A SKETCH

OF THE

EARLY SETTLEMENT AND HISTORY

OF

SHIPTON,

CANADA EAST;

BY

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PREFACE.

THE substance of the following Sketch was first delivered as a lecture before the Library Associations of Richmond and Danville. But having received many solicitations, I have decided to publish it, as a tribute to the Township which gave me birth, and whose interests I would gladly promote in every suitable way. The work however could be made far more complete, had I time to pursue the investigation. As my engagements will not allow of this, I submit it with the hope that in its present form it will preserve from oblivion facts which may be important to the future. And hereafter, should opportunity be afforded, I may revise it, and add the history of the other townships of the county.

EDWARD CLEVELAND.

INTRODUCTION.

The study of history is always interesting and important, inasmuch as curiosity is gratified by the recital of facts, and the experience of the past is spread out for our instruction in reference to the future. We learn thus how to appreciate the present time, and the advantages of which we may avail ourselves in the improvement of it.

This is true, not merely on the great scale, but even when we descend to a humbler sphere and apply ourselves to the history of our own immediate vicinity. It is therefore desirable that the history of all our townships should be written early, before the generation passes away who can give minute and reliable information. The history of Shipton could have been written to far better advantage twenty years ago, than it can be at the present time. Then all the circumstances could have been obtained from living witnesses. Now only three of the first settlers are alive, viz. Prentice Cushing, Henry Barnard, and John B. Labonté. The present time is, however, more favor-

able than any future time can be; and I shall attempt to collect and present in a short compass some of the more important facts in reference to the early settlement and history of the Township of Shipton. It may be well to remark here, that the Township of Shipton originally embraced the territory now comprised in the Townships of Shipton and Cleveland as constituted at present. It was divided in 1855. Richmond is the principal village of Cleveland, and Danville of Shipton. They are eleven miles apart, and both natural centres for business. Both townships are now sufficiently large, and better situated than when they were united. But as the facts of history which I shall relate transpired for the most part when they were together, I shall consider it as it was before the division.

The Township of Shipton as it originally was, is bounded northeast by Tyngwick, southeast by Wotton and Windsor, southwest by Melbourne, and northwest by Kingsey. It is in latitude nearly 46° north, and in the County of Richmond. It is also at the junction of the Portland, Montreal, and Quebec Railroads. The River St. Francis washes its southwestern border, and the little Nicolet runs through the northeastern part. There are also other pleasant and useful streams in the townships, which afford water-power on

the small scale, as Cushing's Brook, Beaver Brook, Clark's Brook, Bog-Brook, and Leet's Brook. The Spooner Pond may also be mentioned as a beautiful sheet of water. It is situated in the north corner of the Township of Cleveland, on the height of land between the St. Francis and the Nicolet. Its shape is oval, the length being one mile and the width one fourth of a mile. It is shallow at the shores, but increases in depth to the centre, being there about twenty-five feet deep. It is fed wholly by springs, but has one stream flowing from it, which enters into the St. Francis at Kingsey. The pond is much higher than the surrounding country, insomuch that springs 250 yards distant from it flow in other directions. The pond abounds with fish, and particularly the salmon trout. There are also leeches in abundance suited to the purposes of physicians. Ducks frequent the pond, and occasionally a lonely crane or loon. The pond took its name from a man named Spooner who in early times lived near it. The region of country is now flourishing, and will be a most favorite portion of the township. The face of the land throughout the township is generally rolling, though there are some high elevations. The Pinnacle is the most noted, situated about eight miles northeast of Richmond, and about

four southwest of Danville. It rises perhaps three hundred feet above the surrounding country, and affords a beautiful and picturesque view to a great distance, bordered by mountain ranges. The appearance of the whole is somewhat like a teacup inverted in a saucer, though the saucer must be considered as very spacious. The mountain back of Montreal, and the Owl's Head in Potton, would be in its borders. Rich farms and comfortable dwellings, as well as extensive forests, are seen in the intervening space. And though there are celebrated mountains in New England which afford beautiful views and are much resorted to by the pleasure-seeking world, yet the hand of nature has been scarcely less bountiful in the goodly prospects seen from this elevation. And if some one would build a house of entertainment upon it, and make known its claims by suitable advertisements, who can say that it would not become an interesting place of resort to many ?

The soil of the township is generally a dark or light loam, though some of it is gravelly, argillaceous, and alluvial. It is among the best townships for agriculture in the Province. All the grains flourish well here, though it is best adapted for grazing. Excellent markets are also afforded for stock, and for all the products of a farm, in the cities reached by its railroads.

CHAPTER I.

CHARTER, SURVEY, AND FIRST INHABITANTS.

The charter of the township was granted to Elmore Cushing and forty-six associates in December 1801. In consequence of an offer from the Government of twelve hundred acres of land apiece to actual settlers, large numbers came from New England to this place when it was an unbroken wilderness, and laid the foundations of many generations. But as they were poor and unable to fulfil all the conditions, the charter was delayed four years from the commencement of the settlement; which led some to leave the place, and prevented others from coming. But at length Stephen Gale, Secretary to Governor Prescott, laid before him such evidence as led him to see that the charter ought to be granted. He therefore took measures to have it done without further delay. The restrictions however imposed by it, and these previous delays, so operated that it availed the original owners but little.

The party that first entered the township to survey it, in 1797, were George Barnard, the

manager, Prentice Cushing and John Brockas, the chainmen, Joseph Kilburn, the surveyor, and five Frenchmen, the axemen and packmen. They traced the outlines of the township, scaled the river, and ran a few concessions back that the associates might have opportunity to select one lot apiece to begin upon. The survey was completed in 1801, by Christopher Bailey, from Vermont.

The following comprise most of the families who came previous to 1804: Elmore Cushing, William Runlet, James and Daniel Doying, Stephen Olney, David and John Harvey, Daniel Adams, Hosmer Cleveland, Nathan Williamson, Zepheniah Spicer, Ephraim Magoon, Stephen Daniels, Samuel Marstin, David Leviston, Charles Clark, Joseph Perkins, Jonathan Fowler, Jonas Clark, John Philbrick, Lot and Job Wetherall, John B. Labonté, the Hicks families, four in number, Isaac Burnham, the Drs. Silver, father and son, John Sweeney, Thomas Simson, William and John Lester, John and Nathaniel Piper, Stephen, George, and Henry Barnard, John Stephens, William Dustin, Royal and Joseph Shaw, Job Cushing, Samuel Smart, Joel Leet, Benjamin Andros, Timothy Morrill, Noah and Gordon Lawrence, John Smith, and perhaps some others. Levi and A. R. Leet, Simeon Flint, John B. Emerson, Thomas Brooks, Benjamin Burbank, Solomon Daniels,

Josse Crown, Thomas Elliot, Nutting, Kezer, Woodman, Clough, Parsons, Richardson, Butler, Enoch Harvey, Solomon Emerson, Moses Hall, Burroughs, Healey, Mathews, Higby, Jared, Bray, Eber, Joseph, Benjamin, and Thomas Willey, Charles Bickford, Ezra Brainard, and perhaps a few others, came soon afterwards. These came from the different States of New England, and prepared the way for the good that has followed. And it will readily be inferred that they were men of energy, courage, and large hope, to commence an enterprise so far in the wilderness, and attended with so much self-denial and hardship.

