good swimmer, he sank before he reached the shore. This occurred, April 22, 1822, in the thirty-sixth year of his age.

In 1816, Ichabod Young put a fulling mill in operation at the village,—the first in the county,—and at a later date, a carding machine,—the second in the county. He run them till 1822, when he was killed by the fall of a rearing horse. In 1820, N. Bradbury opened a store, near the present depot, the first opened in town, but in two or three years he removed his goods to Foxcroft.

At this date, Sebec had the largest population of any town in the county, four hundred and thirty-one. Business was increasing at the village. The pine timber upon the banks of Sebec Lake and its tributaries, some from Greenville and Elliottsville, was brought down and worked up there.

In the first State tax levied in this State, Sebec paid the

highest in the county, \$60.38; Sangerville, \$53.33; Atkinson, \$47.28; Foxcroft, \$36.50; Parkman Plantation, \$32.25; Dover Plantation, \$31.59; Guilford, \$29.81; Brownville Plantation, \$29.10; and Williamsburg, \$18.65.

Mr. Towle opened the first store in Sebec village, in 1821, and soon after Solomon Parsons became his partner. In 1823, J. Lamson sen. and son opened a second store, and several mechanics came in. John and Nathaniel Bodwell succeeded Mr. Young, in 1823, and also started a hatter's shop. In 1830, Benjamin Gilman & Brother succeeded Towle & Parsons, and soon after bought the mill of Morrison & Son, and did a large lumbering business. J. W. Jewett opened another store in 1832, and in 1833, Theo. Wyman united with him, and still continues it. In 1835, N. Bodwell sold his fulling mill to Joseph Cushing. The next year a Woollen Factory Company was incorporated, and a building completed, and two sets of machinery put in operation. Mr. Cushing run this for the next five years, then left it and went to Milo. This mill was kept running till it was burnt in 1856. Messrs. Edward and Richard Robinson were then running it. It proved a serious loss to its owners and operators, as they failed to obtain their insurance. But a larger building was soon erected, containing three sets of machinery, and this is still running.

**LAWYERS.** Several of this profession have been in practice in town, some of whom have become eminent. Henry Parsons was the first to open an office, but consumption soon marked him for the grave, and his place was left vacant. Hon. John Appleton, now Chief Justice of Maine, opened his first office, in Sebec village, in 1824. He was succeeded by his brother Moses, in 1833, who, after a few years, also removed to Bangor. Harvey Evans followed him, in 1835, and left in 1836. In 1838, Hon. A. M. Robinson opened an office in the village, and after six years removed to Chase's Corner, and after ten years, located at Dover. No one has succeeded him at Sebec since.

**PHYSICIANS.** Not ignoring Capt. Ezekiel Chase, nor Dr.

Francis Boynton so early removed by drowning, we mention Dr. David Shepherd, who commenced practice in Sebec village in 1825, and continued it until 1863. He then became Register of Deeds, and removed to Dover, but was soon taken sick and died in 1864. He was a successful physician, and highly esteemed as a citizen. He was once elected to the Senate of Maine, and held many important town offices. Others, before Dr. Shepherd, had attempted a settlement, and recently, Dr. A. T. Walker practiced there, and now L. C. Ford has succeeded him.

The Bangor & Piscataquis Railroad passes through the south part of Sebec, and the town aided it to the amount of \$7,500. This town has a school fund of \$1,667, and twelve school districts.

In 1852, Joseph Lamson, a leading business man of Sebec, visited California, and made an extensive tour on the Pacific coast. Since his return he has put his observations into print, and recently brought out a neat volume, "Around Cape Horn," which instructs and entertains its readers.

In the summer of 1879, the Woolen Factory, which had been lying still for three years, was started up by a new company, and is turning out woolen blankets, with fair promise of success. A large business is also now done in tanning and dressing sheep-skins, by Charles Butler; and F. M. Ford now runs the lumber mills, and also manufactures pine and cedar tubs.

In 1870, Sebec had a valuation of \$190,407.00, and a population of nine hundred and sixty-four.



## CHAPTER IX.

### MILO.

THIS was township Number Three, Seventh Range, having an area of 21,920 acres.

It is watered by three beautiful rivers, the Piscataquis, Sebec, and Pleasant, all sufficient for boats and rafts. It has two good mill privileges, one on Pleasant River, two miles below Brownville village, unoccupied, and another on Sebec River, at Trafton's Falls, now Milo village, with nine feet head, and fourteen feet fall, occupied with various mills. Mark Trafton, when running a raft over these falls, was thrown off and rescued with great difficulty,—hence they were so named. The soil is good generally, while upon these rivers, there is a broad extent of rich and beautiful intervals.

PROPRIETORS. Mr. Jonathan Hastings early purchased this township, and a Mr. Wells of Boston became his partner: They conveyed the greater part to the settlers, and finally sold out the remaining lots to the late Russell Kittredge.

It was first lotted into three hundred and twenty acre lots, by Park Holland of Bangor, and afterward, some of these were divided into one hundred acre lots by Andrew Strong of Corinth, and still later, the portion south of Piscataquis River, by P. P. Furber.

FIRST SETTLEMENT. A Mr. Snow of Belgrade, who afterward settled in Corinth, early roamed these forests as a hunter. He crossed these intervals, and was delighted with them as a promising agricultural tract. But as he had already passed the meridian of life, he forbore to push so far into the wilderness, and battle with the hardships of a back

settlement. But he had two sons, then grown to manhood, Moses and Stephen, and they came, probably in 1801, and selected lots on Pleasant River, near the present bridge. Mr. Benjamin Sargent from Methuen, Mass., made a selection on the Piscataquis River, near the ferry, at the same time. In the summer of 1802, Messrs. Snow felled their first openings on the lots already selected; so did Mr. Sargent on his lot, now the farm of Mr. Holbrook. Mr. Sargent, Bylie Lyford, and some other persons, perhaps, came to Bangor, and built a batteau, in which they brought up their provisions, spending six days in making the ascent of the Penobscot and Piscataquis Rivers. The uppermost settlement on the Penobscot was then at Sunkhaze, now Milford. This was most probably in the summer of 1802, as Mr. Lyford did not move his family into Atkinson until the spring of 1804. The Snows were then single men, but Mr. Sargent had a family. He and his oldest son Theophilus spent the next spring and summer on his clearing, putting in seed and raising his first crop, camping out as was usual. The next August he returned to Methuen to visit his family and to bring his oldest son, who had before returned home, to aid him in harvesting his crop, in building a log-cabin, and in preparations for moving his family the next spring. But his wife insisted on removing then, knowing little of camp life so remote from the common conveniences of established neighborhoods, and of accessible markets. And move they did. They hastily broke up and made their way to Boston. Looking for a passage by water, they found a schooner, a Penobscot Packet, then plying between Boston and Bangor. In this they took passage, but it was a "logy" sailor, the winds unfavorable, and the passage long and tedious. In about two weeks, Bangor was reached, articles indispensable to the simplest mode of life were selected to be taken with them, and the remainder stored for future removal. At this season of the year the rivers were too low for boat navigation, so two pack horses were hired to convey such as could not walk, and the necessary outfit, and with these heavily laden, they

commenced their thirty-five miles' journey to that lone clearing. They moved slowly and wearily on, finding rougher and muddier paths as they proceeded. The wife and mother on horseback, carried the youngest child, Nathan, in her arms, then three and a half years old (as my dates above make it). An occasional fall was unavoidable, and once both mother and child were dumped into a deep slough. A sympathizing settler on the way, with whom they had stopped over night, took his oxen and sled, and carried the weary company several miles, to rest both persons and horses. Northward of Charleston, the forest had not been broken, till they reached the Piscataquis River. Most of the streams were fordable, but across Alder Brook, the unladed horses were swum, the people crossing it upon a fallen tree, and carrying their baggage over. At length they stood upon the bank of the Piscataquis, opposite the opening of Capt. Ezekiel Chase, in Sebec. With his log canoe they crossed to his cabin, then empty, and in this they lodged for the night. The next morning the eldest son started back to return the hired horses, but the family remained through that day, to take a little needed rest. Before it closed, Capt. Chase arrived with his family, and they spent the night together. As Eli Towne ever dated his family's arrival, May 8, 1803, and as the Chase family always admitted that Mr. Towne came before them, it seems to be conclusive that the Sargents mistook the year, in their statements made some years later, and that Chase and Sargent moved their families in September, 1803, and were the second and third families that moved into the county. Or they may give the date of Mr. Sargent's coming to fell his opening, not that of his removal.

The next morning Mr. Sargent borrowed Capt. Chase's canoe, and boated his family and their effects about five miles down the river, to his own camp, and then and there settled the first family in Milo. The next two months were full of hardship and suffering to these lone pioneers. An open camp was a frail shelter from the chilling blasts and the pitiless storms of autumn. The harvest was ripe and must

be secured before cold and snow overtook them. They had no teams to aid them, no cellar, no roofs nor barns to afford shelter, no boards to make either house or barn. Grain, therefore, must be stacked, corn placed in cribs built of round poles, and potatoes put into large holes dug in the ground, and covered over so as to exclude frost and snow. The cold of November overtook them before they had a log-cabin with tight walls and a rain-shedding roof, to house them. For a year or so, their nearest grist-mill was at Kenduskeag, twenty-five miles distant. In this family the first birth in Milo occurred. Alice Sargent, now Mrs. Alice Fisher of Cooksville, Wis., was born Dec. 28, 1804. This family acted an important part in the early organization of the plantation and town. Henry B. Sargent, mentioned above, departed this life in August, 1877, aged about eighty. But few of that name now remain in town.

Mr. Boobar was probably the next to bring in a family. He settled on a lot adjoining Mr. Sargent's, and is known to have had his family there in March, 1805. He afterward moved to Medford, and was an early settler there. His advent was of great value to the new settlements. His wife was skillful in cases of child-birth, and they also brought a hand-mill, in which corn and grain could be ground, after the manner of Bible lands in both past and present times.

The settlement increased slowly. In 1810, there were but thirty-four persons in the township. The Snows continued to clear land and raise wheat, which was produced in great abundance upon those fine intervals. They remained single for several years, Moses, marrying in 1811, and Stephen in 1813. This last event took place in Brownville, April 13, and the next day he brought his bride, by sleighing, to her new home. She is still living, but her husband died on the farm that he cleared up, in 1871.

The building of mills in Sebec and Brownville essentially aided the new settlers of Milo, as they could get their grain ground, and obtain boards for buildings. Dea. Lemuel Shepley was among the early settlers. He reared up a family

here, but now they are all gone to other parts. The names of other early settlers cannot be accurately given.

But little is known of the progress of this settlement for several years. In 1820, it had a population of ninety-seven, an increase of sixty-three in ten years. In 1825, it had one hundred and nineteen, of school age, and it was then estimated that the entire population would be three hundred.

INCORPORATION. Previous to 1820, it was organized as Plantation Number Three, Seventh Range, and, Jan. 21, 1823, incorporated as Milo. Lemuel Shepley issued a warrant to Theophilus Sargent to call the meeting of organization. It was held March 3, 1823, and Luther Keene was chosen town clerk. There were then twenty-eight voters, none of whom now remain in town,—Mr. Elisha Johnson, the last one, dying in 1878, more than eighty years of age. About this date, Capt. Winborn A. Sweat built the dam across Sebec River, at Trafton's Falls, and erected the first saw- and grist-mill in town. A store had already been opened there by a Mr. Estis. He left, and was succeeded by Amos Davis.

There was from this time a steady increase of inhabitants in town. Mr. Thomas White, afterward a merchant in Bangor, put in a fulling-mill and carding-machine; mechanics settled in; and physicians and lawyers began to locate here. In 1829, Allen Monroe commenced trade in the village, and he or his son has continued it till the present time, with one or two suspensions. In 1831, Mr. Daniel Dennett came to Milo, purchased a part of the Snow farm, and he and Stephen Snow bought the saw- and grist-mill, and the unsold land originally belonging to the mill lot. From this time the village had a steady growth. Mr. Dennett afterward moved into the village, and reared an enterprising family. Dea. William S. Dennett of Bangor, and Daniel Dennett jr. of Louisiana, are his sons. Daniel conducted and published a newspaper in Louisiana, for a season, and is still connected with the press. He also prepared and published a book upon the natural resources, climate, and prospects of his adopted State. The elder Mr. Dennett was a man of wealth and in-

fluence, and died recently in Milo, at an advanced age. Col. Joseph Lee came to this place from Bucksport, and he was a prominent and highly esteemed citizen. Maj. P. P. Furber also dwelt here, known as a land surveyor, a county officer and a Free-mason. He eventually moved out West.

In 1842, Joseph Cushing & Co., formerly of Sebec, built a woolen factory here, but in 1848, it was destroyed by fire, and not rebuilt. But Gifford & Co. erected one on the other side of the stream, and this is still running successfully. All the land reserved for public uses was sold and devoted to a school fund, amounting to \$1300. High schools have been often taught at the village, both with and without State aid. Milo village has now become quite large and flourishing, having the greatest number of stores of any place in the county, except Foxcroft and Dover. It has also made commendable advances in its social, moral and religious state.

This town encouraged the Bangor & Piscataquis Railroad, which passes through it, to the amount of \$6000. Large quantities of freight from Brownville slate quarries and Katahdin Iron Works are sent from its depot, and the business of the town was essentially benefited by the opening and running of that road.

In 1845, a toll-bridge was built across the Piscataquis River, in this town, to open a new route to Bangor,—the only toll-bridge on the river, though several public ferries have been established.

This town has had as physicians, J. F. Califf, Ezra Kimball, Chester Huckins, S. B. Sprague, G. B. Crane and Hannibal Hamlin.

**LAWYERS.** J. B. Everett, C. A. Everett, J. H. Macomber jr., William P. Young, and M. L. Durgin jr., have practiced law in town, the last two now remaining.

In the summer of 1878, J. Fenno & Co. erected a mill for splitting out spool timber, upon the canal formerly opened for Cushing's factory. It has commenced operations; they purchase a large amount of white birch hauled to the mill, and have bought a tract of wild land, which also furnishes this

material. Upon this land, near Ebeeme Lower Pond, in the north-east part of Brownville, they have also built a steam-mill, for the same purpose. Recently a melancholy event occurred there. As a pleasure party from Milo was visiting it, the boiler exploded, killing Effie Snow, and severely, but not fatally, injuring Frank Gray, a workman, and Nellie Gould, all of Milo. It occurred March 3, 1880.

In November, 1879, Mr. Will Frost, a resident of Milo, was fatally injured by the rolling of logs at the Gulf on Pleasant River, and died the next day.

In 1870, the population of this town was 938; its State valuation \$161,855.

## CHAPTER X.

### SANGERVILLE.

SANGERVILLE was Number Four, Sixth Range, and has an area of 24,216 acres. It was first sold to John S. Foley, but it reverted to the State. As early as 1800, Col. Calvin Sanger of Sherborn, Mass., purchased three-fourths of it, and eventually became its sole proprietor. This township has a good soil, with less waste land than others, most of it being good upland, not very stony, and easily cultivated. It is well watered by the Piscataquis River and its two ponds, North-west and Center, on the issues of which are available mill privileges. The stream from North-west pond flows through Sangerville village, and has five mill privileges, all of which have been occupied. Upon the uppermost one, Weymouth once run a shingle machine, but it is now abandoned. On the second, the woolen factory stands, and is in successful operation. Carleton's Mills occupied the third. This has a fall of seventeen feet, and now turns O. B. Williams' saw- and grist-mill, and a shingle machine. On the fourth, Prince's fulling-mill was built, and on the fifth, This-sell's shingle machine run. Both of them are now abandoned.

A dam across the outlet of North-west Pond, owned by the Factory Company, retains a supply of water, which makes these privileges quite permanent.

Black Stream, entering this town from Dover, has a fall of fifteen feet, upon which a saw-mill and shingle machine stands. A few rods below, another fall runs a grist-mill. Upon the upper fall, the first grist-mill in town was built by Phineas Ames, but for the last sixty years, these mills have been owned by the Knowltons.



On the outlet of Center Pond, Gray and Brockway's saw-mill and shingle machine and A. E. Hall's carriage shop improve a fall of fourteen feet. Three miles below, there is another fall of twelve feet, upon which John Cleaves built a saw-mill in 1829. This is still improved with a saw-mill and shingle machine, and is now known as French's Mills.

**FIRST SETTLEMENT.** The first opening was felled in this town in 1801 or 1802, by Phineas Ames from Hancock, N.H., upon the old Marr place, near Lane's Corner. He first moved his family to Harmony, to make a temporary stay. There he had a son born, Phineas jr., March 6, 1803. In the fall of that year, his wife and babe rode in on horseback, Mr. Ames leading the horse, a part of the way by a spotted line. This was the fourth family settling in this county. Henceforth the new settlement was called Amestown.

James Weymouth was the next settler. He was from Lee, N. H., and he, too, moved his family to Harmony, while preparing a home for them in the wilderness. His son William was born in Harmony, May 7, 1804. As that year was closing, he moved his family to Amestown, by early sleighing, and Mrs. Ames was permitted to see the face of a white woman, and to have a neighbor. The above dates are well verified, and make Weymouth's removal to be in December, 1804. Mr. Weymouth's first place was near Center Pond. There he lived seven or eight years, then sold out and began anew on the place where he afterward lived and died. Jesse Brockway from Washington, N. H., was the third settler. His family had dwelt two years in Cornville, and two weeks after Weymouth moved, his also came. His daughter Hannah (now widow Batchelder) was born in Amestown, February 21, 1805, the first birth in town, and the third in the county. Mr. Brockway began on the eastern slope of Pond's Hill, but in a few years sold to Apollos Pond, and took up another wild lot near it. On this, the rest of his life was spent.

Phineas Ames deserves further notice. He gained some notoriety among these early settlers. It is not now known on what terms he pioneered the way into this new township.

But it is an established fact that he lotted out Col. Sanger's part of it, some time previous to 1807. His survey proved to be inaccurate. His compass varied, and he made no allowance for the variation. So Col. Sanger had a re-survey. Moses Hodsdon had lotted out the south-east quarter of the township, which Col. Sanger had not purchased. Isaac Coolidge from Massachusetts, in October, 1807, made this re-survey, and made a plan of the whole township, by which the several lots were sold and deeded. The probabilities are, that Mr. Ames received the lot on which he first settled, as compensation for his survey. He early built the grist-mill on Black Stream, already alluded to. Though there was a splendid fall and sufficient water, it was weak and slow-moving, of but little profit to him, or convenience to the public. About 1810, Col. Sanger exchanged three wild lots with Mr. Ames, for his mill and farm. Upon one of these he commenced anew, and after toiling on a while, exchanged it with Edward Magoon, and settled near Knowlton's mills. There he and his second son Samuel lived until 1824, when they sold to William Campbell, and moved to a place in Dover. On this, he and his son Samuel, and recently, a grandson, Phineas, have all died. Mr. Ames was a man of great strength and of great powers of endurance. But there were exaggerated and fabulous stories told of the immense burdens that he would bring in at one load. It used to be said that he at one time brought "a roll of sole leather, three bushels of salt, and a potash kettle, on his head," all the way from Harmony. He might have brought leather, salt, and a light iron kettle, as one load, but his sons branded the above as an unmitigated falsehood. But he and other pioneers encountered incredible hardships. At first, their provisions must be lugged from Harmony, and later, from Dexter. Mr. Weymouth described one of these fatiguing adventures. He with Mr. Ames and his two elder sons, were bringing in supplies. At length the younger son broke down and declared that he could not lug his load any further. "Hang it up on a tree," said his father, "and we will come and get it."

"Give me a day's work," said Mr. Weymouth, "and I will carry it for you;" for Uncle Jim always had an eye for a good bargain. His proposal was accepted, and he added this to his own heavy load. A few miles further on, and the other boy gave out. Weymouth made the same offer, and piled another bag on to his own broad shoulders. Evidently, there was more than one giant in those days. Mr. Ames was a blacksmith, and he and his son Samuel ever did something at that business. Daniel Ames and his lost child will be noticed hereafter. Probably only two new families came in 1805; one of these was Eben Stevens, a carpenter. In March, 1806, William Farnham moved his family from Norridgewock, and this made the sixth. Mr. Farnham's lot was on the south side of Pond's hill, and being a tanner, he early started that business, and tanned the first leather in the county. He also brought young apple trees upon his shoulders, from Garland, and planted the first orchard in town.

In January, 1808, there were thirteen families in town. Four of these were Onkes,—Abel, Levi, Solomon and William, all brothers, and Samuel; a nephew to them, who soon left and settled in South Carolina. These men, originally from Massachusetts, then came from Canaan.

In 1809, Walter Leland commenced clearing the lot north of the Leonard Dearth farm. He has resided in town longer than any other one, and is now the oldest person in town, being ninety-six years of age. The same year, Samuel McLanathan also came and began to clear the Benjamin Lane farm. Leland was a nephew to Col. Sanger, by birth, McLanathan, by marriage, and he was Col. Sanger's agent.

By this time Enoch Adams was here. He came from New Hampshire, with Mr. Hill, an early settler of Sebec, and after remaining in his employ one or two seasons, selected his lot in Sangerville, and began his life's work in earnest. He was an industrious man, a skillful farmer, a natural accumulator. He added another lot to his first purchase, and possessed one of the best farms in the county. The next year, Mr. Leland married, boarded the builders of Sanger's Mills, and superin-

tended the work. After the grist-mill was completed, he tended it, grinding on certain fixed days, for those who came. Eleazer Woodward, a mill-wright, recently from Vermont, put these mills in operation, and Guy Carleton and Oliver Woodward were among the workmen.

In 1810, the census shows one hundred and twenty-six inhabitants, a rapid increase surely.

By 1812 or 1813, Carleton and Dudley commenced operations where Sangerville village now stands. They built a saw-mill, then Dudley sold out to Carleton, and left. Carleton soon put a grist-mill in operation, sold out the saw-mill to his brother Robert, and in 1816 started a carding machine, the first in the Piscataquis valley. In those days of resolute women, wool was often carded by hand, but the introduction of a carding machine marked an era in their domestic labors. Mr. Carleton, some time after, re-possessed the saw-mill, and re-built his grist-mill, putting it in the most improved style, and at his death, in 1836, left these and other property, to his oldest son Joseph. He was ever a leading man in town, and will come into further notice.

**INCORPORATION.** This was the third incorporated town of this county. The act was passed in June, 1814, and wisely made the middle of Piscataquis River its northern boundary. A small portion of Number Six, Seventh Range was included within its limits, and a still smaller portion of Sangerville left to Guilford. But it brought the burden of bridging the river equally upon each town. This act was not carried into effect till the next spring. Then N. Chamberlain of Dover issued a warrant to Edward Magoon, to call the first town meeting. It was duly held March 15, 1815. Mr. Chamberlain was present, and they chose him moderator. But they took their own citizens for the permanent officers, electing Samuel McLanathan, town-clerk, and Guy Carleton, first selectman. In the fall of that year, the town cast thirty votes.

These new towns, owing to a scarcity of money, usually paid their town charges in grain. Sangerville fixed the price

of it thus: wheat, \$1.50, corn and rye, \$1.00 each, per bushel. In the cold seasons, rye was advanced to \$1.25, but wheat and corn remained as before.

A town meeting was called in 1815, to see if the town would settle Elder William Oakes, and thus convey to him the lot of land reserved for the first settled minister. The town refused to do it. Elder Oakes was prominent in the town and vicinity, and naturally comes in for a distinct notice. His father was an old soldier in the French and Indian war, fought under Gen. Wolfe on the plains of Abraham, and when that fallen hero's remains were sent to England for interment, Mr. Oakes, being a joiner, made his coffin, and assisted in embalming them. When the army was disbanded, he returned to Massachusetts, was twice married, and raised up a large family.

Elder Oakes was the youngest of those brothers who early came to Sangerville. He was a robust, athletic man, of industrious habits, a skillful lumberman, a good horseman, quick in thought, gifted in speech, of a cheerful temperament, but quite deficient in education. He had early seen the Piscataquis valley, in connection with Weston's survey company. He was already a member of the Baptist church in Canaan, and when Elder Macomber formed a church in this town, he entered it, was licensed to preach, and ordained. But he was not an acceptable minister to all. Though not grossly immoral, he was once suspended from the ministry, for general inconsistency. After a short period of wandering, he came back with professed penitence, was restored, and ever after, retained his standing, preaching in various places, often with apparent success.

Samuel McLanathan was another leading man in town. He had a good degree of native talent, was a ready speaker, and a very independent thinker. His religious views were peculiar, and he held all of his opinions with the tenacity of a death-grip; and this, and his love for strong drink, once plunged him into a fearful extremity, from which he barely escaped with his life. On a cold winter evening, he was re-

turning from Bangor, in company with Capt. J. Pratt, and when nearing his home, they met a neighbor, with whom McLanathan engaged in a dispute about a certain business difficulty. Warmed with stimulants and anger, he could not be persuaded to desist, and go home. Becoming cold, Capt. Pratt started slowly on, thinking that this would constrain him to break off, and overtake him. But he persisted too long and did not overtake him. So Capt. Pratt called at McLanathan's house, warmed and refreshed himself, and rode on to Foxcroft, he and Mrs. McLanathan concluding that her husband had stopped at a neighbor's. In the morning she dispatched their hired man to ascertain. He had not gone more than a mile before he found him, partially frozen and nearly dead. When he broke off his dispute, he started at a quick pace to overtake the sleigh. He ran till his strength failed; he then tried to walk on, but his limbs soon faltered. Still persevering, he crept upon his hands and knees. In this way he passed through an open brook, and wet his hands and feet. When he could no further proceed, he made such exertions as he could in twisting and wringing the bushes, to keep up his natural warmth. He was found with one arm hanging over the lower limb of a tree, and his body leaning against its trunk, or else the snow would have been his winding-sheet. His hands and feet were severely frozen, so that he lost all of his toes and fingers, except a part of his right thumb. This nearly disabled him for labor, but he could write legibly, holding the pen between that thumb and the palm adjoining. He was frequently elected to important town offices, and when a mail route was established, he was appointed postmaster. After remaining upon the Lane farm about twenty-five years, he was obliged to sell it, to raise the means to pay his Uncle Sanger for its soil; and thence he moved into Dover, living at Macomber's Corner. He raised up a smart, enterprising family, which settled in various places. In his old age, he returned to Massachusetts. There he renounced his fatalistic views, abandoned his drinking habits, and became a believer in the Christian religion, and died in Christian peace.

The cold seasons passed, and Carleton's Mills became the center of a growing business. Aaron Morse was there, "beating the anvil;" John Andrews opened a small store; and in 1817, Thomas Prince built another dam, forty rods below Carleton's Mills, and put up a fulling mill, the second anywhere north of Dexter; in 1819, Isaac Macomber opened a country store; Thomas Robey came in, as a cabinet maker; and soon after, Thomas Fuller started a tannery. By this time, the place won the name of Sangerville Village. About this time, certain persons in the vicinity united in forming the Sangerville, Guilford and Parkman Social Library. It was kept at Sangerville village, and was an appreciated institution. Its well selected books have been worn out, but the information therefrom obtained still lives in the mature minds of those who, when young, devoured their contents, and their safe and elevating influences still abide. The eagerness with which new books would be grabbed, when such were added to it, is not yet forgotten. Nor should the blazing fire, in the light of which they were read, in many a humble household, be entirely obscured by the more steady and brilliant light of our present domestic luminaries.

In 1817, Isaiah Knowlton exchanged his farm in Sherborn, Mass., for Col. Sanger's mills, and from that time they have been owned and run by him and his descendants.

In 1820, Sangerville had a population of 310. It sent B. C. Goss as delegate to the convention to form a State Constitution. After S. McLanathan had held the town clerk's office three years, Mr. Goss succeeded him, and put the records into substantial shape. He was a shoemaker by trade, sometimes a school teacher, but a lover of strong drink. By marriage he was a brother-in-law to Guy Carleton, but his neglect of business, tippling, and political rivalry kept them at the opposite poles of the fraternal magnet. He possessed good native endowments, and, rum aside, he would have reached a high literary and political position. After a few years he left town and returned to Readfield. This year, Dr. Charles Stearns settled in the village as a physician.

Not long after, Dr. Jeremiah Leach also came, and remained there in practice until his death.

In the year 1822, events of unusual interest turned up, some auspicious, others not so. In the month of January, Elder Daniel Bartlett was settled as the pastor of a Baptist church, which had been recently instituted. The town voted him the lot reserved for the first settled minister, provided, that he would deed to the Congregational Society one average half of said lot. Three disinterested persons were to divide it. These terms were accepted, and Joseph Kelsey, Abram Moore, and Alexander Greenwood were selected to do it. They performed the work satisfactorily to both parties. Elder Bartlett prosecuted his ministerial labors with zeal and energy. He was quite successful, and the church grew rapidly in numbers and strength. He was soon called to part with his wife. In looking for another, he intrigued for a fair young lady, already under matrimonial engagements, and nearly succeeded. But the uncertain tide turned, and it proved a decided failure. Interested parties were offended, and the uncommitted condemned his course. His own people stood by him. He married another, and labored on. But his health failed, his support was insufficient, and on his recovery, he went to another field. Reverses now came over that church. Its halcyon days were over; it dwindled and passed away.

Another store was opened in the village by Edward Mitchell. To this the post-office was soon after removed, and Mr. Mitchell became postmaster. This year, Col. Sanger bought Thomas Prince's fulling-mill, and introduced Mr. J. P. Leland, his nephew, to run it.

THE DISAPPEARANCE OF DANIEL AMES' CHILD was the great event of this year. This presents a hard page of history to be filled. But as far as possible, a candid statement of known circumstances shall be given. With some of these incidents, the writer was personally acquainted. But of many facts, explanations, impressions, conjectures and conclusions, he is indebted to the better informed of that period.



Daniel Ames was the oldest son of Phineas Ames, the first settler of the town. *Daniel* was about fifteen years old when the family moved into the wilderness. There he enjoyed little opportunity to attend school, or to receive any other cultivating or refining influences. No one ever needed such, more. He was naturally rough, sullen, callous, and obstinate. He possessed a hasty and ungovernable temper, and this was his great infirmity. He married Mary Weymouth, a daughter of Samuel Weymouth, who was among the early settlers of this town. Their first three children were sons, the fourth, *Ruth Ames*, was born Aug. 14, 1818, and she became notorious as *The lost child*. The date was June 6, 1822, when she was about four years old. At that time Mr. Ames was living near the eastern base of Doutty's hill, one and a half miles from Sangerville village. On the eve of that day, Mr. Aaron Morse knocked at our door, to announce her loss, and to invite my father to go in search of her. Toward morning, my father returned, and from him and others came the following particulars. Ruth, her parents said, was sent in the forenoon to Mr. David Doutty's, to return a borrowed towel, which was put into a work-bag, and this was tacked to the sleeve of her dress; that she had a red silk handkerchief tied over her head, and had no other extra clothing. As the child did not return when expected, they sent one of the boys after her, and he returned, saying, that Ruth had not been seen at Mr. Doutty's. They then made search, and not finding her, sent one of their sons to the village for help, but he failed to make it known so as to awaken any interest. So it was nearly dark when they sent again, and when Mr. Morse heard of it. He, always strongly attached to children, at once started to organize a search. Quite a company gathered, and with lanterns and torches, they scoured the woods into which they supposed she had turned aside, became bewildered, and was lost. They extended their search as far as Carleton's mill-stream, westward, and as far as the Piscataquis, northward, but found no little Ruth. At a late hour, concluding that she was now

fallen asleep, and would not awake till thoroughly rested, they detailed a dozen young men to patrol the woods in silence, in order to catch the echoes of her cry, into which they expected her to break upon awaking; and the rest of the company dispersed, weary and sad, to their homes. The morning rose, but no voice nor sound of the lost child arose with it. The report that *Ames' child was lost*, spread like the rays of the morning. It startled everybody. Such an event had never happened in this newly settled region. It produced the greatest excitement that ever surged through that community. So the search was prosecuted for three or four consecutive weeks. Hundreds of men and boys gathered, day after day, going through the fields, pastures and forests, kept in line by the blast of trumpets. Some came from a wide range,—from Harmony, Garland, Exeter, Sebec and Atkinson. Some would remain over night, lodging in the neighborhood, and to many, Mr. Doutty and others, dealt out immense quantities of food, after their own supplies were exhausted. One day, when a great number was on the ground, Col. J. Carpenter mounted a sprightly horse, marshaled them into a close rank, and marched them shoulder to shoulder, through pasture and woodland, closing the rank as soon as they had passed a tree or rock which unavoidably broke it. Thus thorough was the search repeatedly made, over the region where the lost child, starting from the point stated, must have wandered. But after all these immense efforts, not a *particle of clothing*, not a vestige of any kind, not a track on the margin of stream or river, left by the object of that careful search, *was ever discovered!* The days spent, and the miles traveled, in this fruitless search must be counted by thousands. The amount of sympathy, anxiety and sorrow can hardly be overestimated. Mr. Ames counseled them to cease, before the sympathizing public felt ready to do it. At length further search seemed in vain, and their efforts were suspended. But the report had gone out widely, and the question continued to be asked, through all the region, "Is Ames' child found?"

After two or three months, a notice was sent to Sangerville, that an old Englishman was tramping about on Kennebec River, with a female child on his back. He was a dissipated vagrant, and though he declared that the child was his own daughter, some thought that this might be "Ames' lost child," which the old man, passing that way, had stolen. Mr. Ames was dispatched in haste, saw this child, and said at once, *that it was not* his, and returned home without it. But the public were not so easily pacified. The report had taken wing that Ames' child was found, and everybody was glad to believe it, and was unwilling to give it up. So the selectmen of the town took the matter in hand. They sent a person to bring the child and the suspected vagrant to town, so as to have a legal investigation. Mr. Appleford, the straggling father, frantic with grief and rage, protested by all that was sacred, that the child was his own, that her mother had died in Canada, that this child was all that was left to him, that it would be outrageous to wrest her from him. Mrs. Ames *owned the child*, and her husband now fell in with her, though their respective relatives did not believe it. Mrs. Ames, the child, and Mr. Appleford were kept at Macomber's store, in the village, and many resorted thither to see and hear the opposing claimants. The child soon received and returned the gentle fondlings of Mrs. Ames, but when with others, not knowing what a fierce strife was going on about her, would tell, with artless simplicity, about Lake Ontario, her sick and dying mother, and other incidents, a knowledge of which could not have been foisted into her childish imagination. The lost Ruth had a crippled hand. A severe burn had crooked and stiffened two of her fingers, and left a permanent scar. "The old man," said some, "had cured that scar with a certain kind of oil."

A legal examination was had, and the old man was held to appear at the County Court. In the interim, the selectmen of Sangerville, who were the prosecuting party, published a full account of the lost child, and of the supposed recovery, in the *Bangor Register*. The public, therefore, prejudged

the case, and became strongly set against the accused straggler. At length the court sat, Appleford was arraigned, a large number of witnesses appeared, among which Daniel Ames was chief. Mrs. Ames was in such a maternal state that she could not attend. Ames upon the stand was not very positive in the decisive points of his testimony, still an intense excitement prevailed through the place. In all the stores, hotels, and streets of Bangor, this trial was the one subject of talk, and strong prejudices grew up against the drunken tramp. While his fate trembled in the balance, unlooked for witnesses providentially appeared, and delivered him. Two families from Wrentham, Mass., arrived in Bangor, on their way to Monson and Sangerville, and upon entering a hotel they heard the exciting conversation upon this trial. Upon inquiry they learned the particulars, and recollected that such a man *with such a child*, was at their home in Wrentham in the previous spring. He had stopped there a day or two, washed his clothes in their fulling-mill, and departed. These men sought out the old man in the prison, and identified him as the same person. Mrs. Whiting had noted the event in her diary, and the date fixed it in *May*, while Ruth did not disappear till June 6th, following. This testimony was decisive, the old man was acquitted, his child was restored to him, and he went on his way rejoicing.

The public now had to admit that this was not Ames' child, and the question opened anew: *What* had become of her? Her disappearance was so mysterious, so large a sacrifice of time and labor had been made, and no trace of the missing one discovered, and no wild beast had ever been known to attack any person in those regions, the course of Mr. Ames and wife, in first disowning and then claiming the Appleford child, was so unaccountable, that the mystery became still deeper, yes, and darker too. "People will *think*, as well as talk," you know. Suspicions arose in some minds that the lost child had been disposed of in some tragical way, and arose with those who knew Mr. Ames best. No one thought that he would intentionally do such a deed, but in

his paroxysms of anger he might deal out blows that would be fatal. Many were not slow to express such suspicions, and that the report of her being lost was a contrived blind, to ward off the effects of a fearful disclosure; Mr. Ames and wife little thinking how much interest that device would awaken. The public waited for disclosures, yet dreaded to have them made. When Mr. Ames and his sons were at court, his wife was in such a nervous and agitated condition, that some of her neighbors remained constantly with her. It was whispered that, to one of them, she had disclosed something relating to this mystery. He, when asked, did not deny the fact, but ever refused to tell what it was, for it was committed to him under a solemn pledge of secrecy. But he did let certain pregnant hints leak out, that are still remembered. In burying it so deep, they made it more significant, more conclusive, that there was *something* to bury. This neighbor would ever after affirm, that "Appleford's child never ought to have been claimed as Ames'," and still he was the very man, that went and brought that child to Sangerville. It was also said that, under peculiar provocations, Mrs. Ames was overheard to threaten her husband that she would make exposures about that child. But she never made any. She died before her husband. Many thought that he would reveal a terrible secret, before the curtain dropped. But he "died and gave no sign." It is said that one of their elder sons, as he drew near the close of life, made certain statements which did not convince any one that the missing child was ever lost in the woods. And here I leave this painful subject, which the lapse of fifty years has not stripped of its mysteries, and which each must treat, as this narrative may incline him.

Sangerville village was the business center of a large circuit, until stores and mechanic shops were opened in Guilford. Then a portion of its business was diverted, and it has not recovered it. In 1824, D. R. Straw opened an office there, and in 1830, he removed to Guilford village. A store was opened at Lane's Corner, in 1825, and continued for

many years. Another was started there, and kept a while, but both are now abandoned.

The town continued to increase in population. After the mills were built by Brockway and Cleaves, the land in the south part of the town was rapidly settled. Eventually a store was opened at Gilman's Corner, another at French's Mills, and mechanics settled there.

In the fall of 1829, the Baptists raised a meeting-house in the village. It was completed in 1833, as a Union house. By the donation of Mr. Cotton Brown, an old resident, and a wealthy farmer, a good bell has been recently placed in its tower. In 1844, a Union house was built at Lane's Corner, and has been used more or less by different denominations.

Hon. Stephen Lowell came into the village as a trader, in 1827, and continued in the business till his death. He was often in town office, and also elected to a seat in each branch of the Legislature.

Elder Atherton Clark, in 1835, purchased the stand and farm formerly owned by Col. Robert Carleton, and moved into the village. His son William G. went into trade, but was not successful. He then turned his attention to the law, had some success in practicing it, and also dove deeply into politics. He was once elected Clerk of the Senate, and held other offices at Augusta. He died rather early in life, leaving a large and enterprising family. Whiting S., his oldest son, graduated from Colby University, in 1862, entered the army as Captain, and was promoted to Colonel, before he left it. He is now a lawyer in Bangor. Three others, James W., Charles A. and Frank A. were officers in the army. Charles A. and George E. are now practicing law.

During the war, a building for a woolen factory was built at the village, and in 1869, it was put in operation. It has greatly increased the business of the place. It now contains three sets of machinery, and employs some fifty operatives, to which ten or twelve hundred dollars are paid monthly. D. Campbell & Co. have successfully run it for several years.

Col. Wm. Oakes stood high as a military officer, was often

in town business, once sent to the Legislature, and was once High Sheriff. He sent four sons to Waterville College; two graduated there; one left and graduated from Dartmouth; the other left before completing the course. Three of these sons became lawyers; Albion P. practiced in Waldoborough, was an able lawyer, a fluent speaker, and when rising rapidly in his profession, sunk by consumption to an early grave. Valentine B. entered the army, and never returned.

Mr. Barnabas Bursely was another esteemed citizen. He came to town when a young man, and followed the business of house-joiner and carriage-maker. He preached for a season as a Restorationist, and then voluntarily retired from the work. He held both town and county offices, and was once sent to the Legislature. He is a man of great moral worth, reliable in all respects, and universally respected.

Sangerville as a town, did not aid in constructing the Bangor & Piscataquis Railroad. At Low's Bridge and at Sangerville Village, it passes so near the river, that it accommodates the residents of Sangerville as much as it does the people of Guilford.

**LAWYERS.** Since William G. Clark's death, no lawyer has practiced there.

**PHYSICIANS.** Those earliest here, were Charles Stearns, Jeremiah Leach, Tolman Carey, Moses Ayer, Charles Proctor, Moses P. Hanson, and others for short periods. Either Sangerville or Guilford village has ever had a physician, sometimes both of them, one or more. Drs. A. C. Maxim and G. D. Demeritt are now at Sangerville village.

The valuation of this town in 1870, was \$316,590; its population 1,140.

## CHAPTER XI.

### ATKINSON.

ATKINSON was Number Two, Sixth Range. The soil is generally good; its poorer portions lying in a connected body along the banks of Alder Stream. It was first sold to E. Sigourney, but reverting to the State, was then sold to Vaughan and Merrick, with the Dover township, for twenty-five cents per acre. These men commenced selling lots in 1801 or 1802. Soon after this they disposed of the whole township, excepting its public reserves and the lots already sold, Judge Atkinson and Oliver Crosby of Dover, N. H., being the purchasers. They and their heirs continued its proprietors, until it was all sold. After selling a large part of it, the proprietors divided the remainder between them. After Judge Atkinson's death, Asa Freeman, his son-in-law, became his successor, and, in 1839, sold twenty-five lots to Mr. Crosby, and wound up his interest in it.

It was lotted out by Andrew Strong, into one hundred acre lots, in 1807; and by his plan they have been sold and deeded.

The Water Power in this town is not very permanent. Alder Stream passes diagonally through the town, and affords a mill site, near the center, which was early improved. The Colcord brothers, from Bangor, in 1807, put in a saw- and grist-mill, and similar mills are still running there. Dead Stream rises in the south-west part, flows eastwardly into Orneville, and finally falls into the outlet of Pushaw Pond. In spring and autumn this stream affords sufficient water to drive a saw-mill and a shingle machine. These stand within the original limits of Orneville, but were annexed to Atkinson. Upon a branch of this stream a shingle mill has been put in operation recently.



**FIRST SETTLEMENT.** Bylie Lyford felled the first opening on the bank of Piscataquis River, above the bridge, in 1802. The next season he raised a crop, and built his cabin. In March, 1804, he brought in his family,—the first to make a permanent home in the present town. November 11, 1804, he had a son born, Thomas Lyford, the *second* child born in this county. He is still living, occupying, till recently, a part of the same lot on which his father broke into the solid wilderness. Mr. Lyford built a framed house on the interval, but high freshets alarmed him. He took up a new lot in Sebec, and built a framed barn upon it. This was accidentally burnt, when filled with unthreshed wheat. He then sold out that possession to Mr. Silas Harriman, a brother-in-law, and built upon higher ground, on the south end of his first lot. Here he remained till his death, in 1865, and reared up a large and respectable family.

Other settlers soon came in. A passable way was early opened to Charleston and to Bangor. Through Garland and Dexter there was a road westward. In 1810, it had 169 inhabitants, the largest number of any township on the river. But during the next decade, owing probably to the unfavorable seasons, the increase was small. In 1820, its census shows a total of 245, and its annual crop was 105 bushels of corn, 669 of wheat, and 222 tons of hay.

In 1818, Dr. E. W. Snow, from Plymouth, N. H., came to this town to establish himself as a physician. Three elder brothers had preceded him, and taken lots for farming. Dr. Snow was a graduate of Dartmouth College, and had taken his medical degree there. Finding sufficient encouragement to remain, he married, and resided for a season in Mr. Lyford's house, near the river. He afterward built near the present meeting-house, and finally exchanged, and settled down at Atkinson Corner. After the death of Dr. Boynton, he was frequently called into Sebec, Milo and Brownville. At the first town meeting he was elected town clerk, and was also sent as delegate to the Constitutional Convention. After the organization of Piscataquis County, he was appointed

Judge of Probate, and held that office seven years. Dr. Snow was a very good physician, an esteemed and useful citizen, affable, kind and generous, a man of refined taste and culture, every way honest, upright and reliable. He remained in town until his death, in 1849, and departed sincerely lamented. One of his sons, Dr. E. P. Snow, succeeded him in his practice.

**INCORPORATION.** It was for a season Plantation Number Two, but in February, 1819, it was incorporated as the town of Atkinson. The name was chosen in honor of Judge Atkinson. He gracefully acknowledged the honor by presenting the town with one hundred volumes for a public library.

In accordance with a warrant from N. R. Lowney, Bylie Lyford called the first town meeting, March 26, 1819.

The next year, 1820, Oliver Crosby, joint proprietor with Judge Atkinson, moved into town, and commenced farming on an extensive scale. He held for his own use, 700 acres, and soon had the largest farm in Penobscot County. He built large and elegant buildings, laid out his orchards and grounds in good taste, and prosecuted his agricultural pursuits in a skillful and successful manner. Mr. Crosby was a native of Billerica, Mass., a graduate of Harvard University, and while in Dover, N. H., a member of the bar. But he laid aside his legal pursuits, when he settled in Atkinson. He reared up a large family, educating two of his sons for the legal profession,—the late William C. Crosby of Bangor, and Hon. Josiah Crosby of Dexter. He resided on his farm until his death, in 1851, dying at the age of eighty-three.

At an early date, a store was opened at the Mills, by Samuel C. Clark. He was succeeded by a Mr. Porter, and then the business passed to Mr. Walker. About 1830, J. C. Brown commenced trade at Atkinson Corner. After two years, E. L. Hammond bought out Brown, and continued in the business for nearly forty years. He was an active man in town affairs, was twice appointed County Commissioner, and was a highly respected and useful citizen. He remained

in town till near his death, in 1878. J. H. Ramsdall succeeded him in the store, and still continues it.

#### THE MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE OF ISAAC BLAKE.

There lived in this town a Blake family, in which there were several sons. One of the older sons, Isaac, early went away, and followed the sea for a few years. He returned home, and then went to New Brunswick. There he worked at lumbering, trafficked in stock, and accumulated quite a sum of money for those times. In the fall of 1824, probably, he started from Merimachi for Atkinson, and was known then to have \$1200 in gold. Maj. Isaac Blethen from Dover, knew him there, and knew that Blake started with that amount of hard money. This was before the Houlton road was opened, and the travel was by the way of Calais and Bangor. Blake arrived safely in Bangor, and was known to start homeward, toward the close of the day. He was met by an acquaintance, near sun-set, on the top of the Jameson hill. After that, no one could be found that could give any account of him. His friends in Atkinson were looking for his arrival. But as he did not reach the paternal roof, painful anxieties were awakened. They made diligent inquiries, but got no account of him, after he was met on the hill beyond the Jameson tavern. Foul play was feared, and a strong excitement raised in Atkinson and vicinity. Dark suspicions turned toward that tavern, and scalding insinuations were thrown into the faces of its landlords. No very thorough investigation was pressed, and his disappearance remained an unsolved mystery. A few years later, a disclosure was made, which gave to these suspicions a fresh impulse. A certain woman in the vicinity of this tavern was dangerously sick. She was thought to be past recovery. She felt that her end was at hand. Expecting soon to meet her dread account, in which there is no error nor possible concealment, her conscience awoke, and uncovered the buried past. She therefore made the following disclosure: She was at that tavern when Blake stopped there for the night; in the room

where he slept, in the still hours of night, she heard the footsteps of men, and the running of some kind of liquid; she heard them go out from that room, into the open air, and saw them bearing away a heavy burden; afterward, they came and opened her door, but as she feigned herself asleep, they did not molest her; and she saw nothing of Blake afterward. These statements traveled speedily in every direction. They did not shrink by repetition. Again the community believed that the missing man had surely been murdered, and again the excitement boiled. It is an old saying, "that death is an honest hour." To some, we may fear, it is the only honest hour of their present life. Unexpectedly to herself and all others, this sick woman recovered. Some of the parties implicated were still living. One of these was her sister's husband. Death was not now staring her in the face. The pressure was from the other side; the *living*, the implicated parties were a terror to her; so she took it all back, and denied the truth of these statements. But this did not bedim the impressions they had made upon the community. A few years later, and another significant disclosure came out. A newspaper from Ohio contained the statements that a certain man formerly known in these parts, had been executed there for murder; that he had confessed this and other crimes; especially, that he had taken part in the murder of a man in Maine. This also was referred to Blake's case, by those who formerly knew this guilty man. He was often at that tavern, and was afterward often seen in the large places of the Provinces, where he could change Doubloons for money that could be put in circulation in Maine, without exciting suspicion. This event, therefore, tended to deepen these suspicions. "Murder will out," says the proverb, and suspicions of it are not easily kept down. While I have been filling these pages, an aged man has died in Atkinson. He had been intemperate and dissolute from his youth. As he was drawing near his end, remorse of conscience preyed upon him. A Christian neighbor visited him, and urged him to prepare for death, and finally told him

that, if he had done any great wickedness, he had better confess it and relieve his mind. He took that wholesome advice. To another neighbor that watched with him the next night, he confessed numerous crimes that he had committed. Some of them were thefts, but the blackest of all, he said, was a deed down toward Bangor, at the foot of the Jameson hill; that two of his accomplices in that deed had gone to their punishment, and he expected soon to follow them to his. Soon after this, he became partially insensible. That neighbor spoke freely of these disclosures to others, but to surviving connections of the parties implicated, they were quite unpalatable. Statements were published in the newspapers, and others were made to invalidate them. Up to this time, this individual had not been suspected of any connection with the Blake murder. But he is known to have been in that vicinity, and might have been there at that date. And here we leave it, for fuller disclosures.