The first couple united by marriage in the township was Daniel Adams and his wife, who are now alive, the one seventy-seven and the other seventy-nine years of age, having lived to see their children to the fourth generation. Many other families have also become very numerous. Lydia Doying, a daughter of Daniel Doying, was the first child born in the township. Her brother Daniel was the first male.

CHAPTER II.

HOW THE FIRST SETTLERS REACHED THE PLACE.

The early settlers of Shipton came to the place in different ways. There were then no roads, settlements, or townships this side of the French country, fifty miles north; and from Ascot, thirty miles south; and scarcely any this side of Danville, Vt. The first companies therefore came on foot, bringing their axes and provisions on their backs, through the pathless wilderness. Elmore Cushing first moved his family, which arrived at Richmond May 24, 1798. They occupied a little shanty till August, when a house was prepared. They came from Montreal, up the St. Francis River, in nine birch-bark canoes, conducted by Indians. John Brockas and Prentice Cushing came on the bank of the river, through the woods, driving a yoke of oxen and a cow. They were five days on the way from the French country. Mr. Spooner moved his family next; and about the same time Job Cushing and William Barnard. They came up the St. Francis River on the ice, in French traines, in the winter of 1799. As the

ice was *glare* and the travelling easy, they were but one day in coming as far as Kingsey, the adjoining township. Daniel and James Doying moved their families in canoes through Lake Memphramagog and down the rivers Magog and St. Francis.

Thismode of travelling was dangerous atall seasons of the year, and many distressing or fatal accidents thus occurred. The persons who travelled this way usually carried with them tents or blankets, which they spread by night for a shelter on a frame-work of poles. On one side they would build a fire to keep themselves warm. And by spreading on the ground for a bed hemlock boughs, they would generally sleep comfortably, and seldom take cold. Sometimes also they would make a camp and cover it with boughs or the bark of trees, and leave it for successive travellers. In such a camp on the farm of Francis Blake, in Kingsey, twenty-nine persons slept one night on their way to Shipton; some however sitting and clinging to the posts, as the space was insufficient for all to sleep in the recumbent posture.

Several years after, when roads had been partially made, people generally moved in on sleds drawn by oxen or horses. The owner would generally drive the team, with his family in the forward part of the sled, while the hind part was

filled with furniture and goods. The older boys would perhaps go on foot, driving cows, sheep, and swine to stock the farm. Several families would sometimes come together, and be mutual helpers. I will barely mention one instance, which will serve for illustration. Fifty-four years since two families started from Pomphret, Vermont, in the month of March, and though, by the increased facilities for travelling, scarcely a day would be spent in such a journey now, yet they were fifteen days in coming, averaging about twelve miles per day. And as taverns were not often found on the way, they would stop wherever night overtook them at some farm-house, using their own provisions and beds. They were a whole day in coming to Richmond from their lodgings the preceding night, five miles above. The snow had fallen and loaded the limbs of the trees, which were thus bent down to the road, and had to be cleared and sometimes cut off before the loads could pass. The next day they arrived at their habitations, on the road leading to Danville, where the owners had been laboring the year before and had made provision for their families.

But there were always great hardships in these journeys, and sometimes real dangers. Not a little ingenuity was often shown in escaping them. As Capt. Joseph Perkins was moving

his family to the township, he found it sometimes impossible to procure hay for his oxen. His wife, who had shown great courage and discretion in a scene of the Revolutionary War at Newbury, Vermont, pointed out the remedy here. As she had bed ticks filled with new straw for the family to sleep on by night, these were emptied one by one as they were needed, which answered the necessities of the oxen till they arrived at the place of their destination. Such difficulties in moving diminished of course as the settlement of the townships increased and the roads were improved.

But to show the peculiarities of the country, I will mention one or two instances of travel beyond our limits, to Ireland and Megantic county, after the difficulties to this place were mostly removed. A man and his wife left Deacon Flint's for this region, and drew their child in a wash-tub fastened upon a hand-sleigh thirty miles, through a dense and frowning wilderness, to New Ireland, where they resided for a time, but came back and died in Shipton. That child was Hiel Thurber.

Another family started from Danville with a horse and sled, and five small children. They proceeded to the high lands in Chester, where the snow became so deep that the horse could drag the sled no further. And being ten miles from

any habitation, they emptied their straw bed, put the two larger children in one end of the tick, and the three smaller ones in the other end, and swung it across the horse's back, and went forward, the man and woman breaking the road before the horse; and thus they arrived at Capt. Hall's in safety. The man's name was Dimon or Damon.

CHAPTER III.

THE PROGRESS OF CLEARING, BUILDING, &C.

As the first settlers came to the place by way of the St. Farncis, the first clearings and buildings were commenced on or near this river. Elmore Cushing cleared twenty-four acres on lot No. 16 in the 14th range in the year 1798. William Barnard commenced a clearing on Richmond Hill about the same time. Another was also begun on the place now occupied by Melvina, north of the present Depot. And each man, as he came, would select a lot and commence clearing. They would fell the trees, cut off the larger limbs, and let them lie till the leaves and smaller limbs became dry, and then set them on fire. A good burn would thus greatly facilitate the clearing, though it was of no benefit to the land. Much of it was undoubtedly injured, as the vegetable matter on the surface would be consumed, which was very valuable as a manure. But at first men usually cleared in this way from ten to forty acres per year, and openings in the woods were thus extended rapidly through the whole township.

Many persons took their position in that part of the township now called Shipton about the year 1802, the soil being superior and the face of the land beautiful. John Philbick raised on six acres and from six bushels of seed, one hundred and sixty bushels of wheat; two hundred bushels of potatoes on half an acre; and oats and other things in proportion. His oat-straw was six feet and a half in length. All the surplus produce was usually needed by more recent emigrants. Thus there was a strong stimulus to exertion.

The first clearing in the present Township of Shipton, north of Brand's Hill, was made by Capt. Joseph Perkins and William Dustin, on lot 27 in both the 3rd and 4th range; the second by Daniel and James Doying, on the Nutting Hill; the third by Samuel Marstin, on the Marstin Hill; and the fourth near Danville, by Jesse Crown. Charles Clark and Jonathan Fowler began clearings on the Marstin Hill about the same time. The first clearing north of Nicolet River was made by John Smith, on lot No. 10 in the 1st range; the 2nd by Enoch Harvey, on lot No. 17 in the 2nd range. These men, together with John Harvey and Reuben Leet, came to this part of the township in 1804 or 1805, and for three years were connected with the other settlements only by a by-path on a "spotted line," or "blazed trees."

The first houses built were those of William Barnard on Richmond Hill, and Elmore Cushing at Richmond, small log shanties. Mr. Cushing however built a more comfortable dwelling in 1798, in the month of August; when his family moved from the shanty which they had occupied since May of the same year. The houses in the other part of the township were built simultaneously or in rapid succession, by those men as they made their selection of land from time to time.

But the houses which were built in those times were easily constructed. Round logs were used for the body; split or hewed plank were used for floors. And though the great principle might not have been understood, yet the people had learned the fact, that green lumber frozen would make as tight floors as the best seasoned boards. And in laying them down, they would sometimes run a hand-saw between the joints and thus make them very close. For fire-place, a stone wall was usually laid by one side of the house or in the middle, and a chimney carried out with split sticks laid up square and plastered. A chamber floor was made of rough boards, and a ladder prepared to ascend to it. Such houses were generally used for the first twenty years. Yet the style was gradually improved, and more conveniences secured. And at the present time, the village houses and farm

cottages will compare well with those of any other township of equal age.

The barns were for the first five years built of logs, and many of them covered with the bark of trees. But as soon as saw-mills were erected, barns were built in good style and the crops and stock were well cared for. John Smith built the first framed barn; William Dustin the second, on lot No. 27, the 4th range. And in respect to stock, George Barnard brought the first two cows to the place from the French country in 1797. They were driven to Missisquoi Bay, sixty miles distant, to winter; as there was no hay in the place. Charles Clark took the first cow to the other part of the town, and prepared basswood leaves for her food in winter, but afterwards discovered a beaver-meadow near the Pinnacle, from which he cut some wild grass to help in the matter. The stock however from the earliest period increased rapidly; as they had in summer the whole range of the woods for pasturage, and in the winter the best of hay, cut from new farms. But cows, horses, and other animals often strayed in the woods, and were sometimes lost for days. They would however generally come out at some house in the neighborhood; and here, according to custom, they were taken care of till the owner called for them. A horse of William Barnard

was once found many miles from home, and so environed on the banks of the St. Francis that he could not make his escape, till discovered and relieved by some boatmen.

CHAPTER IV.

ROADS AND BRIDGES.

The state of civilization and the advancement of any people is usually indicated by the means provided for intercommunication. When the Jews were in a depressed state in the days of Shamgar and Jael, "the highways were unoccupied, and the travellers walked through by-ways." Among barbarous nations now, as for the most part throughout Asia and Africa, there are no good roads. Among the savages of North America, in the northern part of it, when the continent was first discovered, the same thing was true. But in South America where the tribes were more advanced, and in the southern part of North America, there were some regularly constructed roads, as from Vera Cruz to Mexico. And in British America the roads have improved just about in proportion to our advancement in other things. In Shipton we could very accurately define our condition as to intelligence and refinement by this particular feature.

The first road made through this township was from Lennoxville to the French country, in 1802.

It was made fifteen feet wide, the small trees and fallen timber only being removed. The next road was made from Richmond to Danville, as the settlement extended that way. It was continued from this place to Quebec in 1811. The labor was performed mostly by the soldiers of the 49th Regiment, under the direction of Gov. Craig, and thence called Craig's Road. Cross roads were made in the township from farm to farm, as they were needed by the advance of population. And although these were as good as the circumstances would allow, they were nevertheless very imperfect. In the fall and spring it would be difficult to pass on the lower or level grounds, from the depth of the mud. Many a horse-shoe has been left far beneath the surface, under roots that wrenched them off, and many a rider has been thrown upon the horse's neck or over his head in the operation. As a traveller was riding along near Pine Hill, a mile from Richmond, his horse's hoof caught in such a place and the shoe was torn off. The traveller alighted to find it, and, after digging out this, found four others under the same root. Wheel carriages were then not in requisition, as there were no roads over which they could pass.

In this state of things the inhabitants made arrangements to tax themselves so many days' work per annum. In this way they soon made the

roads more comfortable throughout the township, and the opening of Craig's Road to Quebec at the same time was an important item in their history. But before bridges were built, people often incurred great dangers in crossing the streams. John Smith once crossed the Nicolet when the water was three feet over the ice, with his oxen, and carried his wife over in his arms. The next day the ice cleared out. The first bridge across the Nicolet was built in 1810, and the other streams were bridged so as to make communication easy in all directions. The roads have improved from year to year by government grants to a very small extent, and by taxes on the people, which have always been well paid; and bridges have been built upon improved plans, till we are now scarcely excelled in any part of America. The bridge across the St. Francis River, connecting Shipton and Melbourne, was built in 1847, at a cost of about $20,000. And our railroads and telegraphic wires, extending in three directions, render our situation in this respect very desirable. Thirty years ago the mail came to Richmond but once a week; and before that time people at this place would scarcely hear from their distant friends once a year. Now important information can be received from the United States, or different British Provinces, in the shortest time.

CHAPTER V.

MILLS.

As the settlement of the township was in progress, the saw-mill and grist-mill became indispensable; the former to cut out boards and timber for building, the latter to prepare the grains for use. At first grain for grinding was carried in birch-bark canoes to the upper part of Ascott, a distance of nearly forty miles. Some was also conveyed in the same way up the river St. Francis and the Magog, and through the lake to West Derby. But the time and delays and expense were such as led many to prepare their grain for use by boiling it; and by seasoning it with various things, rendered it pleasant to the taste. Corn was also reduced to coarse meal by pounding it in mortars. These were made mostly from large stumps. The tops were cut smooth, and hollowed out in part with the axe; then the work would be completed with a fire made of cobs. The burnt part would then be removed, and the hollow made smooth with howels. A pestle was made to correspond, and hung to a spring-pole, somewhat in the manner

of a well-sweep. A pin was put through the pestle, which was drawn down with both hands, but raised again by the weight of the pole to which it was attached.

But such a state of things could not last long, and in 1802 both a grist-mill and a saw-mill were built at Richmond by Elmore Cushing. These mills were used five years, and then, in 1807, replaced by more substantial ones. The irons were obtained in Vermont, and a part of them brought through Lake Champlain, down the Richelieu and St. Lawrence, and up the St. Francis, in canoes; and a part drawn on hand-sleighs from Dudswell, by Prentice Cushing, then a lad of sixteen years old. These mills were again replaced by Wales's stone mills in 1824, the ruins of which are now seen in Richmond. A saw-mill and a grist-mill were next built on Clark's Brook, near Danville, in 1805, by Charles Clark. He selected the site from the top of the Pinnacle, whence it could easily be seen through a glass. William Barnard, Joseph Perkins, and William Runlet were with him for this purpose. These mills were a great blessing to the community, though a great loss to the original owners, on account of the sparseness of the population and the little custom they obtained. The water-wheel would often freeze up in the winter,

and the first customer who came afterwards would be obliged to wait perhaps a day for the wheel to be cut out and the grinding done. According to the hospitality of those times he would board with the miller free of charge, while the toll for grinding the little he would bring would be a mere trifle. The next mill in order was Huntoon's, on the Nicolet River, where George W. Leet's mills now are located, built in 1807 for sawing. About the same time another was built on the Doughty brook near Richmond. Leet's saw mill was built in Claremont in 1808, where Aloa Leet now occupies. A grist-mill was built in Danville in 1812 by Jesse Brown. Ladd's mills near the same place on Clark's Brook were built in 1815. Pearson's mill was built on the Nicolet river in 1820, where is now a considerable village, and whose mill site is owned by Jared and Wooster Willey. Other mills have been built in different locations and at different times, till now within the limits of Shipton, there are eleven saw-mills, four grist-mills, and two oat-mills; and in Cleveland there are four saw-mills. Those on the Nicolet, an excellent privilege, are owned by Alexander Willey, Jared and Wooster Willey, and G. W. Leet; those on the Bay Brook, by Abijah Benbank and Enoch Baker; those on Clark's Brook, by Mr. Telfer, and Hayes Gilman, A. Retus Yale and William Atkin-

son; on Leet's Brook, by Timothy Leet, William Baker, and Simeon M. Dennison. And as the surrounding country abounds in timber, and the demand for building materials is all the while increasing; and as the breadth of our grain crops becomes larger every year, these mills are doubtless remunerating their owners. At Richmond, in the township of Cleveland, water could be secured to any extent, by making a canal from the Saint Francis river, as it is from the Merimac in Lowell, Mass.; and machinery could be driven, and manufactories conducted, to the greatest advantage. The country needs these, and capitalists would do well to consider the matter.