. After the incorporation of the town, its population did not increase rapidly. In 1828, when political excitement ran high, it cast but fifty-five votes.

. In 1831, a town meeting was called to see if the town would settle Elder Nathaniel Harvey as the minister of the town, and give him the reserved lot of land. It voted a decided negative. The proceeds of this and of the other public reserves eventually went into a school fund, which amounts to nearly \$2000.

In the time of the Great Rebellion, this town contracted a debt of more than \$20,000, in raising recruits for the army. Aided by State assumption, it has reduced it more than one-half. It did not aid the Bangor & Piscataquis Railroad, by a public appropriation, though a town meeting was called for that purpose.

The population of Atkinson in 1870 was 810; its valuation \$234,271.

## CHAPTER XII.

### GUILFORD.

GUILFORD was Number Six, Seventh Range. It originally was six miles square, but a small portion south of Piscataquis River was annexed to Sangerville. Most of its soil is good, but a small mountain in the northern part reduces the amount of settling lands.

**WATER POWER.** It has two good mill sites on the Piscataquis, one of which, at Guilford village, is improved. This is wholly in Guilford, as on the western border it adjoins Parkman. The other is near the Foxcroft line, and though there is a good fall, it has never been occupied. Upon Salmon Stream, there is a mill site, upon which the first saw-mill in town was built, and two shingle mills still run on that stream.

**SALE OF LAND.** Elder Robert Low, Dea. Robert Herring, and Michael Webber, of New Gloucester, purchased several rights of Bowdoin College, and in the summer of 1804, selected and lotted them. This done, the College sold single lots or more, to settlers. So it went on until the settling land was nearly all purchased. In the speculation of 1835, the remainder was sold at a good price, but it eventually came back to the College. This has since been sold.

**LOTING.** This was done by A. Greenwood. In 1813, he made an accurate re-survey of each two hundred acre lot, and made a plan by which the lots were sold and deeded.

**FIRST SETTLERS.** In June, 1804, while their fathers were selecting their tracts, Robert Low jr. and Robert Herring jr. came and took up the two lots on the river, westward of Low's Bridge, and there felled the first openings.

In 1805, Low and Herring raised the first crop of corn and potatoes in town, and built their log-houses. This season, others selected lots, felled openings, and prepared them for a burn. Nathaniel, John, and Isaac Bennett and J. Everton were among these. In February, 1806, R. Low jr. moved in the *first family*, and R. Herring jr., about three weeks later, arrived with his. Three Bennett boys came at the same time, and during the next summer, Nathaniel and John Bennett, and I. B. Wharff, in the employ of Isaac Bennett, were busy upon their respective lots, raising corn and wheat, and preparing cabins for their families. Toward autumn, Capt. J. Bennett returned to New Gloucester, and drove down a loaded ox-cart, leading a young cow also. As the last part of the way then was, it seems hardly credible, but an eye witness affirmed it.

September 29, 1806, the first birth in town occurred. Esther Herring, daughter of Robert Herring jr. was then born. She eventually became the wife of Samuel Beal, and after his death, married Hiram Stacy. She is still living in Dover village. December 27th, Polly L. Low, daughter of R. Low jr. was also born, the second birth in town. She also grew up, and married Asa Harlow jr. and died in Guilford.

The Bennetts continued busy upon their lots till harvest was over. For the want of a threshing floor, they beat out their wheat upon a smooth, flat ledge. When winter came on, the men returned to New Gloucester, and left three of their sons, David, Joseph, and Isaac jr., to keep the house and attend the cow. The two oldest were thirteen, Isaac jr., eleven. Their abode was about a mile from either of the other dwellings. For food, they had the milk of the cow, hulled corn, boiled wheat, and roasted potatoes. During the winter, Mr. Herring carried one small grist of corn to Dexter, and got it ground for them. They wore away those long dreary months, until late in March, 1807, when, to their great joy, the three families arrived. It then required about a week, to come with teams from New Gloucester to Lowstown. The way then was through Harmony, Ripley and Dexter, thence

to Center Pond and Mr. Ames'. The same winter, Mr. John Everton moved in his family. His wife was a very important accession. Skilled in obstetrics, her assistance was highly prized in all these new settlements. After about ten years of useful service, she was unfortunately thrown from a horse, and her hip, so fractured that she never recovered the use of it, but survived twenty years after the accident.

In the spring of 1808, Dea. R. Herring brought in his family. From this time religious meetings were held upon the Sabbath. The settlement now had a slow but steady growth. In 1810, the census shows sixty-five inhabitants. In 1808, the first framed building was raised by Capt. John Bennett. It was a barn, has been taken down and removed twice, but is still standing. In 1813, fourteen votes were cast for State officers, but by the next spring, there were twenty families in town. For the want of boards, all the early settlers built log-houses, covering the roofs and gables with long shingles easily rived from the cedar and pine. The chimneys, too, were built of rough stones, topped out with split sticks, called "*cats*," and plastered within and without, with clay mortar. For several years they were compelled to go to Foxcroft, to get lumber sawed or grinding done; but as the dam was leaky, Spaulding's mills ran only when the water was high; so they often went to Dexter, which was still further, and by a more inconvenient route.

And when loving couples wished to be joined in marriage, they encountered difficulties. Harmony, twenty-five miles away, was the nearest place where they could be legally published. This accomplished, no clergyman, or county squire even, was near. In 1810, three couples in Lowstown and one in Amestown were ripe for taking on the yoke matrimonial. So they sent to Athens for a Justice of the Peace to come in and "pronounce the banns." As Lowstown was then in Somerset County, the couple from Amestown came over into Lowstown, and thus on one occasion, they were all made happy.

ORGANIZATION AND INCORPORATION. Lowstown boasts



one peculiar institution. When only eight or ten men had settled there, they held a voluntary town meeting. In this they chose such officers, and passed such rules and regulations, as good order and good feeling in the settlement required. Though no pains and penalties followed the violation of these laws, their pride and honor were so much involved in observing them, that they were obeyed far better than many legal statutes of the present day. In this movement, it should be said, R. Low was the leader. At length, this competent and quiet little borough of Lowstown was arbitrarily superseded "by authority." Oct. 8, 1812, Caleb Leavitt came in from Athens, and by virtue of a legal warrant, organized the inhabitants into Plantation Number Six, Seventh Range. For three years they remained in that condition. In 1816, they petitioned the General Court to be incorporated as the town of Fluvanna. The Legislature did not like the name, and changing it to Guilford, passed the act Feb. 8, 1816. In this act the whole township of six miles square was included, overlooking the fact that all the land on the south side of the river was, by an act already passed, included in Sangerville. The river being the town line, the expense of bridges across it, would fall equally upon both towns. By common consent, the two towns thus proceeded; but a few years since, Guilford, by an ill-advised lawsuit, undertook to restore the old range line. It resulted in establishing the river as the legal boundary.

Pursuant to a warrant from Samuel Pingree, Joseph Kelsey called the first town meeting. It was held March 1, 1816. After sixty-two years have run their course, only three who voted in that meeting, still survive in town, Elias Davis, Zebulon P. Grover and Isaac B. Wharff; the rest "have fallen asleep." But in July, 1878, Mr. Wharff closed his long and laborious life, and only two now survive.

Near the same date, Penobscot County was incorporated, having Bangor for its shire town. In 1817, the inhabitants of Guilford petitioned to be annexed to Penobscot County, and it was done. For some time improvements had been

going on. Carleton and Dudley's mills accommodated the people of Guilford. In 1815, R. Herring jr., Capt. J. Bennett, and J. Kelsey built a saw-mill on the Salmon Stream, in Guilford; but the master-builder was unskillful, and the water power insufficient, and it was of but little profit. After ten years it was given up, and is now succeeded by a shingle machine. Framed buildings then began to be common, but they did not hastily demolish their log-houses, for new comers kept them in brisk requisition. A spirit of accommodation in those times was fully developed. Often a newly arrived family of eight or ten persons would crowd into a one or two-roomed house already containing a large family, and remain till they could prepare a covert of their own. About this time, brick-making was commenced by Dea. Herring and Capt. Bennett. Then brick chimneys began to supersede those unsightly, smoking stone chimneys, which had been the pioneer's hearthstone. Then, too, the brick oven, a great institution in the cooking department, enabled our mothers to lay aside the old *Dutch-oven*, and to feel that they had got home again. Then, too, a cooking-stove was unheard of, the tin baker had not been invented, and the mothers of large families were compelled to keep their scanty way-and-means of baking in very brisk employment.

**SCHOOLS.** While a plantation, no public school was taught there, but private schools, both summer and winter, were kept. Miss Betsey Moor taught a summer private school, at Capt. Bennett's, and Mr. R. Low, another, in the winter. In 1817, the first public school was opened. For the want of better accommodations, the loft of Capt. Bennett's open shed was used for a "hall of science." Into this a goodly number of bashful children and youth gathered, generally bare-footed, dressed in a style, and with fabrics, of old-time plainness. To a large part of them, it was the first school they entered. Measures were also taken to build a school-house. The next year it was occupied, for both the summer and winter schools, and for several years, for both town and

religious meetings. R. Low, for a few winters, was our teacher, but a growing deafness disqualified him for it. Above all, John McLaughlin did much to improve the schools, in the books used, in the branches introduced, and in the mode of teaching. He was a superior scholar, had been trained in Bloomfield Academy, and many received the benefit of his thorough qualifications.

**SETTLEMENT OF A MINISTER.** A lot of land was reserved for the first settled minister. As the majority of the early settlers were Baptists, the settlement was early visited by Baptist preachers. In 1813, a church of that order was formed, and in 1815, the plantation voted to invite Elder Thomas Macomber of Sumner to settle with them, and to receive the lot of land as a settlement. He accepted the invitation, and moved in, about the time the town was incorporated. To make the contract more sure, a town meeting was called to confirm it. The town, by a nearly unanimous vote, sanctioned these proceedings of the plantation, attaching to them the following conditions: to wit, "That Elder Macomber should receive said lot, provided he served them in the ministry for the term of *ten* years, but should he leave before that time expired, or should he not be satisfactory to a majority of the people, he should relinquish a part of the land proportioned to the time not already spent. This too, was accepted on his part, and he served them acceptably for the next twenty years.

**ORCHARDS.** Orchards, always desired in a new settlement, were not easily started in Guilford, though the soil was adapted to them. As nursery trees could not be obtained nearer than Garland, and as there was no summer road thither, Dea. Herring, Capt. Bennett and Nathaniel Herring brought young apple trees from that place, upon their shoulders, fully sixteen miles, and set out the first three orchards in town. In about eight years they ate the fruit of them. Nurseries were soon sowed, and orchards increased as the fields became cultivated.

**DISCOUNT TO SETTLERS.** Embarrassed by the failure of

crops in the cold seasons, many were retarded in paying for their land. It had been bought at \$2.50 per acre, and interest was required annually. In 1821, the board of trustees voted, that forty per cent discount should be made to all the settlers who would pay up in full by the next September. This awoke the energies of several, and by the time appointed, they were there, cash in hand, and came away with their deeds in their pockets. As the unsold land of the College was exempt from all taxes, the inhabitants of this town were compelled to meet the state, county and town taxes, which were annually levied upon it.

The two most prominent leaders of the dominant party were R. Low and Capt. Joseph Kelsey. Mr. Low was the first settler. He was a man of good native endowments, educated better than many school teachers of that day, a lover of good order and public improvement, of unflinching integrity and of stern morality, one that never disgraced his ministerial parentage. At the first celebration of the Fourth of July, in town, in which Sangerville also joined, he was the "orator of the day," and acquitted himself commendably. He was town clerk, selectman, and on the S. S. committee, for many years. An early deafness and other infirmities embarrassed his efforts in public, or he undoubtedly would have received the highest honors which his appreciative townsmen could have bestowed. But these, not without adroit management, however, were borne off by his fellow partisan and friend, Capt. Kelsey. Mr. Kelsey was the delegate to the Convention to frame the Constitution. He was sent Representative to the first Legislature that met in Maine, although Mr. Low was nominated in the first caucus. Opposition to this was so openly expressed before the town meeting was held, that another caucus was called, Kelsey nominated, and in due time elected. He was several times re-elected, and was twice a senator, twice a county commissioner, also Indian agent, and postmaster. He also held many town offices. He took an interest in the education of the young, and was ever a firm friend and trustee of Foxcroft Academy.

He was affable, generous and public-spirited, an obliging and highly esteemed neighbor. Toward the close of life, he removed to Foxcroft village, and died there, July 16, 1861. He raised up a large and enterprising family. His oldest son, Joseph L., engaged in surveying the public lands, and in 1835, went out West, and invested fortunately in the timber lands of Michigan. In the sale of their products, his brother, Joel W., became a partner with him, and gained capital for a successful business career. Joel became an extensive *pork-packer* in Toledo, Ohio, and accumulated a large estate. Probably Joseph and Joel became the wealthiest men of any of our Piscataquis boys.

It should be added that Mr. Low resided in Guilford, upon the farm he cleared up, till his sudden death, July 6, 1869, aged 88. He was twice treasurer of Piscataquis County.

Seth Nelson, Charles Loring, George H. Douglass, and William G. Thompson have held office in town for many successive years.

**GUILFORD VILLAGE.** Guilford is largely indebted to its village for its increase of population, business and valuation. For about twenty years from its first settlement, there was no store, no mill worth naming, nor physician, in town.

In 1824, R. Herring jr. and S. and J. Morgan built a dam across the Piscataquis, and in the fall put a saw-mill in operation. E. Mitchell put a clapboard machine into the same building. At this time there was only one small house near. The land site, too, was exceedingly rough and swampy. In the fall of 1825, the late A. Martin opened the first store, and he or his sons have continued one ever since. In the spring of 1828, Aldrich and Monroe, two enterprising young men from Livermore, also opened a store, and put a clapboard machine in operation. Pine timber from up-river then came down plentifully, and they drove a smart business. Monroe soon sold out to S. L. Brettun. This firm continued in business about four years, and then sold out to others. The same summer, J. H. Loring started the carding business, removing hither machines from Sangerville, and in the fall

of 1829, also commenced cloth-dressing. A tannery was also built, mechanical business started there, so that this village rapidly became a thriving business place.

**BRAINERD'S MILLS.** Near the north-west corner of Guilford, on the outlet of Davis' Pond, Allen and James Brainerd built a saw-mill in 1828. This was the commencement of North Guilford. It has a good water privilege, and large supplies of timber from Number Eight. The Brainerds sold out to John Morgan, in 1834, and went to Orono. Allen Brainerd came to a tragical end. Returning from a tour in New Brunswick, in 1835, he stopped at a hotel at Mattawamkeag Point. In the course of the evening he was called out by unknown parties. He did not return. The next morning his body was found in the river, leaving no doubt that he was foully murdered. He started with quite a sum of money, and this was the obvious inducement.

These *mills* have passed to several owners. They were once burnt, with a large amount of sawed lumber, but were rebuilt by Robert Herring jr., who owned them at the time of his death, 1847. They still do a good business, and are owned by Mr. Witherly of Bangor.

**BRIDGES.** These have been an expensive item, though one-half of two, across the Piscataquis, are maintained by Sangerville. For several years, much of the business of Guilford went across the river to Sangerville village. At certain periods, the crossing would be impossible for teams, and difficult to footmen. A bridge was necessary, but the towns would not build one. So persons in both towns attempted to build by a volunteer effort. A plan was adopted, materials gathered, long hemlock stringers hewed out, and in due time, a bridge spanned the river from shore to shore. The stringers were so interlocked at their ends as to be self-supporting, but they proved of unequal stiffness, and the bridge leaned. It was deemed unsafe, and never finished. A new plan was adopted, and the work persevered in. A single strongly braced trestle was placed in the middle of the stream, and stringers reached from this to either shore.

This was made passable in 1821, and both towns accepted one-half of it. In the spring of 1824, the freshet carried it away, and the same summer the two towns rebuilt it. This was on nearly the same plan, but the trestle was supported by a heavily laden *heater*. This stood several years, and did good service.

As Guilford village grew up, a bridge was needed there also. But the whole expense of building and maintaining it would fall upon Guilford. Here, too, one was commenced in 1828, by subscription, persons in Abbot and Parkman aiding. The next fall, the town raised \$200, and chose Isaac Smith agent, to complete it. When it was completed so as to be passable for footmen, a high freshet swept it away. In Nov., 1830, the town voted to rebuild this, and also one-half of another, near R. Low's. It raised \$600 to be paid in labor and materials, for each. Richmond Loring was chosen agent for the village bridge. This was substantially built, and with some repairs, stood about twenty-five years. The Low bridge was hardly completed, before a very high freshet in 1832, swept it away, and also the one near Sangerville village. Many people in Guilford, as there was then a bridge only one mile above, strove to have a new road opened on the south side of the river, and supersede the building of another bridge. Sangerville was opposed to this. The county commissioners were petitioned to discontinue the road where the old bridge stood. They declined to do it, so the bridge had to be built. The people contended no further, and took measures jointly with Sangerville to build a good substantial bridge. Solid stone abutments were built on either shore, and an X-work bridge stretched across. This was completed in the fall of 1835, and, by recent repairs, it stands firm to this present hour. In the fall of 1855, the bridge at Guilford village was succeeded by the present substantial covered bridge.

The Low bridge was rebuilt, after its destruction in 1832, and this was swept away again in the spring of 1856. The next year, the present covered bridge was placed there,

Sangerville doing one half of it. Summing up the whole matter, nine bridges have been built across the Piscataquis River, three of which Guilford bore the whole expense, and one-half of the other six. And, except the brief opposition to rebuilding the Sangerville village bridge, this enormous expense has never enkindled heated animosities, never provoked sectional strife, never carried any one into bankruptcy.

In the great fire of 1825, Isaac Herring, Steadman Davis, Capt. William Stevens and Chandler G. Robbins lost all their buildings, with all their contents, and great injury was done to fences and standing timber.

FATAL ACCIDENTS. Several of these have occurred in this town. In the summer of 1824, Eliphalet W. Bennett, while at work upon a new road, was struck by a falling stub, and so severely injured that he lingered about eight days, and expired. He was an athletic, industrious young man, and died greatly lamented.

Eliab Latham, a youth of sixteen, was instantly killed in the winter of 1837, by the fall of a tree, while cutting firewood, near the village.

On the fifth of July, 1842, Mrs. Lydia Martin, the wife of Addison Martin, was instantly killed by a stroke of lightning. A heavy thunder shower was passing. Mrs. Martin and some of her neighbors were in a chamber of their dwelling. She rose up to put down a window, just as the electric fluid was passing down upon it, *and fell to the floor and expired*. An active and educated Christian, an affectionate and efficient wife and mother, a kind and genial neighbor, she passed away, deeply and widely lamented.

On Jan. 29, 1847, Alvin Herring, youngest son of Robert Herring jr., while engaged in cutting timber, was struck on the head by a heavy limb hurled back as a large tree was falling, and instantly killed, near North Guilford. His brother William was standing near him, and was slightly wounded. Their father, distressed by this sore bereavement, was soon taken sick, and died March 17th, following.



But the direst catastrophe of all remains to be recorded, to wit, the deplorable deaths of Isaac Wharff jr. and wife and nephew, in the conflagration of their dwelling, on the night of Feb. 4, 1874. From his early boyhood, Mr. Wharff dwelt in Guilford. He was noted in his youth for his unusual hardiness, industry, steady habits and cool temperament. These pertained to him in manhood, joined by honesty in dealings, kindness to the unfortunate, and generosity toward public improvements. He prospered in business, was happy in his domestic relations, and honored by a rising family. He and his wife became hopefully pious, and exhibited a good degree of religious principle. They first held to restorationism, but, strange to relate, they both became *zealous spiritists*. His wife was of an excitable turn, and some of her family connection inclined to insanity. But he was as far from any such tendency as any man could be, judging by physiological principles. Yet he became thoroughly insane. Three times he was taken to the Insane Hospital, restored to his right mind, and returned to his usual place in the family, to his business, and to his former self; but after a brief season, his spiritism would get stirred up again, and dethrone his reason. Sometimes his insanity would run in a religious vein, again, plunge him into strange indecencies, and again, so infuriate him that he would destroy both life and property, if not forcibly restrained. At length he was returned from the hospital as hopelessly incurable, but in a more calm and manageable state. On the night mentioned, he and his wife, and a nephew of hers, about fourteen years old, were at home, a boarder with his wife and infant being also with them. About four o'clock A.M., they awoke to find the *house on fire*. Mr. Jenkins was in such consternation that he could render but little assistance. He hurried his own wife out, with but little clothing on, who fled barefoot through the snow and cold, one-third of a mile, to the nearest neighbor, freezing her feet badly on the way. Mr. Wharff started to go out, but bewildered in the dense smoke, he missed his way. His wife got safely out, but not finding

her husband, rushed back to rescue him, and perished in her search. The nephew was in the chamber, and probably never awoke. As these buildings were nearly a mile from the village, help did not arrive speedily, and with all their contents, they were laid in ashes; the stock in the barn perished also. The fire took in the wood-house, perhaps from hot ashes, and extended thence to the dwelling-house, so that one door was unobstructed by the flames, when those inmates awoke. A legal examination was held, and all were acquitted of intended crime.

From 1827, Guilford village had a steady growth. Mills, shops and stores increased. Physicians came in, none of them to remain long. In 1830, D. R. Straw came from Sangerville and opened a law office in this place. He remained till his death in 1876. His son, David R. jr., succeeded him in his business. Mr. Straw was a reliable man, a safe friend and counselor, and a shrewd business man. He reared up and educated a large family, and left them a large estate.

Some years since, Henry Hudson also commenced business as a lawyer in this village. He secured a large practice, and accumulated a good estate. He, too, is now dead, and his son, Henry Hudson jr., has succeeded him.

In 1831, Henry Aldrich, from Livermore, put a grist-mill in operation, and also owned a part of the lumber mills. He became a large real estate owner, but he and his sons soon sold out, and went to other places.

In 1865, a Woolen Factory Company was incorporated, and sufficient capital raised to erect a good building, and gear it for operation. Another company in 1868, rented it, put in three sets of machinery, and set it in operation. It has been a benefit to the place. W. P. Appleyard has run it for several years.

After the Bangor & Piscataquis Railroad was completed to Foxcroft, in 1869, interested parties pushed hard for its extension toward Monson and the Lake. The town of Guilford was urged to encourage this. A town meeting was called, and a vote passed to subscribe for \$10,000 worth of its stock,

though the town was already in debt. The money was obtained by loans, the road extended to Guilford village in December, 1871, and a new impulse given to the business of the place. But the Railway was destined to go further,—to Abbot. It was found that if the track could be laid near the river, it would diminish the expense largely. But if so done, it must pass near the mills, and alongside one of the principal streets in the village. The company offered the town \$500, if it would grant them this privilege. The sop took. The town voted it, and inflicted an irreparable injury upon that place. In the fall of 1874, it was completed to Abbot, and much of the business of the upper towns then stopped at that depot. We will state, as indicative of the business done by, and of the convenience of, the railroad, that \$25,000 worth of potatoes were sent from Guilford depot during the year 1879, some of them being brought from other towns.

**THE GOLD MINE.** In 1864, an interest was awakened by the finding of stones containing small quantities of gold, silver, and copper. They were taken from a ledge on the brow of a steep hill, upon the farm of Lysander Bennett, formerly Capt. Bennett's. Old miners examined it, and thought that there might be rich veins beneath. Portions were blasted off from the top, and by a smelting process, an encouraging quantity of gold and silver obtained. A company was formed, a conditional purchase of the farm made, and a tunnel six feet square blasted out from the foot of the hill, in toward the perpendicular line from the outcroppings at the top. It was a slow, expensive job. They penetrated to the expected point, but found no indications of rich veins. The enterprise was abandoned, and a heavy loss incurred by the company.

**PHYSICIANS.** In 1829, Dr. Jonathan Leighton commenced practice at the village. After him came A. Dunn, a Dr. Clement, and S. Mudgett. At present, Drs. C. B. Bennett and C. M. Hussey are in practice there.

In 1870, the population of Guilford was 818; its valuation \$213,091.

## CHAPTER XIII.

### FOXCROFT.

FOXCROFT, Number Five, Seventh Range, contains only 17,915 acres. A portion of Sebec Lake is included in it; it is a half mile less than six in width, and a small strip north of the lake has been annexed to Bowerbank, so it is four thousand acres short of a full township.

It has a fair soil, and abounds in water power. Piscataquis Falls, at Foxcroft village, has a head and fall of twelve feet. It was the first, improved on the river, and with good dams seldom fails in droughts. It now turns a woolen factory, a saw, clapboard, and shingle mill, a carding mill, and a tannery, the whole year; and a sash and blind mill, machine shop and planing mill, a part of the year. An inflowing brook enters the river at the village, which turns a grist-mill, and machinery in a carriage shop. Several other streams sufficient to run mills a portion of the year are also improved.

ITS PURCHASE. In October, 1800, Col. J. E. Foxcroft and Thomas Johnson of New Gloucester explored it. At Skowhegan they secured Stephen Weston as pilot, who had been in the survey company that run out this range of townships. They left their horses with Samuel Elkins, in Cornville, footing it the remainder of the way, and camping out by night. At that time, the first mills in Athens were being raised.

They struck the south-west corner of the township, and followed the line on the south side of the river nearly down to the falls. In a private letter, dated April 3, 1853, Col. Foxcroft says: "We crossed the river a little above the falls. This was a pleasant spot, many names marked upon

trees, but all a wilderness, no sign that any one ever intended to dwell there. We went down the river to the southeast corner of the township, and near it, upon the interval, we found an opening occupied by Abel Blood and, I think, a hired man with him, but there was no family. They had corn growing, and garden roots. I well remember the large turnips and beets which they had raised, and thus the virgin soil and vigorous nature greeted these first efforts of husbandry with liberal productions."

As the result of this exploration, Col. Foxcroft purchased this township, Nov. 10, 1800, paying \$7,940, about forty-five cents per acre. The college committee,—William Martyn, Rev. E. Kellogg and Isaac Parker,—deeded it, Jan. 22, 1801, taking a mortgage back, which was not canceled until 1815. After discovering the deficiency in its area, Col. Foxcroft petitioned the Legislature of Maine for a grant to supply this lack, and obtained one-half of the Enfield township. In 1801, he employed Moses Hodsdon to lot it into two hundred acre lots, at a cost of \$200. In June of this year, he hired Samuel Elkins of Cornville to fell twenty acres of trees on lot number nine, range first, and for this he paid \$70.

Col. Foxcroft next offered forty-six rights, of two hundred acres each, for sale, to be assigned by lot, and several were soon purchased. Their purchasers met at the inn of Samuel Pingree, in New Gloucester, March 20, 1802, and legally organized as proprietors, and took measures to secure settlers. Col. Foxcroft was chosen clerk, and his records are still preserved. All the subsequent meetings of the proprietors were held in New Gloucester. They voted to offer lot number ten (upon which a part of the village now stands), the entire mill privilege, and \$100 in money, to any person who would build, and keep in repair for ten years, a saw- and grist-mill.

In the summer of 1802, Col. Foxcroft hired Elisha Alden to cut out a road across the township at a cost of \$73.00. This passed from the Chandler place to the "four corners," and thence over the hill to Morse's landing on Sebec Lake.

Still settlers were slow to come in. The first decided step toward a permanent settlement was in 1804. Then (says Capt. Chamberlain) "a piece of trees was felled on lot number eleven, now the western part of the village." In the fall of that year Col. Foxcroft contracted with Abel Blood and John Spaulding to build a saw- and grist-mill, according to the terms stated above, to be in operation by Jan. 1, 1807.

The next summer (1805), three other beginnings were made. Joseph Morse felled an opening on the lot north of the "four corners," upon which he and his son Richard dwelt many years; Tristram Robinson, another, on the Cyrus Holmes farm; and Eliphalet Washburn began on his well-known homestead. Mr. Washburn came here in the spring of that year.

This summer, John Spaulding, who had moved his family of eight from Norridgewock into a temporary habitation near Eli Towne's, in the March preceding, planted corn and potatoes on lot number eleven, and raised the *first crop* in the township. In March, 1806, he moved his family into a log-house near the falls, and became the *first settler* of Foxcroft. Soon after his removal, his two brothers, Eleazer and Seth, to whom Abel Blood had transferred his part of the mill contract, also moved their families from Norridgewock into log-houses near their brother's; hence the settlement took the name of Spauldingtown. The same spring, Joseph Foxcroft Spaulding, son of John Spaulding, was born, April 16, 1806, the *first birth* in the township. He was named for the proprietor, and would have been rewarded with a lot of land, but he died early, April 18, 1811.

This summer, John Chandler from Minot felled an opening on the lot afterward known as the Maj. Crooker place.

The Spauldings commenced cutting timber for the dam and mill, and making other preparations. In this remote and wilderness region, it proved to be a herculean undertaking. Teams were not at hand to haul the needed timber. But the greatest difficulties arose, in getting in the heavy irons, provisions, and spirituous liquors, then deemed *an es-*

*sential*, in hard and difficult labors, especially when working in wet and cold. These came from Bangor, while only a part of the way was there a road for teams. So these cumbrous articles had to be brought on horseback, or on a pair of stout shafts, the forward ends supported by hold-ups crossing the horse's back, the hind ends dragging on the ground. From Charleston to the settlement only a narrow way was cleared, while the sloughs, streams, and bogs were bridgeless. When crossing these, the heavily laden horses would sometimes sink deep into the mire, their feet would become entangled in roots, and make it necessary for the driver to thrust his arm down deep into the mud, and cut off the unyielding root with an open jack-knife. As no one could travel when the light of day faded, if darkness overtook them between settlements, they were compelled to camp out in the forests. While thus taking rest, the bears would prowls around, and serenade them with their howlings.

Quite a romantic account has been given of an expedition to bring up a barrel of rum from Bangor. The party sent was by some means detained, and did not return at the expected time. The home party grew anxious and too impatient to wait longer. So another scout was started off to aid them, if necessary, to rescue such a treasure, if imperiled, and to hasten it on to its destination. They went nearly half way to Bangor before meeting the returning party, and by uniting their forces, they "put the thing through." But the time and labor thus expended to procure a hurtful stimulant, would have laid the mud-sills of both dam and mill, and brought the remaining work above water. At length a frame large enough for a saw- and grist-mill under one roof was ready for raising. All the men in the new settlements on both sides of the river were required, and, said one of the builders, "they had no help to spare." They were late in finishing the dam, and obliged to work in the water after it was cold and icy. But with many hardships and much perseverance, a dam was stretched across the Piscataquis River, the first ever attempted, which answered its purpose

but poorly till plank could be sawed for a better one, and a saw-mill was started in January, 1807, the third in the county. The grist-mill was also put in operation, but the dam was so leaky that it could run only in high water, and the people had to go elsewhere "to mill." The starting of this mill was an advance step in the rising settlement.

In the summer of 1807, Messrs. S. Chamberlain, Ephraim Bacon, and John Bigelow came from Charlton, Mass., selected lots and felled openings upon them. Chamberlain and Bacon put up the first framed house in town, near the present "Exchange," and built a brick chimney, paying twenty-five dollars per thousand for the brick. They were made by Abel Blood on his place in Dover. The same summer Eliphalet Washburn raised the first barn in town. In October, Mr. Chamberlain, with a newly married wife, and Mr. Bacon, his brother-in-law, with his wife and three children, reached their new home. Mr. Bigelow started with them, but was taken sick in Bangor and died there, and his afflicted wife and children returned to Charlton. The next spring, Capt. Joel Pratt, Mr. Bigelow's brother-in-law, came and took the lot that Bigelow had selected and broken in upon.

Chamberlain and Bacon procured a strong ox-team and wagon to move with from Bangor to the settlement. They brought their household effects and a large stock of provisions to supply both families until they could raise crops. They were four days in reaching Charleston. Thence the road in many places had to be cut wider, sloughs and bogs bridged; one requiring a causeway no less than thirty feet in length to make it passable. They were two days in getting from Charleston to the settlement, fifteen miles, and compelled to camp in the woods one night, with their women and children, their six oxen having only two bundles of corn stalks for forage. And this removal of less than forty miles cost them fifty dollars. Mr. Eli Towne heard that they were on the way, and started on horseback to meet and assist them. He found them building the long bridge, and sending Mrs. Chamberlain forward on his horse, he took hold and



assisted in finishing it. Mrs. Chamberlain arrived safely at Mr. Towne's, but was so anxious for the others that she was sleepless through the night.

Soon after this, John and Seth Spaulding sold their shares in the mill to Messrs. Hutchinson and Hathaway. Seth then bought Peter Brawn's possession, and he and his brother both moved into Dover.

Mr. Timothy Hutchinson and Mr. Joseph Morse moved into Foxcroft about this time, and, probably, Mr. John Chandler, also. Eleazer Spaulding also sold his interest in the mill to a Mr. Whiting, and moved into Dover. These new mill-owners soon transferred the property to Mr. Daniel Bullen of Hebron, and so managed that the builders of the mill received but a small part of their pay. The proprietors conveyed to the builders promptly all that was promised them. A few years later, Mr. Bullen conveyed the lot and mills to Col. Samuel Greeley of Gilmanton, N. H., and his sons, Gilman, Daniel and Samuel, successively run them.

In 1808, several new openings were made. Jesse Washburn, some of the Bucks, and Nathan Carpenter made beginnings. In April of this year, Capt. S. Chamberlain was taken sick with fever, and sent to Bangor for a physician. Dr. Rich started, and rode twenty-four hours in coming forty miles. One visit proved sufficient to restore him to health, and for this long and tedious ride, visit, and medicine, he charged the moderate sum of fifteen dollars,—moderate, we should think, at the present time.

On the 18th day of August, 1808, Sarah J. Chamberlain, daughter of S. Chamberlain, was born. She grew up, and married Samuel Greeley, and is still living, having breathed the air of Foxcroft longer than any other person.

Probably new families moved in during this year, but there is no reliable record of them. Early in 1809, Jesse Washburn moved from New Gloucester on to the place since occupied by the late Ichabod Chandler.

The cold Friday, always so marked in the memory of those then living, occurred this year, Feb. 18, 1809. There was a

terrific gale and intense cold. Mr. J. Morse, when it began, was in the woods beyond Sebec Pond, with his team. The trees were so shaken and broken by the tempest, that he at once started for home. The wind was so cutting, when crossing the pond, that he left his team and fled to save his life. Assured that his oxen must inevitably perish, he turned back, and braved the chilling blast with them, and got them safely over. They were still in imminent danger from falling trees, and were often stopped by those already across the road. But he cut a way around them, and finally reached home without injury, excepting badly frozen feet.

Either this year or the next, a Dr. Winthrop Brown came from Berwick, and commenced the practice of medicine in this town. But the new settlers enjoyed such good health that he found but little to do, and, after remaining a short time, he left the place.

Samuel Chamberlain cleared an opening sufficient to make it safe to erect buildings, and, in August, 1809, moved his family into a new home, and also put up a barn. These first buildings were on the east half of the farm. The house which he and Bacon built near the mill, was taken down and removed to a lot near the depot, and there Mr. Bacon lived till he left town. After passing through several hands, it was occupied by Mr. Joseph Garland.

The year 1810 gave evidence of progress toward a more settled state of social and municipal privileges. The inhabitants petitioned the General Court for an act of incorporation. Mr. Nathan Carpenter carried this petition to Paris when returning home, and sent it to Col. Foxcroft to approve of, and forward it to Boston.

The census, taken this year, shows 65 as the whole number of inhabitants.

An incident occurred at this time, which portrays some of the vicissitudes of border exploration. Messrs. Daniel Bullen and James Holmes, land-owners, visited the township, and went out with others better acquainted with the lay of the land, to see the lots owned by them. As Mr. Bullen

could not keep pace with the party, they advised him to remain at the corner of the lot, while they pushed on to other parts of it, and then they would come back and conduct him out. In the solitude of the forest, the time seemed long to the old gentleman. Confident that he could find his way back to the settlement, he started, got bewildered, and wandered off toward Sebec Lake. Finding himself fairly lost, he lifted up his voice, which his companions heard and answered, but being deaf, he could not hear them. They kindled fires to show the way back, as darkness was coming on, and made their way on by the sound, but he got into a thick swamp, and could not then be heard. So they returned, giving up all hope of rescue till morning. At length the moon arose, and the wanderer, sufficiently satisfied with land-looking alone, took the silvery orb of night for his guide, and came out safely to Mr. Daniel Buck's habitation.

It seems that some of the Messrs. Bucks from Buckfield, were by that time settled here. There were four brothers,—Nathaniel, Daniel, William and Moses,—among the early settlers of this town, and some of their descendants are still residing here. William began on the west half of the Capt. Chamberlain farm, and after struggling along some eight or ten years, sold out to him. This was a valuable addition to his first purchase. United, they made a farm, which for fertility of soil, beauty of landscape, and skillful husbandry, has gained a pre-eminence in the agricultural development of this county, and is still one of the finest and most valuable in this region.

Up to this time, but little attention had been paid to religion, in this or the neighboring settlement in Dover. No religious meetings had been attempted on the Sabbath. In 1809 or 1810, Col. Foxcroft visited the rising settlement on business, and though not then a professor of religion, he advised them to hold meetings on the Sabbath, and conduct them as they could. He had ever been an attendant upon public worship, he knew the beneficial effects of Sabbath observance to any community, and so took the initiative in this

important movement. The people readily fell in with this proposal, and a meeting was appointed for the next Sabbath, at the house of Eli Towne. With one accord they all assembled, singers with hymn books, and Mr. William Mitchell, an old school-master, with a sermon-book in his pocket, and willing, at the proper time, to read a discourse. But the most anxious inquiry was, "who will pray?" Not a man in either settlement had piety enough and confidence enough to perform so simple and natural a duty. Still they were not willing to omit that essential part of Divine worship. Mrs. William Mitchell, always a "Mother in Israel," had kept up prayer in her family from its commencement. She knew how to pray, she loved to pray, and rightly interpreting the teachings of Paul, she consented to pray! The meeting commenced, harmonious voices arose in songs of praise, the blessing of God was humbly and fervently asked, and the Piscataquis settlement was devoutly dedicated to the God of our fathers, by *Mrs. Mitchell's public prayer*. Thus was public worship inaugurated, and religion recognized as a power for good in this struggling community. Not long after, Rev. John Sawyer, looking after the scattered sheep in the wilderness, began to thread out these rough foot-paths, and extend his explorations to these parts, and to lay the foundation for Christian churches.

Of the history of 1811, but little is known. Dea. Nathan Carpenter moved his wife from Buckfield, in March of this year, to the place adjoining the Chamberlain farm. He became a prominent member of the Congregational church, a trustee of the academy from its beginning, to his death, an active citizen and town officer, and once a Representative to the Legislature. Mrs. Carpenter was highly esteemed for her fixed and estimable Christian character. They both died in town, Dea. Carpenter in April, 1872, aged eighty-four.

The year previous, 1810, Capt. Joel Pratt moved his family on to the Bigelow lot, and dwelt upon it till near his death. A part of it is still possessed by his son, S. C. Pratt. He was a house-joiner, and made many a new home comfort-

able and neat, in the rising settlement. In the spring of 1826, his own buildings with all their contents, were destroyed by fire, and so severe a loss greatly embarrassed him. He was prominent among the early town officers, a useful and valued citizen, an original and highly respected member and officer of the Congregational church. He died in town, in April, 1866, aged ninety years.

The year 1812 was auspicious to the people of this township. The petition for an act of incorporation already mentioned, was now before the General Court, and on the 29th day of February, 1812, it passed both houses and received the Executive sanction, the next day after Sebec was incorporated; so that Foxcroft is the second of the incorporated towns in the county. The name was selected in honor of Col. Foxcroft, the chief proprietor. He appreciated the compliment, and gracefully expressed it by presenting the town with one hundred dollars worth of books for a public library. After doing good service among the early inhabitants, this library was unfortunately burnt, when the office of J. S. Holmes Esq. took fire, and also valuable records of historical anecdotes, which were then in his custody. Had these survived, these pages might have been spiced with the wit and wisdom of the Piscataquis Historical Society, and a rich fund of pleasant entertainments been perpetuated.

Col. Foxcroft continued to hold and sell land in town, until July 4, 1827. He then sold by public auction, all that remained unsold, and closed up his proprietorship.

The act of incorporation made the Piscataquis River the boundary of Foxcroft, on the south. This left out a narrow strip which belonged to the original township above the mills, and took in a larger and more valuable portion of the Dover township below the falls, including several settlers. But the whole of Dover township was soon put into plantation order, so that a half dozen voters were rightfully claimed by both town and plantation. The inhabitants of Foxcroft made haste to organize, so as to use their elective franchises. Application was made to N. Chamberlain Esq. for a warrant

to call a meeting, which was issued to S. Chamberlain, to notify the legal voters; but he omitted those who resided on the Dover territory. On this account the first meeting, held on the sixth day of April, was pronounced illegal; another was called on the 31st of August following, and the town of Foxcroft assumed a corporate existence.

John Bradbury was chosen town clerk, and Messrs. Joël Pratt, S. Chamberlain and William Thayer, selectmen and assessors. The number of voters at this first meeting is not now known, but in 1813, it was 25; in 1815, 30; in 1818, 35; in 1820, 37; in 1823, 72. Only three other towns in the county paid a higher State tax in 1821, viz.: Sebec, Sangerville and Atkinson. It may be added that, in 1813, this town voted to raise \$600 for highways, \$125 for support of schools, and \$100 to build a town-house to be used for schools, and also for religious and town meetings. It was erected where the dwelling house of Charles Wyman now stands, and well served the early inhabitants.

The declaration of war against Great Britain, in June, 1812, and "the great scare" about the Indians, occurred this year, but as that affected all the settlements on the river, I propose to devote a separate section to it.

This year, too, A. Blake erected a whiskey distillery, and commenced the making of potato whiskey. This was worse than the war. Although it made a market for the surplus potatoes of the needy farmers, and suspended a very frequent walk or ride to Bangor, with jugs and kegs to obtain strong drink, it did not prove to be a reformatory institution. Though well patronized, it did not prove lucrative, and after a few years, its fires went out, and the building was converted into a currier's shop, and afterward into a tenement house, known till it was destroyed by fire in 1830, as "the old still house."

In the year 1813, John Bradbury moved his newly married wife to town. He had erected buildings on the lot now occupied by B. F. Hammond. He soon after began to keep merchandise, and opened the first store in the county. His

business increased, and after a few years, he sold his farm to Bela Hammond, sen., having erected a building sufficient for a store and dwelling-house at the mills—another decided step in planting Foxcroft village. Mr. Hammond and sons run a kitchen chair factory on the Merrill Brook, and eventually Benjamin Hammond & Co. built a saw-mill and bedstead factory, and opened a store at the village. But the company failed, and involved others in losses. The mill and factory then passed to A. D. Young & Son of Guilford, who run it successfully for a while, and then let it run down. Mr. Bradbury ran a very successful career as a merchant and mill-owner. He was a shrewd and enterprising business man, a friend to education, good order and religion. He left the place with a large property, removing first to Kenduskeag, and then to Bangor, where he died, leaving a good inheritance to his widow and children.

On the 28th day of April, 1813, Moses Bradbury, brother of John, was drowned in attempting to cross the mill-pond. On going to the landing with a female, who was to cross over with him, they found the boat was not there. Mr. B. went down to the mill to bring it up, but not being a good boatman, the current swept him over the dam. His long absence awakened his companion's fears, and she also went down to the mill, and discovered the boat below the dam, upset, and drifting in the eddy. This revealed his sad fate. She immediately gave an alarm, and fruitless search was made to recover his body. About two weeks later, it arose, and was found lodged against a rock. Elder William Oakes of Sangerville was called to attend the funeral, and his dust was covered by the clods of the valley.

The day on which Mr. Bradbury was drowned, is scored heavily by another deplorable occurrence. The first arraignment for crime committed within the limits of this town took place before Justice Chamberlain, for a grave offence against both human and divine law. The arraigned was adjudged guilty, and put under heavy bonds to appear at the County Court, and there, for reasons not now apparent, the

grand jury found no bill, and thus ended the prosecution. Let no one think that the Justice was too severe. This lenient treatment from the grand jury did not prove a reformatory measure to the arraigned, as his subsequent history painfully showed.

This year, Mr. E. Baker found it necessary to depart from this vicinity. He had colluded in the sale of a spurious patent churn, and when the fraud was uncovered, he absconded from his many avengers.

Several subjects pertaining to the war, the cold seasons, etc., affected all the towns so much alike, that I propose to give them a separate notice hereafter.

This year, 1816, the first military company in Foxcroft and Dover, embracing persons in both towns, was organized, the account of which will be given in its appropriate place.

In 1816, William Merrill from New Gloucester moved into town. His wife, formerly Peggy Forbes, was the only child of Mr. Forbes and wife, who, with her mother, survived those unparalleled sufferings in the wilderness. Robert Forbes jr., born after their rescue, also resided a few years in this town, and then in Sebec. Mrs. Forbes, his mother, spent a portion of her old age in this town and vicinity. Robert Forbes was born in the north of Ireland, crossed the ocean with Gen. Wolfe, fought on the plains of Abraham, and when discharged, settled in the city of Quebec, as a tailor. Eventually he married, his wife being a French Canadian, and soon after this he removed to Nouvelle-Bois, twenty-five miles up the Chaudierre, and secured a comfortable home.

On the eve of the Revolutionary outbreak, the Colonial Assembly of Massachusetts instructed the selectmen of Falmouth to send a few discreet men to Canada, to learn the bias of the people, and to ascertain the attitude of the Indians. They appointed Benjamin Hammond, father of Bela Hammond of Foxcroft, Jabez Matthews, and David Dinsmore of New Gloucester, for this mission. In the winter of 1775, they started, taking James Stinchfield (father of James Stinchfield, an early settler of Monson), who was a mighty hunter,



to assist them. In fifteen days they reached these upper settlements, and stopped with Mr. Forbes. Their account of the place whence they came, of their adventures, of their families, won the sympathies of their host and hostess. Passing on to Quebec, their errand became known to the British officers, who immediately arrested them as *spies*, and threw them into prison. Mr. Forbes and wife heard of this with sorrow and alarm. Assured that neither fairness nor mercy would be shown them by the courts, they anticipated for them a horrible doom. Mrs. Forbes was physically strong, and stronger in will and resolution. She made a visit to Quebec, and being acquainted with the jailor's wife, did not neglect to visit her. After the jailor had put the prison in a secure state, and retired to rest, Mrs. Forbes, prevailing on his wife to intrust her with the keys, unlocked the doors, and gave these men their guns and snow-shoes, and told them "to flee for their lives." They soon scaled the walls, crossed the St. Lawrence, and took to the woods. They escaped from hostile Indians, and safely reached home. The next spring Matthews went to the Assembly, and reported to the Colonial government the substance of the above account. The jailor, his wife, and Mrs. Forbes were all closely examined, but the guilty parties did not criminate themselves, evaded all damaging disclosures, and were acquitted; nevertheless strong suspicions rested upon Mrs. Forbes.