CHAPTER VI.

STORES AND ASHERIES.

The mercantile interest is also very important in any community. Many things must be purchased and others sold, in order to our comfort and prosperity in all stages of civilized life. The individual who becomes the medium of exchange occupies a place of importance and usefulness. A fair bargain is one in which both parties are gainers, when the commodities received by each is better for him than what is given in exchange. And this should be the case between the merchant and the population that trade with him.

There have been a great many traders in Shipton since its first settlement. William Barnard kept some goods on Richmond hill in early times. But the first merchant properly so called was Charles Goodhue, who in 1810 occupied a part of Cushing's house as a store. Mr. Goodhue, however, soon built a tavern and store, where Job Adams now lives. These were both kept by Abel Bigelow, as a clerk under him. Causemore Goodhue built the next store near where Mr. Birnie's house now

stands, and which was afterwards purchased and occupied by Pierce and Johnson. William Wales was the next who commenced the business, a mile north of the village. He continued there for many years, but finally transferred his business to the village, at the Barnard stand, now occupied by Job Adams. Lovejoy and Edmonds also had a store in Richmond in 1825, and continued some years. Langdon, Goodal and Foster, G. K. Foster, and Foster and Macleay, have been their successors. William Wales, McLeod and McEwen, Gemmel and Job Adams, have traded successively in the store now occupied by the latter. Thomas Tait, Charles Gilman, Hargrave, McPherson, Benoit and Son, Benoit, John Griffith, William Brooks, Chalmers, Donelly, Alexander Gorrie, and Joseph Bedard, have traded also in the village of Richmond. There are at present five stores in it. In Danville, the centre of business in the other part of the township, Benjamin Wilcox was the first to commence trade in a log store near Rev. A. J. Parker's present location. Walter Wyatt, Lovejoy, Alpheus Smith, T. C. Allis, McDonald & Co., Hayes Gilman, G. K. Foster & Co., Foster and Cleveland, C. B. Cleveland, jr., A. C. Sutherland, and Baker and Noble, have followed each other, except the first two, in the same store. J. P. and I. W. Stockwell, Waters and McArthur,

Burbank and Cleveland, Goodhue and Farwell, Chester, Hovey, Dewey and Macleay, have traded in other buildings. Some of these men have accumulated wealth, and others have done little or failed; and the business is one fraught with anxiety and uncertainty, and the man who has a good farm, and is able to work it with his own hands, has no occasion to envy the merchant or the man of any other calling.

The pearl-ash may properly be brought in here, as it has been more generally an appendange to the store, the merchants carrying on the business in connexion with it. Much of their collections for goods was in the shape of black salts, which they pearled and marketed for cash or goods again. The first pearl-ash was built by Elmore Cushing and Son; the second by Capt. Ephraim Magoon, whose son Jacob has been working in a succession of them most of the time from 1805 till the present year. The third was built by Leet and Olney. The leading merchants, as Wales, Foster, and others, have usually had one, and the business is carried on to some extent now.

CHAPTER VII.

TAVERNS AND DISTILLERIES.

It is desirable for the weary traveller to find in every place the means of comfort and refreshment as he pursues his journey. And the tavern which is kept with neatness and taste, and according to the principles of good order and correct morals, is an ornament and a blessing. The place is remembered with interest afterwards by all who have passed through it and experienced the favor of such a home for a night. Abel Bigelow, Stephen Barnard, Otis King, Willard Benton, Leonard Thomas, John Hardy, and Job Adams have been the tavern-keepers of Richmond; of Danville, Stephen Gilman, Michael Lynch, and G. W. Hawse. And though, in the early settlement of the place, there was no tavern for some years, yet every man's house was open at that time to the weary traveller, and a cordial welcome was extended alike to the acquaintance and the stranger.

The distillery in early times was closely allied to the tavern, inasmuch as the one was a means of supply to the other of the article most abused,

and the influence in this respect being similar. Honorable mention must of course be made of their owners. Simeon Flint, Gordon Lawrence, Elmore Cushing, Col. Tilton, Ephraim Magoon, Joseph Shaw, Samuel Daniels, Avery Dennison, Harford Shaw, and Henry Bernard have each had a distillery in Shipton. As the potato crop was then abundant, each acre producing from two to four hundred bushels, most farmers would raise a large surplus to be converted into whiskey. The quantity produced must have been very great, as one man retailed 3000 gallons in a year. And though it was not drugged and adulterated, like the same article of the present day, yet its effect was most injurious. Intemperance, crime, poverty, and wretchedness have always followed in its train. Those who have witnessed the evening scenes in these distilleries, the gatherings of men and boys from the neighborhood, the songs, jests, and revelry that filled up the time, would not wonder at the worst effects that followed. And when we consider how the same liquid fire was carried into the bar-room, the store, and private dwellings, and was then so common in all departments of society, we shall at once see a prominent cause of all the evils that prevailed. How many expended the value of a good farm in this way in a few years! At the rate of twenty-five dollars

per year, and the annual interest of it for thirty years, nearly two thousand dollars would be worse than wasted. The loss of time, bad bargains, carelessness in business, and losses thus occasioned, superadded, lead us to understand in some degree the evils sustained by our predecessors from this cause, and the fitness of avoiding the snare ourselves.

But in palliation of their faults, it is to be remarked that they lived in the time of darkness on this subject. The light shed upon it now by the temperance reformation leaves us without excuse in the same. But it is a matter of congratulation that not a distillery is in operation now in the township, and that so few of our stores retail the poison, and that our private dwellings are generally free from it. And from the experience of the past we may look forward with joyful anticipation to the complete triumph of the Temperance cause.

CHAPTER VIII.

MECHANICS.

Among other mechanics needed in the settlement of a place, the blacksmith is peculiarly important. No progress can be made without his art. And as at the early settlement of this township the farmer was dependent on the blacksmith for his axe, hoe, pitchfork, and almost every other tool made of iron and steel, the trade was then more important, if possible, than it is now. Lot Wetherall was the first blacksmith in Richmond. Otis King, Edward Gustin, Levi Cleveland, Ephraim Driver, and others have followed. At Danville, John B. Emerson was first, Thomas Brooks, Jesse Baker, and Mr. Presby followed. Charles Cleveland, Joseph Brown, John McCoy, N. W. Willey, and Willard B. Hall are now pursuing the business.

The joiners and carpenters are also an important class of men. John Stevens was one of the first, and was very useful in helping the farmers in building and in making their sleds, ox-yokes, &c. Samuel Marstin was also a house-joiner, and his work is now seen in very many of the build-

ings in Shipton. He was accustomed also to make all the coffins needed at an early period, and to conduct the funerals. Marsh Martin was also of the same craft at Richmond, and remained there till he died, a few years since. Zepheniah Spicer, Jesse Crown, David Harvey, Daniel Adams, Holsey Cleveland, and Enoch Baker were also early on the ground and thus employed. James Boutelle has long been a cabinet-maker in Danville.

The first operative masons were Simeon Flint and Moses Hall.

The business of tanning was much needed here for a long time. Little leather was at first brought in and none made. Men therefore would use the hides of animals to make moccasins, tanned in an imperfect manner. When, however, a man had a side of leather, it was usually shared with his neighbors till it was all used. John Messervey commenced tanning at Richmond on a small scale previous to 1811. But in that year the first tannery was built by Job Adams, and carried on many years, Bigelow & Goodhue also built a tannery at Richmond in 1815, whose establishment was afterwards purchased and occupied by H. & C. B. Cleveland. Zerah Rankin followed, and is the present occupant. Whitcomb and Reuben Leet, jun., and Joseph L. Goodhue have been engaged in the business in Danville, the last of whom now

carries it on in that place. The tanners also carried on the business of shoemaking for many years, employing usually a number of men at the business. There were also scattered over the township many men who practised shoemaking to some extent, though their principal business was farming. Mr. Birnie, Mr. Blanchard, and several others carry on the business in Richmond; Mr. Goodhue, &c., in Danville. The saddler and the harness-maker at first were the shoemakers, though at the present time there are men regularly employed in that business.

John Conoly and John Lee were the first men here who devoted themselves to the business of tailoring. William Miller and others have followed.

Coopering was also a business required extensively in early times, as buckets and holders were to be furnished for every man's sugar-place, and barrels for pearl ashes, &c. No man, however, made it his exclusive business, but many practised it as an incidental thing.

Mechanics have greatly multiplied in later times, and a Mechanics' Institute and Library Association have been formed both at Danville and at Richmond.

CHAPTER IX.

PROFESSIONAL MEN.

The professional men of any place are very important. If they are of the right stamp, their influence will of course be good, while those of an opposite character may be instrumental of much evil.

The clergymen that have been connected with the township, or have performed occasional services here, are many. Of the Methodist denomination, Messrs. Hibbard, Badger, Plumley and Wilson, from the United States, and the two Popes, Messrs. Williams, Deputero and Stinson, from England, labored here occasionally up to 1826. The clergymen of the English Church, Right Rev. Bishop Stuart, Dr. Mountain, Rev. S. S. Wood and Rev. Mr. LeFevre, were occasionally here, and performed religious services previous to the same date. The Rev. A. J. Parker, a Congregationalist, who is now at Danville, commenced his labors there in 1829. In 1830 Rev. C. B. Fleming, of the English Church, commenced his labors in Richmond, and continued there for

eighteen years; the Rev. Mr. Simson for a few months only. Dr. Falloon commenced Sept. 1, 1848, and continues still a faithful and laborious pastor. There have been Roman Catholic ministers in the place, the last of whom is the Rev. L. Trahan. Rev. S. C. Swinton was minister of the Free Church for several years; and there have been others of other denominations occasionally in the place to labor for a season. Most of those have been good men, and useful in their place. The Rev. Edward Cleveland, Principal of Saint Francis College, is also a clergyman, of the Congregational order, a native of the township, and a a graduate of Yale College, Ct.

The lawyers have been few. William Brooke, Esq., at Richmond, and G. S. Carter, Esq., at Danville, are at present exercising the functions of their office in these places, and so far as I know are the only ones who have been located here. Our Circuit Courts have been established in Cleveland but a short time, and what little business was to be done in this line before, was done by non-residents.

As it respects physicians, we have had different ones. Dr. Cooney came to the place at the beginning, and was soon drowned. For several years afterwards Dr. Nichols, from Ascott, was the only physician to be obtained. And from the nature

of the case he could not be here often, as the distance to his residence was thirty miles through a wilderness. But in 1803, the Drs. Silver, father and son, came into the township, and have been very useful in their profession. The son is now living, though at an advanced age and unable to practice. But his past services will be remembered by very many with gratitude.

Dr. Jenks came to Richmond in 1820, and was a skilful and useful man. He excelled in surgery. Dr. R. N. Webber is the present physician in Richmond, and is considered an able man in the profession.

The physicians who have been located at Danville are Drs. Paul and Emmons, Perkins, Damon, McDougal, McBean, Glines and Moore; the last two of whom still remain, bearing the burdens and receiving the honors of the profession.

CHAPTER X.

RESOURCES OF THE PEOPLE.

As the principal employment of the people was agriculture, the earth of course was the great source of wealth to all. And from this they obtained their living, and increase in all the conveniences and comforts of life. And it has been principally by tilling the land that all the good we now enjoy has been obtained. But there were other incidental things that contributed to it. In clearing away the original forests, the farmers were accustomed to save the wood-ashes, and convert them into black-salts, potash, or pearlash. Four tons were thus made by Prentice Cushing in 1808, from the ashes saved in clearing sixteen acres. This was carried in flat-bottomed boats down the St. Francis to Three Rivers, and sold for fifteen dollars per hundred. Fifteen hundred barrels were conveyed to the same market that year down the river St. Francis, besides what was carried down the little Nicolet from Danville. The business doubtless increased afterwards, so that a very great revenue accrued from this source.

The ashes saved in clearing the land thus paid for the labor, and became a great help to the people in early times. So profitable was the business, that men would go into the woods, in the less busy seasons of the year, and fell trees and burn them for the simple purpose of converting the products into money.

As in the newness of the country the woods were full of game and the streams abounded with fish, hunting and fishing became a common employment in their season. The furs and fish thus taken became quite helpful in procuring a living.

And as the primitive pine forests were extensive and stood in all their beauty, and as lumber was an article that would bring the ready-money, this was made a considerable business in the surrounding region, and many resorted to it from this township for a winter employment.

But though these incidental employments were a source of gain, it is doubtless true that when pursued to the neglect of the farm, the final result was a loss.

CHAPTER XI.

CIRCUMSTANCES UNFAVORABLE TO ADVANCEMENT.

In all the circumstances of life Providence deals out her blessings with an uneven hand, usually mingling prosperity with adversity. This, as a moral discipline, is doubtless a means of our highest good. Hence we have cause of thankfulness, as well for judgments as for mercies. The lesson should be learned by all, and rightly improved. The township experienced different vicissitudes in her onward progress. And among her crosses and disappointments were several unfavorable seasons. From 1806 to 1809, and from 1814 to 1817, the seasons were cold, frosts were both late in the spring and early in autumn, and the crops were extensively cut off, or stinted in their growth. On the 6th, 7th, and 8th of June, 1816, there was a continued snow-storm, which covered the ground to the depth of more than a foot, killed the small birds, and destroyed much vegetation.