Late in the fall of 1775, Arnold, with his weary, starving forces, reached this settlement, and he also lodged with Mr. Forbes during his stay. He and his men had been thirty-five days in the wilderness. These Canadians wrongfully thought that now a passable road was opened through the forest. These events aroused an anxiety in Mr. Forbes to emigrate to Maine. After the war ended, and our government was established, this anxiety increased. So, in the winter of 1784, he resolved to do so. At this time three Dutchmen, Midstaff, Pancake and Christian,—hunters, who had come through from the Kennebec,—offered to guide and help them through, assuring them that they could reach the upper

settlements in twelve days. They then had five children,—John, a lad of thirteen, the youngest fifteen months old, the others between them, and another in expectancy. Their neighbors remonstrated and warned them that these men would desert them in the wilderness, but all in vain. Mr. Forbes sold his property, save a few valuables, procured hand-sleds upon which to convey the children, provisions, and baggage, and, on March 17, 1784, set out on this laborious journey, the men, hauling the hand-sleds and the four youngest children, the rest walking on snow-shoes. For eight days they made slow but steady progress, following up the Chaudière, and then, on account of deep gullies, they left the river. On the ninth day, these villainous guides induced Mr. Forbes to leave his wife and children in a camp, and to take a large part of the remaining provisions and baggage on their backs, and go on to Megantick Lake, saying they would leave their loads there, and come back and get the family. They were the greater part of two days in reaching the lake, there Midstaff crossed it to find an Indian camping there, but was unsuccessful; so the next day he returned to the other men and the baggage, and with his two partners perfidiously resolved to abandon this helpless family. Mr. Forbes remonstrated, and plead with tears, but all in vain. Though they had been paid for their services, though it was consigning these seven persons to the direst fate, if not death itself, they took nearly all the provisions, and whatever else of their valuable effects they chose, and departed for the Kennebec. They did leave him a poor axe, a small gun, and *two loaves of bread*. Mr. Forbes, broken-hearted and dismayed, hurried back to his wretched family, already agonized at his long absence, for they expected him back in two days, only to deepen their distress. To return to Canada, seemed hopeless, and they erroneously thought it further than to the settlements on the Kennebec; but their children were crying for bread, and there were two loaves, one day's journey on the way toward Maine. They resolved to proceed, Mr. Forbes taking the two younger children on one sled, and John tak-

ing Peggy, then about five years old, on another, while Mary of seven years, walked with her mother. This compelled them to abandon much that their immediate comfort required. Night overtook them before the lake and the bread were reached, and weary and hungry they again camped. The next day was stormy, Mr. F. and John again left the others, and hasted for the bread. Weary and wet to the skin, by night, they reached the camp, and relieved their hunger. When the storm abated, they pressed on and arrived at the lake. Providentially they found the Indian already spoken of. They had known him in Canada, and he treated them as kindly as the Dutchmen had, cruelly. He took them to his camp and fed them bountifully upon moose meat, which he had just taken. When rested and recruited, he gave them all the moose meat they could carry, and piloted them to the upper waters of Dead River, a western branch of the Kennebec. He would have conducted them through to the settlement, had not his wife's condition required his presence. But he marked on a piece of birch bark the falls, inflowing streams, and carrying-places, and instructed them to follow it closely. They gave him all that they had left behind, and other heavy articles, and loaded him with their heartiest thanks. Though following the river, they found the way rough and mountainous. By the 12th of April, their provision was nearly spent, Mrs. F.'s strength was exhausted, and she declared that she could not proceed. So, her husband, at her request, put up a camp near an open brook and a cluster of fir trees, and started with John for the settlements, to obtain help, confident that they were nearly through. Mrs. Forbes and her children had two pounds of moose meat and a little tallow, as their only supply of food. Mr. Forbes and John traveled on the ice, till open rapids prevented. But, not being sagacious in following their chart, passed the great carrying place, where by traveling twelve miles across, to ponds, and down their outlet, they would have reached the main river, they followed Dead River northward to its mouth, and made their journey forty miles further. On find-

ing the river open and running smoothly, they constructed a raft, and floated down safely for a while, but soon the rapids put their lives in peril. At length it struck a rock and parted, but they clung to its fragments, and saved their lives and gun, but they lost their axe, which they so much needed. They then traveled on, following the river. April 22d, ten days after leaving Mrs. Forbes, they built a fire on a high hill, and camped for the night. Two hunters, John Crosby and Luke Sawyer, saw it and came to their relief, for their strength was nearly exhausted. These men fed them, and conducted them out to the settlement at Seven-Mile Brook, now Anson village. Mr. Forbes prevailed on Major Hale, William Huston, and Eben Hilton, men used to the woods, to start immediately for his family. They traveled more than a week, and then gave up the search, and returned without them. But it afterward appeared that they were so near that Mrs. F. actually heard the fall of the tree, from which they made a canoe to return in. After thirteen days' absence, they returned to report their failure, and to break Mr. Forbes' heart anew. Twenty-four days had now passed since they were left with the mere morsel of provision, and all thought that they must be dead. But Mr. Forbes could not be content without finding them dead or alive, so he persevered. Two other men, James McDonald and John Ames, agreed to accompany him. But heavy rains overflowed the low lands, and delayed their starting until the water fell. On the 28th of May, they set out. Mr. Forbes was too feeble to keep pace with them, and they, assuring him that they would be faithful, persuaded him to return. On reaching Dead River, they made a canoe and proceeded by water. On the sixth day, they perceived, from Mr. F.'s careful description of the place, that they were nearing it. To prevent a sudden surprise, if any were living, they gave a *halloo*. A human voice, faint and sepulchral, *responded!* One of them broke out, "she is alive! for God's sake, pull hard!" On going ashore, a sight beyond all description was before them. Mrs. Forbes and Peggy, reduced to living skeletons, languid as starvation

could make them, *were alive*, while the corpses of three other children lay unburied near them. Soup from venison was hastily and carefully given the living, and they revived. Fifty days had elapsed since they were left with that scanty portion of provision. After two days their fire went out, and they were unable to rekindle it. When the snow dissolved, their camp fell and left them shelterless. They slivered the fir trees, and lived upon their juicy coating, and drank freely from the brook. This was their subsistence. For the last twelve days they could only creep to the trees and the brook. Mrs. Forbes used to relate that, every night after their fire went out, a small wild animal came and laid down at her back, and left, with the dawning light. On the thirty-eighth day, the youngest child expired; the next day, Katharine, next to the youngest; and four days later, Mary, the eldest. She had often said they would all starve, and begged the surviving to put her body where the wild beasts could not devour it.

Had the first relief company gone *one mile* further, they would *all* have been rescued alive. After the dead were buried, and their graves covered with heavy logs, Mrs. Forbes and Peggy were laid tenderly on soft boughs in the boat, and they drifted down the current. On a rude bier, they carried them past the steep falls, and at length reached Norridgewock safely, where Mr. Forbes received them as alive from the dead. In a few weeks, Robert jr. was born, a healthy child, and eventually a robust man, but with an appetite that needed strong restraint.

The place where they were left, was on Dead River, above Flagstaff. This was the route that Arnold took. After stopping a short time in Norridgewock, Mr. Forbes and family made their way to New Gloucester, where their rescued friends resided. Previous to this, Capt. Hammond had died in the Revolutionary army, but the others survived and rendered them needed assistance, in grateful return for Mrs. Forbes' daring act to deliver them from prison.

Two pamphlet histories of these sufferings have been published, but they cannot now be found.

In 1816, Mr. Beal, a tanner, came and started the tanning business. He used the lower part of Blake's "still house" for his currying shop. After a few years, he left, and the business was given up here and begun in Dover.

In 1818, Andrew Blethen came to Foxcroft. He was a shoemaker, and put together the first pair of boots made in the place. He afterward engaged in farming, and cleared up three new lots, the last on Sebec Lake, at Blethen's landing. He there built a saw-mill, upon a brook, and remained until his death, in 1879, aged eighty-four. He was a worthy, honored, and truly Christian man, often preaching in the back settlements. Eventually this saw-mill ran down, and John Arnold commenced building another. But, by a fall from it, he was fatally injured, and the work stopped. The Spool Factory Company purchased it, and sold it to L. H. Dwelley & Co. They completed it, and put in a steam engine, and use it for splitting out spool timber, much of which is brought across the lake.

A little before this time, Dr. Jeremiah Leach came to Foxcroft, to establish himself as a physician. He also started the manufacture of potash. His health was soon invaded. A disease fixed itself upon the bones of his face, and he went to Boston for treatment. His recovery was slow and lingering, and Dr. Aaron Tucker was encouraged to come to Foxcroft, and, in 1818, he settled here, and remained till his death.

In 1818, Eli Towne and others petitioned the General Court, that all the land lying on the north side of Piscataquis River, originally belonging to township Number Three, and now included in the towns of Sebec and Foxcroft, might be re-annexed to plantation Number Three, Dover. The application was successful, and the old range line, as run by Ballard and Weston, became the dividing line between Foxcroft and Dover.

A bridge across the river was a public necessity. This re-annexation brought the whole expense of it on to Foxcroft. But nothing daunted, the inhabitants voted in 1819, to build, appointing John Bradbury, Joel Pratt, and Eliphalet Wash-

burn, a committee to superintend the work, and raised \$150 to be paid in money, and \$500 to be paid in labor, to erect it. The next year, an additional sum, to be paid in labor and grain, was raised, increasing the whole amount raised to \$1,350, fourteen per cent upon the town valuation. N. Chamberlain was employed to frame it, and in due time, a substantial bridge, with very complicated architecture, spanned the Piscataquis, the first erected on the river. It stood about ten years, and was then injured by a very high winter freshet, and rebuilt on a different plan in 1830.

About this time, Almorán Sherman started a carding-machine on the brook where Jordan's grist-mill now stands, the third in the county. He ran it two or three years, became insane, and had to abandon it.

This year, Capt. Samuel Chamberlain was chosen delegate to the Convention which met to form a State Constitution. But twenty-five votes were cast, and he was elected by only one majority. Some time after this, he was chosen to represent this district in the Legislature. He also held many town offices, and was a life long Trustee of the Academy. He was one of the greatest mathematical geniuses in this region. Though he never went beyond the common arithmetic, he could solve many questions impossible to all others not acquainted with the higher mathematics. Capt. Chamberlain was a model farmer. He knew "how to make the farm pay." In the most unfavorable seasons, he always raised his own bread, and some to spare. He, too, was an excellent economist, giving shape to many judicious measures in town, as well as on his own premises. His moral character was beyond reproach, and, in all his dealings and intercourse with men, he was "the soul of honor." He was a friend to the poor, encouraged them to make proper exertions for their own relief, and readily assisted the unfortunate and destitute. He reared up, and gave an academical education to, a large family, a part of which still reside in town. Though never a professor of the Christian religion, he was an attendant upon public worship, and encouraged

religious institutions. When returning from a visit to a married daughter in Guilford village, a wild horse upset his chaise, by which he was fatally injured, though his wife received no harm. He was taken back to the dwelling of J. H. Loring, from which he had just started, gave direction for the settlement of his estate, which had grown under his hand to \$8000, lingered for twenty-four hours, and expired, June 6, 1838, aged fifty-four. Until about two years since, his farm remained in the possession of some of the family, and then it passed to other parties.

When Col. Foxcroft commenced the sale of "rights" in the township, James Holmes of Oxford, bought two, and was fortunate in the drawing of them. Two of his sons, Capt. Salmon Holmes and Lieut. Cyrus Holmes, eventually settled on them, beginning in 1818, or earlier. They were enterprising and thrifty farmers, and made their fertile acres smile under a generous and skillful culture. No one can look upon these broad and fruitful fields, without feeling that industry, skill and good taste can develop themselves as fully in the productive pursuits of husbandry, as in the works of the mechanic, or the nicest touches of the artist. These men have both passed away. Cyrus died in the autumn of 1867, and Salmon, the elder of the two, in Dec., 1877.

In 1822, J. S. Holmes, a brother of the preceding, also came to Foxcroft, and opened a lawyer's office, the first in the county. Before this, Rev. Thomas Williams had come here as a missionary, and, this year, arrangements were made for his permanent settlement. The town united with the Congregational church in extending a regular call to him, voted to give him the "ministerial lot" and the income of the ministerial fund. These called out a response from the candidate, which was marked with becoming gravity and courtesy. The advent of two thoroughly educated men, both interested in education, hastened the planting of an Academy here. A small select school was taught by Mr. Holmes, in the fall of 1822, as the first step toward obtaining a charter. It was sought and granted, the act being passed



in January, 1823. Funds were raised by subscription, a two-storied building erected, finished and occupied as early as the spring of 1825. Before this, James Gooch A.B. of North Yarmouth, its first preceptor, taught a term in the Dover school-house. This was the first Academy in the county, and the first north of Bangor.

Charles P. Chandler was the next preceptor, and, after him A. Sanborn, S. H. Blake, and others, who afterward occupied places of distinction. It was patronized generously by a large extent of the newly settled region, and sent forth better qualified teachers to many of our common schools, and thus benefited widely the rising generation. The State aided this young institution with a grant of a half township of wild land. The north half of the present town of Springfield was designated, and though heavily timbered with pine and spruce, the trustees sold it to parties in Bangor for thirty-one cents per acre, as it was not on log-driving streams. Messrs. Williams and Holmes were both incorporated members of the board of trustees, and the latter continued such until his death, Dec. 30, 1879, aged eighty-eight, the last survivor of those original members. A fuller notice of Rev. Mr. Williams will be found in its proper place. A new academy building has displaced the first erected, and it is still in a thriving condition.

In the year 1820, Daniel Greeley took down the old mill built by the Spauldings, and replaced it with a large saw-mill and grist-mill. Soon after, a clapboard machine was started in this saw-mill, by Mr. Daniel Brown. In 1822, a mill for cloth dressing and carding was erected near these mills. E. R. Favor put the clothing mill in operation, and a Mr. Allen put in a carding machine. Mr. Favor soon sold his mill to Jesse Martyn, who remained but three years, and Mr. Allen, falling sick, sold his to John Bradbury. In 1826, Bradbury erected a saw-mill on the southern end of the dam, and also a fulling-mill and carding machine, and moved the machinery from the other mill into it. In 1827, R. K. Rice purchased this, and followed this business for the next four

years. He then sold out to Mr. Parsons, and he, after one or two years, sold to J. Bradbury, of whom Vaughan and Brown bought it, and turned its over custom to the mill at the lower falls. But when Vaughan, Brown and Sawyer started a factory, in 1836, on the lower falls, they sold this mill, machinery and custom, to Messrs. Jordan and Crockett, and they continued the business for many years, doing a little manufacturing also. Not long after this time, Farnham's tannery was erected on this same privilege. It has been twice burned to the ground, and rebuilt. This is still running, Dea. L. O. Farnham doing a large and profitable business. But now this is the only general tannery in the county. This business has been carried on in Sangerville, Dover, Parkman, Guilford, Monson, Sebce, Brownville, Atkinson and Milo, but is now, in all these towns, abandoned. Dover once had three tanneries in operation at the same time.

The saw-mill and shingle machine owned by R. D. Gilman were also once burned with this tannery, but are rebuilt and doing a smart business. On this same privilege, Maj. J. Crooker erected a brick building for a fork and hoe factory. After running it a few years, it passed to Crooker & Harris, and was swept away in the great freshet of 1857. Its place is now occupied by Bailey's planing mill. The old Greeley mill passed into the hands of Samuel Greeley, and was eventually carried off by a freshet. In the spring of 1827, a serious accident occurred in this mill. Two men, James Tarr and John Steadman, when at work repairing the flume, were drowned. The planking which shut out the water, suddenly gave way, and they were forced by a great rush of water, into the open spouts, and there held a long time, before they could be extricated.

In the spring of 1836, the dwelling-house of Capt. J. Hale was burnt, and the store of Bradbury & Herring, standing where the Hale block now stands, was burnt with it.

Capt. H. Scott erected another grist-mill, in 1834 or 1835, upon this privilege, and as it was upon an improved plan, it

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The destructive freshet of 1857 swept away the dam, and some of the buildings on the other end of it, but passed most of the mills harmless. It also carried away the new bridge built in the summer of 1854. Another grist-mill for grinding corn was erected at the mouth of the brook, in this village, by Ivory B. Jordan, now run by C. W. Pratt, and is still doing a profitable business.

In 1870, L. H. Dwelley & Co. started a spool factory, which had been begun by another company, and this increased the business of the place. It requires from ten to fifteen hundred cords of white and yellow birch, per annum, the purchase of which, and the sale of the unavailable parts, are a great convenience to the community. The building was laid in ashes, July 12, 1877, but has been rebuilt with more substantial materials, through the enterprise of its owners and the voluntary assistance of sympathizing citizens. This factory gives employment to many men and teams, and manufactures, when running on full time, \$50,000 worth of spools annually, the greater part of which is paid out for labor in getting the timber, and working it up.

Dyer & Hughes have done a good business of late, in the manufacture of musical instruments,—pianos, melodeons and organs. Foxcroft has a fair proportion of the professional, mercantile and mechanical business done in these combined villages, but a detailed account of it would be long and tedious.

As a town, it assisted the Bangor & Piscataquis Railroad to the amount of \$27,750, and this, with its war debt, makes its liabilities large, nearly \$40,000.

**LAWYERS.** J. S. Holmes, J. S. Wiley, C. P. Chandler, A. G. Lebroke, Ephraim Flint, and D. L. Savage have had law offices in Foxcroft village. Hon. Mr. Wiley was elected a member of the 30th Congress, in 1847, while a resident of Foxcroft. Upon the expiration of his term of office, he settled in Dover, and still remains there.

**PHYSICIANS.** Wentworth Brown, Jeremiah Leach, Aaron

Tucker, Castillo Hamlin, Josiah Hobbs, Josiah Jordan, J. Lawton, William Buck, A. T. Walker, T. H. Merrill, have practiced here, the last three still remaining.

**MERCHANTS.** Those who have remained for some considerable time, are John Bradbury, William Bradbury, Nathaniel Bradbury, S. S. Herring, Caleb Prentiss, Melvin Stevens,—all previous to 1840. Since then, many others have been, and still are, in this business.

A telegraph line connects Foxcroft and Dover villages with Dexter, and with the Maine Central Railroad at Newport. And now another line from Oldtown to Greenville and the Mt. Kineo House is under contract, and is expected to be in operation by next summer, which will pass through this place.

In 1870, the population was 1170; its valuation \$400,109.

## CHAPTER XIV.

### BROWNVILLE.

BROWNVILLE was Number Five, Range Eight, with an area of 21,320 acres. This range of townships was run out by Samuel Weston, in 1794, and is a full mile wider than usual, giving each town a larger area. Its pine timber and favorable streams for log-driving, soon drew the notice of land buyers. In 1795, it was sold to Samuel Fowler, for £2,964, with the condition that he should have forty families settled on it within eight years. He paid £261, but afterward failed to meet his engagements, and it reverted to the State. Joseph Blake was the next purchaser. The terms and date of this sale are unknown. He employed Park Holland to lot it out, in 1803. In 1805, Mr. Holland explored it, probably for Moses Brown and Josiah Hills of Newburyport, who soon after bought it, and commenced its settlement.

**SOIL.** Light interval soil is found to some extent on the river, but the larger part consists of upland ridges, which, though stony, are strong and productive. It is rich in slate quarries, already alluded to, and the working of these has benefited all the various industries. So, too, the Katahdin Iron Works, twelve miles up the river, have furnished a very steady market to the farmers.

**WATER POWER.** The main trunk of Pleasant River, which suggested its own name, passes through this town, and affords three excellent mill sites. One has been constantly occupied since 1806, the other two are not improved. The supply of water is sufficient for a saw-mill, grist-mill, and shingle machine, nearly all the year round.

**FIRST SETTLEMENT.** It is a matter of deep regret that

dates, names and places cannot be more accurately given. It is said that one Hiram Heath felled the first opening, in the north part of the town, but when and where, is not now easily settled. In 1806, a decided strike was made toward a permanent settlement. In the spring of that year, Messrs. Brown and Hills sent Francis Brown with a crew of workmen, to build a dam and mills on Pleasant River. They selected the falls, where the mills now stand, and around which the village has grown up. They brought up their tools, mill-irons, and provisions, in boats from Bangor. By fall, the work was completed, and a saw- and grist-mill put in operation. These mills preceded the Spauldings' at Foxcroft by a few months, and were the second mills built in the county.

The first settlers were probably there then, and others were preparing to come in. To a certain number of the early settlers, fifty acres of land were given. In the fall of 1806, Maj. J. Hills, one of the proprietors, moved in, and took charge of the mills. He eventually sold his share of the mills, and of wild land, to Mr. Brown, moved upon a new farm, and died there in 1810. There are indications that the settlement increased rapidly. In the spring of 1808, if not earlier, Dr. Isaac Wilkins, a practicing physician, moved his family in, and settled upon the well known Wilkins place. He had a son born there, July 27, 1808, Sidney Wilkins, now living, who was the second child born in town. It is also remembered that Dr. Wilkins was a chain-man in a survey party which measured the distance on a straight line to Canada, and that they passed near the foot of Mt. Katahdin. Dr. Wilkins remained in town until his death, in 1820, and reared up a family there, to which the late Rev. Isaac E. Wilkins belonged.

The same year, there was another advent of still greater importance to the rising settlement. Rev. Hezekiah May, a learned and pious Congregational minister, came to town, being sent and sustained by the proprietors. He taught school in winter, and preached upon the Sabbath. He partly cleared up the Brown place, built a small framed house and other buildings upon it, but in 1814, he sold out his possession to

Dea. Francis Brown, and moved out of the State. Francis Brown had removed from Newbury to Bangor, thence to Brownville in 1812, and from 1814, resided upon the place which still bears his name, the soil having been devised to him by Moses Brown, his uncle. He ever exerted a very effective and healthful influence in town, and died there in 1854, greatly lamented. Not long after Rev. Mr. May left, Rev. John Sawyer made a home in the neighborhood, succeeding Mr. May as teacher and preacher, and also traversed those new settlements as a missionary.

In proof of the early and rapid settlement of this town, we find that, in 1810, it had 131 inhabitants, then exceeded only by Atkinson and Sebec, of all the townships in this county, while Milo had only 34. But in 1820, it had only 172, and seven other towns in the county paid a higher State tax.

For most of the above statements, I am indebted to papers left by the late E. A. Jenks, who commenced writing an historical sketch of this town, but his last sickness prostrated him, and he died, leaving it unfinished, which no one regrets more than the writer.

INCORPORATION. Materials for tracing the progress of the settlement were not found, but we have learned that religious meetings were kept up, and schools sustained, before there was any legal organization. The first step toward this was in June 29, 1819. On that day it was organized as Brownville Plantation. For five years it remained so. But on Feb. 24, 1824, it was incorporated as the town of Brownville. The first town meeting was held March 29th, following. At this it was voted to invite Rev. N. W. Sheldon, Congregationalist, to settle with them in the ministry, and also voted to raise annually, with other town expenses, \$150 toward his support. And it continued to do this while Mr. Sheldon remained as their minister, never diminishing, but sometimes increasing, the sum.

TRADERS. Dea. F. Brown was the first trader in town. In a small shed attached to the house built by Rev. H. May, he kept a few goods, as early as 1823. About 1830, E. A.



Jenks became a partner with him. Then a larger store was built, nearer the village, and the business continued by Brown & Jenks.

Some time after this, Jefferson Lake, who pursued the lumbering business largely, also opened a store. Others succeeded Mr. Lake, and two or three stores of general merchandise have been in the place ever since.

A bridge across the river was much desired. For a season they hesitated, and ferried across the mill-pond. At length a cheap kind of a bridge was built, but for many years a good substantial bridge, on an improved plan, has spanned the river.

**THE SLATE QUARRIES.** The working of these has greatly increased the population, the business, and the thrift of Brownville. It introduced quite a foreign population, mostly Welsh, who make an industrious and frugal class of citizens.

The Bangor and Piscataquis Slate Company opened the first quarry in 1843. When in full operation, this wrought out from 8000 to 12000 squares of slate annually, selling in Bangor for from \$35,000 to \$40,000, and employing sixty men, and paying out in wages \$25,000 per year.

A. H. Merrill's quarry, though he resides in Williamsburg, is mainly in Brownville. This was opened for trial in 1846, Mr. Merrill then owning one-fourth. The experiments proved encouraging. They expended a large sum, and increased the quantity produced. At length he became sole owner. He has bought 1500 acres of land, and put up and furnished buildings, so as to make 30,000 squares of roofing slate annually, investing in all, \$75,000. It gives steady employment to eighty men, who are paid from \$1.50 to \$2.00 per day. This quarry is less than two miles from Brownville village, and sends its productions by teams to Milo depot.

The Highland quarry, in the east part of the town, has been more recently opened. Slate of a superior quality is found here. Through the pressure of the times, it has proved unprofitable of late, and suspended business. But its owner, Hon. S. O. Brown, is expected to soon have it in operation.

This town assisted in building the Bangor & Piscataquis Railroad to the amount of \$5000. Its war debt then amounted to \$8000. Now its indebtedness is less than \$10,000.

Through the depression in business since 1876, many, for want of employment, have moved away, and many have been reduced in their pecuniary resources by the failures of the Slate and Iron Works companies. But the prospect now is that the hard times are easing off, and that the former prosperity will be restored.

Dr. L. B. Crosby is the only professional man in town, excepting its clergymen.

Its State valuation in 1870, was \$157,626; its population, 860.

## CHAPTER XV.

### WILLIAMSBURG AND BARNARD.

WILLIAMSBURG and BARNARD were Number Six, Range Eighth, and adjoined Brownville on the west. Originally, they had an area of 22,804 acres. A fair proportion of their soil is good for agriculture, but much of the northern part has never been cleared. Williamsburg is well watered. Pleasant River passes through the north-east corner, and Roaring Brook empties into it from the western side, both affording good mill privileges, which have not been improved. Near the center, Whetstone Brook, another tributary of Pleasant River, affords a good privilege, upon which a saw-mill and shingle machine have been erected.

A large quantity of slate is probably concealed beneath its soil. Moses Greenleaf Esq. early discovered this, had its qualities tested, and led the way to the working of all the quarries in the county.

PROPRIETOR. Mr. William Dodd of Boston early purchased this township of the State, hence came the name, Williamsburg. Moses Greenleaf was Mr. Dodd's agent, from the beginning of its settlement.

FIRST SETTLEMENT. The names of the early settlers are unknown, also the precise date of their entrance. Probably its settlement began soon after that of Brownville, and near its eastern border. John Crommett had settled there as early as 1808, Moses Head in 1810, and Mr. Greenleaf, probably, by this time. Mark Pitman and others were, at this date, settled in the west part, now Barnard.

There were two families early settled, one in Williamsburg, the other in Brownville, named Hemminway and Downing,

which may have been the first there, but it cannot be determined. They moved away soon after the cold seasons, but will come again into notice.

According to the census taken by Mr. Greenleaf, there were 71 persons in this township in 1810, more than in Milo, Foxcroft, or Guilford. From this date there was a slow, but gradual increase.

In one respect Williamsburg has a notable preeminence. Here the first map of Maine was plotted, and the first book written within this county. As early as 1816, Moses Greenleaf Esq., having prepared them, published both of these, sending out a book of 154 pages, entitled "Statistics of Maine," to accompany and explain his map. This book he afterward enlarged and amended, and issued in 1829, as "Survey of Maine," a work of 468 pages, and of great statistical value. At the same time he issued a new map, larger and much improved. Let it then be noted, that, before Rev. Sidney Smith sneeringly asked: "Who reads an American book?", and before the late John Neal crossed the ocean to contribute articles to British Reviews written on the British Isle, to win a reputation as an American author, here, in the back-woods of Maine, a book was written, and read too, by some, who thought it worthy of their notice.

In June, 1819, the inhabitants of this township were organized as Williamsburg Plantation, Eben Greenleaf being chosen plantation clerk. But it remained in that state scarcely one year. June 21, 1820, the first Legislature of the new State of Maine incorporated it as the town of Williamsburg, the second town incorporated by that body, Kennebunk being the first. At that time it had a population of 107, and cast about twenty votes. The first State tax levied upon it was \$18.67, only eight towns in the present county then paying a larger one.

In 1828, William Dodd, the proprietor, died. From that time a serious difficulty arose, in regard to collecting the non-resident taxes, which embarrassed the town for many years. But a few years later, quite a valuable accession was made

to the population, by immigrants from Brunswick and vicinity, and its prospects were rising.

In the annual town meeting of 1831, measures were taken to secure preaching in town. They voted to raise \$30 for this purpose by taxation, with the condition that any taxpayer who would file a written request to that end, with the assessors, should be exempted. The committee chosen to expend it, were also instructed to procure, each his preferred minister.

The next year, 1832, the reserved lots were selected by a town committee, and by Mr. Greenleaf as proprietor's agent,—three, of 160 acres each, in both the east and west half of the township.

In 1830, a small Congregational church was organized. In 1833, it invited Rev. Joseph Underwood to settle over it, with the understanding that he should spend one-half of his time in Sebec. The town, at its next meeting, voted to concur with the church in this invitation, and to regard him as the minister of the town. This secured to Mr. Underwood the minister's lot of land. But as he continued with them only two years, he did not claim it, and when he left the place, relinquished his right to it. But with sorrow it must be said that, from the sale of this and two other reserves of the same quantity, the town has not realized and retained any fund for the support of ministry or schools in either town.

In 1833, it was voted to petition for a division of the town, and the terms were agreed upon, without a dissenting vote. The line of separation was to run through the low land, which naturally divided the township; the town's poor was to be assigned to each, according to the location of their former homes; each town was to hold the equal part of the reserved lots, as located within it; the unpaid taxes and town debts were to be divided to each in proportion to their respective valuations, which finally fell, fifty-four per cent to Burnard, and forty-six to Williamsburg.

In February, 1834, the Legislature divided the town on

these conditions, and incorporated the west part as the town of Barnard. At the next State election, Williamsburg cast but thirteen votes, and neither town has made much advance since. The present town of Williamsburg, in a business point of view, is closely connected with Brownville. The inhabitants go to Brownville village for trade, and religious meetings. Though A. H. Merrill resides in Williamsburg, his slate quarry is nearly all in Brownville, and increases the valuation of that town. Another quarry has been opened within the limits of this town by the Piscataquis Central Slate Company, which was incorporated in 1874, and the work on a limited scale is still pursued by Thomas E. and J. R. Hughes. Slate of an excellent quality is here wrought out, some of which has been used upon the most expensive mansions in Foxcroft.

A personal occurrence will now be noted. Mr. Winslow Hatch took up a wild lot in this town, and spent a few years upon it. He cleared up some ten acres, built a small house, married a wife, and was getting on prosperously. Some two years after his marriage, in the winter of 1823, he left home to visit his friends in New Gloucester. He made his visit, and pretended to start for his eastern home. But he was not seen in these parts afterward. His disappearance gave rise to many dark and trying conjectures. Many years afterward, an old acquaintance found him in Ohio. But why or wherefore his strange absconding, no one knows.

Moses Greenleaf Esq., usually known as Judge Greenleaf, held a high position in both town and county. In 1790, when Moses was thirteen years old, his father moved from Newburyport to New Gloucester. There his children enjoyed superior advantages for obtaining an education, which they readily improved. On reaching manhood, Moses engaged in trade, first in New Gloucester, but removed to Bangor as early as 1804. Becoming Mr. Dodd's agent, he took a lively interest in the wild lands of this new section, and made himself acquainted with their resources and their facilities for water transportation. In preparing his maps and

books, his researches were extensive and valuable. He discovered that line of slate quarries which crosses the county, held correspondence with, and sent specimens from them to, experts in the business, and obtained favorable assurances, more than ten years before the first quarries were opened. His "Survey of Maine," is a noble monument of his untiring industry and eminent talents, devoted to the development of the natural resources of our State. Again, we must express our deep regret that so few copies of it are preserved. He was an Associate Justice of the Court of Sessions in Penobscot county, and filled other responsible positions. He died March 20, 1834, aged fifty-seven, with an unblemished reputation, and universally lamented. His sons removed to the West.

Eben Greenleaf Esq., brother of the preceding, also resided in this town, though for a season in the west part of it. He, too, was eminent for both natural and acquired abilities. He commenced his career upon the sea, and soon became a sea-captain. When he married, he abandoned that pursuit, and moved into this new region. He was often employed as a land surveyor, and was plantation and town clerk continuously. He died in Williamsburg Nov. 29, 1851.

An incident in the Hemminway family will close this sketch. After they left, their field, being on Judge Greenleaf's lot, was turned out to grazing. Bushes sprang up, the buildings went to decay, a taller growth overhung the orchard, the garden with its roots and roses, and the fruitful field too, became a wilderness.

A few years since, one of their sons came back to revisit the home of his boyhood; to review the haunts of his youthful pastime; to mark the progress that fifty years had made, upward, as he expected, rather than downward and backward; to re-possess those same fields, so engraven upon his young memory; and to close his days where his early ambition budded, and where the auspicious prospects of a whole life opened to his eager view. With an intelligent guide, he sought out that endeared spot. Alas, how changed! The

cellar was not quite obliterated, but sturdy trees had thrust their rank roots through its wall. Bush and brake and overshadowing forest blotted out the garden. The top of sunken stone heaps, here and there, alone marked the place where his father once swung his scythe, and where the fields yielded their affluent increase. The apple tree, scarcely found, was not so much as the other trees of the forest, for a tall, heavy growth showed how vigorous nature blots out the noble, but neglected monuments of skill and industry, even as neglect or dissipation carries man's higher nature down to its deepest degradation. His disappointment was overwhelming. His fond yearnings were crushed beyond recovery, and with the intense sadness of a double exile, he left that disturbing and depressing place, to return no more.

#### BARNARD.

Barnard is the west part of the original town of Williamsburg, and as such, it was purchased and settled. A portion of its soil is good for agriculture, and a part of it was covered with valuable timber, the hemlock, spruce and cedar, not being yet exhausted. A rich vein of slate crosses the town, which has been opened and worked successfully in two places. It is well watered. Bear Brook passes through the town from north to south, which, with its branches, affords several mill privileges, three of which have been improved.

The first settlers entered this town by way of Sebec Mills, about 1809 or 1810. Mark Pitman, John Thompson, Benjamin Miller, and B. Bunker being the earlier of them.

A large swamp running through the center of Williamsburg separated the settlements, and presented natural inconveniences which led to a separation, and Barnard was incorporated as a distinct town in 1834. But this move did not increase its population.

A. H. Merrill's farm, in this town, contained a good slate quarry. He made an advantageous sale of this in 1835, and moved into Williamsburg. So much of the settlement is



near Sebec village, that most of the trade and mechanical business gravitates to that place, and only one small store has been kept in town, but a large amount of lumber has been sawed out here.

For the last few years the population has steadily decreased. Those remaining found the public burdens onerous, and in 1877, petitioned for the repeal of its act of incorporation. This was done, and it became Barnard plantation, but this is now disorganized. When the demand for roofing slate increases, this town will probably rise from its present low estate, to a more flourishing condition.

## CHAPTER XVI.

### ABBOT.

ABBOT was Number Seven, Range Seven. Its entire area is 23,040 acres. In the quality of its soil, it is above the average. More interval is found in this town than in any other on the river above Milo and Dover. It is the most western of the college townships, and was sold out to settlers by its treasurer and his agents.

FIRST SETTLEMENT. This was made by Abraham Moore. He exchanged his farm in Norridgewock for 800 acres of wild land, having the first choice in the township, of four lots of 200 acres each, most of which he located on the two rivers, securing two mill sites. In 1805, he felled the first opening, and in 1806, raised a crop, and built a log-house. In March, 1807, he moved his family into it,—a wife and six children. A single horse and sled were their means of conveyance, and their way quite roundabout. They came to Harmony and Ripley, through Dexter, and Amestown, and thence to Lowstown, and thence up the river, seven miles, to their own place.

When at Harmony, a dozen miles in a bee-line would have reached the point aimed at, but after plodding on twice that distance, they had to press their way seven miles further, ere they could step into their new home. Then an unbroken forest covered the whole space between Number Seven and Harmony, Ripley and Dexter. From Lowstown, they passed up on the ice of the river, occasionally compelled to cut out and tread down a way around open rapids. Upon a little ridge that rises from the surrounding interval, afterward occupied by the substantial buildings of James Gower, a rude home

stood ready to receive them—the *first family* in the township, the *first* in the county westward of Sangerville and Guilford. For a whole year they dwelt there alone, having only occasional calls from explorers and new beginners. For the want of a road, Mr. Moore, like a good waterman, took to the river. He went down to Spaulding's saw-mill, twelve miles below, and made a batteau. With this he could pass up and down the river, conveying both persons and supplies. His cabin had only the dry, bare earth for a floor. His wife could not keep it satisfactorily clean, by sweeping or washing. So, one morning the batteau was launched; Mr. Moore and wife drifted rapidly down to the saw-mill; Mrs. Moore made a hasty visit to her three brothers, the Spauldings, while Mr. Moore selected the floor-boards, and loaded them into the boat: then up the river that batteau was resolutely poled to its port of entry, for both captain and mate had the push in them. There was then a floor, not marble nor mosaic, but a new clean floor, testifying their preference for civilized life, though in a wilderness.

The next spring, 1808, two other families moved in, Peter Brawn's and Eaton Richards'. Others must have been early there, for in 1810 there were forty-five inhabitants within the township. The settlement was then called Moorestown. As early as 1812, openings were made and settlers moved on to the "Jackson Ridge," in the east part of the town. Simon French, Samuel Mansfield and Stephen Tucker, severally began there. But these men soon sold their possessions to others, and left the town. Barnabas Jackson moved on to the French place, in 1815, and he and some of his sons have continued there ever since, the longest residence of any family in Abbot. Eben Deane settled in town for a few years, and then went up to the interval in Blanchard. Joseph Jackson, William Huston, and Asa Piper dwelt here in the early settlement of the township, but all sold out their possessions, and went to other places.

At a later date, 1818, Jeremiah Rolfe settled in Abbot. He was a Revolutionary soldier, fought on the field of Sara-

toga, and after Burgoyne surrendered, marched with Gen. Gates to South Carolina. He was honorably discharged and drew a pension. After the war he lived in Rochester, N. H., then cleared up a farm in Paris, Me., moving thence to Foxcroft, in 1808. There he cleared up a part of the Daniel Buck lot, but in 1812, sold his possession and moved to Guilford. There he cleared up the Webber farm. His next move was to Abbot, and there he cleared up the best highland farm in the county, lying about one mile south of Abbot village. Under his industrious hand the wilderness soon became a fruitful and beautiful field, and abundant crops rewarded his toil. He once drove a valuable horse upon the river, when the ice was unsafe, and it was drowned, but his bountiful wheat crop soon enabled him to satisfy its owner. Through the peculiarities of his sons, most of those broad acres passed into other hands, but the old pioneer retained a portion of them until his death, in 1843.

The "Rolfe Apple," which he introduced into these parts, and which will not be soon forgotten, will perpetuate his name and bear witness to his skill in fruit raising. He had some peculiarities, but many sterling virtues, and could endure as much hardship as any other man.

This town abounds in WATER POWER. The Piscataquis River enters the township near its north-west corner, and leaves it near the south-eastern. On this, there are good mill sites, one of which is now improved. The south branch of the Piscataquis, issuing from Kingsbury Lake, passes through a part of Abbot, and unites with the main river, a mile below Abbot village. This is a very permanent stream, and two privileges upon it in Abbot are occupied.

At an early date, Mr. Moore built a saw-mill upon this stream, and marked the spot for a village eventually to be gathered. This privilege has been occupied ever since, and is now known as Abbot village.

Alas for Moorestown when the *cold seasons* had their frosty reign! No portions were so early and so heavily smitten as those intervals hitherto fruitful and beautiful. In the cold-

est season, 1816, wheat and potatoes were so early killed, as to be nearly worthless. The settlers began to scatter and pitch upon higher ground. Mr. Moore sold his saw-mill and 400 acres of land to Elder William Oakes and David Douty, in 1817, and moved to Foxcroft, and soon after built a grist-mill on the Great Falls in Dover. Before Mr. Moore's removal, the township had been organized as Plantation Number Seven, but after he and others left, the organization ran down. In 1820, there were but forty-four inhabitants remaining in town.

Messrs. Oakes and Douty had pursued lumbering business higher up the river, before this, and as pine trees abounded upon the stream above their mill, it was kept well supplied. They once took down the mill and moved it to a fall, a few rods below. But upon putting it in operation, they soon learned, what they should have known by intuition, that the first chosen was better. So it was restored to its former location. In raising it, Mr. Charles Bradford accidentally fell from the frame, upon the rocks in the stream, and received severe injuries. They and a Mr. Hutchinson continued to run it until 1822, and then they sold both mill and land to James Gower, who soon after put a grist-mill in operation. Mr. Gower moved on to the interval, and built large buildings, and he and his sons increased the business of the place, Robert soon opening a store at the Mills. He was agent for the sale of the college lands, which were then sought after. Many new lots were now taken up, and an enterprising class of settlers came in rapidly.

The town of Monson was already considerably settled, and already incorporated. Quite a settlement had been made upon Number Three, Bingham Purchase, now Blanchard. Lumbering was getting under full way upon Moosehead Lake, and upon the Bingham Purchase. So this township lay in the path of a large travel. But its summer roads were not passable for teams and carriages. When the snows of winter did not smooth the way, riding and carrying burdens must be done on horseback. The plantation had lost its

identity, and the people were not obliged to open roads to accommodate the public, however much they were wanted. These were necessarily postponed until the town was incorporated.

INCORPORATION. January 30, 1827, the town of Abbot was incorporated, and named for Prof. John Abbot, then, and for a long time, treasurer of Bowdoin College. In March following, Robert Gower Esq. issued a warrant to James Gower, to call the first town meeting. This duly met on March 17, and Cyrus Cook was chosen town clerk. Then there were about fifty voters. With a good degree of carefulness, school districts were established, roads laid out and accepted, and the facilities for public travel began to improve.

About this time, A. Moore and his sons sold out their property in Dover village, and returned to Abbot. They moved on to the lot which embraced the mill privilege on the Piscataquis River, one chosen by Mr. Moore at his coming, and commenced building mills. By 1828, they had a saw-mill and clapboard machine in operation, and laid the foundation for the upper village. J. P. Moore took the lead in the business, and, excepting a few years' absence in California and in the town of Dexter, has been a resident in town ever since, and has been largely concerned with its political and municipal measures.

In 1832, Col. J. S. Monroe opened a store here and entered upon a successful career of business. At that time, mercantile and mechanical business was struggling on at the lower village, only two miles below. As might be expected, a sharp rivalry between these two places was enkindled, and it had some elements that were unquenchable. Its strong antagonism was soon brought to the front by an attempt to build a bridge across the river at the upper village. It could be easily seen by all disinterested parties that such a bridge would be a great convenience to the public travel up and down the river, as well as increase the business facilities of the place, and make it accessible to all parts of the town. But a bridge had been already built by subscription near the

residence of Mr. J. Gower, and this was helpful to the lower village, in which his interest was concentrated. Of course he opposed the building of another. Many tax-payers went with him. The town would not build the desired bridge. Backed by well founded public opinion, the minority felt that they must have it. A petition for a county road from Monson to Parkman Corner, crossing the river at that point, brought the subject before the County Commissioners. The road was located, the minority triumphed. The town then gracefully yielded, raising money in the spring of 1836 to open the road and build the needed bridge. An armistice followed, the public traveled through the town as their convenience required, the people traded when and where they chose, and the laws of destiny executed themselves without let or hindrance for the next forty years.

**FATAL CASUALTIES.** A large number of these have fallen to the lot of Abbot, some of them painfully interesting. The first occurred in the family of Samuel Weymouth. He was then settled on a lot in Abbot, on the river road adjoining Guilford. In a cold winter night, in 1820 or 1821, when he was away from home, his log-house took fire and was burnt with all its contents. His wife and the elder children escaped in their night clothes only, while the two younger, a girl of about ten years, and a boy of eight, perished in the flames.

The death of Mr. Elihu Whitcomb, was the second, sad and painful, but full of admonition. He was a graduate of Harvard College, professed religion, entered the Christian ministry, and was settled as pastor of the Congregational church of Saco in 1799. He was quiet and grave in his deportment, affable in his manners, and able, as a preacher of the Word. It is not easy now to realize how full of pernicious snares the customs of society then were. A mistaken Christian courtesy then greeted teachers of morals and religion with a tempting array of intoxicating drinks, or with a sorrowful apology for their absence, when they made pastoral calls upon their people. And Christian principle,

then unenlightened, unwatchful, allowed them to quaff the poisonous beverage. Mr. Whitcomb's appetite for strong drink grew, and was habitually gratified. As a blind to suspicions of an excessive use of it, he adroitly purchased his supplies in moderate quantities, and of various dealers, and kept it carefully concealed in his cellar. The habit grew upon him. Some saw it and spoke of it. His most intimate friends could not believe it and rashly rejected the imputation. Others felt convinced of it, even when he entered the pulpit and ministered at the sacred altar. At length, upon a Sabbath morning, while on his way to God's house, he fell down in the street an intoxicated minister. The eyes of his apologists were now opened. He never preached again. He was deposed from the ministry in 1810, and a worthy man succeeded him. He remained in Saco about fourteen years longer, in comparative obscurity, an object of kindness and of pity, but still followed his cups. In 1824, he and one of his sons, Levi, came to Abbot and commenced clearing a wild lot. While camping there, in the winter of 1825, his son left the camp a few minutes, and the intoxicated father, in attempting to rise, pitched into the fire and was fatally burned. His sun went down in darkness. His grave by the road side long whispered its silent but affecting tale. His sacred dust still mingling with the sands of Abbot, lifts up its warning voice to all who sip the enticing drink: *shun*, forever *shun* the fatal draught!

The "drink demon" soon found another victim. Nathaniel Bennett jr. was wayward and intemperate from his youth. At first he followed the sea, then enlisted in the army, from which he deserted. He married and lived here and there, in Guilford, Abbot, and Monson. He buried his first wife, and found homes for his children in other families. In 1829, having married again, he was living in the Crockett neighborhood, and was often at Guilford village. One Saturday evening, in August, 1829, he started in a boat alone, against the remonstrances of his friends, to go up the mill-pond to his home. In the darkness he paddled his boat under the



top-end of an obtruding fallen tree, and was thrown into the water. He was too much intoxicated to extricate himself, and was drowned not ten feet from the shore. The next morning search was made, and the writer saw his lifeless form drawn out of the water. He, too, was buried in that old burying-ground in Abbot, though no man knoweth the place of his grave at this day.

Another enterprising citizen of this town, Mr. Isaac H. C. Hall, perished in a logging camp, in the present town of Bradley, February 25, 1835. He and three others, Jacob Hammond of Guilford, Mr. Randall of Foxcroft, and a Mr. Libby of Pownal, were lumbering, and occupied a camp whose walls were round logs, the roof covered with boards within and without, the door-way enclosed by an entry partitioned off and having an inner door. That fatal night was severely cold, and one of the men arose about one o'clock, and recruited the fire. A board chimney extended down within six feet of the fire, and when all were locked in heavy slumber, this took fire, and communicated the flame to the roof. The smoke kept them in a deep sleep until the walls and entry, the only opening out of the camp, were in a blaze. The fire reached Hammond's feet, and the pain awoke him. Half suffocated with the smoke, and bewildered with fright, he rushed to the burning door, and nearly dropped dead ere he broke through the wall of fire. With feet and hands burned and bleeding, he started for the nearest house, expecting that his companions would follow on. He heard a fearful shriek, and waited, but no one came. He pressed on two miles to reach the house, marking the snow with his blood-stained foot-prints. The occupants of that house were a branch of the same lumbering company, and upon his arrival, at four o'clock A.M., and dire report, one started to Oldtown for a physician, and others for the burning camp. As soon as the fire sufficiently subsided, the charred remains of Hall, Randall and Libby were found in the smoking ruins. Libby's, known by a watch that he carried, denoted that he awoke, gave that despairing cry, and fell, overcome with suf-

focation. The other two "slept the dreamless sleep," where they lay themselves down that night little thinking that such a direful fate awaited them. Another person started for Hammond's widowed mother, but before she arrived, he had expired. His hands and feet were frozen, after being so dreadfully burned, and in passing through the fire, he inhaled the heat, which scalded his vitals. In great suffering he lingered until eleven o'clock A.M., and then followed his departed companions.