In 1806 also the wolves made great havoc among the flocks. The first mischief perpetrated by them was the destruction of thirteen sheep be-

longing to Hosmer Cleveland. But they continued their depredations upon other flocks, so that few were left in the settlement. Though the farmers made enclosures near their houses to keep them by night, the wolves went directly there and took them without fear or favor.

The evil thus occasioned will be better understood when we consider that wool raised by the farmers had been their chief dependence for winter clothing, as flax was for summer apparel. In those times the spinning-wheel and the hand-loom, instead of the piano and the guitar, were the musical instruments of every house. And Solomon's description of the virtuous woman applied well to the whole female population. "She seeketh wool and flax and worketh willingly with her hands. She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff. * * * She is not afraid of the snow for her household. * * * She maketh fine linen and selleth it. * * * She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness." By such economy men were able to keep out of debt, while they enjoyod the most substantial of the comforts of life. The wolves deprived them of this independence, and reduced them to the necessity of purchasing more at the stores and of involving themselves in debt.

The bears also were numerous and did some mischief. They often came into cornfields and helped themselves plentifully there. Like the wolves also, they made depredations upon their flocks. John Philbrick had eleven sheep thus killed in one night, and eight more wounded. They attempted also to kill a steer for Capt. Joseph Perkins. But being discovered in the act, they were not allowed to complete it. But as the steer was badly wounded, the owner killed and dressed him, and hung the meat upon a tree. The next morning he went for it, and found the bear lying under the tree closely watching the meat, as though it was his own booty.

These animals were often seen in the woods, but would seldom show signs of fight. One man, however, David Croutch, who lived in the place afterwards owned by Benjamin Burbank, a mile west of Danville, in going to William Barnard's for grain, saw a bear which was employed in digging and eating roots. He went very near him before he gave the alarm. But the bear being thus closely pressed, instead of running away, made towards the man as though he would attack him. Mr. Croutch, therefore, having no other weapon in hand, shook the meal-bag at him. The bear, being somewhat frightened at this unusual weapon of defence, turned aside and let the man pass.

Bray and Eber Willey, two brothers, were once in pursuit of a bear near Richmond. As they were driving him by the side of a prostrate tree, Bray directly behind him, and Eber parallel on the other side, the bear came to a hollow and attempted to elude his pursuers by passing under the tree. But Eber, before he had quite cleared himself, jumped upon his back and caught him by the ears. Two dogs caught hold of his hind parts, and the three held him till Bray came up and cut his throat.

These animals at that time were very numerous in the neighboring townships. And as bears are attracted by sweets, some people in New Ireland conceived the idea of catching one with black-strap, a mixture of molasses and whiskey. They put the black-strap into a trough in the woods, and waited some time for the approach of the beast. But as he did not come, and they grew cold and weary, they helped themselves too generously to the black-strap, and lay down and fell asleep. But the bear at length came and helped himself, and lay down to sleep also. In the morning the men opened their eyes first, and saw their sleeping companion by their side. And before old Bruin was aware of it, his life was taken from him.

The war of 1812 had also an unfavorable effect upon the settlement of the township. As the shadow of this had been seen for several years, and all the settlers were from the United States, many returned before the commencement. As others would not take the oath of allegiance, they were obliged to leave. Others also who would have come in were thus prevented. Those however who remained, always proved faithful to the Government, and showed a readiness, whenever required, to take up arms in its defence. Some did go into actual service. Half the militia of the township was once drafted to go to Montreal to defend the city, so that the soldiers there might go to meet Wilkinson's army, which was approaching by way of Chateauguay. Counter orders only prevented them from going.

I might also allude to the poverty of the first settlers as a hinderance to the rapid growth and prosperity of the township. For the first twenty-five years, with one exception, not a man came to the place worth over a hundred pounds, and few with that amount. Villages and towns soon become flourishing at the West by the importation of capital. But here the people were dependent wholly upon their own exertions. Before any enterprise could be begun that required capital, that capital had to be created on the ground.

The policy of Government at that time, and perhaps some other things, might be mentioned as counteracting influences.

CHAPTER XII.

HARDSHIPS AND PRIVATIONS.

From what has already been said, it will be seen there must have been many hardships and privations endured. As the settlement was begun at a great distance from other organized communities, the facilities to obtain the ordinary comforts of life were few. Provisions, tools, and other things needed were to be brought from distant places to make a commencement. I will barely adduce some instances to show the nature of the evils endured. Charles Clark once went from home on business, but agreed with a young man named Wiggins to convey provisions to his family in the meantime. The young man undertook to do as he had agreed. But on his way from Richmond to Danville, he lost himself in the woods, and was eight days in coming out again. During this time the family were destitute and came near the point of starvation. Mr. Clark also when at home was once so reduced himself by hunger and care, that he said he thought he must lie down and die. But providentially his boys

came in at that time, announcing that they had discovered some large fish in the mill-stream confined between sand-bars. Mr. Clark made a wooden spear and went to the place and caught seventeen large salmon. These restor d his strength and his courage and relieved his family for the time.

Another family at a certain season became much reduced during the protracted absence of the man for food. In the meantime the wife with two of her children picked over the straw in a neighbor's barn and collected from it half a bushel of wheat. This she boiled and prepared for the sustenance of the family till her husband returned.

About this time Timothy Morril, on the borders of the lake, had cleared some land but could obtain no grain for seed. The prospect before him seemed almost desperate. At night, his wife, who was the more considerate of the two, had thought long and seriously upon their situation, and often asked herself what could be done. She then fell asleep and dreamed twice in succession that wheat could be found in a heap of chaff under a neighboring barn. As she had seen wheat fall among chaff in the process of fanning it, and knew that chaff was in the place alluded to, the dream is accounted for in a satisfactory manner. She went the next morning with some of her family to

the barn referred to, and during the day they collected three and a half bushels of wheat. Thus they had sufficient for seed and some for grinding.

A certain family in the western part of the present township of Shipton was reduced to such extremities, that the best food that could be obtained for several days was boiled beach-leaves. But as the children thus became poor and emaciated, the mother went to the potatoe field and dug carefully under the hills, cutting off as much of the seed-potatoe as could be spared, and left the rest for reproduction.

Such facts as these occurred during the first three unfavorable years mentioned before. During the latter years of scarcity mentioned, near 1816, flour was eighteen dollars per barrel in Three Rivers, and wheat four dollars per bushel. Men would make pearlash and carry down the rivers to exchange for breadstuff and other necessaries at such a price. At home the frugal housewife would economise in the closest manner to make the most of the provisions she had. And among other expedients she would mix with the flour boiled potatoes and stewed pumpkins, to increase the amount of bread. And whatever herbs of the field would answer for food, as cowslips, nettle, pigweed, &c., were appropriated thus. In

the season of berries, families were known to live for weeks on raspberries and milk.

But poverty was not the only evil they suffered. It has already been stated that they were without a physician till 1803. There was much suffering during this period from the want of medical attendance. A son of Capt. Runlet broke his leg by the falling of a tree; and so badly, that the parts of the broken bone protruded through the skin, and was forced into the ground where he was crushed down by the tree. As no surgeon could be obtained, the father cleansed the parts and splintered them together as well a he could. The bone healed, but in a bad condition.

Soon after another man was badly wounded by the falling of a tree. John B. Labonté started for Dr. Nichols, thirty-five miles distant, on snow-shoes. The third day he returned with the doctor in the same way. So much hardship in this case devolved both on the patient and the physician!

Mr. Labonté himself, at an earlier period, during the process of surveying the township, wounded himself with a hatchet and was left alone on the banks of the Saint Francis, while his companions went down to the French country for provisions. Some Indians, however, providentially came along the same day in bark canoes and carried him away with them.

John Smith, also near Danville, injured himself at his work, so that he lay three months alone in a shanty; being visited occasionally by a neighbor, who afforded him some assistance.

A case of less importance occurred with a lad who stuck a fish-hook into the ball of his thumb. There was no one who understood that it should be forced out in the same direction, or who had the skill to do it. Consequently the hook was torn out of the flesh by violence, making a great wound, and producing much inflammation and suffering.

The typhus fever prevailed extensively in 1802, the year before Dr. Silver arrived, and many died with it. Thus we see the critical state of the people at this time.

Many other instances can be conceived and actually occurred of great hardship and privation during the first years of the settlement. I have barely mentioned the above as specimens of privation, and not as a complete list of the different cases that occurred.

CHAPTER XIII.

CASUALTIES.

As closely connected with the former, we may mention also some of the casualties of early times. The first which I remember was the burning of a house, in 1810, belonging to Benjamin and Joseph Willey, on the place now occupied by Mr. Bangs, near the Nicolet River. Their furniture, bedding, and clothing were all destroyed.

In 1823, Holsey & C. B. Cleveland had a currier's shop burned at Richmond, with tools and leather worth several hundred dollars. Mr. Levi Cleveland had two houses burnt in the same place, one after the other, with several thousand dollars' worth of property and accounts in them. Simeon Flint and Abijah Burbank have each had a house burnt in Danville, and Benjamin Wilcox a barn. More recently, as will be recollected, a number of buildings were destroyed in Richmond, the work of incendiaries, who are now in prison.

At an early period a Dutchman was drowned in the St. Francis two miles above Richmond, at a place which was then called "The Dutchman's Shoot."

Dr. Cooney, a physician who came among the first to practice medicine, was drowned by the upsetting of his canoe, in going from Richmond to Kingsey.

John Brockas, in coming from the French country to Richmond with a team, broke through the ice on the St. Francis, near Drummondville, drowned his oxen, froze his feet, which had to be amputated in part, and was thus made a cripple for life.

Jonathan Johnson, in driving logs down the little Nicolet in the spring, fell into the river and broke one of his legs, barely escaping with his life.

Joseph Hobbs, an old shoemaker, in going to Col. Tilton's for more whiskey, though pretty well under its influence then, in passing on the ice around Pine Hill, broke through where it had become weak by the whirling of the water over a rock, and was carried by the current down under the ice about a rod to a similar place. And thinking there might be some hope for him yet, he said "he swam up with all his might, *broke his head with the ice*, and came out safely."

John Slives, coming into the township from Quebec, froze both feet. which were amputated above the ankles. He was here supported in different families for two years gratuitously, when he learned the trade of a shoemaker and became able to take care of himself.

Nathaniel Clark fell from the collar beams of Ephraim Magoon's barn upon his head and shoulders, breaking some bones, but escaped with his life.

Numerous instances occured also in which men became lost in the woods, and much suffering occured in consequence. Similar things were common in the whole region around, when woods and habitations were few, and but few traces of human existence could be seen,

CHAP. XIV,

IMMORALITY.

Though the mass of the people of the township were virtuous, in the early years of the settlement, there was much immorality. Intemperance, as has before been shown was very common. Licentiousness was too prevalant. The Sabbath even was some times desecrated by gambling, and this habit became a great detriment to one of the villages. Different individuals might be mentioned who have exerted a very vicious and degrading influence. I shall however only name one, the noted Stephen Borroughs. He came here at an early period and began to make bills on the banks of the United States. His first location was North of Nicolet river, near the store of Roderic Macleay. An attempt was made to arrest him in his shanty where the work was carried on, but as the party came near, a friendly individual cried out loud enough to give the alarm, "there is his house." Borroughs immediately put on his snow-shoes, forward end behind, and went away, leaving the appearance of tracks toward his house, while he

was going from it. Whether this was an original thought, or whether the hint was obtained from virgil's description of Cacus, the son of Vulcan whom Hercules slew, who drew his stolen cattle into his cave backwards to deceive his pursuers, it had the designed effect. He escaped to John Harvey's, and was there concealed in a potatoe hole for a time, covered up so close, that he came near dying with suffocation. He afterwards went to Richmond Hill were he lived many years, at first employed in making *pictures* in the shape of bank-notes; but after laws were passed against this employment, he engaged in the business of instruction, in which he excelled and became quite useful. And I have often heard him say that his previous example was not to be recommended to the young, as he himself had lost every thing by it. Mr. Burroughs afterwards lived for a time in Montreal, and finally in Three Rivers, where he died. We see in him a melancholy instance of the finest natural talents perverted, and the highest earthly prospects thus darkened. His downward course began early, and the young of this day should avoid a similar course.

CHAP. XV.

CHARACTERISTICS OF EARLY TIMES

There is usually something pleasing in the peculiarities of new settlements. People who are thus brought together, subject to the same sufferings and hardships, and having the same common interests, sympathize with each other and cherish the spirit of mutual accommodation, more than in an advanced state, where each is more independent in himself. This seems to have been so at least in Shipton. As few were fully supplied with teams, tools and the various things desirable for comfort and convenience, it was customory to borrow, change work, and accommodate one another, in all ways which would be for their mutual advantage. A man would hardly feel at liberty to retain his axe, hoe, shovel, or team, if he could spare them when his neighbor was in want. And even money was common stock. An individual who had any on hand, would, as a general thing, loan it out without notes, bonds, or even interest. And such was their mutual confidence, that they never thought of fastening their doors by night, or of

putting any of their property out of sight to secure it. And when Walker, who lived on the place now occupied by Joseph Shaw, committed the first theft, he was regarded with horror by all. He stole a sheep, which be killed and placed in a trough in his cellar. But he was followed by the owner and detected. He was brought before William Barnard for trial. But by a little connivance, he was allowed to escape and leave the country for ever.

And though great hardships and privations characterized the community, they seemed hardly conscious of it, all, as a general thing, being happy and contented with their lot. Their common sympathy and friendly offices made amends for much that would otherwise have been felt the most deeply.

CHAPTER XVI.

EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS.

The educational interests of Shipton, from the nature of the case, could not receive the first attention. They were nevertheless kept in mind, and were attended to as soon as circumstances would permit; and our schools have been cherished and fostered and gradually improved from the first commencement up to the present time.