Mr. Hall had lived about seven years in Abbot, had there married a wife, and left her a widow with three young children, one of which is M. W. Hall Esq., now Register of Deeds in this county.

S. G. Prescott, a lad of fifteen years, was instantly killed in March, 1847. In felling a tree for firewood, he was caught between it and an already fallen tree, and his head was severed from his body by the stroke.

About the same time, a son of Mr. Steadman Kendall, a lad of seven years, was drowned in the mill stream at Abbot village.

In the winter of 1880, Fred C. Flint of this town was fatally injured by the rolling of logs, while at work in Colebrook, N. H.

After the building of the bridge, the population increased, and changes in business occurred. J. P. Moore sold his mills to J. S. Monroe, who rebuilt them, and run them till his death. They then passed to Foss and Monroe, and now they are owned by other men, who keep them running. In 1830, Robert and Henry Gower built an improved grist-mill at the lower village. A few years later, 1838, John How opened a store there also. But after a few years, his buildings were burnt, his business was not remunerative, and he sold out and returned to Portland.

About 1842, the carding and cloth dressing business was removed from Monson to the lower village, by Steadman Kendall, and this has been continued there ever since, recent-

ly by Charles Foss. Trade and mechanical business has been steadily increasing in this place, and improvements going on.

In 1846, a machine for turning shovel-handles was put in operation in Monroe's mill, by Homan Johnson, which was run successfully several years by him, and then passed to James and Charles Foss. The ash of which they were made abounded in this vicinity, but at length it was worked up, and the business was abandoned.

The extension of the railroad from Guilford to Abbot turned a new leaf in the business of the town. This was completed, and the cars commenced running in 1874. It was on the north bank of the Piscataquis, and terminated about a mile above the upper village. At that point it accommodated the slate business from Monson, and also the Lake travel and teaming. But it passed by both villages, within sight of Abbot village, but the river rolled between. No bridge crossed it there, no public road opened a way to ford the river, or to cross it upon the ice in winter. So the people of Abbot village and its vicinity had to travel nearly three miles to reach the depot by an open road. Again, it was thought desirable to draw business to the railroad, from the direction of Kingsbury. So the County Commissioners were petitioned to locate a road from Athens to the railroad, opposite to Abbot village. In due time the route was examined, a public hearing given, none appeared to oppose it, the road was located, and eighteen months given for the town of Abbot to build a bridge, and open the new road. This touched the rivalry of the upper village and of that portion of the town, as it would make the lower village accessible to a larger portion of the people. So the battle of the bridge was renewed. The old rusty weapons were burnished for the contest. The battered shields were hammered into shape and fitted for action. But the contestants had changed places. Those who formerly contended for the upper bridge and obtained it by the aid of the County Commissioners, were now

bent on preventing the petitioning public from obtaining this. "Your bull and my ox," right over again! In the spring of 1876, a town meeting was called to provide the ways and means for constructing both road and bridge. It called out a full house, and a stormy debate. Responsible parties offered to open the road, and to build a good X-work bridge across the river, and to maintain it for five years, for \$1000. This offer was rejected by a strong majority, and all measures rejected for opening the road. In April, 1877, a petition from J. P. Moore and seventy-four others was presented to the County Commissioners, praying for a discontinuance of the road from Abbot village to the railroad. This petition was received at the April term of Court. At this time the State had granted the town of Wellington \$800 to aid it in opening its portion of this same road, and its part was nearly completed. But, if this discontinuance was made, the great thing aimed at, to wit, convenience in reaching the railroad, would be defeated. Only one of the County Commissioners who located the road was now a member of the board. But they decided that the petitioners are responsible, but that an inquiry into the merits of the case is inexpedient, and dismissed the petition without an entrance upon their records. The petitioners appealed to the Supreme Court, hoping to obtain a new committee to decide upon the discontinuance of the road. At two terms of the Supreme Court, this appeal was refused, and then went up to the full bench, in June, 1878.

After the time allotted for the town to open the road and build the bridge had expired, J. F. Sprague and others petitioned the Court of Commissioners to appoint an agent to carry out the order of the Court. The town was notified of this, an agent appointed, notice given for proposals, and contracts duly made, and in the time stipulated, both were completed and accepted. They were done at an expense of \$1,840. The town was certified also on this point, but made no provision to meet these charges. The County Commissioners were now compelled to take another step—to issue

their warrant to the Sheriff to attach and sell any personal property in the town of Abbot, until a sufficient amount was secured to pay these bills and costs. Then a town meeting was called, but as this appeal was pending before the Supreme Court, the town voted eighty-four against, and eighty-three for, raising money to satisfy this warrant. The law term of the court came on. The appeal of these petitioners was entered and argued by C. A. Everett Esq., and opposed by A. G. Lebroke and J. F. Sprague Esqs. The full bench sustained the decision of the County Commissioners, and shut the door against further litigation. The Sheriff had waited for this event, and had not distrained and sold property at a sacrifice. The town now held a meeting and voted to authorize the Selectmen to hire money and settle the demands. So the second "battle of the bridge,"—not so bloody but quite as resolved as that of Lodi,—was carried in favor of public convenience and of untrammelled judicial decision.

The lots of land reserved for public uses in this town were disposed of, and the avails put into a school fund, amounting to \$700. Mr. Ira Faunce, a citizen of Abbot, bequeathed \$100 to increase this fund, an act that others might well repeat. In addition to its common schools, this town has had occasional high schools, both free and private.

But few professional men have established themselves in this town. A few clergymen have dwelt here for short periods. Recently J. F. Sprague Esq. has been in the practice of law at the lower village, but now he has removed to Monson. Dr. Chandler Wood dwelt here for a long time, and practiced medicine in the Thompsonian way, but death has recently removed him. Dr. N. S. Davis is now located at Abbot village, and is securing an increasing practice.

In 1876, the railroad was extended from Abbot to Blanchard. But Abbot did not feel this extension so much as other towns had, as the depot was remote from its villages. The Monson slate quarries still do their business at the Abbot depot, and the Monson stage still connects with it.

In the winter of 1878-9, a large amount of rock maple

timber was drawn to Abbot lower depot, and worked into last blocks, by C. E. Valentine, thence sent to Boston by railroad. It amounted to thirty car loads. The same business has been pursued the present winter, bringing maple timber from Parkman and adjoining towns. In various ways the natural resources of this new region are thus being developed, increasing productive industry, and returning a moneyed equivalent.

Abbot in 1870, had a population of 712; a State valuation of \$155,197.

## CHAPTER XVII.

### MEDFORD, FORMERLY KILMARNOCK.

THIS township was Number Two, Seventh Range, and contains 20,625 acres. Feb. 1, 1816, the western half was granted to David Gilmore, for making the Dixmont road. He conveyed to Rufus Gilmore, Moses Patten, Jedediah Herrick, J. W. and Francis Carr, and William D. Williamson, each one-eighth of his part, and the residue to others. These parties sold their rights, and it has had several successive proprietors.

The eastern half was sold to Gen. John Parker Boyd of Boston, in March, 1816, who had, eleven years before, bought the Orneville township. The west half was lotted out by Gen. J. Herrick, the east half by Eben Greenleaf, in 1831.

A fair portion of its soil is good, but only a part of it is under cultivation. Portions of it bore a valuable growth of pine timber, but the great fire of 1825 destroyed this and most of the other native growth, sweeping away more than three-fourths of the taxable property in town. But the fertile soil, in the lapse of time, has wrought a work of recovery, a new growth has sprung up, and some of it is already fit for timber.

In water power this town has a decided pre-eminence, though but little of it is improved. The Piscataquis River crosses it from west to east, dividing it into two nearly equal parts. The volume of water here exceeds that of the Merri-mack, and it has two falls,—Little Falls and Schoodic Falls,—both inviting mill privileges, but both unimproved. On the Schoodic stream, issuing from the Great Schoodic Lake, there is a fall of twenty feet, now occupied by a saw-mill and

shingle machine. Where this stream falls into the Piscataquis, Gen. Boyd erected the largest saw-mill, in 1820, then upon the Penobscot or any of its branches. Logs from the Schoodic stream were taken in at the upper end of the mill, while those from the Piscataquis were drawn in from the opposite direction. This mill did a large business, being sometimes rented for \$1000 per annum, before the great fire. It was saved from the flames, but its business was diminished. After Gen. Boyd's death, his executors sold this building to N. Hatch of Bangor, and he, in 1832, had it taken down, and rafted to Bangor. Afterward, Clark Rand & Co. erected another mill upon that privilege. This was sold to Asa Getchell, who also sold it to John Hitchborn. He took it down and rebuilt another, which is still running.

Cold Brook, which flows into the Piscataquis from the south, affords another good privilege, upon which Messrs. Hitchborn & Hasty built a saw- and grist-mill in 1835. This is still improved. It makes the business center of the town, and a village is growing up around it.

**FIRST SETTLEMENT.** This preceded the grant or purchase of any part of it. As early as 1808, James Grover moved the first family into the township. He dwelt on the south bank of the Piscataquis River, near the upper ferry, but eventually settled on a farm near the top of the hill, on the Bangor road. This he commenced clearing at his first entrance, and here the first trees were felled. Mr. Boobar, mentioned already in the sketch of Milo, came in soon after Grover, and settled near him.

The date of the settlement on the east half is not easily learned. A Mr. Weston and two Hitchborns from Bangor, were among the pioneers. The census of 1810 reported fifty-five inhabitants, but in 1820, it had only sixty-one.

About 1820, the State opened the Bennock road from Piscataquis River to Oldtown. This tended to increase the settlement.

In 1824, it was incorporated as the town of Kilmarnock, Gen. Boyd selecting the name. The question arises, why



he selected that name? Some thought that he was a native of Kilmarnock, Scotland, and wished to perpetuate his early associations. But the American Encyclopædia affirms that he was born in Newburyport, Mass., in 1768. Probably his father was a native of Kilmarnock, and thence emigrated to this country, and reared his family here. True to Scotch tenacity, J. P. Boyd tacked that name upon the first township which he could control. In 1856, the inhabitants petitioned for a change, and it became the town of Medford.

As Gen. Boyd was a man of mark, and owned another whole township in this county, a brief notice of him seems in place. As soon as of sufficient age, he entered the United States army, but soon left and sailed to India. There he raised an independent corps and commanded it, fighting for such of the native princes as would pay the most. Here he remained for several years, and obtained considerable wealth. By 1805, he had returned to this country, for his deed of the Orneville township bears that date. After his return he again entered the army of the United States, and as a colonel fought in the battle of Tippecanoe, Nov. 7, 1811. He commanded a brigade, in the war of 1812, and was in some of the battles in Canada. After the war closed, he resided in Boston and attended to the sale and settlement of his eastern lands, and in writing and publishing certain military essays. He died there, Oct. 4, 1830, possessing a fair estate.

All the land reserved for public uses in this town aids in the support of schools. Stores were opened at Medford Center quite early, and generally two have been kept, though now there is but one. Medford is on the stage line from Milo depot to Enfield.

As there is no bridge across the river, and only two ferries, the inhabitants cannot conveniently assemble for religious meetings, schools, or business, as in other towns, and the population does not increase according to the opportunities for it.

Its highest number of inhabitants at any time was 350; its State valuation in 1870, \$60,321.

## CHAPTER XVIII.

### PARKMAN.

PARKMAN was Number Five, Range Six, and has an area of 25,000 acres, being wider than ordinary townships. Its quality and quantity of good settling land exceeds the usual amount, but its water power falls below that of others. It was early purchased by Samuel Parkman Esq., father of the late Dr. George Parkman of Boston, the victim of the Dr. Webster tragedy in 1849, and it was lotted out by Stephen Weston in 1807. The proprietor adopted the following method to secure its early settlement. He offered to sell forty lots of one hundred acres each, at one dollar per acre, to as many as would become actual settlers, but beyond this amount, and after that number of lots was sold, the price would be two dollars or more per acre. About 1810, the first openings were felled, and in 1811 or 1812, the first families moved in. They all came from Greene.

Peter and William Cummings, Ephraim Andrews, Arvida Briggs, William Brewster and Richard Caswell were the earliest. By this time a more direct road was opened from Harmony to these Piscataquis settlements. Samuel Pingree early moved in, and became the proprietor's agent. He settled near the center of the town, and in a few years put a saw- and grist-mill in operation. The stream was small, the mill could run only in high water, and the people were compelled to go to Sangerville and Dexter for these conveniences. Mr. Pingree was a hatter by trade, and in a small way started this business also, and made the first hats in this county. He had previously held a Justice's commission, and was early re-appointed for Somerset County. He was

the only one in that vicinity for several years, and was oft resorted to as a magistrate, but not being in political sympathy with the majority of his townsmen, he was not often honored with the fruits of their suffrage. He resided in town until his death, at a great age.

Notwithstanding the trying hardships of the "cold seasons," the town filled up. Abiathar Briggs exchanged farms with his son Arvida, and brought in a large family which soon settled around him.

Other changes took place. Mr. Ephraim Andrews was afflicted with a morbid and partially insane state of mind, which broke up his family, and caused him to sell and seek a home elsewhere. He was very peculiarly constituted. He had good intellectual powers, good business capacities, and a vigorous physical constitution. But, when in a melancholy state, he was insanely jealous and bitterly revengeful. Although surrounded with good neighbors, he would drive his plow-team all day, with an axe on his shoulder, fearing that some of them would take his life. As his sons grew to manhood, they did not treat his idiosyncrasies with much charity or patience, and his insanity increased. They regarded him as dangerous, and prepared a small cage, and shut him in. But he was marvelously ingenious in contriving and making escapes. They would capture him and force him back, and this would aggravate his insanity and his rage. In March, 1814, he had broken out, and his sons surrounded him to retake him. He had armed himself with a small axe, and brandishing it, bade them stand off at their peril. But his youngest son, Samuel, then about fourteen years old, not believing that he would strike, daringly pressed up. The enraged father struck him a full blow in the face, with the edge of the axe,—nearly a fatal stroke. The father was then committed to the county jail. The son slowly recovered, but carried an ugly scar to his grave. The old man became more calm, and was set at liberty. But the trouble continued. He separated from his wife, and gave all his property to Robert Herring jr., who gave bonds to maintain him com-

fortably during his natural life. There he had a good home, lived in listless ease, and sought his own entertainments. But the evil spirit would at times return. Twice he left Mr. Herring's, and sued for the forfeiture of his bond, but failed to obtain it. For services in the Revolutionary army, he obtained a small pension. He died suddenly on his ninetieth birthday, in Mr. Herring's house.

Edward Soule from Freeport was also among the earlier settlers. In early manhood he followed the sea. In the war of 1812 he was three times taken prisoner by different British cruisers. The last time, he was confined fourteen months in Dartmoor prison, long famous for the cruel and oppressive treatment practiced there. His recitals would make one's blood boil, and reports from Libby and Andersonville have more recently recalled them. He selected and cleared up an excellent farm, lived single till past the meridian of life, ever toiling with untiring industry. But he was so easily persuaded to indorse for others, that much of his hard-earned property was taken to pay these claims which he had assumed, and thus he was kept poor. He would have lost the farm upon which he had expended so much toil, had not Dr. Parkman felt a generous compassion for him, and interrupted the plans of less pitying parties. He remained on a part of it until his death, and died, leaving a widow and two daughters.

In 1818, Mr. Zenas Hall commenced preaching in Parkman. This soon led to the organization of a Baptist church, and he was invited to become its pastor. He consented, and was ordained in January, 1819, the public services being held in the unfinished private house of Elias Merrill.

In 1820, its population was 255. Soon after this, another saw-mill was built about two miles below Pingree's, near Parkman Corner, by a Mr. Sturtevant. He was a man of good parts, but strong drink led him to neglect his business, and eventually slew him. The mill passed to the Curtiss Brothers, who added a grist-mill. Though the stream was small, the breaking away of Pingree's dam swept these mills

away in 1828. They were rebuilt, and still run a part of the year. The Pingree mills have gone to decay, and a shingle mill on another spot occupies that privilege.

After being Plantation Number Five, Sixth Range, in January, 1822, it was incorporated as the town of Parkman. The first town meeting was called March 4th, following. At this, Elder Zenas Hall was chosen town clerk, and one of the selectmen. He was in political sympathy with the majority, and popular among them. He was sent as delegate to political conventions, as town agent to courts on town business, and once as representative to the Legislature, and there became a Justice of the Peace. At the second town meeting, he declined the town clerkship, and William Brewster was elected, and continued to hold that and other town offices for many years.

In the great fire of 1825, several buildings were burnt in Parkman. A town meeting was called to see if the town would aid the sufferers by appropriations from its treasury, but it was not carried.

In 1827 a town meeting voted to recognize Elder Zenas Hall as the minister of the town, provided he would deed to the town 120 acres out of the 320 reserved for the first settled minister. This was done, satisfying all parties.

To this date there had been no store in Parkman. Then, Thomas Seabury opened a store at Parkman Corner, and it has been continued by him and his sons nearly ever since. Mechanics gathered in, a physician, Dr. Nicholas Jumper, established himself here, another store was soon erected, and a village began its growth.

When the temperance reform commenced, a Methodist minister was residing in town. Elder Hall did not eagerly engage in the work and lead off in forming a temperance society, as others had done. So the Methodist minister took the lead, and the veteran, influential Elder was not even consulted or invited to co-operate. Every principle of sound policy and Christian comity would have sought his aid and secured his prestige, for his influence was mighty with the majority.

But unfortunately for him, for many of his people, and for the cause of temperance in the whole town, he was let terribly alone, and he let the temperance society more terribly alone. So did many others, who might have been easily drawn into it. From all participation in the anti-slavery movement, he also stood aloof, as it conflicted with his political preferences. But he was strictly temperate in his habits, and had a strong hold on the Christian sympathies of his brethren, and his labors were abundant and successful in his ministerial work. So in these particulars, he could dare to be singular. But it had its injurious effect. Of this more hereafter, in its proper place.

In the year 1831, Mr. Ira York built a saw-mill on Cummings Brook, in the south-east part of the town. This stream flows into Main Stream. The mill stream is rather small, but a natural fall of sixteen feet runs a mill during four months of the year. It is still occupied.

In the summer of 1834, Dr. Jumper died suddenly from the effects of a wound received in making a post-mortem examination. He was a quiet, worthy, well-read, Christian man, highly esteemed by his fellow citizens, and his departure was generally lamented. Dr. A. J. W. Stevens, a young man entering upon the practice, was already there. He took the position, and retained it until his death, in 1875. He was an active politician, once sent to the Legislature, a useful educator, at times an able temperance lecturer, and a professing Christian. He sometimes vacillated in his religious belief, and in his Christian deportment. He was quite a newspaper correspondent, and eventually became the champion of anti-slavery. As a physician, he stood well, and gained a large practice. Late in life he became connected with the Methodists.

When Piscataquis County was incorporated, Parkman was included in it. This new arrangement was not acceptable to the people. They voted in town meeting to petition the next Legislature to repeal the act by which the new county was incorporated, or else re-annex Parkman to Somerset County,

as the above change had been made without their knowledge or consent. This petition was not granted, and it still remains an integral part of Piscataquis County.

In 1845, Elder Zenas Hall left Parkman and removed to Ohio. The Baptist church at that time numbered two hundred, and was in a flourishing state. In 1851, when the "Maine Law" was placed upon our statute book, and political parties divided upon that issue, Parkman rolled up a stronger opposition to it than any other town in the county. It then appeared that Elder Hall had built far worse than he had intended. And when he lived to see an expensive and demoralizing war draining the life's blood of our nation, undertaken to perpetuate the institution of slavery, his eyes were opened, he saw his error, and manfully renounced it. Though more than three score and ten years old, he revisited his old charge, and publicly acknowledged his serious mistake. But he could not repair past damages, nor lead all his former followers into his present views. He returned to his Western home, and died there before the war had come to its close.

Dr. George Parkman, previous to his tragical death, visited the place annually, and consummated the conveyances of land which his agent had made. To facilitate payments by the settlers, he would buy up neat stock, and have it driven to the Brighton market. One little incident will portray him.—A settler, in his eagerness to clear his farm from debt, turned out every "hide and hoof" of neat stock that he possessed. The doctor executed his deed, and generously gave him back a cow, so important was such an article to the comfort of a family having young children. It was willingly accepted. But upon reflection, after the doctor left, he thought that a few dollars too much interest had been paid through mistake, and the present of the cow was forgotten. He sat down and wrote a letter to his kind-hearted patron, in a tone so harsh and accusative that the urbane doctor thought "it enough to make a minister swear!" He did not find any mistake, and he was not heard to swear.

After Dr. Parkman's death, S. P. Shaw Esq., his nephew, bought a small farm near Parkman Corner, dwelt upon it, and took charge of the proprietor's business. Though he belonged to a family of wealth and culture, though liberally educated and admitted to the bar, though of literary taste and accomplishments, he had unfortunately fallen into intemperate habits. But during his stay of a few years in his country residence, he was reclaimed from these by the persevering efforts of the Sons of Temperance, and became himself again. At length he sold out to Thomas B. Seabury what remained of the wild land, and returned to Boston.

In 1849, Messrs. Isaac and David Pease built a saw- and shingle mill upon the south branch of Piscataquis River, which, by a bend southward, comes into the town of Parkman. After operating it a few years, David sold out and left. Capt. Isaac Pease and his son Jerome continued to run it until 1865, when it was destroyed by fire. This had a very depressing effect on the spirits of Capt. Pease, and he did not rebuild it. In 1874, he terminated his life by drowning himself.

**LAWYERS.** E. F. Harvey Esq. has been in practice at Parkman Corner for some years, and recently J. H. Warren has opened an office there also.

**PHYSICIANS.** Since Dr. Stevens' death, William L. Sampson has practiced here, but he has left, and Dr. C. D. Sprague has succeeded him.

At Parkman Corner there are now several mechanics, four stores, and one hotel.

Its State valuation in 1870, was \$259,304; its population 1,105.



## CHAPTER XIX.

### THE BINGHAM PURCHASE; WELLINGTON; KINGSBURY.

THE southern half of the western tier of townships in Piscataquis County is on the Bingham Kennebec Purchase, and Wellington is the most southern of them. A tract of wild land, containing more than sixty townships, lying on both sides of Kennebec River, and amounting to one million of acres, was sold by the State to Messrs. Jackson and Flint, at twelve and a half cents per acre, as Greenleaf says.

After passing from them to others, it fell into the hands of William Bingham Esq. of Philadelphia. Hence it was called the Bingham Purchase, often the "Million of Acres." Mr. Bingham held the same amount on Union River, and Col. John Black of Ellsworth was his agent and attorney. At length Mr. Bingham died, and his lands were devised to Alexander and Henry Baring of London, England, J. R. Ingersol and William Miller of Philadelphia, all of whom had married his daughters. The Baring Brothers were Englishmen, of the house of Barings, and Alexander eventually became a peer of the realm, with the title of Lord Ashburton. He was appointed by the Queen, in opposition to her cabinet, Envoy Extraordinary to this country, to settle the North-eastern boundary question; hence the treaty framed by him and Daniel Webster, settling that line, is called the "Webster and Ashburton treaty."

Between 1825 and 1830, these devisees, wishing to close up their land business in Maine, directed Col. Black to sell out what was not already disposed of. He accordingly put this eastern tier of townships into the market.

## WELLINGTON.

Wellington at the above date was partially settled and already incorporated. Its area is 23,120 acres. It has quite a good soil and a fair amount of water power. Higgins' Stream flows through the western part of the town, upon which there are four mill privileges, three of which are improved. Another, upon a branch of this stream is improved, and still two others on Carleton's Brook, near the north-east corner of the town. Henry Carleton built a saw-mill upon the latter, in 1826, hence its name. A saw- and shingle mill still runs there, and another saw-mill, a few miles above it. The township was lotted out by J. P. Bradbury. Four lots of 320 acres each were reserved for public uses, three of which went to make up a school fund.

A Mr. Bridge first purchased the township, and it was called Bridgestown until incorporated. But he did not retain it.

**FIRST SETTLEMENT.** In 1814, James Knowles moved into the western part of the township. He was soon followed by David Staples, and the next year J. B. Porter and John Ward joined them.

About 1819 or 1820, a settlement was begun on the east side of the town, adjoining Parkman, and from this period there was a constant and gradual increase. In 1821, Mr. Isaac Hutchings came into town, and became one of its prominent citizens.

A saw-mill was built quite early, by John Davis, at Wellington Corner, and some time afterward a grist-mill was put in operation on the same falls. John and Cotton Weeks also put up a mill above this, on the same stream. So, by 1827, when Carleton's mill was built, there were three mills in different places.

About 1826, Levi Merrill opened the first store in town, at the Corner.

It was incorporated as the town of Wellington, Feb. 23, 1828. Henry Carleton was for several years its town clerk, and one of the selectmen. In November of that year, the

vote cast for President amounted to 94. But in 1830, but 80 votes were cast. A land sale in 1839 gives us a clue to the progress of its settlement. Col. Black then sold to William B. Kingsbury of Roxbury, Mass., 2,812½ acres, it being one-sixth of all the unsold and unreserved land in town. This shows that 16,875 acres were then unsold, and that, then, about 5000 acres had been sold to settlers,—fifty lots of 100 acres each.

A store was opened at Burdin's Corner, some time since, by Elbridge Burdin, and some business is still done there. More recently, A. F. Libby has commenced trade at Huff's Corner. There are also two stores at Wellington Corner, and the manufacturing of lumber, machinery and axes is done there.

In 1870, its population was 683; its valuation \$119,269.

#### KINGSBURY.

Kingsbury, also on the Bingham Purchase, lies between Wellington and Blanchard. Some of its soil is fair for cultivation, a part quite hilly, and still more of it is not adapted to settling.

It is well watered. The outlet of Kingsbury Pond affords a superior mill privilege, and this forms the south branch of Piscataquis River. This township, after being lotted by Eleazer Coburn Esq., was purchased in 1833, by Hon. Sanford Kingsbury of Gardiner, for \$4000. The next year, Wm. Hilton and his brother, from Mayfield, felled openings, the first made within the township. The next summer, 1835, Judge Kingsbury commenced clearing at the outlet of the pond. He also built a dam, and in a short time had a saw- and grist-mill in operation, also a clapboard and shingle machine. He did much to encourage settlement, putting up a store, erecting a large dwelling-house, and soon moved in, and became a permanent resident until his death.

As the part first entered was near other settled towns, it was easily reached, and settlers came in rapidly.

In March, 1836, it was incorporated as the town of Kingsbury, adding another small town to our number.

A State road from Athens to Moosehead Lake had been already located, crossing this town, and when this was opened, teaming and travel turned this way. But it was abandoned in part, and a new route by the eastern side of Russell Mountain was opened. Over this road a stage still runs, and the mail is carried from Athens to the lake.

Since Judge Kingsbury's death, his entire family has left town, one of whom, Hon. Benj. Kingsbury, resides in Portland. The mills passed into the hands of I. S. Abbott, who run them for several years. They are now owned and operated by Leonard and William S. Hilton.

Embarrassments have arisen in collecting the non-resident taxes. Large tracts of land have been sold at auction by the town, and lawsuits have arisen, to settle conflicting titles. By these things its population has been kept small, reaching only 174, in the census of 1870. But they have four school districts, most of them small, in which schools are kept a part of the time.

The stimulus of religious institutions has been painfully deficient in this town. Unfortunately the proprietor and his family did not sympathize with the people on this subject, did not encourage them to establish and support religious meetings. Many of the first settlers and leading men were quite indifferent to these things. So, in a small community like this, religious efforts have moved heavily, but something has been done. A Free Baptist church of the Buzzellite wing has been formed, and still exists, and meetings are kept up a part of the time by preachers from adjoining places.

At the present time, 1880, there are convenient mills, a hotel kept by G. T. Hewit, a store, and mechanic shops, at Kingsbury village. This place is but ten miles from Abbot Village depot, on the Bangor and Piscataquis Railroad.

## CHAPTER XX.

### BLANCHARD.

BLANCHARD was Number Three in the Third Range of the Bingham Purchase, and its area is 28,000 acres. Russell mountain covers quite a portion of it, and other high hills diminish its agricultural districts. In its primeval state it abounded with pine timber, and this was its chief attraction. The Piscataquis River passes through it, into which, within its limits, the Bog and Bald mountain streams unite and flow. These are all large enough in time of freshets to float down logs. They afford also any amount of mill privileges, one of which, at Blanchard village, has been for a long time improved.

FIRST SETTLEMENT. This was peculiar, and indicative of its future. When the townships below were being settled, this eastern side of the Million Acre tract was not under any oversight. Whosoever would, entered it to cut timber, or to take peaceable possession of its soil. A large and inviting interval at the north of the mountain and river had caught the eye of several who had no objection to settling where pine trees were tall and sound, and where the rivers made a natural highway for transportation. So, one pleasant afternoon, as Ebenezer Deane was busy in his field, in Moorestown, Peter Brawn came along and said: "Well, to-morrow I start up river, to fell an opening on the great interval." Deane kept still, but, knowing that, in taking up wild land, the first that comes drives the stake, as soon as Brawn was out of sight, began to grind his axes, pack provisions, and get ready for a week's absence in the woods. By night-fall he and his oldest son Daniel shouldered their burdens, and started. The river must be their guide, however its bank

might be obstructed by entering brooks, swamps, windfalls and ledges. But men who knew how to steal a march, knew how to scale steep difficulties. By daylight they were at the interval. A well relished breakfast over, the sturdy maples came thundering down. Brawn, true to his purpose, started early in the morning, and by ten o'clock drew near the desired landscape. But his ear caught the echoes of those busy axes, and he began to fear that some one had stepped in before him. And so he found it, and found that it was his neighbor Deane, to whom he had unwisely divulged his intentions. The dialogue that ensued cannot, and need not, be repeated. As the winning party stood two to one, nothing was hurled more weighty than profane and stinging words. Brawn seeing that he was out-generaled, and thinking that he might not like to settle near such neighbors, looked no further and left Deane in full possession of the coveted prize. Thus the settlement of Blanchard began. This was in 1813. Deane in due time moved up his family, the *first* to enter the township, and soon after Thomas Chase brought his. The cold seasons cut off their crops, and made the times hard for these pioneers. But they could make clapboards and shingles, and run them down to markets, and blueberries growing luxuriantly upon Russell mountain did much to allay their sharpened appetites. Deane and his sons toiled on, and soon had a fine farm cleared, and comfortable buildings. He and his sons occupied those premises when Blanchard and Davee bought the township, but these purchasers did not claim but one dollar per acre for the soil. In 1834 they obtained a deed of 200 acres of the best soil in Blanchard. They eventually sold out and moved to other places. The first birth in the township occurred in this family. John Deane was born Jan. 1, 1817.

Thomas Chase had lived several years in Atkinson, before going to the "Million of Acres." He was quite a waterman, and had already obtained quite a notoriety as a raftsmen. Rafts bound down river were taken apart at the Foxcroft dam, and hauled by this and the Great Falls in Dover, and then re-raftered, none thinking it safe to run those falls.

In the spring of 1811, a raft was put together, below the Foxcroft dam, and in a high pitch of water Thomas Chase and Benjamin Spaulding ran it safely over those falls. This was regarded as a superior display of raftsmanship. Chase was distinguished for this, though for want of coolness, he would sometimes break down in some fearful crisis. Guy Carleton Esq. once employed him to run a raft of lumber to Bangor. As they neared the "Schoodic Rock," in the town of Medford, a very difficult pass on account of the set of the current, "Uncle Thomas'" courage failed him; he ceased all effort, and cried out, "Tis no use, 'tis no use, the set of water, let her run, let her run!" The raft did run upon the ledge, and lay there, a pile of wrecked and injured lumber, causing a severe loss to its owner. This was no uncommon event in their rafting adventures. As an incident connected with this mishap, we mention that Mr. Carleton had packed such valuables as he expected to need, in his leather saddle-bags. In the crash, they went down river. Several weeks afterward, they were picked up on the banks of the Penobscot, in the town of Hampden, and he recovered them. They had drifted some 60 miles down these rivers, and floated in the tide waters, and finally lodged on the shore.

The rafting business was full of wild adventures, and of great risk to owners and raftsmen. There was so much of exposure, that rum was regarded as an absolute necessity. No one could be trusted as a pilot, unless he was thoroughly acquainted with the best channels, the numerous falls, the dangerous rocks, the set of the currents and the eddies, existing through the whole length of the streams, and could remember their locations. When dams were built across these rivers, a broad, sloping platform was attached to the lower side of the dam, called a slip, upon which the rushing water would glide the raft over, if it entered favorably. To run these sluices was a pleasant excitement to the raftsmen, and a fine entertainment to spectators. In early times lumber was rafted from Brownville, Sebec and Milo, and all the towns on the Piscataquis, as far up as Blanchard. But the multiplying of dams made it more expensive than haul-

ing it with teams, and this branch of business was abandoned. But this and adjoining townships still remained the busy center of lumbering. As clapboard and shingle machines came into use, the riving and shaving of clapboards, and of shingles too, to a large extent, ceased, and the best trees were worked into cuts, the poorer, into logs, and driven down the river. This business attracted a peculiar class of men. Not all who engaged in it, dwelt in the settlement, but they were soon so assimilated that they passed for genuine "Million-Acre-men." They could distinguish a sound from a hollow tree at first sight. They could cut a log so as to show soundness at the ends, and have the rot entirely concealed in the middle. They could work in the cold water, and sleep around their camp-fire, with little or no shelter. They would brave fearful risks in breaking jams at the head of falls, or upon dams, and make hair-breadth escapes in getting safe ashore, though often badly bruised, by the rush of lumber. Still, with all these fearful adventures, but one river-driver on the Piscataquis has ever been drowned. Mr. Jesse Davis of Sangerville lost his life in Blanchard, in 1855, while at work on Gilman's drive, having fallen from what is called Davis' rock.

This settlement was much affected by lumbering. The work upon the river diverted them from farming, and kept them dependent upon the down river traders. None owned the soil they were clearing and improving. Col. Black, the agent of the proprietors, never visited them until late in the winter of 1824. At that time, a large number of persons had gone up these streams, and cut a large amount of timber. As he was returning from the Kennebec towns, he met one of those teams on its way home. He made inquiries where they had operated, how they had done, and what stumpage they had agreed to pay, etc. As he was unknown, they gave marvelous accounts of their winter's work, and also of that of others. He silently set his face towards Chase's mills, and put an attachment upon the whole amount these various plunderers had cut. Col. Black gave the actual settlers what they had cut, for driving out what



others had put in. This stopped the bold plundering of its pine. But the Million-Acre people run considerable quantities of lumber down to the merchants and mill-owners below. Other parties obtained permits to cut from Col. Black, by paying for the stumpage. At an early date Thomas Chase built a saw-mill on the Blanchard mills' privilege, and afterwards put in a clapboard machine. Captain Lamb and brother kept a small store there.

Col. R. Carleton, in 1827, opened a store there, and purchased the clapboard machine. He had no trouble in buying timber enough to keep it running. He did not find the business profitable, and sold out to Reuben Ordway, who continued the business a few years.

In 1828, Eleazer Coburn was employed to lot out this township. Three years later, March 12, 1831, Charles Blanchard Esq. of Portland, and Hon. Thomas Davee of Dover purchased the whole township for \$4,000. They engaged to sell to the settlers the lots, which they had been clearing, for one dollar per acre. Blanchard owned three fourths, and Davee one fourth. This opened a new era in the history of that settlement. It might be said that then it was born again.

A number of good, substantial citizens came from Cumberland, bought out the possessions of the former occupants, and entered upon agricultural pursuits. Others flocked in from other places, and many of those early pioneers moved away. A new population brought into being a new order of domestic life, business, morals and religion.

INCORPORATION. March 17, 1831, it was incorporated. Why called Blanchard, is easily seen. Algur Chase Esq., who had resided there several years, was chosen town clerk and one of the selectmen.

In 1832, Mr. Davee moved his family into town, and established his residence there. Blanchard and Davee bought out the mills, and rebuilt both dam and mills, also adding a grist-mill. Previous to purchasing the township, they had a store here, and this was continued. A good covered bridge was built across the river. A Congregational church was organized, and in the fall of 1834, a minister was settled.

The same year Mr. Blanchard raised a meeting-house, and when finished, sold what pews he could, to stated worshippers.

The land speculation was now in full blast. Abner Curn and his brothers offered \$2.00 per acre for the west half of the township, and 14,000 acres passed over to them in July, 1835, some of which they still own. The State road from Athens to Moosehead Lake passed through Kingsbury and Blanchard, and a portion of the travel to the lake passes that way. It passed over the west slope of Russell Mountain, and encountered hard hills in Kingsbury. By an increase of two miles only, a much easier route was available. This was opened, and that portion of the State road was discontinued.

The amount of good farming land in Blanchard is small, though larger than is now improved. The population has ever been small. In 1840, it was 270, larger than it has been since. Mr. Davee, while residing in Blanchard, was speaker of the House of Representatives in this State, sheriff of Somerset County, and twice a Representative in Congress. He eventually died in Blanchard in the year 1842, a great loss, and much lamented.

In 1876, the Bangor & Piscataquis Railroad was extended to Blanchard, and there now is its terminus, teams and stages connecting with it, and extending its business to the lake. A slate quarry has also been discovered and opened. Messrs. Hayford and Hamlin of Bangor have become large owners in it. Up to this time it has not been operated sufficiently to determine its extent or promise. Another quarry has been discovered in the north-east part of the town, which appears to contain a large amount of superior slate. A company has purchased it, are opening it, and are now putting in machinery for operations.

The building of a clapboard mill by Blanchard and Davee, upon Thorn Brook, in the west part of the town, was not mentioned in its proper place. This is still occupied by a shingle machine, J. L. Robinson & Sons successfully running it.

Blanchard now has but one school district, with two long terms kept annually. Its school fund, obtained from the sale of its reserved lands, amounts to \$600.

## CHAPTER XXI.

### MONSON.

MONSON,—Number Nine, Eighth Range,—was granted, one-half to Hebron Academy, and the other half to the Academy in Monson, Mass. The Range in which this township lies, is seven miles or more in width, so that it contained more than the usual amount. As the grant to Hebron Academy was limited to six miles in length, and three in width, a surplus at the north end of this tract, within the limits of this township, remained unappropriated. The trustees of Monson Academy, on learning this, petitioned the General Court for the ungranted part of the township, and obtained the east half and this surplus also.

About one-half of it is good soil for agriculture, while quite a portion of it is low and stony, and has never been cleared. It has far more water power than has been improved, and much wealth in its recently opened slate quarries.

EARLY SETTLEMENT. In 1811, the trustees of Hebron Academy employed A. Greenwood Esq. to lot out their grant, and he run the ranges of lots, north and south, six ranges, 160 rods wide, just including their allotment. To encourage settlement, they offered to give fifty acres each to any persons who would enter upon it, and perform "settlers' duties."

Joseph Bearce of Hebron felled the first opening, in 1815. The next summer, famous for its frosts, he attempted to raise a crop; sowed wheat and planted corn and potatoes, but it well nigh proved a failure. This year George Doughty and Simeon Irish both felled openings, and in 1817 harvested their first crops. Mr. Irish put up a small framed house,

covering the walls with shaved clapboards, the roof with long shingles, and into this he moved his family, the *first* which settled in town, in the year 1817. In March, 1818, Mr. Doughty brought in his,—a wife and five children, and soon after, Mr. Bearce brought in his newly married wife also. To him history is indebted for the "*Moosehorn's*" notoriety. Finding a pair of broad antlers, he put them on a stout pole, and reared them against a tree, to mark the point where a path turned off northward toward the center of the township, and thence the roads have diverged to this date, and the name Moosehorns has become a fixture.

A settlement had already been made on the "Million of Acres," now Blanchard, and by the road to this, these first settlers came in. The earlier of them located in the west part of the township.

Mr. Bearce in the fall of 1818 was removed by death, the first event of the kind in the new settlement. Elder Zenas Hall, then of Guilford, attended his funeral and preached the first sermon in town, and the first of his many funeral discourses. Other settlers now came in, and one, James Stinchfield, began on the east half, previous to 1820.

The main settlement of the east part began on this wise: In the fall of 1818, the trustees of Monson Academy sent Dea. Abel Goodell to explore their portion and bring back an account of its settling attractions. He stopped at Mr. George Doughty's for entertainment, but they and their neighbors had neither bread in the cupboard, nor meat in the barrel. But their fields were loaded with well-filled corn and splendid potatoes, a cow afforded milk and butter, and on these they fed their welcome guest. With a few ears of boiled corn in his pocket, he had to start for a day's tramp through unbroken forests. His explorations were prevented in part by heavy rains, producing such a freshet that the low lands and large streams were impassable. He returned with a favorable report. The Trustees of the academy offered to give one hundred acres of land to each of a certain number who would go and settle upon it. Induced by this, and re-

lying upon the truthfulness and good judgment of Dea. Goodell, several of the Monson people resolved to settle on it. Capt. Amasa Chapin exchanged his farm in Monson, Mass., for a mile square in the "Academy town," and moved his family into a house in Number Seven, in the fall of 1819, stopping there until he could clear an opening and build a house upon his own soil. The next spring, April, 1820, Capt. Samuel Whitney and William A. Hyde, with their wives, Justin Colton with his whole family, Calvin Colton, Dea. Lucius Hyde and Abel Goodell, without their families, Royal Day, Austin Newell and Horatio Sherman, single men, all started from Monson, to commence a settlement under these regulations.

Those having families took passage from Boston to Bangor in a packet, the others loaded a single horse wagon with materials necessary for life in the woods, each riding in turn, to drive the horse, while the rest kept pace on foot. Three weeks were spent in making the journey, and both parties met at Capt. Chapin's, May 6th, and spent the next day there, as it was Sunday. Monday morning, the men started for the woods, the women and children remaining there. It is probable that several of these men had come the summer previous, and selected the lots, which they now commenced clearing.

Many years previous, a furious hurricane had passed through the center of this township, prostrating the primary growth in its course. This had decayed, and a second growth replaced it, smaller and more easily cleared. Most of the first settlers chose this lighter clearing, for some of it was the best farming land in the township.

The Trustees had also offered to give the mill privilege at the outlet of Hebron Pond, and two hundred acres of land, to any party that would put a saw- and grist-mill in operation, within two years. Whitney, Hyde and Fay had taken this contract. Whitney and Hyde came on in person, and Mr. Fay sent William A. Hyde in his place, and these three commenced clearing the spot now occupied by Monson Vil-

lage. For a few days they stopped with James Stinchfield, then living on the well known Stinchfield place, afterward, with Amos Atkinson, who lived on the north side of the pond, as it was much nearer. Those who began to clear their various lots, tried their hand at camping out.

After clearing a small opening, the mill company commenced a house to live in, and soon the second framed house in town was raised. With the fragments of slate ledges then on the banks of the stream, they constructed a chimney, nearly equal to one of brick. As soon as their new habitation would comfortably shelter them, they brought in their women, and set up housekeeping. This house accommodated Whitney's, William A. and Lucius Hyde's families for a few years, and also afforded a stopping place for new comers, until they could put up quarters of their own. In one year five families of twenty-four persons in all, were housed in it.

These first pioneers were not adepts in back-woods life. Capt. Whitney and William A. Hyde, at the close of a foggy day, started for Mr. Atkinson's. Darkness began to obscure the pathway, and fearing that they should wander off into the boundless forest, they lay down and spent the night, though not one fourth of a mile from their destined habitation. During the summer of 1820, the dam across the outlet of the pond was built, and other preparations made for the future mills. Many new openings were felled, and homes prepared for new settlers.

January 1st, 1821, William A. Hyde and wife had a daughter born, in the Whitney and Hyde house, the first birth in that part of the township. This house was truly prolific in the incipient events of this town. In this, the Congregational Church was organized, the first town meeting was held, and the first post-office was eventually kept.

In the winter and spring of this year, Deacon Lucius Hyde, Calvin Colton and Capt. A. Chapin moved their families in, and others came, of whose in-coming we can not give a reliable date.

Mr. Calvin Colton brought in the first cook stove ever used in these parts.

In August of this year, 1821, the Congregational Church was formed. Religious meetings had been held upon the Sabbath, from the first arrival of this Old Monson colony. At first they met in the house that Mr. Bearce built, far over towards the Million-Acre settlement, then in Mr. James Stinchfield's, as more central. These meetings were conducted by pious laymen, but were very generally attended by those widely scattered and hard toiling new settlers. This summer, missionaries, both Baptist and Congregational, had visited the settlement, and under the lead of Father Sawyer, measures were taken to organize a church.

In the fall of this year, the buildings for the saw- and grist-mill were raised. A company of eight men from Sangerville and Guilford went up to assist at the raising. The day proved to be rainy, but they persevered and put up the frames. But night overtook these men from Guilford, before they reached home. When they arrived at Alder Brook, in Number Seven, within two miles of some of their abodes, the freshet had overflowed the bridge, and cut off their advance. Before ascertaining this, they got into the water, which proved an inconvenient outfit for lying out. But as a shelter was far in the rear, they made the best of their situation, finding a dry place upon a log, or at the roots of a tree, and whiled away the night. In the light of morning they found a place to cross over, and safely reached their homes.

In the early months of 1822, other families moved in. Dea. Andrew Cushman brought his wife and seven children from Oxford, on an ox-sled. Drifting snows retarded their progress, and they were fourteen days on the road. Three men, Calvin Colton, Royal Day and Hiram Vinton moved, in the same slow but sure way, from Monson, Mass. It required three weeks to accomplish the journey in this manner. Soon after Dea. Cushman's arrival, Isaac Tyler brought his newly married wife from New Gloucester, and Austin Newell his, also, from Monson, Mass.

In February, 1822, this township and the inhabitants thereof were legally incorporated as the town of Monson. Pursuant to a warrant from Samuel Pingree Esq., the first town meeting was called, April 22, following, at the dwelling-house of Whitney & Hyde. Capt. S. Whitney was chosen town clerk, and Dea. Abel Goodell, whose family then resided in Harmony, was elected as one of the selectmen. In March, 1821, he moved his family from Massachusetts to Harmony, and began to clear land and provide a home in Monson. The next spring, he moved to Guilford, and after a year spent there, he made another move on to his own place. Here he toiled on for about ten years, encountering a large share of hardships. One spring, he needed seed wheat. Starting early one morning, he walked to Sangerville, and purchased four bushels. Shouldering a bag that contained two of it, he started toward home. When wearied with this heavy burden, he laid it down by the roadside, and walked back, resting as he went, and took the other bag. With this he went past the first, then laid it down, and went back for the one in the rear, proceeding in such relays and changes, until he reached home, a distance of more than ten miles, traveling that day full forty miles, and one-half of it, with two bushels of wheat upon his back.

In 1833, he left town, and settled in Galesburgh, Ill. Some twenty years later, he started with others, to join a son in Oregon. He was taken sick on the way, and died in the forest. A more reliable, quiet, kind Christian it would be hard to find, always embarrassed in his pecuniary affairs, not because he was too honest, but, perhaps, because others were not honest enough.

Before the grist-mill was put in operation in Monson, all these early settlers were compelled to go to Sangerville, to mill. Many a grist was carried upon the shoulders of men, if not upon horseback. Many a hard experience, in this line has been related. A whole day and sometimes a part of the evening would be spent, ere they could recross their rude threshold, and lay down the materials for their desired supper.



When incorporated, there were twenty-five voters in town, and about ninety inhabitants. A steady increase was going on. In the spring of 1823, F. F. Gates bought Mr. Fay's share in the mills and the land thereunto belonging, and moved into the house owned by the company.

Dea. Lucius Hyde, this summer, built a house for his own separate use. Whitney, Hyde and Gates soon dissolved the copartnership, and divided the property. Capt. Whitney retained the mills, while Hyde and Gates divided the land between them. This spring, 1823, Alexander Greenwood Esq., who had surveyed most of the townships in this vicinity, moved in to Monson.

He selected a lot for himself, when lotting out the township, and, with the help of a large family of sons, was clearing it up, and getting up good buildings. In the winter of 1826-7, he engaged in lumbering in Fullertown. In April, while superintending the "drive," he met with a fatal accident. They had got the last log over the falls upon which the mills in Howard now stand. He said to his men, "we have got safely by this bad place, and we will take a drink and a lunch." While sitting in a little group, a blast of wind hurled a dead tree directly at them. All dodged it but Mr. Greenwood. He was severely smitten. One of the company made all speed to Monson for assistance, but he expired before the messenger reached there. A relief party started immediately, but upon reaching the place, they could only bring out his lifeless form to his grief-stricken friends and family. Greenwood Falls, as they have ever since been called, perpetuate the memory of that deplorable event. Mr. Greenwood was a worthy and highly esteemed citizen. He was urbane and affable in his manners, upright in his dealings, and in all respects reliable. He possessed more than an ordinary amount of natural and acquired abilities. He had represented the town of Hebron in the General Court of Massachusetts, and had won unlimited confidence as a land surveyor.

These pioneers did not overlook the education of the

young. In the winter of 1821-22, a private school, free to all who could attend, was taught by Dea. Lucius Hyde, in the house of James Stinchfield. The next winter, Father Sawyer taught the first town school in the same room, and preached to the people on the Sabbath. In the summer of 1823, a school-house was erected near the mills; to this all the scholars in town for a few years came. This served also for a place of public worship.

In the fall of 1823, Dr. Alpheus Davison came from Vermont, and settled as a physician. Previously the people had been compelled to go to Sangerville for medical assistance. When cases of sickness occurred which would not admit of delay, men, weary and sleepy, have risen from their beds, and walked ten or a dozen miles, to hasten on the doctor, while morn would arise before they arrived home. The incoming of an experienced physician was peculiarly satisfactory. Dr. Davison was also long useful as a school teacher, and as a town officer, spending the remainder of his days in this town.

During 1824, other citizens of note were added to the population. John Crafts, Solomon Cushman and Oliver Eveleth came in. As another great convenience, a post-office, was established, and F. F. Gates appointed postmaster. Guilford, ten miles away, up to this time had been their nearest post-office. The mail was now carried weekly, though in rather a primitive manner. The roads then answered for horseback riding, but the pay would not allow it. So, the Doughty boys at first, then Benjamin Stinchfield, took it in a pack, and footed it down and back, usually going to Sangerville village, to do certain entrusted errands. But this was soon superseded. In 1827, Dea. Thomas Fuller drove a carriage from Bangor to Monson for this purpose. In less than five years a regular stage line, three times a week, took the business.

The next year, 1825, marks another advance. Oliver Eveleth opened the first store in town, and brought the necessities of life nigh unto them.

The Congregational church also settled Rev. Lot Rider as its first pastor. He received the land reserved for the first settled minister, and entered on a promising career, but sickness soon fastened upon him, and he died in a few months after his ordination, very deeply lamented.

In the great fire of 1825, this town was seriously damaged in its timber and woodlands, but they all succeeded in fighting it off from their buildings.

In May, 1824, the mills and surrounding buildings were in great peril from an approaching fire, likewise in 1831, but strenuous efforts delivered them.

In 1827, Mr. Samuel Robinson erected a building for carding and cloth-dressing. He commenced dressing cloth in the fall of 1828, and carding the next year. After a few years, he sold out to Mr. Thomas Scales, but in a few years Scales sold to Stedman Kendall, who afterward moved the machinery to Abbot, and the building was converted to other uses. Dea. Robinson settled on a farm, and remained in town until his death, and was well known as a worthy and highly esteemed citizen. This year, Solomon Cushman opened another store in the place.

In 1830, T. S. Pullen Esq., from Winthrop, opened another store, and by this time mechanic shops of various kinds were established in the village.

In the summer of 1831, the Congregational meeting-house was finished and dedicated. This was the first house for public worship erected in the county, the first, except the one in Dexter, north of Bangor, and the town of Monson was the first to hear the tones of a church-going bell.

After the summer of 1831, the seasons in these parts were colder, and early frosts diminished the harvests. But the lumbering business on the lake made a great demand for hay, oats and other farm products, so that the farmers of this town, being nearer that market than others, were quite prosperous. But many of them became discontented. The severe winter and late spring of 1835 increased this, so that many were bent upon selling out at all hazards. When this

peculiar state of things became known abroad, a Mr. Elliot J. Kidder came into town, took lodgings at the hotel, and shrewdly surveyed the situation. After figuring slyly with some of the residents, he was ready to buy farms, stock, produce, etc. But he could not pay money. He had wild lands on the Indian Steam Tract, in northern New Hampshire, and an indefinite amount of old notes against certain parties in the vicinity of Norridgewock and Athens, which he flippantly and assuringly called good paper. He was gentlemanly in his deportment, affable and self-confident, so oily in speech that he could make the worse seem the better reason, and had such magnetic power that he would win over almost anyone that he fastened upon. Pity it is that he secured as a secret accomplice one resident of the place, a man of influence, who was more confided in because he was originally from New Hampshire, and was believed to know the land Kidder was offering, and he capped the deception by affirming that Mr. Kidder was all right. So some eight or ten good farms with their stock and farming tools were sold to him, and paid for in these bogus securities.

And so these honest, hard-working farmers were swindled out of their hard earned patrimonies. At length the spell broke. They learned too late that they had legally conveyed away their property, and their despoiler could snap his finger in their faces. The sufferers were indignant, and the community sympathized largely with them. One remedy was left them. They could arrest him for *fraud*. A precept was put into the hands of a sheriff, and several of the interested parties as a volunteer "posse comitatus," started with him. He got wind of it, and took to the woods. They followed in hot pursuit. The frightened fugitive bent his steps toward Number Eight as fast as his legs would carry him. Striking the path of James Johnson, who lived in a rude cabin, some four miles beyond all other habitations, he reached Johnson's opening, with his pursuers not far behind. Panting and perspiring, he besought Johnson to conceal him, promising a tempting reward, for he expected that, if caught,

summary justice would be visited upon him. Johnson readily consented. Lifting a trap-door, he hurried his protégé into a hole beneath his cabin floor, which he used for his cellar, and replacing it, sat down upon it, quietly mending a part of his wearing apparel. The sheriff and his company were soon at the cabin door, hastily inquiring if he had seen any one passing that way. Johnson demurely answered, no. "But he came this way, for we have tracked him." Johnson naively remarked that he "guessed that was what his dog was barking at a little while ago," and kept on setting his stitches. He played the part of a deceiver so adroitly that they left him without any suspicion of his complicity. They soon gave up the pursuit as hopeless, and retraced their steps. Johnson was the fit tool of such a desperate cheat, and for such a crisis. When a young man, he had promising powers of mind, was of good habits, and early fell in love with a young lady, in whom he placed the utmost confidence. As they were both indigent, he labored steadily to obtain means to buy a piece of land and fit up a home. These earnings he entrusted to his sweetheart for safe keeping, and toiled on to secure a sufficient sum. "O woman, thy name is frailty!" Another suitor came along, whom she liked better. She forgot her first confiding lover, and basely kept his money too! This was a crushing blow to poor James. The double stroke overcame him. He sought to drown his trouble in strong drink, but his manhood went under more deeply. He fled as far from society as he could conveniently dwell, addressed himself to clearing a farm in an unbroken forest, living in perfect solitude, except that roaming hunters or explorers occasionally called as they passed that way. Inexorable necessity would compel him to go to Monson village now and then, to get his grain ground, and his stores replenished, tobacco and rum being the larger part. To such an one Kidder committed himself, and upon such fare as he could set before him, this man of taste and refinement subsisted for two or three weeks, who had usually boarded at the best hotels. But in his extremity, he accepted the situa-

tion. In Monson and vicinity, great inquiry was made for him, and by a select few, not in vain. Favored ones, directed by that silent partner, went secretly to Johnson's camp, and it is said, obtained payments from the secreted swindler. At length he crept slyly from his hiding place, and by the aid of his accomplice, went to parts unknown. Some of his farms he conveyed to new owners, some he put tenants upon, keeping himself out of the State, and remaining but a short time in any one place. The next winter he went to a remote town in central New Hampshire, and took lodgings at the village hotel. After remaining a week or two, he bantered the proprietor to exchange the property with him, for the Chapin farm in Monson, for this was one of his trophies. The trade was concluded, and so Col. Samuel Pillsbury and his father, now deceased, became occupants thereof.

In 1848, an Academy was chartered, the second in the county, and a suitable building erected by the contributions of the people. The State granted it a half township of wild land. With the proceeds of this and another subsequent grant, the Trustees secured a permanent fund of \$4,000. It has been kept open a part of the time annually, advancing effectually the education of the young. The building was destroyed by fire, in March, 1860, and rebuilt the next season. On account of this loss, the State granted this Academy one fourth of another township of wild land, and a part of the sum received for it, was added to its permanent fund.

Although this town lost no buildings in the great fire of 1825, yet no other in the county has suffered so severely by the devouring element. The dwelling-house of Samuel Rowe was destroyed in 1819, that of Calvin Colton, in 1823, George Doughty's, in 1834, and A. G. Houston's, in 1853. But May 27th, 1860, was a day of burning to the pleasant and thriving village of Monson. It was a pleasant Sabbath day, with a fresh wind from the south west. A little past noon, a fire broke out in the stable connected with Nelson Savage's hotel. The wind drove it through the heart of the village with fearful rapidity. All resistance was powerless,

until the buildings failed in its path. It laid in ashes the Congregational meeting-house, two stores, two hotels, several mechanic shops, dwelling-houses, barns and out-buildings, all numbering about forty. All this must be set to the account of a company of non church-going, careless, smoking river-drivers.

In 1870, the slate quarries on the confines of the village were unearthed, and this turned a new leaf in the business of the place. The deposits proved to be extensive, and several companies were formed to work them. This gave employment to many hands at the quarries, and to teams to transport the slate to Dexter. When the Bangor and Piscataquis Railroad was completed to Guilford, the teams unladed there, and now, Abbot depot, four miles from Monson village, takes the business. Six companies have been incorporated, and have operated with more or less success in developing these resources. In 1879, another quarry was opened.

In keeping with the intelligence, enterprise and good taste of the residents of this town, when the fiftieth anniversary of its incorporation occurred, they celebrated the day with public commemoration. On April 22, 1872, the day on which the first town-meeting was held, a goodly company of old and young assembled in Academy Hall, and celebrated it in this manner. Aretas Chapin, Esq. president of the day, who was present at that first town-meeting, made a brief opening address, Rev. R. W. Emerson addressed the throne of grace, Mr. Charles Davison, a native of Monson, gave an historical address, to which I have been largely indebted in preparing the above sketch, Rev. A. H. Tyler and Hon. S. A. Patten offered extempore remarks, and preceptor William S. Knowlton read an historical, sprightly and facetious poem, then some of the venerables, who could speak of pioneer life from experience, told to their children anecdotes of those earlier times. These closed, the assembly was invited to an old fashioned supper, which, notwithstanding the progress of the age and the fastidiousness of the rising generation, went down with as good a relish as the intellectual feast above.

The hardships of breaking into the forest will appear by

rehearsing some of the exploits of the early settlers of this town. In the spring of 1817, Mrs. George Doughty with her boys walked four miles to their new field, to plant a bushel of seed potatoes, for which she had paid one dollar, earned by her own labor.

Mrs. Amos Atkinson with a three months old infant remained contentedly alone, while her husband went on business to Foxcroft. In the silence of night, and in the solitude of her secluded dwelling, she awoke to find her sweet babe cold in death. No neighbors were within three miles. With true feminine fortitude, she watched and waited the night out, and till the evening of the next day came on, before her husband returned to mingle his tears with hers, and share the heavy burden.

At Carleton's mill in Sangerville, they must get their grinding done. For a while they had no passable road for horses, nor horses, indeed. So a man would shoulder a bushel, a large boy a half bushel, and bear it twelve miles and back, often hastened homeward by the approach of nightfall.

Mr. Joseph Jackson went on horseback to Bangor, and purchased four bushels of corn. As three was the utmost that the horse could carry, he shouldered the fourth, and bore it fifty miles home, driving the heavily laden horse before him.

In December, 1819, James Stinchfield jr. went to Sangerville, carrying three bushels on horseback. Darkness came on early, and the horse could not keep the path. He took off the bags and hitched the horse to a tree. He attempted to strike fire, but lost his flint and failed. On dry meal he made his supper, and walked and stamped to keep himself from freezing, but as he had got wet in fording the streams, his frame trembled, his teeth chattered, and thus he spent the night.

In 1822, after the business of the year was over, Messrs. Hiram Vinton and Abel Janes started for Massachusetts. On reaching Hallowell, they took passage to Boston by water. They spent a night, a few miles out of Boston, and



started early on their way. They hardly stopped to take a regular meal, but ate such food as they could while going ahead, and reached home that night, one walking sixty-four miles, the other seventy-five, in one day.

When the dark cloud of civil war overshadowed our fair land, no town furnished a more liberal quota for the Union forces than Monson. From a population of 708, eighty-four were mustered into the army. Of these, six were killed on the field of battle, sixteen died of sickness,—twelve of them in hospitals, and four reached home and died among their kindred, and sixteen others were wounded. It need not be said that the pathway to Canada was not much worn by the “skedaddling” feet of her cowardly sons, for she had none. From the above narrative it may be readily seen that a strong religious element has ever existed in this town. The original members of both of its churches were among its early settlers. In this Monson was fortunate.

So, too, a good degree of intelligence has ever characterized this people. Their attention to common and high schools has clearly indicated this. Many changes have taken place in its families. Its early prominent actors have passed away or removed to other places. But this interesting feature still abides. As proof of this, Mr. Davison stated in his address that five daily, and one hundred and seventy-three weekly newspapers, six semi-monthly, and eighty-four monthly periodicals were taken by the people of that town. Two years previous, the population was only 608.

A few fatal accidents remain to be noticed.

In 1819, Asa Rowe, son of Samuel, a smart, active boy of six or eight years, died after a brief, and peculiarly strange sickness. A post-mortem examination brought to light a living reptile in his stomach, of the lizard kind, nearly three inches long. The boy had been in the habit of drinking at every little stream that he came to, and this, it was supposed, accounted for it.

On Dec. 4, 1822, John T. Delano, a young man, was drowned in attempting to skate across Hebron Pond.

July 4, 1831, Alfred Ely, a son of Dea. Samuel Robinson, in 1840, Streeter Strout, and, July 10, 1858, C. M. Tarr, all lost their lives by drowning.

Mr. H. W. F. Carter, agent and manager of the Hebron Pond Slate Company, was fatally injured in February, 1878, by the fall of a heavy stone, while at work in the quarry. He lingered a few weeks in great distress, and expired. He was a reliable and successful business man, a worthy and exemplary Christian citizen.

In Monson village there are now ten stores, one hotel, three lawyers, two physicians, also mills and various mechanic shops.

**SILVER MINE.** There has been recently discovered on the Drake farm an extensive mine of silver and lead. A sufficient quantity of the ore has been already assayed, to show that a paying quantity of silver is contained in it. High expectations are raised that large and rich deposits are there, and a company is forming and preparing to work it.

**PHYSICIANS.** Dr. Alpheus Davison, James Leighton, Josiah Jordan, — Clement, A. S. Patten and C. C. Hall have practiced in this town.

The valuation of this town in 1870, was \$134,520; its population 608.

## CHAPTER XXII.

### ORNEVILLE, FORMERLY MILTON AND ALMOND.

THIS was Number one, Sixth Range, and has an area of 23,040 acres. Its soil is not quite an average with that of its surrounding townships, but in water power it is not deficient. At the outlet of Boyd's Lake there is a good fall, and a steady supply of water. This is improved. On Dead Stream, which passes through the south-west corner, there were two mill privileges, one of which has been annexed to Atkinson, both occupied, and another on Alder Brook, near the north-west corner, also occupied.

PROPRIETOR. Gen. J. P. Boyd, in 1805, soon after his return from India and England, purchased the whole township from the State, and continued the proprietor of it until his death. He did not hasten its settlement, caring more to have the timber stand and increase. In 1820, only two persons are returned as then residing there.

Eben Greenleaf was employed to lot out parts of the east half, but eventually it was re-surveyed by Japheth Gilman. The west half was lotted by D. W. Bradley, and the lots deeded by their plans. Between 1820 and 1825, a county road was laid out through the township, from Milo to Bradford, and eventually made by O. Crosby Esq., at the expense of the proprietor, and after this settlers began to break in. Abner and Allen Hoxie, James Philpot, William M. and Eben Ewer, William and Solon Hamlin were the first settlers who took up lots and made openings upon this road. At first the settlement was mainly in the west part of the town, adjoining Atkinson.

The Huntington mills were early built, and the owners of

them procured the annexation of the lot upon which they stood, to Atkinson. James Porter and sons erected a saw- and shingle-mill on Alder Brook, at a later date. These mills have done a good business, and are still run by Judson Briggs. Moses Chandler also early built a saw- shingle- and grist-mill on Dead Stream, near the south line of the town. These have been long known as the McGregor mills. They were successfully operated by different owners until 1873, when they were burnt, and have not been rebuilt, much to the inconvenience of that vicinity. Mr. J. W. Hall has put a shingle mill in operation on that dam.

In 1832, after it had been Boyd's plantation for a few years, it was incorporated as the town of Milton. It organized, chose its town officers, and assumed the usual responsibilities of such corporations. But its course was singular, presenting features of municipal life not found in the history of any other town. Men were chosen to important offices, who did not prove discreet and competent. Money was raised and in some way assessed. Some of the inhabitants were poor, not owning the farms which they occupied, and in these hard times, could not pay their taxes. A large part of these was assessed upon the non-resident land. Gen. Boyd was now dead, his estate was in the hands of his executors, and they finding good reasons, refused to pay those assessments. Still, town orders were drawn on the treasurer, though it was well known that he could not meet them. They were then offered for sale. Lawyers in Bangor would buy them, commence a suit, and attach any personal property that could be found owned by any inhabitant. This was sold in due time under the hammer of the sheriff, the costs added to the face of the order, and the excess, if any, paid back to the owner. It was then his turn to sue, not for the amount secured by the sheriff, but for the actual value of the property which had been wrested from him by the grip of the law. The next piece of attachable property was taken, new costs made, new sacrifices necessitated, and a lower depth of indebtedness reached, so that in a few years, every piece of attachable property within the boundaries of the

town was transferred to persons outside of its limits. The town was verily bankrupt. The lawyers found it too bare for any more picking. These difficulties culminated in the hard times of 1837. The reaction of the great land speculation had fallen with a palsying stroke, upon every branch of business. When that speculation was in full blast, it promised to make everybody rich. But in its recoil, it made everyone for a season poor. Wealthy men could hardly pay their taxes. The Banks all refused to redeem their bills. Bread-stuffs rose to a higher price than they had reached since the cold seasons. Only the bare necessities of life found a market. Employment for the laborer could hardly be found.

In these trying times, the people of Milton had plenty of time to consider. They learned, as they ought to have done before, some really valuable lessons. They learned that grave responsibilities rested upon voters, upon those who used, and could use, the elective franchise. For incompetent men, and irresponsible men, can only accept of such offices as they are elected to by a majority of their fellow citizens. And if they feel their incompetence, their electors by choosing them, have pronounced them otherwise. If men chosen to provide for the town's poor, procured supplies at the expense of the town, and appropriated some of them for their own use, that especial trust and confidence had been reposed in them by their friends and fellow citizens. They had betrayed their trust; others had placed them in a condition to do so. They learned, too, that by public measures they could carry the individual down to bankruptcy. No one could sell any real estate in town, for to buy, was to engage to meet an untold number of waiting executions.

Even the crop raised in the sweat of the face, beyond a certain amount, could be seized and sold to pay the town's debts. So it is that public evils necessarily become personal evils; the mistake of a Legislature or body politic strikes back into the family; public dishonors come back to roost upon the shoulders of those who are primarily responsible for them.

In this peculiar crisis, an individual voluntarily came to

the rescue. The Hon. Henry Orne of Boston, who had married a niece of Gen. Boyd, who had a large estate, who was unwilling to see all the land interest of the late proprietor rendered worthless, and who was willing to make a name and a place to himself, stepped in and undertook a work of recovery. He obtained possession of the greater part of the late proprietor's unsold land. He encouraged the town to raise and assess in a lawful and equitable manner, money to commence the payment of their debts, and readily paid his proportion. He began to erect mills at the outlet of Boyd's Lake, and drew in business men. A saw-mill and a first class grist-mill were a great convenience to the settlers.

Judge Orne selected an elevated and pleasant tract of land, which commanded a splendid view of the lake, cleared it, and laid out an old-time "baronial manor." Buildings, fields, orchards, gardens, and ornamental trees were all on a large and elegant scale. A piece of primeval forest was reserved for a deer park, but this was never stocked with them. He was thoroughly educated, a man of refined taste, had entered the legal profession, and had held the office of Police Judge in the city of Boston. In his culture and bearing, he well represented "a gentleman of the old school," capped with a large share of high-toned aristocracy. So in social life he had a kingdom of his own, and business alone forced outsiders to invade it. The workmen employed upon his farm had a separate house, table, and style of living. He lived upon his magnificent estate until his death, in 1852, and departed, revered and gratefully remembered. As a financial operation this enterprise was not lucrative, shrinking his estate of \$20,000 when he came, to \$9000 at its settlement.

After the municipal regeneration of the town, prosperity returned to its chastened and wiser inhabitants. Land became saleable, population increased, and schools were revived.

Elder Spencer Horne contributed materially to the recovered prosperity of this town. He came in when it was stranded, opened a store near Judge Orne's residence, run a successful business, collected the taxes, and aided in wiping out its old incumbrances. After Judge Orne's death, he pur-

chased his homestead, but in a few years sold it and left town. When residing in Bradford, he became owner of a part of the McGregor mills in Orneville, and by falling upon a circular saw, when at work in them, was instantly killed. In early life Elder Horne was dissipated and wayward. But a religious change reconstructed his whole character. He was ordained as a "Christian" minister, and preached when his services were desired.

Elder Gershom Lord, another "Christian" minister, pursued a successful business in this town. He purchased and enlarged the Porter mills, ran them, kept a store, and had a cooper's shop. After a few years he sold out to Mr. Nason, and recently these mills have passed to Judson Briggs. Elder Lord resided in Milo, after several removals, and died there, highly esteemed, in 1876.

This town never settled a minister, and its public reserves all go to support common schools. Judge Orne took no interest in the religious condition of the people, and though they had many resident preachers, they have never employed the labors of an educated and elevating ministry.

In 1841, the name of Milton was changed to Almond, and, the next year, again changed to Orneville, in honor of its temporal saviour.

The mills built by Judge Orne were burnt a few years since, but have been rebuilt and are in successful operation. The Bangor and Piscataquis Railroad passes by them. Hallowell, Clark & Co. run them, sawing out boards and shingles, spool timber, and also manufacturing excelsior.

Mr. J. A. Hoxie, a grandson of Benjamin Sargent, the first settler of Milo, and son of Allen Hoxie, emigrated to Evansville, Wis., and has edited and published the Evansville Review. He has kindly furnished the writer with facts drawn from the records of the Sargent family, carried thither by Mrs. Alice Cooke. He was a native of Orneville, passed his boyhood and obtained his education there.

The population of Orneville in 1870, was 575, its valuation, \$80,062.

## CHAPTER XXIII.

### GREENVILLE.

GREENVILLE, Number Nine, Range Tenth, is situated at the southern extremity of Moosehead Lake, called usually Foot of the Lake, and in a business point of view is nearly identical with the lake itself. It has ever been the base of supplies for the lumbering operations on the lake and its tributaries, 'it is the starting point of explorers, fishing parties, hunters and tourists, and this, too, is the chief place of its steamboat navigation. The commencement of lumbering on the margin of the lake and of the settlement of Greenville was nearly coeval, and aided each other in opening roads.

This township was a public grant, the south half to Thornton Academy in Saco, previous to 1820, the north half, afterward, to Saco Free Bridge.

Nathaniel Haskell of Westbrook purchased the Academy Grant, and commenced its settlement. On this there was some very good farming land.

Wilson Pond is included in it. Wilson Stream, its outlet, has some very beautiful cascades, and some very good mill privileges also. The northern part has been valued more for its timber than for agricultural pursuits. When this part was lotted out by H. K. Stanton, in April, 1830, it was found that the lake covered a few of its ranges on the west side. The State gave Saco Free Bridge Company 4,000 acres, to be selected from any unappropriated wild land, to offset this deficiency. Strange to say, they selected that amount in the Elliotsville township. A. Greenwood Esq.



lotted the south half into two hundred acre lots, in April, 1825.

**FIRST SETTLEMENT.** In the summer of 1824, Nathaniel Haskell and Oliver Young cut down ten acres of trees, and John Smith, Mr. Haskell's son-in-law, six acres on an adjoining lot. The next summer, Mr. Haskell cleared his first opening, and felled seven acres more. He also cut out a part of the road leading from Nelson Savage's mill to the lake. By this time, Cowan, Littlefield and others began to lumber on the lake, and to have supplies hauled in by sledging over this road. In 1826, Haskell and Young raised the first crop in town, and put up a house, and the next summer, cut the first hay. In the spring of 1827, he moved Mrs. Waldron, a widowed daughter, and two children, the first family that settled in the township. A sister of Mrs. Waldron spent the summer with her, but left in the fall. For more than a year afterward, she did not see the face of another woman. She eventually married Oliver Young, and still resides in Greenville, now, 1880, eighty-four years of age. Mr. Young settled on a lot adjoining Mr. Haskell's, and Mr. John Smith sold out his possession, and gave up moving there. Mr. Darling eventually settled on it, and died there recently. William Cummings was the next to move in a family, and Isaac Sawyer, Mr. Shaw, and Mr. Tufts were the next comers. A few years later, Samuel Cole came, in 1831 Edmund Scammon moved in, and John Gerrish soon after.

In 1829, Messrs. Varney, two brothers from Windham, built a saw-mill on the Wilson Stream, so that boards and sawed lumber became obtainable, and in 1830, Mr. Haskell also put in a small grist-mill.

Mr. Haskell had not made full payment to the Trustees of the Academy, and some questioned the safety of his titles. But he effected a compromise with the Trustees, by relinquishing the unsold land to them, and this bar to the sale of land was removed. Mr. Phineas Pratt, for many years preceptor of Thornton Academy, and Samuel Cole then purchased this wild land, but it run Pratt into bankruptcy.

Mr. Haskell continued to reside in town until his death, except a short absence with one of his children. The State granted him six hundred acres of wild land, to reward him for breaking in to that remote township, in his old age, for which, he received \$600, and he would have accepted Sugar Island also, if the Legislature had been generous enough to bestow it upon him. He returned to Greenville, only a short time before his death, and there expired, Nov. 29, 1843, aged eighty-four, and was buried in the soil he so earnestly adopted.

In 1832, Samuel Cole and Isaac Whitcomb built a saw-mill on Eagle Stream, a branch of Wilson Stream, and this passed to Oliver Young. At a later date, Samuel Cole put up a saw-mill on Bog Stream, near West Cove, which was eventually burnt. But now all these mills have been abandoned.

All the earlier settlements were on the East Ridge, from one to three miles distant from the lake. Up to 1832, only six or eight families had settled in town, though the lake business had steadily increased. In 1830, Mr. John Gerrish began to clear an opening on the South Ridge, and the next year moved his family there. A new road was then cut from the foot of the lake, by Mr. Gerrish's, to the settlement on the Whitney tract, from which one already extended to Monson. This opened a new line of travel to the lake. It was less hilly than the old route by Savage's mill, and the teaming turning this way. Mr. Gerrish soon had neighbors. New settlers came in. Mr. Hogan put a small steamboat for towing rafted logs, upon the lake, in 1836, and large sail boats also came into use. This boat made a pleasure excursion to Mt. Kineo, on the 4th of July, 1836. Rev. John Baker, J. Stockbridge Esq., and many others from Monson and vicinity were in the joyful party. An impromptu celebration was resolved on, Rev. Mr. Baker giving an extempore oration, which, Stockbridge and others supplemented with spicy toasts, speeches and outbursting cheers. To the lake, the mountains, steamboating and Greenville settlement, this

was a "red letter day," and the company separated at its close, feeling that it was indeed a great occasion.

Up to 1835, the site of Greenville village was covered with its primeval forest, except what had been cleared for roads, camps and piling places. In the spring of that year, Henry Gower cleared a spot, and erected a two storied hotel, where the Lake House now stands.

The drift of land speculators, the following summer, gave it an extensive patronage. Mr. Gower felled a large opening that summer, and cleared up the site of the village. He opened the first store there, in 1836, which his brother Charles continued to occupy for several years.

In a few years a larger and more powerful steamboat was built, and launched upon the lake, which the increasing lumbering all around the lake required.

In 1831, the township was organized as Haskell's Plantation. In 1836, Feb. 6, it was incorporated as the town of Greenville. In population and capital it has been steadily increasing ever since. The first birth in town was a son in the Tufts family, and the first death, Mr. Edmund Scammon's, Feb. 4, 1837.

In 1846, the increase of travel and business called for more hotels. That year, Eveleth and Whitcomb built the Eveleth House. It has been once burnt and rebuilt upon the same spot. In 1847, these men opened another store in the place, and, in 1848, J. H. Eveleth left Monson and joined his father here. This store was burnt, May, 1869, but soon rebuilt, and has been continued to the present year, and now a third large general store has been added.

In 1858, another good step was taken. The people united in erecting a meeting-house. The next summer, it was finished in a neat, tasteful style, and dedicated Dec. 1, 1869, Rev. E. B. Webb D.D. going from Augusta to preach the dedication sermon. In Jan. 1, 1874, largely through the efforts of Rev. Mr. Cameron, it was surmounted with a bell, whose pleasant peals, first rung out on that day, call the

church-goer, be he resident or stranger, to the worship of the Most High.

In 1848, five ranges of lots from the north side of Wilson were annexed to Greenville. There are now four school districts in town, one having a graded school at the village, with a neat two-storied school-house. The public school fund now amounts to \$800, with a lot of wild land still to be sold. Within a few years, a steam-saw- and grist-mill have been running at the foot of the lake, and I. R. Gerrish has a saw-mill on an inlet of Wilson Pond.

The prospect now is, that a railroad from Canada, passing by Megantic Lake, will be put through to West Cove, about two miles from the foot of Moosehead Lake, and thence to Blanchard, opening a new line to St. John. A telegraph line from Oldtown to Greenville and the Kineo House, along the line of the railroad, is under contract, and its construction is now in progress.

Sadly we record that Mellen Shaw, a highly esteemed business man of Greenville, in a temporary estrangement of reason, terminated his life on March 4, 1880.

Greenville has several mechanics, but neither lawyer nor doctor has located there.

In 1870, the population of this town was 369; its valuation \$66,707.

## CHAPTER XXIV.

### SHIRLEY, WILSON, ELLIOTSVILLE.

SHIRLEY lies north of Blanchard, and is also on the Bingham Purchase. Its ridges have an excellent soil, and are beautiful for agriculture, while its river courses abounded with a giant growth of pine and spruce, as good as any found in the county.

It is well watered. The main branch of Piscataquis River rises in the township north of this, within four miles of Moosehead Lake, and flows southward through Shirley. It passes through a bog, at the lower end of which, there is a good mill privilege, which was early occupied. Into the north-west part of this town the Bog Stream enters, and flows south, uniting with the Piscataquis in Blanchard. This stream has, by a little expense in damming, been made sufficient to float out the excellent pine logs which grew upon its banks.

This township was purchased by Messrs. Shaw and Jabez True, in the winter of 1829. Mr. True lotted out the east half, began to clear an opening, preparatory to building mills, and took measures to introduce settlers. He soon had a saw-mill and clapboard machine in operation, also built a large barn, and cleared up a large opening. The west half of the township he sold at a large advance, and then purchased Mr. Shaw's portion, and found himself able to go into more desirable business. In the spring of 1833, he exchanged his mills and some other property with Richmond Loring and Isaac Smith, for real estate in Guilford village, they moving into Shirley, and he engaging in mercantile business in Bangor, with a brother already estab-

lished there. In this the Trues were successful. In the civil war, Jabez was appointed paymaster in a Maine regiment, and at its close settled in Portland. A few years later he died in that vicinity, leaving a good estate to his surviving family.

**FIRST SETTLEMENT.** In 1825, Joseph Mitchell came with Eben and David Marble, who were settling on the Whitney tract, and settled on a lot on the east side of Shirley. About the time Mr. True began to make an opening, Capt. C. Cushman cleared an opening and built a framed house in the northern part of the town, hauling boards to cover it, from Monson, on the snow crust, upon a hand-sled.

Mr. True introduced quite a colony from Poland, who settled in the east part of the town, and others came in, so that, by 1832, there was quite a growing settlement. He had a post-office established, "True's Mills," himself being postmaster, and had the mail carried to Monson in a private way.

Loring & Smith in the summer of 1833 put up a building for a grist-mill and clapboard machine.

The next spring, March 9, 1834, the township was incorporated as the town of Shirley, J. Kelsey Esq., who was then in the Legislature, selecting the name of his own native place, instead of Somerset, for which the inhabitants had petitioned. At that time there were about twenty-five voters. Elder Orrin Strout was chosen town clerk, and Charles Loring one of the selectmen. As the valuable pine timber on the west half had not then been cut to much extent, the people petitioned for a "set-off" of the reserved lands. The petition was in due time granted. After the annual town meeting of 1835, the legally constituted board of trustees of the school lands proposed to the proprietors of the west half, to quitclaim their right to these reserved lots for their moneyed value, without having them set off, as by law provided. The owners readily accepted the offer. That half township of wild land, although some of its timber had been already cut, was held much higher then, than the present value of the whole town of Shirley. So, from this portion, by that timely

move, more than \$2000 was secured for a permanent school fund. From the other half, and from the part of Wilson eventually annexed, it has been increased to \$2,800,—the largest in the county. As there are but three school districts in town, the income of this fund, with what they are compelled to raise by law, furnishes means to have as many months of school kept annually, as the scholars can well attend.

In the fall of 1834, a bridge was built across the stream at the mills, and a good beginning made in laying out and opening roads. In the summer of 1835, the town built a large school-house, which is still standing and used as a town-house.

A. T. Loring and I. Phillips opened a small store, in the spring of 1836, but they soon dissolved, and Mr. Loring left town. Oliver Eveleth then opened a store, and put a shingle mill in operation, employing other men to manage them. This store was continued for many years after Mr. Eveleth's death, Mitchell & Sturtevant occupying it, but now it is closed.

In the winter of 1835-36, the timber in the west half was sold by the owners, to certain parties from Bangor and Orono, on the stump, and an immense amount was cut. In subsequent years, the more scattering was picked up, and that half township, which was once valued at \$50,000 and upwards, is now thoroughly stripped and wholly unoccupied.

The mills in Shirley have passed to several different owners. Loring & Smith sold one half of their lumber mills, in 1834, to Amasa and Asa T. Loring; in 1835 Smith sold his remaining share to Isaac Phillips; the next year, A. and A. T. Loring sold out to R. Loring and I. Phillips; a few years later, R. Loring sold to John Gerrish, who soon sold to Oliver Eveleth; and eventually, Eveleth and Mitchell owned them. Mitchell and Sturtevant operated them for many years. They have now passed to Blackstone and Neal, who still are running a saw- and grist-mill, and shingle and clapboard machines, which saw out a large amount of lumber annually.

By the Legislature of 1848, the west half of Wilson was

annexed to Shirley. This brought in a hotel, the Shirley House, at Shirley Corner, then kept by P. S. Merrill Esq., another mill privilege, now improved by the Sprague mills, another Post-office, Shirley, enlarged their school districts, and increased their population. Though this town has good farming lands, long schools, and lower taxes than others, and good facilities for lumbering, it does not advance in wealth or population, as might be expected.

The Sprague mills, on the Little Wilson, in the east part of the town, are now, 1879, run by John Stacy. In these are two clapboard machines and a shingle machine.

Should the Railroad be extended from Blanchard to the lake, which now seems to be assured, it will pass by Shirley mills, and increase their business facilities.

The Huff silver mine is now favorably spoken of, and may prove to be a source of profit to its owners.

The post-office at Shirley mills has been continued from its first establishment.

According to the last census, the population was 206, the valuation, \$56,220.

#### WILSON.

WILSON, originally Number Nine, Ninth Range, lies between Monson and Greenville. A portion of its soil is good for agriculture, a part was well timbered, and a part hilly, and other parts unfit for settling. The Wilson Stream, issuing from Wilson Pond, in Greenville, passes through this township, affording good mill privileges.

William C. Whitney purchased 3000 acres in the southwest corner of this township, known as the Whitney tract. The rest of it was granted to the Massachusetts Medical Society, and 3000 acres in Number Eight, Ninth Range, was included in this State grant. H. W. Fuller Esq. of Augusta purchased this whole medical society grant for \$3000, and this township took the name of Fullerstown. It was lotted out by A. Greenwood Esq.

EARLY SETTLEMENT. In 1824, Eben and David Marble



commenced clearing on the Whitney tract, and in 1825 moved their families there. The same year, 1824, Nelson Savage cleared an opening near the center of the township, and built a saw-mill on the Little Wilson Stream, and the next year, Messrs. Carter and Atwood also cleared openings in that vicinity, and in 1826, moved their families.

Other settlers entered north of the Whitney tract, and others began in the east part of the township. F. F. Gates became owner of one-half of Savage's mill, but he soon disposed of it. The road first cut out to Moosehead Lake passed by this mill, and for several years all the travel and teaming to the lake went this way.

A post-office was established, Nelson Savage, postmaster, and the mail was carried to Monson for the income of the office. In the winter of 1835, a part of the inhabitants petitioned for the incorporation of the township, while those on the west side petitioned to be annexed to Shirley. Both petitioners had leave to withdraw. The next year, a petition for the incorporation of the township was granted, and in March, 1836, it became the town of Wilson. The settlement did not increase, the public burdens bore heavily on the few inhabitants. So, in 1848, on petition of the inhabitants, a strip containing five ranges of lots on the north side was annexed to Greenville, about one-half of the remainder to Shirley, the residue to Ellitsville.

Savage's mills were abandoned in 1858, and have gone to decay, and all in that neighborhood left their farms and removed to other places, after that road to the lake was abandoned. H. W. Fuller sold one-half of his purchase to E. T. Bridge Esq., and afterward it was sold to several different parties. On the Little Wilson, between Savage's mill and its mouth, there is a stupendous fall of eighty feet perpendicular; over which clapboard-cuts have been driven, but many of them would be split and quartered from end to end. Mr. Savage continued to reside there until 1858, then he removed to Monson, and that settlement was depopulated.

## ELLIOTSVILLE.

ELLIOTSVILLE also has faded from the list of towns in this county, but it once had a place in it. Though now in the twilight of its brighter days, it has a history. As primarily run out by John Boardman, it was Number Eight, Ninth Range. It has two lofty mountains within its limits,—Boarstone and Peaked Mountains—,while Ship Pond lies in its south-eastern part, and vents its surplus waters into Sebec Lake. The Wilson Stream crosses the south-west corner of it, and therein receives the Little Wilson: these united make very good mill privileges. But limited portions of its soil are good for agriculture; other portions had a fair amount of pine and spruce timber; and other large portions are waste and useless.

**GRANTS AND PROPRIETORS.** A strip on the west side, nearly a mile wide, was included in the grant to the Massachusetts Medical Society, to equal the 3000 acres in Number Nine of that township, sold to William C. Whitney.

The Vaughan tract was the next granted. In February, 1812, the State of Massachusetts granted to the heirs of the late William Vaughan, one full half township of wild land, for services which he had rendered to the State. A person of this name resided in Portsmouth, N. H., who took an active part in projecting and pushing forward the expedition to Louisburg, in 1745, and this may be the individual. These heirs selected the northern part of this township, on the east of the Medical tract, and in 1814, 11,520 acres were conveyed to them by the State authorities, including the usual reserves for public uses.

By the Saco Free Bridge Co., Capt Ichabod Jordan was appointed to select and locate four thousand acres, to make up the deficiency, and he took that amount on the south of the Vaughan tract. Two other small parcels in the south part, on either side of Ship Pond, remained, which Elliot G. Vaughan Esq. and a Mr. Watson eventually purchased. The Vaughan heirs early sold an undivided part, amounting

to 4,333 acres, to C. H. Vaughan, to raise money to pay the expense of obtaining and locating the grant.

This reduced the amount held in common, to about seven thousand acres. Some of their owners sold out their shares, and eventually Elliot G. Vaughan Esq. became chief owner.

**FIRST SETTLERS.** Capt. Jordan had an opening felled on the Free Bridge part, in 1824, and Joseph and Eben Sawyer from Buxton also made beginnings. Joseph Sawyer was the first to move his family in, and fifty acres of land were given to his son Joseph, in consideration thereof. In 1826, S. G. Bodfish from Norridgewock moved on to the lot which Capt. Jordan cleared. In 1828, John Drake and E. Briggs from Buckfield came in, also two Messrs. Burnell from Portland, relatives of the Vaughan family. E. G. Vaughan Esq. took quite an interest in settling the township. He early erected a saw-mill, and started a clapboard machine on the Wilson Stream, and eventually settled his family there. He worked up a large amount of timber in these, while clapboard-cuts were also driven out on the Ship Pond and Wilson Streams. Mr. Vaughan's mills and house were not upon the Vaughan tract, but nearer the southern part of the township.

E. T. Bridge Esq. built a grist-mill on the Wilson, above Vaughan's mill, on the eastern side of the Medical tract.

Mr. Vaughan, hoping to promote the sale of his land, prematurely procured the incorporation of the town in 1835, and named it Elliotsville, perpetuating his own name. They were troubled to collect the non-resident taxes. A large amount of non-resident land was advertised and sold at auction, and this discouraged, rather than encouraged, settlement.

A county road was located and opened to Monson, school districts were established, a school fund secured by the sale of reserved lands, and the settlement promised well, except that it was small, and the non-resident taxes were not paid willingly.

After the annexation of the eastern part of Wilson, to Eliotsville, the depletion of its inhabitants went on. After the timber was cut off, the wild lands would not sell, for enough even to pay the taxes. E. G. Vaughan and many others moved away, and, in 1858, the inhabitants petitioned for a repeal of the act of incorporation. This was granted, and it has not been organized into a plantation since. Vaughan's mill has gone to decay, but the Sawyers built a shingle mill upon the same dam, which is still operating.

In 1860, its population was 59, in 1870, it was 42, now, 1880, it is still less.

## CHAPTER XXV.

### UNINCORPORATED SETTLEMENTS.

#### BOWERBANK, HOWARD, KATAHDIN IRON WORKS.

BOWERBANK was Number Seven, Range Eighth, and lies directly north of Foxcroft, but separated from it by Sebec Lake. Its whole area is 26,880 acres, but a part of the lake is within its limits, and reduces its available contents. A small portion of Foxcroft adjoining it on the north side of the lake, was annexed to it. About one-third of its soil is good for tillage, and when cultivated has proved highly productive. Originally it was well timbered, and the lumber was easily run down Sebec Lake.

PROPRIETORS. According to M. Greenleaf Esq., Thomas Monkton was the first purchaser. It then passed to a Mr. Bowerbank, a London merchant. He employed Charles Vaughan Esq. as his agent, and also appointed R. C. Barth Esq. of New York as his attorney to make legal conveyances. During his ownership, and by his agents, the settlement was commenced. Its unsold portions eventually passed to Messrs. Parker, Lord and Smith of Bangor, and then to Samuel McLellan Esq. of Dexter, and now they are owned by Edward C. Homans of Eaglewood, N. J.

Mr. Bowerbank at an early date explored this township in person and had it lotted into 200 acre lots by S. Hoyt jr.; afterward these lots were divided into equal parts by Capt. Eben Greenleaf.

FIRST SETTLEMENT. Charles Vaughan Esq. in 1821, had an opening of fifty acres felled, and the next spring a part of it was cleared and put into crops. Early in 1822, Mr. Edward Robinson, recently from England, was directed thither by

Mr. Vaughan. He crossed the lake alone on a frail raft of his own construction, selected a lot of 200 acres, and hired a Mr. Crommet of Sebec to clear up and put into grass forty acres by the close of 1824. Mr. William Heskith, another Englishman, also had twelve acres of trees felled at the same time. A Mr. Page had been lumbering there in the previous winters, under Mr. Vaughan's direction. He had lost a son there by drowning. This young man was walking upon the ice, in the spring when it was growing soft, and carrying some heavy logging chains upon his shoulders. The ice broke beneath him, and the weight of the chains sunk him hopelessly to the bottom.

A Mr. Hodges was employed through the summer of 1822, in Mr. Vaughan's opening, camping there, and living alone. The first settlers paid one dollar per acre for their land.

In the summer of 1825, Mr. Robinson put up a framed house and barn, cut hay and grain, and prepared to make a permanent settlement. In March, 1826, he married and moved his wife into his new home. He was the first settler, William Newell a blacksmith from Hallowell, the next, William Heskith, the third, and Dea. J. Brown, the fourth. Mr. Vaughan had secured the building of a saw-mill on Mill Brook, previous to this, and now a saw-mill and grist-mill are run there by R. Newell.

The early settlers soon took voluntary measures to build a school-house, and opened private schools for their children. Religious meetings were regularly held, and, in 1836, a small Baptist church was organized.

Sebec village was their most convenient business place, reached by water in summer, and upon the ice in winter. Foxcroft and Dover were also accessible when the lake was frozen. They still haul white birch for spool timber and other kinds of lumber in large quantities, across the lake from this town.

The early settlers were ambitious to enjoy the elective franchise. They could legally do so in any adjoining town, by giving in their names to the assessors and paying a poll-

tax. But they were prone to forget this essential preliminary. So, when they went to Sebec to cast their votes, there were legal objections which their political opponents were not slow to make. This led to a premature incorporation of the town. In March, 1839, the act was passed, the name being taken from the English landlord, Bowerbank. This imposed on the few, about thirty voters, the burdens of municipal regulations and high taxes. But it allowed them to sell the public reserves, and secure a school fund of \$580, which is still helping to sustain schools among them.

Mr. Robinson became interested in the woolen factory in Sebec village, and, in 1854, he removed thither. He then possessed a large and productive farm. In 1837, he harvested 314 bushels of wheat and 1000 bushels of potatoes, beside other crops.

The population began to decrease. In 1850, it numbered 173, and showed a valuation of \$17,376; in 1870, it was 83, with a valuation of \$15,000.

In 1869, the inhabitants petitioned for a repeal of the act of incorporation, and on February 15, it was repealed, and its municipal burdens removed. It has not been organized as a plantation, but they have schools, sustained in part by private subscription.

#### HOWARD.

This is Number Eight, Range Eight, and still unincorporated. It took the name of Howard, from Abijah Howard, once a large proprietor. It has an area of 28,040 acres, but a large portion of Sebec Lake, and a part of Ship Pond are within its boundaries, and reduce its amount of settling land.

**NATURAL RESOURCES.** The southern portion of it is mountainous, but it contains a large amount of good settling land. Quite a breadth of soil on the Wilson Stream is especially inviting. It once had a large amount of pine timber, and this is not entirely exhausted. Granite Mountain, rising from the western shore of Sebec Lake, and extending nearly to the mouth of Wilson Stream, contains an inexhaust-

ible amount of the finest granite found in the State. The best of underpinning has been taken from the foot of this mountain, to Guilford village, and also to Foxcroft and Dover. A slate quarry was once opened in another part, but it proved too hard to be worked profitably.

PROPRIETORS. Gen. A. Davis is the first that we have been able to ascertain. He owned a portion of it, possibly all of it, as early as 1825 or 1826. So also, Abijah Howard, J. S. Sayward and William S. Coggin, once were its owners. Abner Hallowell, before these, owned one sixth of it. Geo. M. Weston and Dudley F. Leavitt, more recently have owned a large part of it. At the present date, 1880, there is a small portion, one thousand acres, in the south west corner, near North Guilford mills, known as the Harris tract, adjoining it there are 960 acres set off for the public reserves, there is the Osgood tract near the south east corner, and 4000 acres owned by the Howard Slate Co., in the north east corner, and several lots owned and occupied by settlers. The remainder of the township has been owned recently by J. S. Wheelwright and George Boynton of Bangor, but is now held by Messrs. Adams.

SETTLEMENT. This township has never been opened to settlers, but kept in the market for the sale of large tracts, and timber stumpage. Still, for more than fifty years, some persons and families have resided upon it,

In 1826, John Greeley was encouraged by Gen. Davis to erect mills on the lower falls of the Wilson Stream, near its mouth. He put in operation a saw-mill and clapboard machine, and worked up a large amount of lumber.

Peter Brawn cleared up an opening on the shore of the lake and of the stream, and both removed their families thither. Mr. Greeley run these mills, about twenty years, and then consigned them to Caleb Prentiss, and moved to other parts. Mr Brawn, moved to Guilford, and died there at an advanced age. The mills were not kept in operation, and went to decay. Now all traces of them and of the dwellings are blotted out. The land and privilege passed to several owners, and was finally bought by Mr. Wil-



liam Davis of Foxcroft. In 1866, Blethen & Gilman erected a large hotel, the Lake House, on the lot cleared by Brawn, and it has become quite a resort for summer boarders and tourists. It is now owned and kept by Capt. A. G. Crocket, who formerly run the steamboat on Sebec Lake, and who now does a large business in farming.

Some of its best settling land was easily reached from Monson. As early as 1826, James Johnson, already noticed in the Kidder swindle, pushed in from that direction, put up a camp, and began to clear an opening just below Greenwood's falls. There he lived, somewhat hermit-like, four miles from other inhabitants, occasionally visited by hunters, refugees and explorers, until he secured a lot by twenty years possession. He then sold out to Mr. Joseph Moulton of Foxcroft, and took up and cleared a new lot.

By 1850, about ten families had settled in that part of the township. Messrs. Jordan and Jennison of Foxcroft put up a saw-mill in the west part of the town, on a branch of the Wilson Stream, but this has run down. Some years since, Orin Brooks put a saw-mill and clapboard machine in operation on Greenwood's Falls, but in 1877, they were destroyed by fire. Mr. Harrison Welch has rebuilt them, and they are operating profitably.

Mr. Johnson again sold his possession, and began anew, near the north part of the town. He married late in life, and reared up a family. In his old age, a son upon whom he depended, by a serious accident, lost a leg, and he was compelled to call upon the town for support. The town of Dixfield assumed this, and he died in his native place, after a long life of peculiar hardships.

A few years since, a slate quarry toward the north-east corner of the township was thought to promise well, and a company of Bangoreans was formed to work it. They were incorporated in 1870 as the Howard Slate Co. They purchased 4000 acres of the soil and all other slate quarries that might be found in the township, erected large buildings for working out slates, and laid a tram-way one and a half miles in length, to the shore of the lake, for transporting

them to a steamboat landing. But the quarry did not prove softer as they worked into it, as they confidently expected, and the whole enterprise proved an entire failure.

**SURVEY.** As early as 1828, Maj. P. P. Furber run out three ranges of lots across the township, beginning at Greeley's mills, and marked the corners of each one hundred acre lot.

Recently William P. Oakes of Sangerville has completed the survey of Wheelwright & Boynton's tract, and it is offered for settlement.

About thirty families are now residing in the township. A county road has been opened through it, a school-house erected in the west part, and sometimes it is occupied for schools and meetings; a post-office is established, and the prospect of an increase of population is quite flattering.

Greenwood's Falls answer as a standing memorial of Mr. Greenwood's lamentable death, already given in the sketch of Monson.

Butler's Cove on the west shore of Sebec Lake records another fatal accident. A man named Butler attempted to swim across that cove, while his companions were making a raft, but his strength failed before he reached the shore, and he sank to rise no more.

In the summer of 1879, the Willimantic Thread Co. of Connecticut purchased a lot at Greeley's Falls, and also all the white birch timber standing upon the proprietor's land in the township. They erected a mill upon the north bank of Wilson's Stream, for splitting out spool timber, and sheds, shops and dwelling-houses necessary for successful operations. They also built a bridge across the stream. By the beginning of 1880, the mill was ready to operate, and, on Jan. 5th, the electric light shone upon a large company of invited guests there assembled,—its first introduction into the county. They are intending to have 2000 cords of white birch hauled and split out this winter, and next summer, to add a spool factory to the establishment, for making a surplus of spools over and above what they use in their own extensive manufactory.

## KATAHDIN IRON WORKS.

These are situated in Number Six, Range Ninth, and were named from Mt. Katahdin. One-half of this township was granted to Warren Academy, in 1808. It was divided by an east and west line, and the north half belonged to the Academy. The west branch of Pleasant River flows through the township, and upon its banks some excellent intervals were found. As early as 1814, Ichabod Thomas of Sidney bought one-half of this northern part containing these intervals, and Eber Davis of Fairfield, 1000 acres adjoining Mr. Thomas' purchase. Mr. Thomas and his sons and Joseph Davis commenced clearing, and, in 1815, moved their families there. Their openings were three miles above the present furnace, and full ten miles above the nearest settler in Brownville, but they had a road from Sebec through Barnard to their homes. They remained there till 1821, there being twelve residents in 1820, and then exchanged their estates with Moses Brown, for farms in Brownville. The hay has been cut year after year, but no families have dwelt there since those hardy occupants removed. At the present time, 1880, these farms are possessed by J. Herrick and sons, the hotel keepers at the Iron Works. In the year 1877, they harvested from them 80 tons of hay, 800 bushels of oats, 600, of potatoes, 50, of beans, 30, of wheat, and a large amount of garden vegetables.

Some time since, a mine of iron ore, known as "Bog ore," was found upon the northern half of this township. It is at the foot of Ore Mountain, near which the west branch of Pleasant River flows. In 1843, work was commenced to develop this mine, and to build these Iron works. Edward Smith of Bangor was the organizing and active agent. He and his brother Samuel had been previously known among the enterprising business men of Bangor, during the period of its rapid growth. In the spring of 1843, Walter Smith of Newmarket, N. H., the father of the above named, bought the half township which contained this bed of ore, and Edward cut out roads, put up buildings and built a furnace.

Then Warren Academy had sold out nearly all of its land,

and its several owners conveyed their respective tracts to Mr. Smith. The furnace was completed, the ore proved unexpectedly good, losing only half of its weight in smelting. But the Smiths run it only for a short time. In January, 1845, they sold all the land they there owned, with the furnace and other buildings, to David Pingree of Salem.

Messrs. Pingree & Co. prosecuted the work with energy till 1856, and then let its furnace fires go out. A large amount of iron had been produced, 2350 tons the last year it was operated, but the hauling of it by teams to Bangor had been quite expensive.

Previous to this, a hotel and several houses had been built, to accommodate workmen. For six or eight years, all were left desolate, except one dwelling and the hotel, this was kept open to entertain lumbermen, explorers and visitors. The property then passed to the creditors of Pingree & Co. Hinkley & Edgerly of Bangor had large claims. They bought out the smaller owners, and put the furnace again in operation. War times were not favorable to such industries, and they also closed up. Other partners came in, and it was started again, O. B. Davis jr. being the treasurer and chief manager. It has once suspended both payment and business, but it is now in successful operation.

When running, it gives employment to a large number of workmen, in cutting and hauling wood to supply the furnace with charcoal, and in hauling the products to the railroad, and in carrying back a species of limestone used in smelting. •

Other valuable minerals, paints and copperas—are obtained there in paying quantities, while the ore improves in quality, and gives no sign of exhaustion. In November, 1879, an explosion occurred in the upper room of the furnace, as they were drawing off the melted ore below, by which two of the hands were instantly killed, and serious injury done to the building. Work was suspended for a few weeks, until this could be repaired. It soon resumed business, and now it is in full blast in all its departments.

## CHAPTER XXVI.

### STIRRING EVENTS.

#### THE INDIAN SCARE.

IN June, 1812, war was declared against Great Britain, and the country was agitated with various fears, contests and startling commotions. In some of these, the new settlers of this county necessarily participated. The Penobscot tribe of Indians was to them the first source of dire anxiety and fear. Up to this time, these hardy sons of the forest had passed up and down the river in prosecuting their hunting operations, and had ever exhibited a friendly disposition toward the settlers. Both parties had been neighborly and fearless, nothing arising to disturb this mutual confidence. But now as the sound of war was in the land, the settlers recalled the former scenes of cruelty and blood, and feared that these savages would seize the tomahawk and scalping knife, and stealthily rush upon them in their defenceless state. The Indians manifested no change of feelings or intentions toward the whites, but if one or more of them were seen paddling their birches on the river, or threading their way through the forests, the suspicious observer would hurry away out of sight.

The keen-eyed Indian instinctively interpreted this, and felt that he might be treated as an enemy, and he too skulked away hastily. They threatened no violence, they did no injury, they showed no particular sympathy for the English, still an increasing jealousy and fear frowned between them.

The settlers were so far from any available help, were so near the Indian hunting grounds, were so unsupplied with

means of defence, that they would fall an easy prey to the savage foe, if he should attempt a hostile invasion. The excitement became general, and increased as it spread, and soon the public felt that something must be done. So a mass meeting was called to concentrate the united wisdom, foresight and valor of the community, to deliberate profoundly upon the impending crisis, to devise ways and means for public safety. This meeting assembled in Foxcroft, in August, 1812, the first meeting of the kind ever held on the river. It was numerously attended, organized and conducted in an orderly and deliberate manner. Mr. T. Hutchings presided as moderator, R. Low was chosen clerk, and, according to the religious sentiment of those days, Dea. R. Herring was invited to seek the Divine blessing upon their solemn deliberations. These preliminaries over, each person rose in turn and expressed his views upon the apprehended danger, and the best way of averting it. All thought that a garrison or some kind of fortifications should be immediately built, but not in the most disinterested spirit, each one thought that his own opening was the best place for it. At length it became the turn of Phineas Ames, then known as King Ames, to speak, and he rose to a high pitch of rough-hewn eloquence, and made a decided impression. He counseled delay and moderation, that they wait the movements of the national forces, for, if our army invaded Canada, these Indians would follow in the track of war, and let themselves to one or the other of the belligerent forces, and so leave these back settlements unmolested; but if they were not thus drawn away, we might have reason to fear a visit from them, but when the movements of the army were known, there would be time to take measures for general defence. Again it was proposed to send an agent to Boston, to solicit arms and ammunition from the State government for their defence. This was voted by a small majority, provided money enough should be contributed voluntarily to defray his traveling expenses, and Mr. E. Bacon was chosen for that embassy. So the meeting dis-

solved. Mr. Bacon failed to receive the needed funds, and did not go. The excitement in some measure subsided, though some abandoned their exposed homes and went to safer locations, all barricaded their cabin doors so that a nightly assault, if attempted by a blood-thirsty savage, should give them time for alarm and resistance.

It is not known that the Indians at Oldtown ever heard of this meeting, nor how they would have treated it, if they had. But while the war lasted, they forbore to come into these regions, and left these trembling pioneers totally undisturbed by them.

Two years later, when the British marched upon Bangor and took it, a new wave of fear passed over these settlements, but that will be treated of in connection with that event.

#### THE MARCH TO BANGOR.

Late in the summer of 1814, the British took Castine and kept quiet possession of it till the end of the war. The British officers hoping to attach that part of Maine to their own province, bought and sold merchandise freely, and treated the people with an alluring lenience. But occasionally the British Lion must shake his mane. Detachments of troops would march out into the surrounding country, to reconnoitre its military condition, to forage among the inhabitants, to display their martial strength, and to awe the people into profound submission. In September of that year they made a serious raid upon Bangor, as there were some naval forces in the Penobscot River, and some merchant vessels afloat, and others on the stocks. British barges ascended the river, and a land force marched up on the west bank.

The militia was hastily called out by Gen. Blake of Brewer, but as there were but a few companies then organized, only a feeble force could be rallied for the combat. They met these invaders at Hampden, but as they had no fortification, and were raw recruits, they broke and fled at the approach of their trained and formidable enemy. The "John Adams," a sloop of war, lay at Hampden, and as her capture was in-

ovitable, the marines abandoned her, and retreated toward Portland, one of them lingering behind to blow her up. So both river and country were now open to our haughty invaders. They pressed on, and Bangor fell into their hands without resistance. The citizens took the required oath, not to engage in hostilities against the British during the war; the soldiers committed acts of mercenary plunder unrestrained; the officers commanded some vessels on the stocks to be burnt, and released others, whose owners gave bonds to pay a large part of their value; but the close of the war soon coming, vitiated these bonds.

The report that the troops were advancing upon Bangor spread rapidly through all these new settlements, and aroused the patriotic spirits of those hardy and resolute backwoodsmen. Though there was no roll of the stirring drum, nor thrilling blast of the bugle, many a brave heart beat to arms, and many a strong arm was nerved for action. The old musket was put in order, ammunition procured, the knapsack filled with bread and pork, and strapped upon their shoulders, the parting words tenderly, falteringly dropped, and with hurried step they started, on foot, and alone often, for the battle field. There was then no drafting nor warning to appear, but self-moved and self-called, they rushed to repel these raiders.

But in Foxcroft and vicinity things took a more orderly form. In the absence of military organization, fifty-six men residing in this vicinity assembled here, organized a volunteer company, and adopted the rules and regulations of war. They next elected officers, and prepared for military discipline and action. Capt. Ezekiel Chase of Sebec, a Revolutionary veteran, and who had afterward commanded a rifle company on the Kennebec, was chosen captain, Nathaniel Chamberlain of Dover, lieutenant, and Abel Chase of Sebec, a brother of the captain, ensign. This company furnished its own arms and ammunition, procured its own supplies, sought no transportation, and expected only the reward of genuine patriotism for their pay. It marched at once toward



the seat of war, but, alas! all this flaming valor was a little too late. Their commercial emporium had capitulated before these approaching succorers could arrive. But the company, by a forced march, had got over a large portion of the way before that humiliating report reached them. Capt. Chase advanced to Col. Whiting's abode, the old Jameson stand, and encamped to wait further developments. Meanwhile those who remained at home sent them supplies of food, and gave substantial proof of a genuine sympathy. It soon became evident that no further hostilities were to be apprehended, and the whole company returned safely to their waiting homes.

But some characteristic incidents came to the surface in connection with this campaign, which deserve to be related to complete its history. Capt. Chase, knowing well that raw recruits were not always reliable in the face of an enemy, contrived to have a report brought along, while on the march, that the enemy was near, and that they must prepare at once for battle. This was solely to try their courage. He had faced the Red coats in open fight, and a few stirring words magnetized his brave volunteers, so that they prepared for action, and advanced with firm steps to meet their foes. But as none were there, no battle was fought and they only showed what they meant to do. But this feint, so well intended and so well disposed of, opened a loop-hole to the foul breath of slander. So it was bruited about that, when this fearful notice was served upon the company, the whole of them, except the Captain, took to the woods, each posting himself behind a tree so as to fire upon their approaching assailants from a good ambush. But the sharpest cut was, that one of the officers took care to be far in the rear, so that he might surely intercept every one that attempted a retreat. Now it is easy to see through this gossamer-covered scandal. It should be charged upon the son of some Tory, though it is said that the Tories of the revolution never left any children,—none that would acknowledge so unpopular an origin. But was not this the natural

fabrication of a guilty conscience? Might not some one who felt the twinges of remorse for not shouldering his musket and rushing to the defence of our invaded soil, have got up such an ingenious subterfuge, to allay those pangs, and to join in the laugh with other cowardly exempts, though it cast contempt upon those who hazarded so much, even though they found so little to do?

Gentlemen in Bangor were so well pleased with the readiness and valor of these back settlers, that they requested them to organize a volunteer company of minute-men.

Enough in Foxcroft and Dover heartily and promptly responded to this call, to form such a company. William Thayer of Foxcroft was chosen captain, Job Parsons, lieutenant, Dennis Lambert, ensign, and Nathaniel Chamberlain, clerk,—the last three all of Dover. This shows that public confidence was not shaken in some of those maligned so ungenerously by the above reports. I copy the following from J. S. Holmes' record: "This company met frequently to improve themselves in military arts and discipline, and continued as a company, observing good regulations, and due respect for their officers, until peace was proclaimed between England and the United States. They then met in February, 1815, and disbanded themselves. Three or four gallons of spirit had been sent to the clerk by gentlemen in Bangor, as a testimonial of their high consideration of the patriotic conduct of this company. And when the company met for the last time under this voluntary organization, it was to celebrate the return of peace, and to cast aside those martial distinctions with which rapacious war had induced them to invest themselves. But the present from Bangor was the most powerful stimulant of the occasion. Over this, and by this, they made merry, rejoicing loud and long that victory had declared in favor of their espoused cause, and that war and bloodshed had ceased to desolate the land."

This capture of Bangor revived the Indian scare, and awakened more stirring alarms than had formerly existed. Many now felt that this would surely arouse all their savage

thirst for blood and carnage, and would embolden them to fall at once upon the defenceless back settlers. The men shuddered, the women turned pale, the children frantic and trembling, knew not what to do. Public defence was out of the question, as the wary savage would creep stealthily from his ambush. As the men and boys were sweating among the black logs, they would cast an eager glance toward the dark forest, to see if these red-skinned marauders were not advancing upon them. But with the darkness of night came the most fearful forebodings. Then, like the wild beast of the forest, the Indian made his assault. So, on retiring to rest, the doors were doubly barred, axes put within, the musket loaded, the bayonet fixed, and the gun hung where, at the least sound of approach, it could be seized in the thickest darkness. But this gradually subsided. There was no sound of war, no savage outbreak to justify these fears or to brand this small dwindling tribe with any intended barbarities.

But before we ridicule these fears and sneer at the alarms of those early settlers, let us put ourselves in their places, and honestly conclude what we should have done in such a crisis. Bear in mind that the writer, though then in the county, was too young to be stricken with these fears.

#### THE COLD SEASONS.

The cold seasons mark an era, sadly memorable in the history of Piscataquis valley. The fertility of the soil none doubted, its tall, sturdy, primeval growth conclusively proved it. When these forests began to be broken, the clearings were more frosty than more open lands in the same latitude. Up to 1815, the seasons were generally favorable, and good crops were harvested, except the late planted, a frequent event in new settlements.

New comers continually arriving called for quite a surplus, and in this land of plenty, teams which came to move in new settlers, were often loaded back with wheat, so abundantly did these new lands produce it. But in 1815, a change

came over all New England. In this portion, the corn was all killed by an early frost, and other crops were seriously diminished. With this, came hard times around those cabin doors. Many with large families had looked the hardships of a new settlement in the face, to obtain bread more easily, but dismayed by this failure, they knew not how to "keep the wolf from the door."

But the year 1816 was still colder. On the 29th and 30th days of May, snow fell to the depth of five inches. From the sixth to the tenth of June, there were frequent snow squalls, and every morning the surface of the ground was found frozen. Every month through the summer, frost was visible, and on the sixth of October, three inches of snow again fell. From this time, cold weather prevailed, and an early winter came upon them. No corn was raised this year in any part of northern New England. In some portions drought prevailed, but in this region there was an excess of rain as well as of cold. Early sowed rye and wheat ripened, but much of that year's product was pinched, and potatoes came in light and watery. In 1817, but little corn was planted, and that failed to get ripe, but other crops were better than those of the previous year. This summer there was a great scarcity of provisions in all this new region. Corn was nearly unknown. It could be brought from Bangor only on horseback, and this was but rarely attempted.

Wheat sold for three dollars per bushel, rye for two dollars, and potatoes for seventy-five cents. Some able bodied men traveled six miles, and worked all day at reaping, to obtain one peck of rye to carry back to their needy families. And one peck of wheat per day was the common wages of any laborer. Only those who cleared sunny slopes and sowed early, were sellers, and they profited by their good luck. Among these, Leonard Dearth of Sangerville was unusually successful, harvesting twenty-five acres of good wheat in the coldest season. But he sold to the poorest and the hungriest, at the highest price, and he did not round the measure. Nor was he afterward more prosperous in his business than others. He has recently died, aged eighty-eight.

Many shifts and turns were made to arrest the cravings of hunger. Raspberries grew in rich abundance, and these, with a few morsels of bread, and the milk of their cows, constituted the evening meal of many a sad, weary and hungry family. Others gathered certain kinds of weeds, clover heads and nutritious plants, stewed them, and adding milk and butter, fed upon them until they could secure something better.

The year 1818 was unusually warm and promising. A large breadth of corn was planted, which ripened, and filled these settlements with bread. Had not every barn, chamber and barrel been absolutely empty, they would have been troubled to find room for it. The next winter, wheat sold in Bangor for only seventy-five cents per bushel.

These cold seasons greatly retarded the settlement of this county, and embarrassed the pioneers, already here. Some gave up their clearings, and returned to their former places of residence. Others caught the Ohio fever, and, if able, made their way westward. Others exhausted the means which they had brought to purchase land and put up buildings with, in supplying their needy families. This left them poor, and for a long time they remained so.

Usually a fair crop of corn has been harvested in this county. Early frosts occasionally injure it. In 1832 only, since these cold seasons, has it been a complete failure, but for several years following, it was an uncertain crop, and a less amount planted. But now, if properly cultivated, it is as sure here as in any part of northern New England.

The winter of 1835 was unusually cold. More than once the mercury sank to its freezing point, deep and drifting snows were frequent, and they lingered long in the lap of spring. On the first day of April, a solid mass of snow four feet deep lay on the ground from Monson to Moosehead Lake. Nor did it then soon waste. Through that month, there was sledding from Shirley to the lake. In the first part of May, the weather was still cold, and the snows dissolved slowly. On the 25th day, banks of snow were still lingering in open land, and ice still covered the mill-pond in

Shirley. But that day was warm and summer-like. Before the sun sank below the horizon, the snow-banks and ice disappeared. It continued warm, and in four days the trees were showing their opening leaves. Crops started and grew rapidly, there was no killing frost, until the sixth of September, and a good harvest crowned the labors of the year. After this, the seasons were more favorable.

## THE GREAT FIRE.

The most severe and extensive calamity that ever befell this county was the great fire of 1825. Previously the annual rain-fall had been sufficient to secure good crops, and to prevent extensive conflagrations. But in August and September of that year no rain fell, and a severe drought extensively prevailed. The crops had grown and ripened. By the beginning of October, the wells were without water, the small mill streams had failed, the brooks ceased to flow, and the fish gathered in the deep pools, or lay dead upon their dry, stony beds. Much of the cleared land contained decaying stumps, and was inclosed with log fences, while the stubble upon the grain and mowing fields was thick and rank, and all as dry as tinder. Still those who were clearing up new land, in their eagerness to burn off the fallen growth, set fires as fearlessly as ever. And these fires did not go out, but lingered and smouldered still.

In the evening of October 7th, after a still, smoky day, a violent gale arose from the north and north-west, fanning these smouldering fires into a furious and rushing blaze. In the wood-lands the flames rolled on in solid column, while the wind scattered the sparks and blazing fragments like chaff, lighting up stumps, fences, and often the dry stubble. Everybody was awake. Men and boys were hurried to the earlier points of danger, but were soon summoned back to fight the fire from their own threatened dwellings. Wooden fences were torn down, if near buildings; back fires were set, to singe off the stubble, and burn up stumps, when the fire could be kept under control; water was hauled from the living

fountains, to keep back the fiery deluge, and save their homes from devouring flames. Thus it was through that memorably terrible night. As morning broke, the wind subsided, the fires lulled away, relieving the terror-stricken and weary inhabitants. Then a dense and distressing smoke covered the land, darkening the air beyond the limits of our State. Near the fire this was painful to the eyes, and so affected the lungs that some of the cattle fell sick by it. For more than a week this continued, then a slight fall of rain dissipated the smoke and nearly extinguished the remaining fire. Soon after, a heavy rain broke the drought and filled the wells and streams.

Almost every man's wood-land had been burnt over, and much of its growth killed; large tracts of timber-land had been severely injured; and many buildings destroyed. In Guilford, four sets of farm buildings well finished and furnished, with all their contents, were destroyed; several in Parkman shared the same fate, and others in several towns were swept away. In Medford, the loss in pine and other timber was heavy, but in other parts, the best timber land was spared, though the fire had marked its way from Moosehead Lake across the county. None of the buildings destroyed were insured, but help for the sufferers was widely solicited, and liberally obtained, for many felt that they had but just escaped a like serious disaster. Indeed, many houses had been cleared of their contents, as their destruction seemed inevitable, but a favorable change saved them. The writer witnessed some of these scenes, and faced some of these trials. They have not, they cannot, fade from his memory.

A thrifty forest growth now succeeds those branchless, blackened trunks left by the raging element; better fences have replaced those which then added fuel to the flame; other buildings have arisen over the ashes of those demolished, for nature and necessity are both reformers, and a full half century rears up lasting monuments to remind us of its flight.

## CHAPTER XXVII.

### ECCLESIASTICAL SKETCHES.

LIKE all new settlements, this county in its incipient stages of religious life and action, labored under two formidable difficulties. The greater part of its early settlers were irreligious, and indifferent to the introduction and progress of religious institutions; and while struggling with the hardships unavoidable in pioneer life, it was easy to continue in the neglect of them. Again, when these settlements were commenced, all the prevailing religious denominations were in active existence. So those who professed religion differed in sentiment, and could not readily amalgamate. To combine in a union church or society, then, was less easy than now. So the work was begun from without. Missionary societies sent the first preachers into these new parts, and by their labors the first churches were planted. Such societies then existed, and there were men of God willing to press their way into these remote settlements, sometimes traveling on foot, to preach Christ crucified to these back settlers.

For convenience' sake, the subject will be pursued denominationally, arranging the churches of each according to their respective dates. We begin with the

#### CALVINIST BAPTIST.

Toward the close of 1807, Elder Thomas Macomber of Sumner, and Elder Nathaniel Gould of Vassalborough, were sent by the Baptist Missionary Society, on an exploring tour into these frontier settlements. In Amestown, now Sangerville, they found only thirteen resident families. Here they



preached the word, an interest was awakened, and soon twelve persons were ready to be organized into a Baptist church. In January, 1808, one was duly organized, the first in the county. It rose in numbers to twenty-three members, and eventually became connected with the Bowdoinham Association.

Mr. William Oakes, already a member of the Canaan Baptist church, was reclaimed from a back-slidden state, and not long afterward was licensed to preach. He led their meetings, and preached and attended funerals in the adjoining settlements, and eventually, was ordained by a Council in Canaan. An attempt was afterward made to vote him the "minister lot" in Sangerville, but the town refused. Elder Oakes again lapsed into various inconsistencies, was called to account and suspended from the ministry. By this time, this church in Amestown had been weakened by backslidings, and difficulties had arisen among its members, it held no regular meetings, and ordinances were abandoned, and it was dropped from the Association and became extinct. It might have been gathered too hastily, and some of its materials evidently needed a careful scrutiny and a constant watching not then readily enjoyed. It was in this church that Daniel Ames, already quite conspicuous, had a standing, but he never renewed his connection with any other.

Elder Oakes did not prove to be utterly graceless, but after a few years of wandering, both in faith and practice, returned with professed penitence, and regained his standing in the church and in the ministry. He labored as a temporary supply in various places, and often with apparent success, but never was a permanent pastor.

#### GUILFORD.

From 1808, soon after Dea. Robert Herring moved into the settlement, religious meetings were statedly held. Baptist ministers early and frequently visited the place, and in 1813, Elder Robert Low organized a church of thirteen members, most of them dismissed from the Baptist church in New

Gloucester. This church held on its way and enjoyed a healthy growth. Persons of this denomination who settled in adjoining towns, sought a home in it until they were ready to colonize and form one by themselves. In 1815, Elder Thomas Macomber visited this people, and measures were taken to settle him, and he received the minister's lot of 320 acres. He moved into the place in 1816. Soon after, a revival was enjoyed, which strengthened the church. Again, in 1827, an extensive revival prevailed, which brought many into the church, increasing its membership to more than 100. This was the most extensive, protracted and effective revival this town has ever enjoyed. Its influence was felt for several years, and many still survive who cherish a grateful recollection of it.

In the spring of 1831, this society raised a meeting-house, the first in town, and dedicated it, July 4, 1833, Rev. R. C. Spaulding preaching the sermon. In 1835, Elder Macomber retired from his active pastorate, and afterward preached occasionally in other places, as he was able. He had received during his ministry, one hundred and eighteen persons to the church. Aside from the "lot of land," and a share in the annual income of a small ministerial fund, he received no stipulated salary; but he labored, working with his own hands, to provide for a large family, as Baptist ministers then generally did.

Elder Macomber was not educated in the schools, but was evidently taught of the Spirit. He was not a great preacher, but a safe teacher, guide and overseer. Many may excel him in the required qualifications for the pulpit of the present times, who could well have sat at his feet for lessons of thorough Christian experience. Through his missionary labors in other places, souls were converted and foundations for other churches laid.

He remained in town till his last summons came, and died, December 18th, 1852, aged seventy-eight, highly esteemed for his every day piety. After Elder Macomber's retirement, an educated ministry was sought and pecuniary sup-

port was required. This church came up to this new departure with commendable readiness. Elder D. E. Burbank, a young man from Waterville College, was the next permanent supply, and his labors were cheered with conversions and additions. But his health was poor, and after two years he tendered his resignation, and in a few years closed his earthly career in East Winthrop, dying at an early age. Revs. Lucius Bradford, T. Goldthwaite, L. Kingman, O. B. Walker, and others for a short period, from 1857 to 1873, have supplied this church, dividing their labors with some neighboring place.

Revs. C. M. Herring, A. J. Nelson and E. B. Haskell were reared up in this church. It has passed through various trials, but always stood firm as a pillar and ground of the truth. Rev. J. F. Norris supplied it in 1878, and its present membership is seventy-three, as reported in the minutes of 1879. Elder Norris left in 1879, and resumed missionary labors in Burmah, and this church is now destitute.

#### DOVER, NOW SOUTH DOVER.

This was organized, June 20th, 1818, consisting of six members. In 1822, Elder Nathaniel Robinson moved into town and became its pastor. He received one half the lot of land reserved for the first settled minister, and dwelt upon it. Their place of meeting was in the Lambert neighborhood. The church grew under Elder Robinson's care, at one time numbering more than seventy members. For several years no other meeting was held in town, and the population was steadily increasing. In 1834, Elder Robinson closed his labors with this church, to engage in Bible distribution. Rev. J. F. Page succeeded him. A meeting-house was built in 1838, and the church took the name of South Dover. In 1826, a Free Baptist church was organized in the same neighborhood and eventually purchased one half of the meeting-house, and they now alternate in the use of it, each having preaching one half of the time. This

church now reports a total of forty-four members. Elder Robinson possessed very good native endowments, but was not much indebted to early training. He was an easy, logical speaker, a man of the positive, decided cast, in forming, holding and expressing his opinions, more outspoken in declaring his opposition to what he disapproved of, than his dissenting brethren always relished. He was quite an organizer, well acquainted with human nature, having a good share of worldly wisdom, and unavoidably influential. He would make personal sacrifices for the cause of Christ, and readily encourage any movement that promised good to Zion or the elevation of depressed humanity. After closing his ministry in Dover, he left the place, and eventually died, I think, in Bangor, at a very old age.

#### PARKMAN.

Many of the early settlers of this town were Baptists. These united, as they scattered in, with the church in Guilford. In August, 1818, eighteen persons were formed into a separate church, Joshua Coburn and Peter Cummings being chosen Deacons. Mr. Zenas Hall, who had been licensed by the church in Guilford, was then supplying them, and through his labors, a religious interest had been awakened. He was invited to settle with them, and was ordained as pastor, January 14th, 1819. Eventually he received the minister lot, but by agreement relinquished a part of it to the Universalists and Methodists. He was an industrious man, an active citizen, an earnest preacher, and an exemplary Christian.

No other meetings for several years were held in town, revivals were frequent, and the church steadily increased. Elder Hall obtained a greater influence over that people than any other minister ever swayed in the county. At length the temperance reform commenced, and his position and course in regard to it has been stated in the history of Parkman.

In December, 1831, they completed and dedicated a meet-

ing-house, the second in the county, and a revival followed its early occupancy.

Elder Hall continued to labor successfully with this people until 1845, and then removed to Ohio. He left a church of nearly two hundred members strongly attached to him. He lived in the Western States until the Great Rebellion. His visit to his early friends, and the change in his views have been already given.

After Elder Hall's removal, the church obtained supplies, but was never so prosperous, and steadily declined in its membership. It enjoyed a revival last winter, and now reports a total of sixty-eight, and sustains preaching one-half of the time, the Free Baptist occupying their meeting-house the other half.

#### SANGERVILLE.

This was organized in February, 1823, and Mr. Daniel Bartlett from Hartford was ordained as its pastor. Revivals ensued, and the church rose rapidly to a large membership. Elder Bartlett's health failed, he was afflicted by the loss of his wife, difficulties arose, and he left the place in 1827. In 1830, a meeting-house was raised at the village, but it was not completed until 1835, and then it was owned in part by other denominations. In 1831, another extensive revival was enjoyed under the labors of Rev. Philip Chamberlain, and the membership of the church rose to 120. Serious difficulties then arose in the church, discipline reduced its membership, and deaths and emigration carried off some of its most substantial members. Rev. Atherton Clark was employed to supply it, in 1836, but the depletion still went on. In 1839, a second church of eleven members was organized in the south part of the town, and this reduced the old church still more. It maintained worship a part of the time until 1847, and then it was dropped from the Association. The second church was always small, some of its members still survive, but this, too, has been dropped from the Association, making three Baptist churches which have existed, and be-

come extinct in this town, all falling by their internal difficulties, and not from outward opposition.

## ATKINSON AND MILTON.

Under the labors of Mr. Jonathan F. Page, a church was organized in the east part of the town in the year 1825. Mr. Page was ordained as an evangelist in 1830. It once had thirty-four members, but now it is extinct. Rev. Alonzo Bunker, a missionary to Burmah, was from Atkinson.

## MONSON.

August 10, 1827, this church was organized, consisting of fourteen members. It had occasional supplies until 1842, when Rev. Lebbeus Kingman became its pastor. In 1845 it built a meeting-house, and Rev. Lucius Bradford occupied it for the next six years. In 1853 Rev. Dudley P. Bailey became its pastor, preaching in other places one-half of the time. He remained eighteen years. Since his removal it has been supplied by several for short periods. Its present number is 110, and Rev. E. C. Long is its pastor.

## BLANCHARD.

In 1828, before the town was incorporated, a Baptist church was organized. It resulted from the labors of Elders Hall and Oakes. It was a hard field to enter and cultivate in a religious sense, but this church once had more than 30 members. It soon began to decline, and in 1837 expired.

## ABBOT.

This was organized in 1829. Soon after, a revival was enjoyed, which increased this, and a Free Baptist church also. Here Elder William Oakes, Joseph Hall and Samuel Tufts, licentiates, preached the Word. This church once had forty-two members. In 1840, it united with others in building a union meeting-house at the upper village, and had preaching in it a portion of the time. For a few years past it has worshipped with the Free Baptists, and has but thirteen members.

## DOVER AND FOXCROFT.

In August, 1840, this church was organized, and after two years, absorbed a small church previously existing in Foxcroft. Rev. C. P. St. Clair was their first regular supply, and Rev. O. B. Walker their first pastor, supplying from 1843 to 1846. After him, Revs. S. Adlam, J. M. Follet (twice engaged), C. M. Herring, A. D. F. Palmer, A. B. Pendleton, E. A. Van Kleeck, S. P. Pendleton, C. M. Steadman and George E. Tufts have been permanent supplies.

In 1843, they built and dedicated a meeting-house in Dover village. This church has had a prosperous career, and is the strongest of the order in the county. The strange and trying connection that this church had with C. M. Steadman, the imposter, will be learned from the account given of him in a chapter further on.

It has recently enjoyed the labors of Rev. J. H. Higgins, a successful evangelist, a revival was experienced, and the church is recovering from its afflictions. It reported in 1879, one hundred and one members.

## MILO.

This church was organized in 1840, starting with twelve members. From the first it had preaching a portion of the time. In 1853, it built a union meeting-house with the Free Baptists and others, and still alternates with them in the use of it. Revs. Thomas Macomber, A. G. Tibbets, M. Cross, A. M. Piper, R. Noyes, F. J. Bicknell and E. C. Long have supplied this church, and it has enjoyed a healthy growth, and has sixty-two members.

## GREENVILLE AND SHIRLEY.

This was organized by a missionary, Rev. O. B. Walker, in 1843. It had only thirteen members when largest, and after a few years became extinct.

## BOWERBANK.

A Baptist church was organized here in 1836, which once

reported thirty members. It was connected with Piscataquis Association for a season, but now it is extinct.

#### SEBEC.

A church of this order was organized at Sebec village, in 1836, consisting of twelve members. It had occasional preaching and rose to thirty members. But it declined, and, though some of its members still survived, it was dropped from the Association. During the year 1878, it was re-organized, a pastor secured and a meeting-house (built by the Congregationalists in 1837), obtained and repaired. Its prospects are regarded as hopeful. It has seventeen members, and Rev. H. Stetson is supplying it. Quite recently a revival has been enjoyed by this church, through the assistance of Rev. J. H. Higgins. Expectations of good are raised, but definite statements cannot now be given.

It appears from the above, that sixteen churches of this order have been organized in this county. Eight have become extinct, one, after a long suspension, has been reorganized, and seven are now in an active, working state. Guilford church has survived the longest. Parkman has had the largest number of members, four hundred and twelve in all, previous to 1843, while Monson now has the highest total.

#### CONGREGATIONAL CHURCHES.

##### BROWNVILLE.

Brownville was the first organized. Rev. Hezekiah May moved into this town in 1808, and was the first minister of this order to enter the county. In 1814, he left the place. Mr. May graduated from Yale College in 1793. Between 1800 and 1805, he supplied the church in Bath for one year. After he left Brownville, his residence is not known.

Rev. John Sawyer then came and succeeded him in the same labors. At length Mr. Sawyer left, and missionaries visited the settlement occasionally. One of these, a Mr. Welch from Bangor Seminary was very acceptable, and during his visit in 1818, quite a religious interest was awakened.



In the previous summer, Miss Caroline Pillsbury, from Newburyport, Mass., taught school in this town, and gathered the children into a Sunday-school, the second attempted in this county. On the 25th of August, 1819, a council convened, and organized a Congregational church, consisting of eight male and three female members. In October following, Rev. J. Sawyer spent a Sabbath with this church, and administered the Lord's supper to it for the first time.

In 1824, the church took measures to secure a permanent pastor, and they proceeded in the old-time way. A legal town meeting was called to concur with the church in inviting Rev. N. W. Sheldon from Bangor Seminary, to become their pastor. The town concurred, voting him the minister lot, the whole income of the ministerial fund, and \$150 per annum, to be paid from the town treasury, as long as he remained their minister.

A similar occurrence cannot be found in the county or in northern Maine. The town paid this amount, and sometimes raised more, for the nine years that Mr. Sheldon served them in the pastoral office. He was ordained, June 2, 1824, Revs. H. Loomis, T. Williams, M. Blood, and Prof. John Smith, officiating as the ordaining council. He was dismissed, March 2, 1833. In 1824, a Sabbath-school was re-established, and it has continued to the present time. Mr. Elisha Johnson and Dea. Jonah Thomas were its earliest superintendents. May 21, 1834, Rev. Henry Richardson was installed as its second pastor. He continued till January 12, 1838. Before his ministry commenced, a Methodist meeting had been established, and the Congregational society had suffered losses. Father Sawyer saw distinctly that the building of a meeting-house was essential to its life and prosperity. It was undertaken, and carried through successfully. It was completed and dedicated, Sept. 25, 1839, Rev. Elias Wells preaching the sermon. From 1822 to that date, a meeting of some kind had been held in the village school-house, every Sabbath, not excepting the most stormy. In the afternoon of Sept. 25th, Mr. William S. Sewall was ordained as the

third pastor of this church, Rev. Robert Page preaching the ordination sermon. Soon after, a parsonage was purchased, and forever secured to the parish so long as its ministers preach the orthodox doctrines as stated in the Assembly's Catechism.

In the early part of Mr. Sewall's ministry, the slate quarries were opened. This increased the population, though many of the immigrants were Welshmen. He remained as pastor till June 3, 1863. Then, for about four years, they had occasional supplies. Nov. 9, 1867, Rev. L. S. Coan was engaged as stated supply, and continued for the next three years. Up to this time this people had been aided by the Maine Missionary Society, but then they ceased to receive it. During his labors a revival added a large number to the church. He was a widower when he came to the place, and married a daughter of Rev. I. E. Wilkins. He left the church in a not very harmonious state. Mr. Coan obtained some notoriety as a public reader, lecturer and author, but died the past summer in Alton, N. H. Rev. C. L. Nichols came to this people in July, 1871, and was installed pastor Feb. 20, 1872. At this date the church numbered 139. It has increased by a steady, promising growth, to 170, though reverses in business have caused many removals. Recently, 1880, it has enjoyed a pleasant revival.

Lemuel Shepley and Francis Brown were the first chosen to this office. Dea. Shepley joined the church in Milo, in 1829, thereby vacating the office, and Jonah Thomas was elected to fill his place. He and Dea. Brown retained it until their deaths in 1854. Then Gilman Ryder and Zadoc Waterhouse were chosen, but both were removed by death in 1857. Charles Page and George E. Wilkins were chosen in 1858. Dea. Wilkins removed in 1869, and Samuel A. Smith was chosen. He and Dea. Page still remain in office.

It should here be noted that Rev. I. E. Wilkins, a son of Dr. Wilkins, was a native of Brownville. After preaching acceptably in several places, his health failed, and, in 1841, he returned to Brownville and practiced medicine till his

death in 1848. His widow and some of their children still reside in town.

In the spring of 1875, this people repaired their house of worship. As the Penobscot county conference was organized in Brownville, January 11th, 1825, this and also Aroostook and Piscataquis conferences, formerly embraced in Penobscot, met here to celebrate its semi-centennial in June 1875. The review of half a century of evangelizing labors recalled much that was encouraging, though not without some reverses.

A few of the Brownville people who were present at the first meeting, still survived to take part in this. But their hoary heads spake affectingly of the past. Not one of the ministers or delegates who brought this conference into being was then alive, but their labors and their memory lived in the grateful recollections of those who once sat at their feet, and who now succeed them.

#### MONSON.

In the first colony which came from Massachusetts to this town, there were several active Christians who were Congregationalists. There were already there some of this, and also some of the Baptist, denomination. With one accord they established a meeting upon the first Sabbath after this colony arrived. These meetings were conducted by the brethren, with occasional help from visiting clergymen. Father Sawyer soon made this a new outpost in his diocese, visited it, and prepared the way for organizing a church.

On the 11th of August, 1821, a council convened, consisting of Rev. J. Sawyer, a delegate from the church in Brownville, Rev. J. Peet and delegate, and organized a church of eight members. Abel Goodell and Lucius Hyde were chosen deacons, both having held this office in Massachusetts. All who attended that council from other places rode on horseback. The deep mire was covered over with fir and spruce boughs. One woman rode in this manner, from Guilford, another, from Harmony. Mr. Sawyer taught school there

the next winter, and preached on the Sabbath. Students from Bangor Seminary frequently visited this church. In 1823 and 1824, Mr. Henry White spent six months with them. In the autumn of 1824, Mr. Lot Rider from Bangor Seminary began to labor with them. By this time the church had been increased, and he was invited to become their pastor. On the 9th of March, 1825, he was ordained by a council in which were the following clergymen, to wit, Rev. Messrs. Fargo, Peet, Williams, Sheldon, and Prof. Smith of the Seminary. The public services were held in Capt. Whitney's barn. His career was short, but of much promise. In a pleasant revival he was stricken down with sickness, and died September 23, about six months after his ordination, leaving a deeply afflicted people.

They had occasional supplies till the fall of 1827. Rev. Anson Hubbard then came, and was installed January 15th, 1828. The public services were held in Dea. L. Hyde's wood-house. It will hardly seem credible to us now that a good member of the church would not have the meeting in his dwelling-house, after he had fully prepared it, because he was refused a license to sell spirits. But before five years, he was a pledged and active temperance man.

In 1831, there was a revival enjoyed, which brought a good addition into the church. This year they finished and dedicated a house of worship, the first completed in this county.

After a stay of six years, Mr. Hubbard found it convenient to retire, and was dismissed August 19th, 1834.

In the spring of 1835, Mr. John Baker came from Andover Seminary, to supply them for a few weeks. He was acceptable to the people, and continued to supply through the summer, having transferred his relation to Bangor Seminary.

September 15th, 1835, he was ordained pastor of this church, Rev. John Maltby of Bangor preaching the sermon. Revs. H. Sewall, T. Williams, S. S. Drake, H. Richardson, Silas Baker and J. Maltby were members of this council. Mr. Baker was an esteemed and successful minister, but his

poor health constrained him to sever his connection with them. He was dismissed May 15th, 1839. Previous to this, removals, in part occasioned by the Kidder swindle, had reduced the membership and resources of this church.

In the summer of 1841, Rev. H. Ilsley visited the place and was installed as pastor, October 12th of that year. He continued there with a good degree of success till Oct. 18th, 1855. He then went to Illinois, and there lost his wife and eight children, all drowned in one night by the bursting of a railroad embankment in a great freshet which completely demolished their dwelling.

Rev. R. W. Emerson was the next pastor. He was installed May 6th, 1856, and dismissed May 4th, 1858. He has remained in town and done good service in supplying feeble and destitute churches in the vicinity. For the next four years they had occasional supplies only. May 27th, 1860, their meeting-house was laid in ashes, in the great fire, and rebuilt the next summer. For five years, beginning Dec. 18, 1862 and ending in 1867, Rev. H. S. Loring was acting pastor, preaching one half of the time in Blanchard. For a season after he left, they had occasional supplies only.

Rev. A. H. Tyler formerly from this church, became acting pastor in July, 1870, and continued till 1877. The church increased during his labors. Rev. G. W. Jones entered this field May, 1878, and is now the acting pastor. Its present membership is ninety-seven.

#### FOXCROFT AND DOVER.

The first settlers of these towns were not like the Pilgrim Fathers, and religious meetings were not early attempted. The first was in the summer of 1809, and this, at the instigation of Col. J. E. Foxcroft, in which Mrs. William Mitchell bore an important part, as already noticed. Soon after this, Rev. John Sawyer began to visit this place in his pioneer work, and several persons were hopefully converted. As early as 1814, some of these united with the church in Garland. About this time a regular Sabbath meeting was estab-

lished at the town-house in Foxcroft village, conducted when no minister was present, by the brethren. The number of believers increased, and the Lord's Supper was occasionally administered to them. Some time during these labors, an account of a Christian woman who had gathered a few children to instruct them from the Bible, caught the eye of Mr. Sawyer. He asked: Why may it not be done here? Mrs. Nathan Carpenter ventured upon the experiment. A class met at her house that summer, and she, it should be said, established the first Sunday-school in the county, in 1816 or 1817.

In 1820, Rev. Thomas Williams began to visit this place, and his labors were very acceptable. In due time measures were taken to retain him permanently. Up to this time, all the Congregationalists residing in Foxcroft, Dover, Sangerville and Guilford were connected with the Garland church. These persons united in a request to be set off, as a distinct church. They also extended a formal invitation to Mr. Williams to become their pastor. A town meeting also was called in Foxcroft, to see if the town would concur, and vote him the reserved lot of land. It did so concur, voting him "the minister lot," and the entire income of the ministerial fund, but pledged no specified salary. Mr. Williams returned an affirmative reply, in which he manifested a humble, but honorable Christian spirit.

On the 30th of December, 1822, Rev. Messrs. Sawyer and Williams organized these eighteen dismissed members into the Foxcroft and vicinity Congregational church. Jan. 1, 1823, the installing council convened. Rev. Jonathan Fisher came on foot all the way from Bluehill, to attend it. Rev. M. Blood from Bucksport, Rev. H. Loomis, Dea. Pike and Prof. Smith from Bangor, Rev. J. Peet and Dea. Heald from Norridgewock, and Rev. John Sawyer were also present. At that time an ordination attracted a large assembly. It was foreseen that the old school-house would not contain it, so Blake's old "still-house" was fitted up for the occasion. Its fires for distilling purposes had been long extinct, and the building had been turned to better uses.

Mr. Williams received missionary aid, and spent a part of his time in Sangerville and Sebec. The church had a steady increase. After the academy was built, his meetings were held in that. In January, 1829, this church adopted a total abstinence rule for itself, and for incoming members. In 1831, quite a revival was enjoyed, which increased the church. In 1833, it built a house of worship, which was dedicated Jan. 21, 1834. The Penobscot County Conference continued the services. The weather was extremely cold, the stoves standing in the entry at the north end were kept intensely hot, and communicated fire to the partition. 'The wind drove the flames directly up into the belfry, and, without an engine, it was impossible to save it, and soon that beautiful house was laid in ruins. It was full of people when the fire took. They hurried out without injury, gazed upon the destructive element with the deepest sadness, and then gathered in a private dwelling, and closed as usual, by celebrating the Lord's supper. This was a serious misfortune to that struggling people. But though cast down they were not discouraged. Mr. Williams applied to other churches for aid, and found a ready response. The next summer another house was erected on a more eligible spot. Then internal difficulties arose in the church. Mr. Williams tendered his resignation, but the first council called declined to dismiss him. This was soon after thought advisable, and his pastoral relation was terminated, April 3, 1835, having continued more than twelve years. He left many tried and lasting friends in that place and in the vicinity.

Mr. Williams was grave, affable and sympathizing; a learned, sound and devout man; an able preacher, a faithful pastor. During his ministry two colonies were set off to form new churches, but more than one hundred still remained connected with the church when he left.

For the next two years, they had occasional supplies, one of which was Rev. John Turner. Mr. Elias Wells from Bangor Seminary spent a few weeks here, in the spring of 1837, and, in November following, was ordained as pastor. He remained about five years, and was then dismissed.

Rev. Wooster Parker succeeded him, and was installed, Nov. 10th, 1842. During his stay Mayo's factory was built, and the population of the village was much increased.

On the night of Oct. 21, 1850, the second meeting-house was burnt, and it was not thought to be accidental. With a little aid from abroad, the present church edifice was erected on another lot, and dedicated Oct. 22, 1851, Rev. E. Pond D.D. preaching the sermon. The church made a decided advance in numbers and resources during Mr. Parker's labors, which continued till Sept. 9, 1856. Rev. Edward S. Palmer was next settled, Oct. 12, 1857. A revival was enjoyed and a large addition made to the church, but old divisions lingered, and, after one year, he left. Rev. Calvin Chapman began his labors with them in the summer of 1859, and continued with them till 1862.

Rev. Walter Darling was their next pastor, ordained May 28, 1862, but he left the field after two years, his health failing. Rev. Benjamin C. Chase succeeded him in April, 1864. He was installed, and continued in pleasant and successful labor till his lamented death, Oct. 13th, 1868.

Rev. John H. Gurney was the next pastor. His labors extended from September, 1869 to April, 1875. Mr. H. A. Loring was next called to this pastorate, when completing his studies at Bangor Seminary. He was ordained June 8, 1875, Professor Barbour of Bangor Seminary preaching the sermon, and A. Loring, his father, giving the charge. That summer a convenient chapel for vestry purposes was finished, at a cost of nearly \$4000, three fourths of it being paid by the late Deacon Mayo. The next year, the meeting-house was extensively repaired, its seating capacity increased, a lofty steeple erected, in which a town clock was placed. A good degree of religious interest has prevailed quite a portion of the last three years, and the church has increased in numbers and strength. Its present membership, 1879, is two hundred and forty-seven.

As these pages are going through the press, this church and people are preparing to receive the Maine General Con-



ference of Congregational Churches. It is to meet June 15, 1880. It will be the first time that this large and intelligent body has ever met in this county, and an interesting and profitable meeting is anticipated.

#### SANGERVILLE.

In August, 1828, the members of the Foxcroft and Dover Congregational church, residing in Sangerville, Guilford and Parkman, were dismissed and organized into Sangerville Congregational church. Rev. Henry Sewall had removed into town, and he supplied it, preaching a part of the time at Guilford village. It increased slowly, and, in 1841, Rev. Charles Duren was ordained as joint pastor over this and the church in Abbot. After two years he left. From this time it had but occasional preaching until 1847, then Rev. Eusebius Hale spent his time with the destitute churches in the vicinity, and preached in Sangerville a part of it. He, too, left this field, and in 1857, Rev. J. A. Perry preached to them a part of the time. After his death, Rev. R. W. Emerson was occasionally with them. This feeble church reminded the Maine Missionary Society of its existence, by its regular contributions, but it was suffered to go unsupplied, yes, to languish and decline.

Rev. Henry Sewall continued to reside in this town until his death, in June, 1850. He was then in his seventy-ninth year. He was a self-taught man, but very logical, clear and methodical as a sermonizer. He knew the doctrines and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and exhibited them in word and in life. In prayer he was able and eloquent, mingling adoration, praise, supplication and confession of sin, expressing them largely in well chosen scripture, in a reverent, solemn and earnest manner. But in selecting the best thoughts and phrases, he was led into a sameness not always relished by constant attendants upon his ministry. Nor was his sound, faithful preaching appreciated by the masses. But the rewards of heaven may more than supply what an erring world withheld, for verily such do not lose their reward.

## MILO.

This church was organized, May 6, 1829. Its first members were dismissed from the church in Brownville. For a season it enjoyed the labors of the Brownville pastor, a small part of the time. It had a severe trial through the defection of its senior deacon, still it has had several valuable members. Death and emigration reduced its numbers, and now it is extinct.

## BLANCHARD.

Several Congregational families moved into this town after Blanchard and Davee purchased it. March 13, 1833, a church of eleven members was organized. Rev. A. Hubbard from Monson preached for them one-half of the time. In 1834, Mr. S. S. Drake from Bangor Seminary spent a Sabbath with them, and as a result, seven persons were hopefully converted. He was invited to settle with them, and was ordained in a hall over Blanchard & Davee's store, October 15, 1834, Dr. Pond preaching the sermon. He remained three years. Blanchard & Davee built a meeting-house at their own expense, but sold pews to all who wished to purchase.

In 1849, Rev. J. A. Perry became their acting pastor, but spent a portion of his time in other places. He resided with them ten years, but his dwelling-house was destroyed by fire, and he afterward left. They then shared one-half of the labors of the Monson ministers. This church is still struggling on, securing preaching a part of the time, and conducting services and a Sabbath-school when destitute. It has recently repainted and repaired its house of worship, making some desirable improvements. Rev. R. W. Emerson spends a part of his Sabbaths in supplying them, and their motto is, "faint, though pursuing." It now reports fifty-one members.

## WILLIAMSBURG.

This was organized September 29, 1830, consisting of seven members. Rev. Joseph Underwood took the pastoral charge

of it, being installed, October 16, 1833. He preached one-half of the time in Sebec. Additions were made to it, increasing it to twenty in all, but removals soon weakened it. After two years' stay Mr. Underwood left, and the church and people united with Brownville church. Its members have all passed away, and the church is extinct.

#### SEBEC.

Its organization was, October 15, 1833. It secured preaching by yoking with Williamsburg and afterward with Brownville. In 1835, it built a meeting-house, aided largely by other Congregational churches in the County Conference. It also received missionary aid. But it made only small progress, and now is virtually extinct. The Baptists have obtained possession of the meeting-house, repaired it, and now occupy it.

#### ABBOT.

February 2, 1841, a church of eight members was organized at Abbot village, and Rev. C. Duren took the pastoral charge of it. After he left, it had supplies from Foxcroft, Monson and Blanchard a part of the time. Its membership increased to twenty, but it declined and became nearly extinct. In November, 1875, it was reorganized as a union church, but became connected with Piscataquis County Conference. Rev. A. Redlon labored with it, and a pleasant revival strengthened it. He solicited aid to help build a neat and convenient house of worship, which is furnished with a musical instrument and bell. It was dedicated October 10, 1876, Rev. Smith Baker of Lowell preaching the sermon. The Piscataquis County Conference continued the services. This church is struggling on, now having a membership of thirty-two, although it has been reduced by removals. In the autumn of 1878, Mr. Redlon left, and students from Bangor Seminary have supplied the pulpit. It now shares the labors of Rev. Mr. Jones of Monson.

## ATKINSON.

This was organized, March 2, 1842. It had only a partial supply, was always small, and is now reduced to a few members. Rev. Luther Keene, lately deceased in Franklin, Mass., was reared up as a member of this church.

## GREENVILLE.

Methodist and Baptist ministers early visited this place and formed churches, but they soon expired. Rev. R. W. Emerson also preached here in the summer of 1858, and the people united in building a house of worship. This was completed and dedicated December 1st, 1859. Rev. E. B. Webb D.D. of Augusta preaching the sermon. Occasional services were held by various preachers for several years.

In 1868, James Cameron, a landscape painter, a pious laymen of the Presbyterian church, visited the lake and was so captivated with its picturesque scenery that he resolved to settle there. His next move was to re-establish a religious meeting, which he conducted with so much interest and ability that it was unusually full and attentive. He was soon licensed to preach. A religious interest was awakened and several persons hopefully converted. As they differed in sentiment upon non-essential points, a union church was organized, December 5th, 1869, and Mr. Cameron was ordained as an evangelist. This church also joined the Piscataquis Congregational Conference. Mr. Cameron soon left for other fields of labor, but not till he had made successful efforts to secure a bell for the meeting-house. After a few occasional supplies, Rev. Charles Davison, a member of the church in Monson, who had been already ordained, became their acting pastor and still sustains that relation. This frontier church occupies an important position. It leads all others, considering its numbers, in its benevolent contributions. It grows moderately, and has now forty-six members. A recent revival will probably strengthen it.

## FREE BAPTIST.

## SEBEC.

This order of Christians at an early date began their efforts in Atkinson and Sebec. About 1810, quite a religious excitement prevailed in Sebec, under the labors of Elder Jesse Burnham and others, and a church was organized, the date of which is lost. Then, high and wild excitement was aimed at and patient endurance did not always follow. This church became extinct. Elder Asa Burnham, ordained 1819, moved into Sebec, and another church was formed. Elder Burnham received the minister lot, and labored faithfully with them until his strength failed, but he remained, and died there in 1852. At times this church has had a large membership. In 1837, they attempted to build a meeting-house near the center of the town, but failing to finish it, they asked the town eventually to complete it, and afterward it was used for a town-house and meeting-house.

In 1861, mainly through the exertions of Elder G. Lord, a union house was erected at Chase's corner, by the Free Baptists and Christians, and this is still occupied. Of late this church has declined in its strength and has but twelve members. This and the following numbers are as reported in the Register of 1880. Recently a new interest promises to recruit this ancient church, and new members have already been received.

## ATKINSON.

Elder Jesse Burnham early preached in this town, and, after him, Elder Nathaniel Harvey. He was ordained in 1819, but a church was not organized until later. Elder Leonard Hathaway, ordained in 1826, resided in this town after that date, and the church was divided for a season, but finally reunited. In 1840, a union meeting-house was built. The Methodists and Free Baptists now occupy it alternately. The Free Baptist church now numbers ninety-six, and is supplied one-half of the time by Elder Thomas Kinney.

## SOUTH DOVER.

This was organized in 1826. It has secured preaching a part of the time, and has made steady progress. It now alternates with the Calvinist Baptists in the use of the meeting-house, and has a membership of sixty. Elder O. W. Bridges supplies it.

## MILO.

This was formed in 1827. It united with others in building the meeting-house at the village, in 1853, and sustains preaching one-half of the time. Of late it has made good progress, and has forty-seven members. Rev. F. A. Palmer is for the present their stated supply.

## WELLINGTON.

Elder Ephraim Johnson, ordained 1822, moved into Wellington in 1826, and began to preach there. The next year, a church was organized. It held on its way for some time. In 1840, they built a meeting-house in the south-west part of the town. Eventually the Associational Baptists (Buzzelites), came in, and this church united with them. The meeting-house is now occupied by the Methodists a part of the time.

## ABBOT.

In 1829, this church was organized. Elders Leonard Hathaway and Abner Coombs labored with it. A revival prevailed and the church was strengthened. Mr. Abner Coombs, while a member of this church, was ordained and went to another field. He died in Wisconsin, in March, 1880. In 1840, it united in building a union meeting-house at the upper village, and secured preaching a portion of the time. Elder O. Bartlett was reared up in this church. It has a varied history, sometimes sinking low, sometimes prospering. Recently, through the labors of Rev. E. G. Eastman, it has prospered. They have repaired the union meeting-house, and now this people occupy it. It now has forty-nine members, a part of which are from North Guilford.

## SANGERVILLE.

This church was organized in 1829 or 1830. It has held on its way, worshipping in a school-house at Gilman's Corner. Rev. B. S. Gerry supplies it one-half of the time. It now has sixty-three members.

Sangerville Second Church. This was organized in the south-west part of the town. It was always small, but has preaching one-half of the time, Elder O. W. Bridges supplying it. It now has twenty-six members.

## PARKMAN.

A Free Baptist church was planted here several years since. It held its meetings in the west part of the town. It has had a steady growth. Rev. E. G. Eastman has supplied it a part of the time, but has recently left these parts. This church numbers forty-one, and is supplied one-half the time by Elder J. Hillman.

## MEDFORD.

This church was organized recently. It is small, and has preaching one-half the time. It has never had a meeting-house, and is now unsupplied. It reports eleven members.

## DOVER AND FOXCROFT VILLAGE.

This church was organized in the north-west part of Foxcroft, by Elder A. Coomb's efforts, about 1830. Several years later it joined with others at the village, and worshiped in the court-house. In 1850, it united with the Methodist, and built its present house of worship. In 1858, it was much enlarged by a revival under Elder Moses Ames' labors. They then became sole owners of the meeting-house, and continue to occupy it alone. It has had its trials, but now is in a harmonious and prosperous state. Revs. William H. Littlefield, A. Redlon, M. H. Tarbox, Horace Graves and others have supplied it since Elder Ames left. Rev. S. C. Whitcomb, a graduate of Bangor Seminary, is its present acceptable pastor. Its membership is one hundred and eleven. It has recently enjoyed a revival.

The above sketches are brief and meagre, not intentionally, but for want of reliable data.

Elders J. and A. Burnham, N. Harvey, E. Johnson, L. Hathaway, A. Coombs and M. Ames are remembered as the past ministers who pioneered the way and founded these earlier churches. They have all departed, leaving their work to succeeding leaders.

With departed years, times, customs and practices have changed, changed for the better, in no class of Christians more than in this. A laudable emulation to improve has long existed. Education is now approved of as a valuable aid to piety in the minister of the word; a teaching, as well as a preaching ministry is found necessary to healthy and abiding progress. As a denomination they have made commendable advances, and may larger measures still open before them.

The Association Baptists have several preachers in Wellington, and one in Parkman, Elder William King, and two churches in Wellington, and one in Kingsbury, but no printed reports of them have fallen in my way, and I can not safely write up their history.

#### METHODISTS.

The pioneers of Methodism early penetrated these settlements, practicing a broad range of itineracy. They traversed the whole length of the county, looking up their isolated members, forming classes, and preaching at long intervals in various school-houses.

Elders Oliver Beal (afterward Presiding Elder), Mr. Robbins, Isaac Lord, William Withee, Hotchkiss and Dow were the earlier of these circuit riders. Soon this long circuit, which extended from Mooshead Lake to Howland, was divided, all below Dover being committed to one, and all above it, to another traveling preacher. At Exeter, the nearest camp-meeting was held, and thither many repaired to reap the benefits of that peculiar institution. In most of these towns, classes were formed, centers of influence revealed themselves, and the different charges began to take form, varied by the



flight of years. For instance, once Methodism was quite prominent in Parkman, Wellington, Shirley, Greenville and in East Sangerville, but it has faded, and only a small remnant remains in these locations.

GUILFORD village was early occupied. Their numbers increased, and in 1834, they united with the Universalists in building a meeting-house. For several years they occupied this one-half of the time.

At that date, a camp-meeting was held for several years on the border of Sangerville, near by, which tended to increase their strength. They have had their vicissitudes,—some years have passed without preaching, and other denominations occupied their meeting-house, and some have been seasons of success.

Recently the Guilford village charge has grown to fair proportions. It embraces the Methodist people in Guilford, Sangerville, Abbot and Parkman. Its preacher spends one-half of each Sabbath at Sangerville village. In 1872, they built a new meeting-house, of which they have exclusive possession, and abandoned the union house. The membership of this whole charge in 1879 numbered one hundred and twenty-four.

BROWNVILLE was another center for that part of the county, from which the surrounding towns were visited and in which occasional preaching was kept up. In 1839, they built a meeting-house near the present slate quarry, and, after several years, moved it to its present location, nearer the village. The minister in charge now supplies Milo also, and both places number one hundred and fifty-five members.

DOVER was first entered in the south part of the town, in 1832. In the winter of 1834, a revival occurred and greatly increased their numbers. This induced J. Merrick Esq., the proprietor of the town, to build them a meeting-house on Bear hill, at a cost of \$1200. He gave this, and twenty acres of land for a parsonage lot, to the Bear hill society, in 1835. As the village made rapid advances, meetings were held there also. In 1850, they built a meeting-house with the Free Baptists, using it alternately. In 1858, a powerful

revival pervaded the place and added many to all the churches. The Methodists then sold their share in the union meeting-house to the Free Baptists, and worshiped for a season in the court-house. Meanwhile they built a large, substantial brick church at a cost of \$4500, including a bell, completing it in 1860. A lofty spire surmounts it. The East Maine Conference met in this house, May 7th, 1879, Bishop R. B. Foster presiding.

Near Bear hill, camp-meetings have been held at two different times, with usual success. This station is included in this charge. Its total membership is one hundred and twenty.

ATKINSON received more or less labors from the traveling ministers, and classes were formed there. A preacher is usually stationed there, who labors a portion of the time in East Bradford, or some other place. It now reports, in both places, one hundred and six members.

SEBEC has also been partially supplied. In the year 1878, they built a small place of worship at the village, and now have a constant supply. Barnard and Bowerbank are connected with this charge. It now reports thirty-eight members.

The Methodist churches in this vicinity are purchasing a lot near Foxcroft village for a permanent camp-meeting site. Hereafter it will be held here annually.

#### UNIVERSALISTS.

Rev. Sylvanus Cobb and other preachers early visited these new towns, preaching here and there; and spending a few Sabbaths, and many gathered to hear them. Rev. William Frost was the first to make a permanent abode in this county. He moved into Dover, in 1822 or 1823, but preached a part of the time in Guilford, Sangerville and Parkman. He was chosen to important town offices in Dover, and esteemed highly for his integrity, but after some five or six years' stay removed to Dexter, and thence to Franklin County.

In 1828, Mr. Barnabas Burseley commenced preaching a modified Universalism, now quite extensively held by Uni-

versalists. After a few years, though highly respected, he voluntarily laid down this work.

About 1829, Elder A. A. Richards moved into Parkman, but preached over a wide circuit. He had a slight impediment in his speech, but was a strong disputant, apt and sarcastic. At a certain funeral service in Guilford village, which he conducted, Elder I. Lord, a Methodist, was invited to take part. He assented, but cut rather harshly into sentiments already expressed. This brought out a challenge for a public discussion. It was accepted, and at the appointed time a large assembly convened in Mr. A. Martin's barn, to hear the disputants. Though Elder Richards was the challenger, he insisted on having the last hour or none, thus gaining the inside track. The debate then proceeded. At its close, each was hailed as victor by his own sympathizers. Uncommitted persons were not unobservant of skillful arguments, reasonable retorts, and conscientious attachments to imbibed principles, but went away feeling that Universalism and Methodism must be tried by their own merits still. In 1836, Elder Richards moved to Milo, and continued there until his death, a few years since.

Meanwhile societies were forming. In 1833, a Universalist meeting-house was raised in Dover village, and completed the next year. In Guilford they built with the Methodists, owning the larger part. Soon after they obtained a share in the house in Sangerville village. At this time there were several preachers in the county, constant meetings kept up in various places, and some churches of that order formed.

At length "spiritism" arose. Many, before indifferent to all shades of belief, and utter neglecters of the Bible, were fascinated by its rappings, and eagerly swallowed its pretended communications. The great majority of Universalists adopted it, and some of other sects. A part of the ministers went with the majority, a part kept silent, and a part openly opposed it. Their meetings dwindled, some were suspended, their churches also expired. For the past few years, from 1875 onward, preaching has been maintained in Guilford village, only a few months each summer. This is its only point

of occupation in the county, though many persons still profess to be believers of it. In the Abbot meeting-house they also held a share, and formerly maintained preaching in it occasionally, but have not had any of late.

#### CHRISTIAN BAPTISTS.

The earlier preachers of this sect, known in this county, were Elders Hamilton, Tracy, A. D. Young and Richard Gower. Mr. Gower resided in the "Million of Acres settlement," and had been a profane, hard-drinking and quarrelsome raftsman and river driver. But in the revival already alluded to, he became a new man, and commenced preaching. He was unlearned, and not very gifted, but his change was so marked, his humility and love of truth so obvious, that many were drawn to hear him. He soon removed to other parts, and became unknown to the writer.

Previous to 1830, churches of this order were formed in Parkman, Wellington and Blanchard; and, subsequent to this, in Guilford, Orneville, Sebec and Atkinson. All of these have become extinct. But, in the south-west part of Parkman, one has been more recently formed, and this is now prospering. It completed a house of worship in the autumn of 1878, and has enjoyed a promising revival. Elder John Clark is its pastor, and Elder J. Washburn is also a resident minister. In Orneville this people have had undisputed possession from the beginning, but have sorrowfully failed to improve it.

#### ADVENTISTS.

In Milo, this people have built a house of worship with the Universalists, and have a church organization, the only one known to the writer in this county, though Shirley may present an exception to this statement. Several of this sect reside there, and in other places, and are occasionally visited by sympathizing preachers, who have twice held tent-meetings in Dover village. They have long held that "the day of the Lord hasteth greatly." There are some, who have been and still are preachers of this sect, residing in this county, but I am not able to give an accurate list of them.

## CHAPTER XXVIII.

### THE TEMPERANCE REFORM.

When the settlement of this new region was commenced, intoxicating drinks were regarded as a necessary of life. All classes used them as a comfortable stimulant, as a medicine, and as the life of all festive entertainments. So the use of strong drinks was limited only by their scarceness, and the difficulty of obtaining them. Recall the herculean and persistent efforts of the Spauldings, to get a barrel of rum from Bangor, and the early building of Blake's distillery, as indicative of the existing sentiments of those times. As the population increased, and stores were opened, strong drink was everywhere kept for sale, and were sold to every one calling for it. So the amount used steadily increased. A training without a treat would consign the officers to universal scorn. A neighborhood husking without a dram, however puddings and pumpkin pies might load the supper table, would be the last to gather there. The raising of a building was never attempted without it, while a "bee" for any purpose would bring out a swarm, if a treat was sure. Rafting and river-driving must have a freshet of rum as well as a freshet of water, while haying, washing sheep, journeying, and all unusual exposure could be pursued only by those enshielded by this all-potent talisman. Births, burials, religious anniversaries, and ministerial ordinations did not exclude the poisonous bowl, although the Spirit of grace and truth was most heartily invoked. The celebration of the "Glorious Fourth," military elections and general musters were, of all public gatherings, most revoltingly flooded with drunkenness.

Though all classes then drank, not excepting ministers and church-members, yet not all to the same extent. The great mass were only occasional and moderate drinkers, but sometimes unwarily were overcome by it; the young generally avoided excess, but many in full manhood were habitual drunkards.

The amount sold and drank when this reform commenced, would now seem incredible. Suffice it to say, there was an immense waste of property, time, domestic peace and comfort, character, morality, health and life itself. The first efforts to stay this ruinous deluge were entirely directed to reclaim hard drinkers, leaving the moderate and occasional drinker as safe and faultless. But a thorough trial of this proved to be a stupendous failure. This opened the eyes of Christian philanthropists and reformers. They saw that total abstinence must be the central thought and watchword of successful reform; that a total abstinence pledge, and party, and principles must combine and concentrate their powers in a mighty warfare against this common foe. In the inception of this idea, the Temperance Reform was born.

In 1826 or 1827, this leaven began to work in this county. The first movers were men decidedly religious. Ministers, deacons and leading members in the different churches, organized societies and took the pledge. Some irreligious men readily came in and encouraged the infant enterprise which was creeping slowly but surely into being. But it was a brave infant. It laid the axe at the root of a tree, held by many as the tree of life, but to more, it was a Bohun Upas. It assailed a practice, hoary, popular and universal. It laid its hand upon the gains of the dealer, and the sharpest of them saw that their craft was in danger. So it encountered a formidable opposition. Its sole weapon at first was moral suasion; its pledge, total abstinence from ardent spirits as a beverage; its mode of warfare, public addresses, private appeals, published statements of the extent and destructiveness of the evil, and the propriety, safety and promise of a temperate life. But aided by Divine power, it soon laid off

its swaddling clothes, and stood up in youthful vigor. It inaugurated a great, healthful, moral revolution. It laid the foundations of all these temperance organizations which have since had an honorable and useful existence. Voluntary Temperance societies were organized in the different towns, members of both sexes readily joined in goodly numbers, an insensible influence went forth, and a silent and healthful change came over public opinion. Many, who stood aloof at first, saw its beneficent workings and ceased to scorn and oppose it. The use of strong drink became less frequent and less popular. Christian churches favored the cause, and some of them recommended to all their members to take the pledge of total abstinence, and some adopted as a standing rule, that they would receive to future membership, only such as would. Public gatherings were now held without spirits. The raising of buildings without it was the hardest tug. Though a supper was furnished, some would not go, and a few would leave when the old-time treat was not brought around. Yet, before 1831, some buildings were raised without it.

About this time, an advance step was taken. The pledge was generally changed so as to include all that would intoxicate. Some who had abandoned ardent spirits, made use of fermented drinks, and the use of beer, wine and cider was increasing. As drunkenness was the hydra to be exterminated, whatever nourished its appetite must be slain. Then some who were wedded to their wine, flinched, and fell back from this advanced movement.

But the cause was more strongly ribbed, and marched more firmly by this thorough stand. Up to this time, moral suasion, personal and combined influence, had been the whole human armament.

By this, a great, primary and essential work had been accomplished. A few sellers voluntarily gave up the traffic. Many saw the fearful end of those deceitful paths, and forsook them. A few hard drinkers were reclaimed, some to stand firm and faithful. So the work moved forward, gath-

ering strength until the rise of Washingtonianism. This was born in a bar-room, in the city of Baltimore, in the year 1838. A company of confirmed drunkards, of which John J. Hawkins was ring-leader, in one of their evening revels, proposed to break squarely off, and make this their last debauch. All agreed to do it. All signed a teetotal pledge. All went to work to reclaim their fellow inebriates, and they succeeded wonderfully. The report spread through the land, and hard drinkers, who had resisted former solicitations, listened to their old comrades, and many were convinced and took the pledge.

Hawkins was gifted as a speaker, and commenced telling his sad and appalling experience of the woes and shame of a drunkard's life. Others followed. All parts of the country were visited. These truthful narratives reached a cord in the besotted heart, that strong logic and elevated appeal had not touched. For a season, this reform working in the most needy place was astonishing.

But the leaders committed some grave mistakes. They rejected the counsels and co-operation of the early workers, claiming a peculiar superiority. They did not rest upon a religious basis, but relied mainly upon an arm of flesh. They cast no blame upon the seller, and expressed no wish to prohibit the sale of spirits, and put the temptation out of their way. The excitement subsided. The grog-shop proved a mighty snare. In a few years, three-fourths of these reclaimed men finally went back to their old habits, said one, who professed to know, and I only repeat his words.

This sweeping recoil turned the attention of thoughtful temperance men to prohibition as essential to thorough reform. The sale of spirituous liquors had ever been prohibited in this State, except by persons duly licensed. All who wished to sell, applied for, and, for a certain sum, obtained, such license. Some persons selling without a license, were prosecuted and fined, previous to 1830.

It may seem strange to us now, to read that the licensing board reposing special trust and confidence in Hon. Thomas



Davee, Deacon Robert Barker and Elder Flavel Bartlett, granted to them severally a license to sell all kinds of spirituous liquors in the town of Dover, during the year 1824. So it was in all these towns, at that date. Traders, though men of high standing and influence, generally were rum sellers. But by 1840, many had abandoned the traffic. Public opinion was rising against licensing the sale of it. In some towns, the license was refused. This opened the era of rum holes. Unprincipled men would get small quantities of adulterated liquors, and sell them without license, on the sly, to such as they could trust to keep the secret.

In 1846, a law was passed prohibiting the sale of spirituous liquors throughout the State, except for medicinal and mechanical purposes, under well guarded regulations. This was the birth of prohibition. The idea was: Crush out the tempter! Let those who would reform, stand firm in their better resolutions, and not be cast down wounded!

Kindred organizations now arose. The Sons of Temperance, Rechabites, Watchman clubs, making total abstinence a plank in their platforms, brought many, young men especially, into the temperance ranks.

The penalties for violating the law were, from time to time, increased. But the law was evaded. Witnesses would purjure themselves upon the stand, to screen the prosecuted seller. Lawyers would exert all their powers to find some fleck or flaw in the legal processes. Certain jurors would be so kindly sympathetic that they could not appreciate either law or evidence, and would not agree to convict them. But prohibition and penalty were now made the right arm of the service, working with, and giving substantial effect to, moral suasion. Indeed, prohibition was its younger brother, harmonious, affectionate, helpful, doing a needed work.

Though the first great work had been done by moral suasion alone, the reform could not now advance further by this alone. The existing obstacles were beyond its reach. The rumsellers now were such that appeals based upon morality,

honor, compassion for the weak and suffering, would not move them. Only the expected loss of property and imprisonment could deter them. So, by their mean evasions of wholesome laws, by their mad defiance of all mild and persuasive measures, they compelled the temperance leaders to secure more stringent laws. Hence the Maine Law of 1851 was placed upon our Statute Book. This opened a new era. Business places could be searched for liquors, and if evidently kept for sale, they could be seized. Higher fines were levied upon the convicted seller, and the third offence was punished with imprisonment. Lovers of rum pronounced this unconstitutional, the lawyers largely combined against it, our judges did not like it, many sheriffs would make a prosecution fail if they could, and it was made a party issue. But it survived the storm. It closed up a great many low rum holes that had hitherto been unswept. It brought into life and action Watchman clubs, that did good service in executing the law. With one single exception, the legislature sustained it, and often amended and made it more effective. Once it was indiscreetly "intensified." This caused disastrous reaction. Its enemies came into power, and repealed it. But the next year, its friends triumphed, and restored it, better adjusted and more popular than ever. In its own sphere, and for its intended use, it has proved invaluable. Rightly used, it ever will. Without its aid, a healthy, vigorous, successful temperance reform has not been steadily carried forward, and it seems vain to expect that it ever will be. But no human law executes itself. It must be backed by moral power and living principle. It must embody the sentiments of the sovereign people.

The Order of Good Templars next came forward, and has been an efficient wing in the Grand Army. By receiving females, it secured a helpful and powerful arm of reform, and when it takes in the young at an earlier age, it can become a still greater power for good to all classes.

The present Reform Club and its operations make up the last page in this varied history. This might be called an im-

proved edition of Washingtonianism. It commenced in 1871, with a confirmed drunkard by the name of Osgood, in Gardiner, Me., and has marched nobly on, by organizing Reform Clubs on an "Iron-clad pledge." It has not ignored religion, but leaned upon it. By frequent meetings, by stirring addresses from reformed men, by singing thrilling hymns, it has drawn in many of the intemperate, and held them there. Woman, too, silent, suffering, but praying and hoping woman, has here been a noble helpmeet. Believing in the power of prayer, wives and mothers have crowded to the mercy-seat, and have not gone in vain. The work has gone on well, is still going on, and the end is not yet. For fifty years the temperance reform has shown its right to exist. The results of its first half century are patent to every observer. We claim that, abating unavoidable human imperfections, acknowledging certain mistakes, certain rash endeavors, and deploring certain wounds from false or rash brethren, we need not hang our heads in shame, or regret the efforts made, or be dissatisfied with our success. A glorious improvement has been effected. Compare the "general muster" of fifty years since, with recent ones, and what observer of both does not mark the difference?

Yet more remains to be done. Let every patriot, philanthropist and Christian gird himself for the waiting work, and strike for complete victory.

## CHAPTER XXIX.

### MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS.

The hostilities of the aborigines compelled the early settlers of New England to act on the defensive, to be armed for the fight, and sometimes to plunge into mortal combat. Hence military companies were early organized, and military trainings with arms, equipments, music, officers and stimulating drinks, became a great institution.

The burden of military duty was cheerfully borne. A military officer was a titled and much respected notable. The training, especially the general muster, was an event of peculiar interest. So it was, when the settlement of this county commenced. But for several years the people were too few and too remote for regular military organizations.

The first military companies formed in this county, were the volunteer companies already noticed. The first regular organization, it seems, was in Sebec, about 1815. John Wells was elected captain. In 1829, he was promoted to major, but he soon moved away. After him, William Sands, Advardis Shaw, Joseph Chase, Abijah Chase and John Nelson, successively commanded this company. Capt. Shaw, in 1826, was chosen major.

About the same date, 1815 or 1816, the Atkinson company was organized. Its commanding officers have been Luther Turner, Daniel Chase, Oliver Crosby jr., Jacob Sherburne, Elisha L. Hammond, James R. Ayer and Albert Hutchins.

March 27, 1824, Capt. Daniel Chase was chosen major, and September 9, 1826, promoted to lieutenant-colonel.

In the spring of 1816, a company was formed in Foxcroft, also including all who were subject to enrollment in Dover.

Samuel Chamberlain was its first captain. In 1821, he resigned, and Job Parsons succeeded him.

As this was preeminently the cold season, many were unable to equip themselves, and brought only a fence stake, when called out for manual exercise. Capt. Chamberlain generously blinked this, requiring each to do the best he could. After him, Isaac Weston, Salmon Homes, Sylvanus Longley, William Parsons, Charles S. Hammond and Ellis Robinson held this office.

When a new regiment was organized in 1824, Capt. Weston was appointed to summon the commissioned officers together for an election of field officers. He was chosen lieutenant colonel. He resigned in July, 1826.

In 1817 or 1818, the Sangerville company was formed. Robert Carleton was elected captain. After him, William Oakes jr., Aaron Morse, Isaiah Knowlton, Samuel Robey, John Douty, Jonathan Roberts and Daniel Spooner successively filled the office. Captain Carleton became major and colonel. Capt. Oakes was promoted to colonel, and Capt. Morse, to major, lieutenant colonel, and colonel.

The Guilford company was organized in 1818. William Stevens, William Webber, Leonard Howard, John H. Loring, John Monroe, Stephen Ellis, William W. Lucas and William McE. Brown have filled the office of captain. Capt. Ellis was chosen major.

In 1823, a company was formed in Dover. In this, David Haynes, Benj. Dow, Daniel G. Owen, Ira Rowe, A. D. Fuller, J. R. Leighton and Asa P. Dow held the office of captain.

About the same time, a company was organized in Parkman. Solomon Brown was chosen captain. He soon removed from town, and Lieutenant Samuel Clark commanded it. At length Ransom Dunham was chosen captain. He was soon promoted to major, then Abel Curtis jr. was chosen captain, and after him, William Briggs, Daniel Tyler, and Adam Macomber commanded this company. On the formation of a new regiment, Capt. Briggs was chosen colonel.

In April, 1824, the Milo Light Infantry was formed, embracing persons from other towns. Winborn A. Sweat, I. W. Mitchell, Moses Sturtevant, Charles Durgin, Rice Dow, Samuel Stinchfield and Benjamin Sands successively commanded it. This company dressed in uniform and made a fine appearance. Capt. Mitchell rose to a colonel, and Capt. Dow to lieutenant colonel.

A company of Cavalry was formed in 1827, chiefly of persons in Foxcroft, Dover and vicinity. J. S. Godfrey was elected captain. He died soon after, and Isaac Blethen succeeded him. In 1834, he was chosen major of cavalry, and Hiram Douty was elected captain. He was also promoted to colonel, and Robert Cutts was chosen captain. Silas Paul was the next captain, and he also was promoted to lieutenant-colonel and colonel. A. S. Bartlett was then elected captain, and after him, Leonard Robinson. Lieut. Silvanus B. Byram was promoted to major of cavalry.

In 1828, a company was organized in Brownville. Phineas Morrill was elected captain. The history of this company is not very easily written. It evidently became unwilling to do military duty, and sometimes avoided it. C. R. Hamlet and F. B. Howard were captains.

A company of infantry was formed in Milo in 1829. Nymphas Turner, J. W. Furber and George B. Stinchfield successively commanded it. Capt. Turner was promoted to major and lieutenant-colonel.

The Wellington company was organized in 1830. Thomas Sears was chosen captain. After him, Isaac Pease and Isaiah Huff filled the office. Lieut. Nathaniel Dennett of this company was elected lieutenant-colonel, when it was connected with the Athens regiment. A company of Light Infantry also was organized in this town, and Oliver D. Wiggin was chosen captain. He was promoted to major, but afterward the company run down.

In 1836, another cavalry company was organized in Sebec and vicinity. B. S. Cilley was its first captain. He was promoted to colonel, and Charles Wingate became his successor.

The Abbot company was duly organized in 1836, and J. S. Monroe chosen captain. After him, Columbus Crockett filled that office. Capt. Monroe was promoted to lieutenant-colonel.

In 1837, a company was formed in Blanchard. Bowman Varney was its first captain. He was chosen major, and John R. Baker succeeded him.

The attempts to organize and officer a company in Monson were frustrated until 1839. Then Clement Cushman was chosen captain, and it was brought into line.

A rifle company was organized in Sebec, called the Rifle Greys, in 1839. A. M. Robinson was the first captain. After him, Abijah B. Chase commanded it until trainings were abolished, in 1844. Capt. Robinson was promoted to major, and then to colonel.

A company was formed in Medford, including persons in LaGrange. Levi R. Gray was chosen captain. He was promoted to lieutenant-colonel, and then Alvin H. Garman was chosen captain.

In 1837, a Light Infantry company was formed in Parkman. Henry Williamson was its first captain, and Jesse Nutting, its second. Nearly all of this company volunteered and marched to Aroostook, in the Madawaska war.

#### REGIMENTS AND REGIMENTAL OFFICERS.

The earlier companies of this county were included in the fifth regiment, of which Isaac Hodsdon of Exeter was colonel, Captains Wells and Carleton were elected majors, when thus connected. The general muster was then in Garland. But after 1820, these companies mustered by battalion in Dover, usually near Eli Towne's residence.

In 1824, all the companies from Milo to Parkman were organized into a new regiment, known as the Fifth Regiment, First Brigade, Third Division.

March 27, 1824, at an election of regimental officers held in Foxcroft, Major R. Carleton was chosen colonel, Capt. Isaac Weston, lieutenant-colonel, and Capt. Daniel Chase, major.

Col. Carleton appointed J. S. Holmes, adjutant, Reuben Ordway, quarter-master, and Seth Nelson, pay-master.

In 1826, Col. Carleton resigned, and Capt. William Oakes jr. was chosen colonel. Lieut-Col. Weston resigned soon after, and Major Daniel Chase was promoted, and Capt. Advardis Shaw was elected major. In 1829, Major Shaw resigned, and Capt. Aaron Morse succeeded him. Lieut-Col. Chase next resigned, in 1831, Major Morse was promoted, and Capt. I. W. Mitchell elected major.

In 1834, Col. Oakes resigned, Lieut-Col. Morse succeeded him. Major Mitchell was advanced to lieutenant-colonel, and Capt. N. Turner chosen major. Col. Morse appointed Elbridge G. Thompson, adjutant, and Joseph Hammond, quarter-master. Col. Morse held the office until 1839, and resigned just before the militia were called out to march to Aroostook. The quota of this regiment was one full company of sixty privates, with officers, non-commissioned officers and musicians. It was raised by draft, and joined the embattled host in Bangor, and boldly marched to the line, and then marched back again, without the loss of a single man, killed or wounded.

In 1839, Lieut-Col. Mitchell was elected colonel, Maj. Turner, lieutenant-colonel, and Capt. S. Ellis, major. Col. Mitchell appointed Josiah Dow, adjutant. Lieut-Col. Turner resigned in 1841, and Capt. Rice Dow succeeded him. The same year, Maj. Ellis resigned, and Capt. A. M. Robinson was chosen to succeed him.

In 1841, the divisions of the militia through the State were arranged anew, and this regiment became Second Regiment, First Brigade, Ninth Division, but its companies remained as before.

Early in 1843, Col. Mitchell resigned, Lieut-Col. Dow had left for parts unknown, and Maj. A. M. Robinson was elected colonel, Levi R. Gray, lieutenant-colonel, and Ensign C. H. B. Woodbury, major.

In the fall of this year, the regiment mustered as usual, but it proved to be its last.



## PARKMAN REGIMENT.

In 1838, a new regiment was formed, including companies in Parkman, Abbot, Blanchard and Wellington, in this county, and also those in Harmony, Cambridge and Ripley, in Somerset County. This regiment was named Fifth Regiment, First Brigade, Eighth Division. Captain William Briggs was elected colonel. As Lieut-Col. Dennett and Maj. Wiggin were within its appointed limits, they were transferred, retaining the same rank.

Col. Briggs appointed Thomas Seabury, adjutant, Alden Briggs, quarter-master, and Cornelius Gower, pay-master. Col. Briggs resigned in the summer of 1843. Lieut-Col. Monroe mustered the regiment that fall. The companies in Sangerville and Guilford were petitioning to be annexed to this regiment, but, in 1844, the legislature abolished all trainings, and the martial spirit sunk quietly to sleep.

## TRAININGS.

Up to 1825, the companies were required to train three times annually, in their respective towns, besides the muster. Then the legislature abolished the May training. The autumnal trainings were continued. Up to this time, twenty-four rounds of powder were furnished by the town to each soldier, to fire at the training, under the command of the officers. This too was then omitted. Still the training was to many a great occasion. A brisk set of boys and not a few men outside of the duly enrolled, would appear as appreciative spectators. The officers treated freely both soldiers and spectators, not always omitting the boys. These trainings would call out the old revolutionary soldiers, some of whom then survived. The military parade had an attraction for them. Inspired by the occasion, they would recall the adventures of their past campaigns, while some of the boys would crowd up near, and listen with as much zest as these honored veterans would relate them. These brought home to our eager minds, the reality and severity of that long and victorious struggle in which our nation had its birth.

But the muster was emphatically a "general muster." The gathering of armed companies, the music by the band, and by the combined strains of drums and fifes, the regimental officers in full uniform, mounted on the most imposing steeds, and, above all, the general and his aids in full military dress, combined attractions which moved all classes. The manœuvres upon the field, the review by the general officers, and the rattle of so much musketry, when powder was furnished, made up a grand and beautiful spectacle. The pageant was highly ornamented by the uniform and show of the cavalry, and of the light infantry, which constituted the acknowledged flower of the regiment. But outside the line, there were other objects of attraction. Tents, carts and wagons furnished refreshments for the hungry, in the most of which strong drink was invitingly displayed.

Among the spectators, all classes were represented. Grave, sober and aged men in limited numbers, discharged military officers, men of middle age exempt from military duty, boys of every age and description, and some females, too, would be there. Preeminently it was muster day to hard drinkers. The place swarmed with them, and there would be confusion, profanity, low jokes, quarreling and fighting, contrasting widely with similar gatherings of the present time. Let it be understood that the early musters of this county are here pictured. Of the later, the writer was not an observer. In these latter, to some extent, a change had reached the trainband. Some companies had voted to dispense with treating at their trainings, and many officers and soldiers had become total abstainers.

But we must turn another dark leaf in the history of those times. The elections of military officers were scenes of the direst, drunken carousals. The successful candidates wet their honors with liberal treats. The lovers of rum scented it far and near. They gathered like vultures to their prey, and many went home dishonored and degraded, as a dark background to the military honors conferred.

But many began to feel that military duty was an onerous

and needless waste. Such began to avoid it by craft and dodging. Some officers elect would neglect to take their commissions from the post-office. Warrants sent to privates by some careless hand, requiring them to warn the company to meet, would fail to reach them. Some would elect incompetent commanders, whose level best was a mortifying failure.

All the laurels of the Madawaska war had faded, our north-eastern boundary had been amicably settled, no one dreamed of the gigantic rebellion which has since drenched those southern fields with blood, so, the wisdom and talent of our State in legislature assembled passed an act in 1844, abolishing all military trainings. It was a great step; upward and onward. Industry, temperance, morality and religion by this, cast off a mighty burden, and the State received no damage.

#### OUR WARRIORS.

VETERANS OF THE REVOLUTION. Several of these were among the early settlers of this county, to some of whom allusions have been already made. But all should have an honorable and lasting record. The entire list is not here given, but the following are known to have borne arms in that patriotic struggle. Abiel Packard of Monson, Eben Deane of Blanchard, Jeremiah Rolfe of Abbot, Ephraim Andrews of Parkman, Consider Glass and Nathaniel Stevens of Guilford, Aaron Rollins, G. Spooner and Henry Leland of Sangerville, Thomas Towns, Zachariah Longley, Eleazer Spaulding and Allen Dwelley of Dover, and Ezekiel Chase of Sebec. Probably there were others in the lower towns, whose names the writer never learnt.

Generally they were hardy and resolute men, who lived to a good old age, revered and honored by their younger associates. But they could not continue always. They

"By the wayside fell and perished,  
Wearied with the march of life."

as all must. Peace to their patriotic memories!

A still larger number of soldiers from the war of 1812, came and settled in this county. A list of them, if attempted, would be too defective. Some ten or more resided in Guilford, but when pensions were granted to such, only one, Isaac Edes, survived to receive it.

The Madawaska war, a part of which I saw, has been sufficiently emblazoned. Its surviving veterans, for hardships endured and dangers faced, must have a pension too.

The Mexican war, in spite of its distance and burning clime, drew some recruits from this region. Here again, no reliable statement can be given. But four whom the writer had instructed in the school-rooms of Guilford, were in it, Steadman Davis jr., Joseph Young, Alexander Stevens and Sebastian Buck, and three of them saw our national banner wave over the Capitol of Mexico. Two of them, and another from Parkman, Philo Harlow, did not live to return.

In the late civil war, this county filled its quotas with promptness and liberality. Their names and companies are all in the adjutant-general's published reports.

The roll of honor repeated on the annual return of each decoration day shows that we bled away our life, as well as our money. While the names of Col. C. S. Doudy, and of Maj. C. P. Chandler, a native of Foxcroft, and many other heroes, who fell upon the battle field, are gratefully honored, the sacrifices of this part of Maine will not be forgotten.

## CHAPTER XXX.

### FRATERNAL ASSOCIATIONS.

Secret societies of various orders have long existed in this county, and a brief account of them will now be given.

#### FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS.

This ancient Order, claiming to have existed in the days of King Solomon, was early planted in the British Isle. It is known that King Henry VI, as early as 1492, was a Grand Master mason, and that other English sovereigns after him held high degrees of masonry. So now, many of the crowned heads of Europe are Free Masons. But it was not introduced into our American Colonies till more than a century from their first settlement. In 1783, Henry Rice, a Master Mason from England, established lodges in Boston, Philadelphia, and other cities, and set the ball in motion. It was quite early planted in this county.

PISCATAQUIS LODGE, No. 44 was chartered October 23, 1823, and installed soon after at Sebec village. Its meetings were held there for several years. But as many of its members resided in Milo, it eventually removed its place of meeting to Milo village. It has recently rebuilt the building in which it met, and is in a prosperous state.

MOSAIC LODGE, No. 52 was chartered July 16, 1827. It was installed soon after in Sangerville village, the late J. S. Holmes Esq. delivering the public address. Elder William Frost was its first Master. About this time an extensive anti-masonic excitement prevailed, awakened by the alleged abduction and murder of William Morgan, in the State

of New York. Some religious bodies entered strongly into it, and other persons made it a political issue. For several years masonry sat still and kept quiet. This lodge suspended its meetings from 1832 till 1845. It then resumed its usual activity. It afterward removed its meetings to Foxcroft and Dover village. In company with the "Piscataquis Royal Arch Chapter," it built the "Masonic Building," in which a well fitted hall accommodates both lodges, while other parts rent to advantage. From its first organization, 314 members have been connected with it, and now it has a membership of 170, and is in good working order.

MOUNT KINEO LODGE, No. 109, Abbot, was chartered May 8, 1862. As many were then going into the army, its numbers increased rapidly. It owns a building containing a hall, and stores on the lower floor, which it rents. Its present number is 126.

DORIC LODGE, No. 149, is located in Monson village. It was chartered May 7, 1868. This lodge, in 1876, erected a large and elegant building, at a cost of \$4000, in which it has a spacious hall. It is in debt for one-half of its cost, but the amount received for parts rented more than pays the annual interest. This lodge is in a prosperous state.

PLEASANT RIVER LODGE, Brownville, was chartered July 28, 1871. It rents a hall for the present. It has occasional initiations, and now numbers 46 members.

PISCATAQUIS ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER was chartered in May, 1866. This order is composed only of masons who have taken seven degrees in the scale of masonry. In its work, discipline and forms, it is truly masonic, but on an advanced plane of the system. It meets in the Masonic building in Foxcroft, in which it is an equal owner.

THE SONS OF TEMPERANCE once had flourishing lodges in this county, and they succeeded in reclaiming and holding many hard drinkers. They had a benefit system, and some of their sordid members took advantage of it. The disburse-

ment of their funds was unsatisfactory, and this became the rock of offence upon which the lodges, formed on a good basis, and doing a good work, were wrecked. They all became extinct, not one now existing in this county.

#### INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS.

It is claimed that this order arose in the Roman army, near the commencement of the Christian era. It existed in Spain, in the fifth century, in France, in the twelfth, and afterward in England.

Mr. Thomas Whidden, an Englishman, introduced it into this country, in 1829, establishing the first lodge in Baltimore. It has had a large increase, so that now \$50,000 annually are paid into their treasuries, aside from the life insurance department, and a large part of that sum goes to their needy and unfortunate members, and their families.

DIRIGO LODGE, No. 63, in Milo, was established Jan. 21, 1869, the first in the county. It has had a prosperous course, owning a hall which cost \$1400, now having \$700 funded, and a membership of one hundred and twenty.

KINEO LODGE, No. 64, in Dover, was the next organized, March, 1870. This is a vigorous body, having funds amounting to \$2,600. It reports seventy-seven members.

GOOD CHEER LODGE, No. 37, in Guilford, dates from September, 1874. It had funds amounting to \$1500, but has built a superb hall the past summer (1879), which has exhausted them. This is in a prosperous state.

ELDORADO ENCAMPMENT, No. 20, meets in Dover bi-monthly. It belongs to the 10th district of the Grand Encampment. This is composed of members that have taken the fifth degree or more, and corresponds in some respects to the "Royal Arch Chapter" in Masonry.

#### INDEPENDENT ORDER OF GOOD TEMPLARS.

This is the youngest of these secret fraternities, but it has

a large and growing membership. It has its pledges, forms, officers, quarterly payments, countersigns and fraternal aid, as they all do. It is more expressed on the temperance question than any of them. As an advanced step, it admits females to its lodges and its meetings.

The list of lodges in this county, as reported in 1878 and 1879, is as follows, to wit:

CENTENNIAL, No. 18, in Guilford.

HEBRON POND, No. 102, Monson, 80 members.

GOOD CHEER, No. —, Sangerville.

SEBEC LODGE, No. 150, South Sebec, 50 members.

HARMONY, No. 160, Dover, 70 members.

EUREKA, No. 170, Atkinson, 100 members.

CONSTANTIA, No. 237, Milo.

A. J. W. STEVENS, No. 47, Parkman.

These lodges are subject to an ebb and flow of interest; consequently to variant success. Some are well established, others have dwindled and expired. It has so been in the past, it may so continue to be.

#### PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY.

This new order has arisen recently. Like the foregoing, it is close in its affinities, signs, meetings and benefits. Its main object is to modify trade, to prevent the multiplying of profits by middle-men, to buy and sell in their own fraternalities, on specific terms, somewhat like Union Store Associations. Seven Granges have already been established, with distinct names and locations, within this county, and they report favorably. The order is young, and reports are not available for a reliable history.



## CHAPTER XXXI.

### MISCELLANIES.

#### STEADMAN THE IMPOSTER.

In the summer of 1878, the Baptist church and people in Foxcroft and Dover were without a supply, and were inviting candidates. They were informed that a young man calling himself Carlisle M. Steadman, from the Province of New Brunswick, was at Georgetown, waiting a call to some field of labor. He reported himself to be the son of a Baptist minister, an educated and ordained clergyman of that order. When asked for his credentials, he replied that he had such, but had left them in the Province, and he exhibited certain letters from Baptist clergymen, which showed that he had been known to them as a Baptist preacher. Herein commenced a grave mistake. Had they required fair testimonials of his ministerial standing, as every church should do, before making any engagement with a stranger, it would have saved them and the community from serious and prolonged difficulties.

He preached a few Sabbaths on trial, impressed some favorably, others less so. He had a marked foreign accent; his utterance was rapid and often indistinct; his pronunciation of many words was entirely barbarous. Those who caught his discourses, pronounced them able, but in the routine of his public services, prayer occupied a very small place. A certain show of smartness attracted the curious, and some of the drifting class were drawn to hear him. A permanent stay was proposed, though they could not raise the salary that he wanted. He stated to the committee that he had a wife then in Georgetown, Maine, who was an accomplished

organist, and if he remained, she could play the church organ, in place of the paid organist, and thus increase their contributions for his support.

An engagement was concluded for one year, and on the 9th of September he set off, as he pretended, for the Province, to get a horse and other things that he had left there, expecting his wife to meet him at Newport, on his return, and come to Foxcroft with him. The next day, a dispatch directed to him from Bath, signed J. A. S., was received at Foxcroft, announcing that his wife had been thrown from a carriage, and was in an insensible state, and, the next day, another came, saying that she was dead. His sympathizing people sent messages to places on the way to the Province, to intercept him, and waited in painful suspense. In a few days, a letter from Mr. Steadman reached one of his people, written in Georgetown, saying that he heard the affecting news in St. John, had hurried to that place to find his dear wife dead and buried, and that he would soon return to Foxcroft. He reached there Saturday evening, but professed to be so overcome with sorrow, that he could not preach the next day. In other ways he showed his deep affliction, and alluded to it in his pulpit services. But his grief soon subsided. His demeanor was far from being grave and ministerial. As a preacher, he violated ministerial and denominational courtesy, but this was silently endured. His confiding friends, procuring the assistance of a civilian, obtained an appointment from the Governor, for him to solemnize marriages, and he did not hesitate to administer the sacraments of the church. In December, he began to show a peculiar interest in a successful female school teacher, alleging as a reason that she resembled his departed Nellie. This was reciprocated; the attachment rapidly ripened; and in February, not six months after the alleged death of his wife, they were married.

It was conceded that he preached able sermons, but many wondered when he prepared them, and the suspicion of plagiarism was sometimes expressed.

At length fast day came. The four congregations usually unite in one service, each pastor preaching in turn. It fell to Mr. Steadman. A full house waited on him. One of the pastors was absent; all the others were in attendance. His discourse was remarkable for its scholarly method, its range and freshness of thought, its chaste and elevated language, but it was not appropriate to the occasion; it was blighted in some places with ideas and expressions that sorted strangely with the general drift; but it unmasked the fraudulent preacher, and set him in his true light before the community. The Methodist clergyman who listened to it, a few days afterward stumbled upon it, all printed in the *Homiletic Monthly*. It was one of Dr. R. S. Storrs' very best, hence the portions interpolated by Mr. Steadman cropped out like the long ears in the familiar fable. The discovery soon became public. A tempest immediately arose. One of his stated hearers borrowed that periodical, and found three other discourses in it, which he had listened to, from Steadman's lips. It has since appeared that many of the published sermons of distinguished ministers in New York and Brooklyn had been copied and preached, and some given as lectures, by this unblushing plagiarist, as his own great productions.

He denied the charge of plagiarism, and told other obvious falsehoods, but this only assured his condemnation. The Baptist people now rejected him, and published him as an imposter. Anticipating this, he had already written to Rev. Mr. Battles, who was about vacating the Universalist pulpit in Dexter, stating that he had changed his views, and could not preach acceptably to Baptists any longer, and modestly asked to be introduced to the Universalists in Dexter, reserving however the next Sunday, which he felt constrained to improve in explaining his change and the reasons for it, to his highly esteemed people. He was not grabbed up by that people.

The secular press now began to publish his proceedings. Rumors soon came that he had a wife and two children liv-

ing in the Province, and these were soon confirmed. Doubts then arose respecting the death of his wife at Georgetown. The Methodist minister from Georgetown soon came to Dover to attend their annual conference, and he affirmed that no such death and burial had taken place there. Steadman, on hearing of these reports, resorted to another characteristic trick.

He vainly tried to inveigle his uncle, and induce him to come to his defence. This uncle, by the way, Dr. John A. Steadman, had formerly been a Baptist minister, but now was engaged in the practice of medicine, in Georgetown. He was inquired of respecting his nephew, after the difficulties arose, and had answered cautiously. He had sold his nephew the horse which he had introduced to us as from the Province. Steadman wrote his uncle that certain Methodist ministers had contradicted some of his statements; therefore he wished him to write Mr. Prentiss, affirming "that he did bring a wife from the Province to his house, that she died there as he had publicly stated, that his name was on the Provincial Minutes as a regularly ordained Baptist minister, and that he was what he had represented himself to be." This letter was written May 8. It did not bring the desired response. But Dr. Steadman telegraphed to learn if he could find his nephew there, if he came directly on, and soon started for Foxcroft. That purchased horse had not been paid for, and such a letter boded no good. Steadman now began to equivocate in various ways, some of which must not be written, but they were utterly rejected by all but his too confiding wife. Before this, he had sold his horse, and now was selling his books and other effects, preparatory to leaving the place.

He did not wish to see his uncle in Foxcroft, so he met him at Dexter. They had a long, searching and distressing interview, in which Steadman disclosed much that his uncle would not believe. Each returned to his home, and Steadman soon started for the West, his wife consenting to the sale of her own acquired property, to pay off his debts, and to help him off, and then returned to her friends.

He was soon heard from in Minneapolis. He had obtained employment there as a bookkeeper, and wrote to his wife to come on, and live with him, eventually sending her a small sum of money to defray her traveling expenses. By this time her eyes were open. She now believed him to be perfidious, but did not let him know it, since legal measures were on foot to arrest him, and wrote him as a blind, that she could not start for a few days. His relatives in the Province had written her, exposing his previous marriage, and expressing their pity for her present condition.

Legal proof of his marriage in the Province was obtained, and an officer started with a requisition on the Governor of Minnesota for his arrest and delivery. He was brought back, but his trunk was withheld, as his board bills were unpaid.

On arriving at Foxcroft, he was kept in close custody until witnesses from the Province arrived. He grieved sorely that his last-married wife did not fly to his arms, but she visited him only once, in company with friendly attendants. When arraigned before a trial Justice for bigamy, he affirmed that it was all a mistaken identity. He denied all knowledge of the witnesses who were present at the former marriage. He affirmed that his father's name was J. Harvey Steadman; that he himself was born in Berwick, Nova Scotia; that his father lived there; all which he pronounced *false* in his second trial. He was held to appear at the Supreme Court, and in default of bail, was committed to Bangor jail.

By certain persons in Bangor, his cell was carpeted and neatly furnished, fragrant flowers were sent in to ornament it, books and periodicals were profusely furnished him, disbelieving, it would seem, that he had ever committed the most infamous crimes, and perpetrated the grossest frauds upon the honest and unsuspecting. It would have been well for these persons to have heard his own defaming statements of himself in his testimony.

Among his former people he found but little sympathy. Some were highly indignant, and advanced money to secure his arrest, and bring him to justice. As he alleged that his

trunk contained valuable clothing, and papers important in his trial, they contributed a small sum to release it, and have it sent by express to him. But unfortunately it did not arrive in season.

As our object is to exhibit the hypocrisy of this man, a full report of his legal trial will not be given, only such parts as reveal his infamous career.

At the September term of the Supreme Judicial court for the county of Piscataquis, 1879, Chief Justice Appleton presiding, Manly C. Steadman was indicted by the Grand Jury for the crime of bigamy, and plead not guilty, and was put upon trial. No case had ever aroused such an interest. The court-house was crowded to its utmost capacity, ladies making up a large proportion. Able counsel had undertaken his defence, on condition that he would make a clean breast, and tell them and all others, nothing but the truth.

A select jury was drawn, each man questioned as to biases for or against the arraigned, and the case proceeded. The proof of his regular marriage to Rachel M. Smith of Pollet's River, New Brunswick, in August, 1875, and that she was still living when he was married in Dover, in February, 1879, was indubitable. He was permitted to take the stand, and upon his oath, to testify in his own case. The substance of it, with occasional refutations, will be briefly given, for in this, the chief interest clustered.

He stated that "in 1873 and 1874, he was in Amherst, Nova Scotia; there he made the acquaintance of a young lady, Georgie E. Campbell, who was attending school in or near Sackville, New Brunswick, that he courted her, seduced her and married her to save her character, without the consent of her father, that the ceremony was performed by a Catholic priest named Groucher, in the presence of two witnesses, in August, 1874, and a certificate of it given to his wife, that her father, on learning what had been done, was angry, and forbid his living with her, that he left, and went to his former home, and taught school at Pollet's River, that his incensed father-in-law, a few months later, sent him a notice of his

wife's death, which he supposed was true." Subsequently, the Roman Catholic bishop was asked if there was a priest of that name, and he answered that there had never been one of that name in the diocese. But an aunt of Steadman testified that she witnessed that marriage, and signed the marriage certificate as a witness. But that certificate was not in court, as his trunk had not arrived. The principal of that school was also asked if a young lady of that name had been there, and he answered that no such name was on their catalogue.

He also testified that "sometime after this, he made a marriage engagement with Miss Rachel M. Smith, and was again married in August, 1875, by his father, Rev. James C. Steadman, which event ought to have taken place sooner, as he affirmed; that in 1877 he professed religion and united with his father's church, and soon commenced preaching; that in the fall of that year, he left his family at his father's house, and preached at various places; that he was at Kars, New Brunswick, several months, boarding with John C. Campbell; that his daughter Nellie G. informed him that she was acquainted with his first wife, and knew her to be still living, and through Nellie he sent messages to her, inviting her to meet him in St. John; that he met her there, and with her went to Tauntonville, New Brunswick, in June, 1878, and that she agreed to join him in Maine, if he became settled here."

Mr. J. C. Campbell testified that he had never heard his daughter speak of such a friend at that school, that he usually carried her letters to and from the post-office, and had never seen one directed to that name. But certain things which leaked out, indicated that Nellie G. Campbell was the person whom Steadman described to the committee of Foxcroft as his wife, and whom he might then be hoping to obtain as such, but failed.

"He did not acquaint his wife with his second marriage, but when he wrote her to come to Maine, she wrote him that she had heard of it, that her father would not let her come,

and now, she repudiated him forever. He received this letter at Bath, Maine, whither he directly went, though pretending at Foxcroft that he was starting for New Brunswick. He affirmed that he sent those false telegrams to Foxcroft, to help him out of his dilemma. After his return to Foxcroft, he received a letter saying that his first wife, Georgie E. Campbell, was dead, and again he believed it, and so contracted this last marriage, as his second marriage was illegal, and he had resolved to disown that second wife."

All of the other testimony, except that of Steadman's aunt, conflicted with his, and his was not believed by judge or jury.

Steadman's testimony showed that he had never been licensed to preach, nor ordained; that he had sworn falsely about his own name, and that of his father's, and also his place of residence; that he tried to entangle his uncle in the deception; and that much of his past life had been infamous.

His counsel plead that, if the marriage to Georgie E. Campbell was legal, and she was living when he married Rachel M. Smith, then that marriage was invalid, and the indictment on which he was under trial failed, and that legal proof was in that expected trunk. The charge to the jury was searching, clear and unbiased, as far as such a case would allow. The jury, in a half hour, returned a verdict of guilty. His counsel filed exceptions, and petitioned for a new trial. This petition waits the decision of the full bench. Meanwhile Steadman is a prisoner in Bangor jail.

Whatever the glorious uncertainties of the law may have in reserve, the hypocrisy and fraud of this individual are unmistakable, and these, mainly, it was attempted to expose.

#### RAILROAD ACCIDENT AT LOW'S BRIDGE.

At Low's Bridge there is a flag station, about midway between Dover and Guilford depots. At this, freight was hauled to be loaded. As there was no side track, cars were often left on the main track, to be pushed up by the next train to the nearest turnout, and to be passed there.



October 18, 1879, three platform cars were so left by a down train, to be loaded with shingles. Conductor Swan, who left them, met the upward bound train in Lagrange, and told the conductor, engineer and fireman on that train of their position. Conductor Chase told all these men to remember it, and keep a sharp lookout, as they should not reach that place till it was dark. But they all forgot it! The conductor said it just entered his mind as they started from Dover depot.

The train consisted of seven freight cars, and one passenger car in the rear. They were running at great speed; the engineer, Fred W. Green of Mattawamkeag, was watching the cars as they passed a curve, and did not see those loaded cars, though it was moonlight, until nearly upon them. He whistled "down brakes," and reversed the engine, just as it struck the first loaded car. It rushed on, driving the second also, but kept the track until they collided with the third. This threw them off the track, and the engine followed, and they were smashed to a fearful pile, burying the engineer beneath the ruins. The fireman, Wadlin of Oldtown was thrown clear of the wreck, and but slightly hurt, and all the rest escaped injury. The crash was heard two miles, and many hastened thither. The engineer was soon drawn out, with both legs broken, with internal injuries, and also scalded badly. He was taken to the nearest house; surgeons hastened; and everything done that could be, to relieve his distress. He lingered in great pain, from Saturday evening till Tuesday noon, and died supported by the arms of his mother.

The directors discharged all these forgetful employes, and supplied their places. As the train was coming up, the next Tuesday evening, B. F. Hodgkins of Milo, a newly employed brakeman, fell from the train in Milo, and was taken up in a dying state. He was taken to Dover, and cared for, but died at eleven o'clock. The lifeless remains of both were sent down to their friends for burial, on the same train. This was the first fatal accident to an employe or passenger upon the road, in its first seven years' operation. The jury reported that "the accident was caused by the leaving of

those three cars upon the main track, and by the engineer and others forgetting it." The damage to the railroad property was from two to three thousand dollars.

## ANECDOTE.

The late Eld. William Oakes, long a resident in Sangerville, but then living in the same vicinity as the Westons (Canaan, now Skowhegan), related many years ago the adventures of a certain survey party, with which he was connected. They came up the Penobscot and Piscataquis, bringing their provisions in a batteau, from Bangor, and evidently run the line between the sixth and seventh ranges, regarding a part of which, Mr. Oakes was summoned to court as a witness on a pending lawsuit. They became short of provisions. Their hard-bread had broken and crumbled badly in transportation. They broke up as soon as possible, each starting for the Kennebec settlement, through the woods, by himself. Yet they all came out safe, though fatigued and hungry, within a half mile of each other, and within a half hour of the same time. This was the Elder's own language, possible, but very remarkable. He also remarked that his dog was nearly exhausted, and would have famished sooner than he himself.

## UNCLE JOHN AND THE BEAR.

Among the early settlers of Guilford, was a good-natured rough-hewed man, hardy and athletic, not wanting in ordinary personal courage, not especially daring, who was familiarly called Uncle John. The evening of a certain summer day, he spent at a neighbor's, and while busy in chit-chat, the shades of night covered both field and forest. From the woods near by, the scream of a bear was heard, and Uncle John just then was not fond of that kind of music. After waiting awhile, with the hope that the bear would wander away, he resisted the importunities of his neighbors to spend the night with them, as his folks would be alarmed. He fixed up and lighted a torch, and with his large, resolute dog, at a

late hour, started for home. When about half way through a piece of woods that he must pass, he espied the head of a large bear lifted above a log that lay beside his foot-path. His dog, brave and robust, dashed at him with a loud, defiant bark. The bear turned and fled, leaving the way free from danger, and Uncle John hurried on. The dog soon overtook and grabbed his retreating game. The bear wheeled, and struck back with such force that the dog desisted, and ran yelping toward his master. Uncle John fearing that the bear was coming too, dropped his torch, took to his heels, and ran for his life. Just then one of his feet sunk in the mud, his shoe stuck, and his foot came out minus its shoe. He was in too much of a hurry to look for it, so he sped on, one foot shoeless, and both he and the faithful dog safely reached home, no bear pursuing. The next morning he went to the place, and fished up his shoe, and as the bear did not report himself, he was not afterward recognized.

This dog died a martyr to his own daring. When out in the distant forest, with his master and others on an exploring tour, he fell upon a porcupine, and made an attack. His wily game bristled up, turned his defensive covering to the dog, and lay still for safety. The dog, in his assault, wounded his nose severely, and came off badly injured. The men did what they could to relieve him, but his nose swelled, he lost the power of scenting the tracks of the party, and straying from them, he never found his way out, and died in the woods.

All sorrowed over the loss of so useful a domestic animal, where wild beasts were numerous, and over his lamentable fate.

#### THE COLONEL AND THE ENSIGN.

The fifth regiment was mustering in Garland. The companies on Piscataquis River were not called out, as their battalion then mustered in Dover. But certain persons from those companies attended as spectators. In the afternoon, by a certain evolution, the main guard was swept out of its

place, and the line left without sentinels. The spectators began to press forward, and soon were intruding upon the parade ground. The colonel, who had an exalted idea of military etiquette, was irritated, and spurring his horse furiously into the crowd, ran over a boy and seriously injured him. As he lay prostrate, crying with fright and pain, an ensign from the other battalion, not then on duty, sprang to his relief. While taking up the boy, the colonel dashed back and spurred his horse smartly on one side, making him whirl round suddenly, striking the ensign and nearly knocking him down. The ensign's temper rose. He broke out in loud and angry tones: "Are you going to run over me too?" prefacing it with profane and scathing words. The colonel replied: "Yes, if you don't get off the field." Other unmilitary and ungentlemanly words and phrases fell thick and fast. The colonel, when mounted upon his charger, with epaulets and sword, did not expect to hear such contemptuous rebukes. Looking down to see who it was that thus confronted him, he recognized, in his defiant antagonist, one of his own subordinate officers. He could not brook this. So he hastily and arbitrarily declared the ensign under military arrest, and forbade him ever appearing again on parade until he made ample satisfaction. The ensign returned home, and when his anger subsided, supposed that his commanding officer would also cool off, and think no more of that angry spat, or of his unauthorized sentence of arrest. So he went with his company in full uniform, and with side arms to the battalion muster, and marched with it into line. When the adjutant had formed the regiment, and the colonel came on to the field, he rode directly to that ensign, and again pronounced him under arrest, and ordered him off the field.

He went, burning with wrath, and took his stand just outside the line, and stood all day, a silent but close observer of the manœuvres in which he had sanguinely expected to participate. His great regret was, that he could not challenge the colonel to settle the quarrel by a duel, and fight it there in the presence of the regiment.

The affair was an exciting one. Everybody was talking about it, and casting censures according to their respective opinions.

The colonel thought that he had the inside track. He would not let such a public insult and military misdemeanor pass unpunished. So he entered his charges against the recreant ensign, and demanded that he be court-martialed.

But when the case came into the hands of the Judge-advocate, that officer coolly examined it, and found the colonel's proceedings fatally defective. The insult with which the ensign was deservedly charged, was perpetrated when he was not under the colonel's command, not under martial law, when he was only a spectator, and amenable to the civil law alone, for using abusive and profane language.

So both military arrests were invalid, the first, because it was outside the colonel's jurisdiction, the second, because he had done nothing when under his superior officer, to call for it. So no court-martial was called. The ensign resumed his place, but a mutual hostility rankled and raged within them.

The regiment was soon divided. The colonel was promoted to a brigadier, then to a major-general, and so appeared upon the muster field. The ensign was still an officer, promoted to captain, and finally to colonel. So on muster days the usual military recognitions and salutes were passed, but the flash of their eyes was as patent as the gleam of their swords.

#### PROFESSIONAL AND EDUCATED MEN.

The following residents of this county are college graduates.

##### BOWDOIN COLLEGE.

Wm. S. Sewall, Sangerville, 1834.	Counsel Greely, Dover, 1854.
Josiah Crosby; Atkinson, 1835.	Cyrus H. Carleton, Sangerville, 1856.
Thos. D. Sturtevant, Blanchard, 1841.	Edwin P. Parker, Dover, 1856.
Henry S. Loring, Guilford, 1843.	George N. Jackson, Foxcroft, 1859.
Freeland S. Holmes, Foxcroft, 1850.	Mark Pitman, Barnard, 1850.
Chas. P. Chandler, Foxcroft, 1854.	David R. Straw jr., Guilford, 1850.

Collins Stevens, Harvey Davis, H. O. Pratt, Everts S. Pillsbury, David N. Greeley, of Foxcroft; Henry Folsom, Monson; Frank W. Chadbourne, and John F. Robinson, Dover, entered this college, but did not complete the full course.

## COLBY UNIVERSITY.

E. A. Cummings, Parkman, 1847. Silvanus B. Macomber, Monson, 1863.  
 Abner E. Oakes, Sangerville, 1847. Horatio N. Nutting, Parkman, 1863.  
 Mark A. Cummings, Parkman, 1849. Wm. S. Knowlton, Sangerville, 1864.  
 Albion P. Oakes, Sangerville, 1849. Stanley T. Pullen, Foxcroft, 1864.  
 Alfred E. Buck, Foxcroft, 1859. Elihu B. Haskell, Guilford, 1872.  
 Alonzo Bunker, Atkinson, 1862. Henry Hudson jr., Guilford, 1875.  
 Whiting S. Clark, Sangerville, 1862. Edgar H. Crosby, Brownville, 1880.

Ezra Towne, Dover, J. F. Norris, Monson, Sewall Brown, Dover, John E. Sawyer, Monson, Valentine B. Oakes, and William P. Oakes, Sangerville, entered, but did not graduate.

Rev. Sewall Brown received the degree of A.M. in 1869, and Rev. Chas. M. Herring, the same, in 1873, from Colby University.

Robinson Turner, Guilford, entered Tufts College, but left, before completing his course.

Luther Keene and George A. Keene of Atkinson, graduated from Amherst College, and Valentine B. Oakes of Sangerville, from Dartmouth College.

## BATES COLLEGE.

Miss Mary W. Mitchell, 1869. F. T. Crommett, So. Dover, 1874.  
 E. E. Wade, 1870. E. M. Briggs, Parkman, 1879.  
 E. P. Sampson, Dover, 1873.

## AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

J. I. Gurney, Foxcroft, 1874. E. D. Thomas, Brownville, 1878.  
 C. E. Towne, East Dover, 1878. J. H. Williams, Milo, 1878.  
 C. C. Chamberlain, Foxcroft, 1878.

L. H. Ramsdall, Atkinson, F. L. Moore, Sebec, F. P. Gurney, William W. Dow, and F. H. Pullen, Foxcroft, entered, but left without graduating.

## BANGOR THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.

Isaac E. Wilkins, Brownville, 1825. Henry S. Loring, Guilford, 1846.  
 Wm. S. Sewall, Sangerville, 1838. Amory H. Tyler, Monson, 1854.  
 Elbridge G. Carpenter, Foxcroft, 1840. Sam'l D. Bowker, Blanchard, 1860.  
 Amasa Loring, Guilford, 1841. Luther Keene, Atkinson, 1862.  
 Asa T. Loring, Guilford, 1841. George Williams, Sangerville, 1864.  
 Thos. D. Sturtevant, Blanchard, 1844. Thomas Kenney, Milo, 1874.

Charles Davison of Monson entered the Congregational ministry with an Academic education.

## THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTION AT NEWTON CENTER, MASS.

E. A. Cummings, Parkman, 1850. Alonzo Bunker, Atkinson, 1865.  
 J. P. Hunting, Guilford, 1850. J. F. Norris, Monson, 1865.  
 Leonard H. Hunting, Guilford, 1851. Silvanus B. Macomber, " 1868.  
 Mark A. Cummings, Parkman, 1852. Elihu B. Haskell, Guilford 1875.  
 Cyrus H. Carleton, Sangerville, 1859. All now Baptist ministers.

Rev. Samuel Low and Rev. C. M. Herring, Guilford, Rev. Sewall Brown, Dover, graduated from New Hampton Baptist Seminary; Rev. A. J. Nelson, Guilford, entered the Baptist ministry with an Academical education; Rev. William S. Knowlton has been ordained.

## FREE BAPTISTS.

The ministry of this denomination has been entered by the persons whose names are here given: Abner Coombs, Guilford, 1823; Mr. — Livermore, Milo; Abel Turner jr., Foxcroft; Orin Bartlett, Abbot, educated at Free Baptist Seminary; Horace Graves, Dover; Albert Pratt, Sebec; and E. G. Eastman, Parkman. Several others have been ordained by the Association Baptists, without any special preparation, whose names I cannot give. Revs. Rotheus M. Hyram and Barnabas Burseley of Sangerville, entered the ministry as Universalists.

## METHODISTS.

Rev. Watts Dow, Sebec; Rev. Daniel Warren, Guilford; Rev. P. C. Parsons, Sangerville, have become preachers in this connection.

## PHYSICIANS.

William A. Harvey, Atkinson, 1847; Josiah Jordan, Foxcroft, 1848; E. P. Snow, Atkinson, 1849; William Buck, Foxcroft, 1859; William B. Bulard, Foxcroft, 1859; James H. Thompson, Sangerville, 1859; S. B. Sprague, Milo, 1867; Frank W. Chadbourne, Dover, 1869; L. C. Ford, Atkinson; C. D. Sprague, Milo; and Walter E. Turner, South Dover, 1870; received the degree of M.D. from the medical department of Bowdoin College at the dates above designated.

Freeland S. Holmes, Foxcroft; E. A. Thompson, Dover; Daniel Straw, Guilford; Horatio N. Howard, Abbot; have received the same at other institutions.

Others have practiced in the Thompsonian and Homeopathic methods; Dr. Jacobs of Dover; Chandler Wood of Abbot; S. B. Elliot of Dover; C. B. Bennett of Guilford; Mrs. E. C. Buck of Foxcroft, are prominent among them.

## LAWYERS.

We give an approach only to fullness and accuracy, and to the order of their admittance to the bar.

Charles A. Everett, Dover.  
William C. Crosby, Atkinson.  
Josiah Crosby, Atkinson.  
Winslow Blake, Foxcroft.  
William G. Clark, Sangerville.  
William McE. Brown, Guilford.  
C. P. Chandler, Foxcroft.  
Counsel Greeley, Dover.  
J. D. Brown, Guilford.  
John H. Rice, Monson.  
A. G. Lebroke, Foxcroft.  
Abner Oakes, Sangerville.  
A. P. Oakes, Sangerville.  
V. B. Oakes, Sangerville.  
J. H. Macomber, Milo.  
D. R. Straw jr., Guilford.  
H. N. Nutting, Parkman.  
C. A. Packard, Blanchard.

E. F. Harvey, Atkinson.  
George N. Jackson, Foxcroft.  
W. S. Clark, Sangerville.  
C. O. Clark, Sangerville.  
George E. Clark, Sangerville.  
John F. Robinson, Dover.  
H. O. Pratt, Foxcroft.  
George Pratt, Foxcroft.  
Evarts S. Pillsbury, Foxcroft.  
J. F. Sprague, Sangerville.  
William Lane, Monson.  
H. B. Flint, Dover.  
Henry Hudson jr., Guilford.  
J. B. Peakes, Dover.  
D. L. Savage, Foxcroft.  
W. E. Parsons, Foxcroft.  
— Rowell, Sebec.

## County officers, from the incorporation of the county to 1880.

## SHERIFFS.

1838, B. P. Gilman, Sebec.	1857-61, C. S. Douty, Dover, resgn'd.
1839-40, J. Chase, Sebec.	1862, E. Jewett, Sangerville.
1841, H. K. Adams, Williamsburg.	1863, E. J. Hale, Foxcroft, res. 1863.
1842-45, W. Oakos jr., Sangerville.	1863-72, E. Jowett, Sangerville.
1846-53, J. Chase, Sebec.	1873-74, M. W. Brown, Brownville.
1854-55, T. S. Pullen, Dover.	1875-78, C. Foss, Abbot.
1856, W. W. Harris, Guilford.	1879-80, J. L. Smart, Milo.

## CLERKS OF COURT.

1838 & 41, P. P. Furber, Milo.	1851-62, E. Flint, Dover.
1839-40, A. S. Patten, Dover.	1863-74, R. Kittredge, Dover.
1842-50, E. S. Clark, Dover.	1875-80, H. B. Flint, Foxcroft.

## COUNTY ATTORNEYS.

1838-41, C. A. Everett, Milo.	1861-70, A. G. Lebroke, Foxcroft.
1839-40, { J. Bell, Monson.	1871-73, Wm. P. Young, Milo.
1842-45, {	1874-76, C. A. Everett, Dover.
1846-52, A. M. Robinson, Sebec.	1877-79, Wm. P. Young, Milo.
1853-60, J. H. Rice, Monson.	1880, J. B. Peaks, Dover.

## COUNTY TREASURERS.

1838, { C. P. Chandler, Foxcroft.	1858-59, { E. J. Hale, Foxcroft.
1841-42, {	1860-67, {
1839-40, R. Low, Guilford.	1860-61, C. O. Palmer, Dover.
1843-46, M. Eames, Dover.	1862-63, R. Dearborn, Dover.
1847, N. Hinds, Dover.	1864-65, C. E. Kimball, Dover.
1848-49, J. S. Thompson, Dover.	1868-69, M. Pitman, Dover.
1850-51, F. R. Drake, Dover.	1870-72, N. Hinds, Dover.
1852-55, A. B. Chase, Dover.	1873-74, W. Buck, Foxcroft.
1856-57, C. H. B. Woodbury, Dover.	1875-78, C. B. Kittredge, Dover.
	1879-80, W. Buck, Foxcroft.

## COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

1838, J. S. Holmes, Foxcroft, J. Matthews, Monson, J. Lake, Brownville.
1839, 40, A. M. Robinson, Sebec, E. Packard, Blanchard, S. Palmer, Dover.
1841, H. G. O. Morrison, Dover, J. Lake, Brownville, J. Matthews, Monson.
1842, E. L. Hammond, Atkinson, R. Loring, Shirley, M. Sweat, Foxcroft.
1843, E. L. Hammond, A. M. Robinson, William Brewster, Parkman.
1844, E. L. Hammond, William Brewster, R. Loring.
1845, R. Loring, William Brewster, F. Turner, Milo.
1846, R. Loring, F. Turner, M. Sweat, Foxcroft.
1847, F. Turner, Milo, C. Chamberlain, Foxcroft, John Elliot, Abbot.
1848, C. Chamberlain, J. Elliot, D. C. Cilley, Sebec.
1849, J. Elliot, D. C. Cilley, J. Roberts, Sangerville.
1850, D. C. Cilley, J. Roberts, C. N. Gower, Greenville.
1851, C. N. Gower, L. Robinson, Foxcroft, J. D. Brown, Foxcroft.



1852, C. N. Gower, J. D. Brown, L. Robinson.  
 1853, B. Bursley, Sangerville, L. Robinson, L. Howard, Guilford.  
 1854, L. Robinson, L. Howard, J. A. Dunning, Williamsburg.  
 1855, L. Howard, J. A. Dunning, S. Coburn, Parkman.  
 1856, J. A. Dunning, S. Coburn, J. Spaulding, Dover.  
 1857, S. Coburn, J. Spaulding, J. H. Macomber, Milo.  
 1858, J. Spaulding, J. H. Macomber, A. Chapin, Monson.  
 1859, J. H. Macomber, A. Chapin, L. Robinson.  
 1860, A. Chapin, L. Robinson, G. W. Wingate, Sebec.  
 1861, L. Robinson, G. W. Wingate, I. Hutchins, Wellington.  
 1862, G. W. Wingate, I. Hutchins, Wm. N. Thompson, Foxcroft.  
 1863, I. Hutchins, Wm. N. Thompson, R. A. Snow, Atkinson.  
 1864, Wm. N. Thompson, Foxcroft, R. A. Snow, J. Elliot, Abbot.  
 1865, R. A. Snow, J. Elliot, B. Brann, Dover.  
 1866, J. Elliot, B. Brann, J. Morrill, Sebec.  
 1867, B. Brann, J. Morrill, C. A. Packard, Blanchard.  
 1868, J. Morrill, Sebec, C. A. Packard, S. R. Jackson, Foxcroft.  
 1869, C. A. Packard, S. R. Jackson, C. L. Dunning, Brownville.  
 1870, S. R. Jackson, C. L. Dunning, C. A. Packard.  
 1871, C. L. Dunning, C. A. Packard, M. Mitchell, Dover.  
 1872, C. A. Packard, M. Mitchell, L. Sands, Sebec.  
 1873, M. Mitchell, L. Sands, C. A. Packard.  
 1874, L. Sands, C. A. Packard, P. M. Jefferds, Foxcroft.  
 1875, C. A. Packard, P. M. Jefferds, L. Sands.  
 1876, P. M. Jefferds, L. Sands, L. Hilton, Kingsbury.  
 1877, L. Sands, L. Hilton, L. Robinson.  
 1878, L. Hilton, L. Robinson, H. F. Daggett, Milo. [Crockett, appointed.  
 1879, L. Robinson, H. F. Daggett, Wm. G. Thompson, Guilford, Simon  
 1880, H. F. Daggett, Wm. G. Thompson, Volney A. Gray, Dover.

## REGISTERS OF DEEDS.

1838-42, R. K. Rice.	1863-64, D. Shepherd, died in office.
1843-47, A. S. Patten.	1864-67, M. Pitman appointed.
1848-57, E. B. Averill.	1868-82, M. W. Hall.
1858-62, J. Jordan.	

## JUDGES OF PROBATE.

1838, E. W. Snow, Atkinson, 1845.	1861, T. S. Pullen, Foxcroft, d. 1865.
1845, E. Packard, Blanchard, d. 1855.	1865, C. A. Everett, Milo, res'd 1866.
1855, J. Bell, Monson, resign'd 1857.	1866, J. S. Monroe, Abbot, d. 1870.
1857, J. Stevens, Sebec, d. 1862.	1870, E. J. Hale, Foxcroft, 1880.

## REGISTERS OF PROBATE.

1838, B. Bursley, Sang., rem'd, 1839.	1854, A. Getchell, Dover, 1856.
1839, U. Hinds, Dover, rem'd 1841.	1856, L. Lee, Foxcroft, 1857.
1841, B. Bursley, Sang., rem'd 1842.	1857, W. F. Gallison, Foxcroft, d. 1857.
1842, E. S. Grosley, Dover, 1840.	1857, A. Getchell, Dover, 1858.
1840, L. Lee, Foxcroft, 1850.	1858, S. Whitney, Sangerville, d. 1860.
1850, S. W. Elliot, Dover, 1854.	1860, A. Getchell, Dover, pres. 1880.

## CHAPTER XXXII.

### CONCLUSION.

These scanty jottings of backwoods life must come to an end. Not so the inevitable history of this county: that will flow on for better or for worse, till time shall be no more, till the mighty problem of human existence shall reach its full and final solution.

"Life is real! life is earnest!  
And the grave is not its goal;  
Dust thou art, to dust returnest,  
Was not spoken of the soul."

Let us then compare the present with the past, and calculate the future, as the ocean voyager takes a solar observation and shapes his onward course. For fourscore years, civilized life with energy and toil has been busily working in this county. Eighty years, and what changes! What marks of untiring industry, what monuments of successful struggles, what improvements in mental culture, what moral and religious advances, what unavoidable calamities, what scenes of sorrow, what final departures of our early and aged associates! We naturally carry the present back over the past, and readily think that the things which now are, have ever so existed. Few of the early pioneers who can correct this impression from their own recollections, now survive. Five, out of the seven persons whom I acknowledged myself in the introduction of this work indebted to, for items of early history, have departed this life within the four years spent in collecting materials for it. Being then undertaken, these items were secured, but now they would be inevitably lost. But some still live, whose memory

stretches across many of these revolving years, and can easily recall the changes, which have persistently gone on.

Changes in the face of nature stand out distinctly, they daguerreotype themselves upon the mind of the aged beholder. The gloomy forests have receded, and smiling fields bathed with sunshine and showers, tender their harvests to the hand of their cultivators. Smooth and graded roads have superseded the spotted line and the rough and muddy pathway, while the steamboat plows our largest lakes, and the railroad stretches its iron track across this county. Before 1820, not even a weekly mail was known in this county: now many towns have two and four arrivals daily, and the telegraph brings its despatches with lightning speed.

The home, the domestic center, has passed through three distinct changes. From the log-cabins and hovels, the pioneers moved into their first framed houses. These were usually low, small, and roughly or partially finished, with their great sprawling chimneys, from which capacious fire-places yawned like the mouth of a cavern. These must have their great back-logs, and fore-sticks, too, and much else, to make the needed fire. Now the chimney has grown conveniently less in all its proportions, while stoves and furnaces require far less fuel, if they do not give us as good air.

In architecture and style there has been a decided change, so that the advance is nearly as great as from the log-cabin to the first framed house.

The barn and out-houses have risen also in style and convenience, and in economy, too; the manure shed and cellar being its best evidence, which most of our thrifty farmers have brought into use.

Ordinary labors, both in-doors and out, have also changed. After clearing new lands, the farmer cultivated and harvested his crops mainly by his own manual labor. Beyond plowing and harrowing, carting and sledding, the ox and horse did but a small part. But now agricultural machinery worked by horse and ox power, takes the severest toil out of the hands of men. And if the introduction of these useful

inventions has narrowed the demand for the day-laborer, it has greatly benefited the freeholder, who works his own fields, and has thereby promoted the interest of the greater number. The day-laborer can adjust capital and labor, by securing a freehold of his own, and gain a livelihood by working for himself. New land is now cheap, fertile acres invite the industrious, and men without capital can break into the forest with less hardships than our fathers bore, while roads, markets and other facilities favor the present, rather than the past.

Many domestic employments have also changed. When plain cotton cloth cost thirty cents per yard, and calico was still higher, fields of flax were common. When broadcloth was from five to eight dollars per yard, farmers, mechanics, merchants and professional men wore their well-dressed homespun. And if this did not have the checks and stripes of the present shoddy products of our factories, it had a little more twist and a little stronger fiber. Then the spinning-wheel and the loom were in every dwelling, and our mothers and sisters could draw the thread, and fling the shuttle. But now, to many of the fair sex, to farmers' daughters even, spinning and weaving are among "the lost arts." The factories,—quite a good institution, however,—have done this, but they should be esteemed and treated as a public benefit. They give steady and lucrative employment to a large class of operatives; they improve the markets for farm products, fuel and lumber, and give business to other mechanics. Sheep-raising, that profitable branch of husbandry, they encourage, and relieve the over-worked women of the hard labor of home manufacture. They keep a steady flow of money in circulation, which essentially aids all the branches of industry. The scarcity of money in former times, then so embarrassing, has been greatly diminished by the running of factories on our waterfalls, and the changes in this respect, cannot now be easily realized.

The cheese factories I will not here omit. One in East Sangerville, another in Milo, should have been men-

tioned in their proper places. These are not to be estimated merely by the profits they may pay to their owners and patrons: they are a paying convenience. They take from woman the hard labors of the dairy-room, and produce a richer and better article. They are not a monopoly, not breaking down, but aggrandizing, the small dairy.

Social entertainments and tolerated amusements have undergone a marvelous change. Sixty years ago, checkers, fox-and-geese, and simple plays beguiled the evening hours of the young, but then, card-playing was not allowed in the homes, even of many irreligious families. An out-door game of ball was common, but nine-pins, croquet and billiards were unknown. So were levees, picnics and concerts.

Fashions in dress, in ornaments, in traveling equipages, have so many times taken on their ephemeral changes, that they defy all description. Like the speckled pig, they are too spry to be counted.

The school-room, the school with its books and teachers, and all the means of culture, have made brilliant improvements. For the first few years of these new settlements, reading, spelling, writing, arithmetic, and very rarely grammar, made up the exercises: a geography and atlas were not seen. Newspapers and books were few, and religious lectures only were given. The increase of all these various means for growth in general knowledge, and for mental development, for more pleasant intercourse with each other, and for more cultivated deportment, calls for grateful recognition.

Sixty years ago, our young ears were compelled to hear a peculiar style of pronunciation, provincialisms, perhaps the unmended barbarisms of earlier days. Some would pronounce the word friend, *frind*, urgent would be *aregent*, earn and earnest, *airne* and *airnest*, and cover was always *kivver*. These relics of olden time have been buried in the grave of oblivion: let us be careful that they have no resurrection. Another relic of the dead past, the small-clothes and long stockings with their knee and shoe buckles, the veritable

style of revolutionary days and of colonial etiquette, came within the vision of the writer. In the year 1818, my grandfather made us his only visit, and his tight short breeches convinced us that he belonged to a former generation. Again, as late as 1831, another venerable man who could not yield to modern innovations in this respect, turned up in my path, a second genuine specimen of the ancients.

But the old cocked, clerical hat, universally worn by the orthodox clergy until near the beginning of the present century, I have never seen, unless the one worn by college presidents on commencement days, is a genuine specimen. It is said that Rev. John Turner, who preached in Foxcroft and Sebec, in 1835, was the first clergyman in Maine to don the usual hat, and Rev. Samuel Eaton of Harpswell was the last to abandon the antique, he wearing it till his head was pillowed in the grave.

Another sadly inauspicious change appears in the number and make up of the family circle. In former times, early marriages were the order of the day, and the Divine institution was honored. The young wife was almost invariably identical with the young mother. A thrifty circle of children, like olive plants, surrounded the table of both rich and poor, and New England names and blood and principles and characteristics had a preeminence over imported foreign elements. And why should it not be so now? And should not philanthropist, sage and Christian ask what will be the end of this striking change?—this frustrating of the design of one of the most beneficent institutions that God ever gave to men.

Have morals improved? Their standard is permanent. Departures from, or approaches toward, it, denote the real character of all. The temperance reform has been duly noticed. Other improvements were linked with it. But unless we are severe upon the faults of past generations, and lenient to those of our own, we may not boast loudly of other great moral advances. It is not safe to discuss this

topic. A prophet of evil is sure to be unpopular, and so must be the chronicler of it.

Religion, too, in its essential principles, is as unchangeable as God's being and attributes. But in the statement and adjustment of its different doctrines, in the personal manifestation of its experiences, in its routine of worship, in its expansive spirit and livelier activity, it can change, and has changed, and we hail these changes with devout gratitude.

The pulpit secures more talent, learning and careful utterance than formerly. It presents less of the frivolous, and more of the solemn and weighty; less of the disjointed, more of well arranged thought; less of misstated doctrines, and more of the symmetrical principles of Christianity, and of the harmonious relations of doctrine and duty.

Human nature will occasionally throw up men of one idea, extremists, the result, not of religion, but of peculiar temperaments. So it is in all parties. Religion should not be judged by those idiosyncrasies, which are its failures, and not its legitimate developments.

But no generation entirely makes itself: it comes from the foregoing, and brings along some of its well worn types. And like the new edition of a book, each should be an improvement upon the former. So we may look forward and inquire what kind of a future we are fashioning for our successors? What foundations we are laying for social and moral structures?

"Lives of great men all remind us,  
We can make our lives sublime,  
And, departing, leave behind us  
Footprints on the sands of time.

"Footprints, that perhaps another,  
Sailing o'er life's solemn main,  
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,  
Seeing, shall take heart again."

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