The first school in the township was taught by Miss Kimball, afterwards the wife of George Barnard. It was in the house of Job Cushing, and mostly confined to his family. There were still other schools taught in Richmond in private houses afterwards.

The first school-house was built of round logs, in 1807, near the house which is now occupied by Edward Cleave. Basswood plank, split or hewn, constituted the floor, benches, and desks. Dr. Silver was the first teacher employed here. The first school taught in Danville was in the threshing-floor of Ephraim Magoon's barn. Mr. Mountain was the teacher, a half-crazy man, who was

soon dismissed. The next summer, Mrs. Ezra Leet taught in a log-house near where Joseph Silver now lives. James Lord kept a school the winter afterwards, in the house of Simeon Flint. This was in the year 1812 or 1813. Nancy Flint taught one or two summers afterwards, in the same place. Sally Pierce and Betsey Daniels taught two successive summers, in the roof of Ephraim Magoon's distillery. Mr. Bore, a Methodist minister from England, taught a part of one winter, in a log-house belonging to Capt. Ephraim Magoon; and his son, John Bore, taught at the same time, over Nicolet. Abel Willey taught also in the house of Capt. Magoon for a time. Electa Adams was a teacher in Shipton in the winter of 1815; a very good teacher. There were also schools kept in Mr. Crown's house; at Jared Willey's; and in Claremont, near Royal Shaw's, in a school-house, the second built in the township. Another, near A. R. Leet's, was built soon after. The fourth was built, in Danville, in 1817; the preliminaries were arranged in the house of Hosmer Cleveland. The writer of this was present, and remembers the proceedings as follows. After a little conversation, Hosmer Cleveland said he would give ten dollars towards a house. David Harvey proffered ten more; Simeon Flint, another ten. They then looked to

Ephraim Magoon for an offer. He hesitated about giving ten; whereupon David Harvey, the principal poet of the place, soon presented the following specimen:

"His great farm is on a side hill;
Within the side there is a still;
His house stands in a valley:
And if for weighty purpose such
He thinks a ready ten too much,
The thought is but a folly."

This produced the desired effect. These four individuals afterwards doubled the amount then promised; which, together with other subscriptions, made up the number of two hundred dollars. Holsey Cleveland built the house for this money. The body of the present school-house in Danville is the same which he built, though it has undergone some alterations.

After the building had been raised, David Harvey, according to the custom of those times, attempted to give it a name. And standing upon the king-post, with his hand upon an evergreen tree which had been fastened upon it, the multitude—men, women, and children—standing around in breathless silence, he thus began:

"Let 'Art and Science' be our motto."

But here his memory failed him, owing to some circumstances that had just occurred, and he could

proceed no further. He repeated it however after the occasion was past, and it was much to the point. The second line was

"Let all contentions cease."

This school-house answered for schools and meetings many years. The winter before this house was completed, Samuel Daniels kept a school in the old log-house left by John Stevens, near where Rev. A. J. Parker now resides. At the close, he had an exhibition in Mr. Crown's mill, as the best place which could then be secured. The audience was very large, and the whole affair was satisfactory. Mr. Daniels delivered a long written address at the close, and, as the last thing advised the people to attend much to reading Among the books inviting their attention, he said, there was none more important than the Bible and Morse's Geography. He was however not behind the times. Geographies were not prepared at that time with an Atlas suited to the wants of the student. There was little else pursued in the schools but reading, writing, and a little of arithmetic. Teachers could not be procured who could conduct the scholar further. And the great waste of time in our schools from these circumstances can readily be understood. Suppose in one of our common schools the cost of board, tui-

tion, and books for a winter amounted to five hundred dollars. Now if from the incompetency of teachers, the unsuitableness of books, or any other cause, but half the progress was made which would be possible under more favorable circumstances, we should sustain a loss of two hundred and fifty dollars for that short period. But is it not true that such losses have been sustained in this township from the beginning; and is it not expedient that the causes should be guarded against in future?

There are twenty-five school-houses now within the limits of the original township of Shipton,—sixteen in Shipton, and nine in Cleveland. Suitable books have been prepared on all branches of study. Teachers of better qualifications can be procured, and the means of educating and preparing suitable teachers are now within our reach. The Academy which went into operation in Danville in 1855 may become most efficient in this respect, and exert a salutary influence every way in moulding the character of the young.

The first school-house built in Richmond was near the site of the English church. It answered many years for schools, meetings, and civil courts. An attempt was made some years ago to establish an Academy in that place, which failed. The people however have been more successful in their

attempt to found a College. The charter of St. Francis College was obtained in 1855, and a preparatory school opened. The buildings were completed in 1856, and the College has since been in successful operation. It is unsectarian in religion, though designed to exert an evangelical influence. And from the favorableness of the location and the thoroughness of instruction, we trust it will obtain suitable patronage, and be very efficient in preparing young men for the higher departments of teaching and for the learned professions, while the preparatory department will accomplish its object in training the young in the earlier stages of their education.

The Library Associations recently established both at Danville and Richmond, with their various means of promoting intelligence and the best interests of the communities, should not be overlooked. Our newspapers, periodicals and postal arrangements have also an important bearing on the interests of education.

CHAPTER XVII.

RELIGIOUS INTERESTS.

But as moral beings in a world of probation, we have still higher interests to promote. Our spiritual welfare is of paramount importance. And among the influences ordained to secure it, the Church holds a prominent place. The church edifice should therefore stand beside the schoolhouse. For although it has at some periods been thought that science and religion should be divorced, and scholars and divines have been sometimes jealous of each other, yet all facts prove that their legitimate tendency is to aid each other. While the Bible is a storehouse of facts and of the best thoughts, and puts us upon the right track in all our investigations respecting subjects of vital importance, all science contributes to establish its divine authority, and assists in explaining and enforcing it. The Church, therefore, with its ministry and Sabbath, and the various arrangements to carry out and accomplish its legitimate ends, cannot be over estimated.

But the church edifice in Shipton remained a long time to be built. It is true, school-houses and private dwellings were used for religious assemblies many years. Before ministers were employed in the place to any considerable extent, meetings were conducted on the Sabbath by laymen, and were undoubtedly attended with much good. The Sabbath was kept from entire desecration. A sense of moral and religious obligation was cultivated. The habit of attending public worship was formed to some extent, so that the work of gathering religious congregations became easier afterwards. And no doubt blessings came from above in consequence.

But ministers came long before a church edifice was built. The different individuals, as far as I recollect them, have been mentioned in the chapter on professional men. Although other ministerial brethren had performed labors in Danville more or less for the first twenty-five years or more, yet in 1829, when the Rev. A. J. Parker went to Danville, it had been left and was without a church or minister of any denomination. He labored for three years and then formed a small church, of the Congregational order. It has been increased from time to time till one hundred and seventy-nine have been connected with it, ninety-seven of whom still remain. In 1836 a comfort-

able place of worship was erected in the village. Holsey Cleveland, James Boutelle, and Abijah Burbank were the builders. A large congregation and a full Sabbath-school usually assemble there from Sabbath to Sabbath, and the successful pastor has grown grey in the service. The influence of this church has been favorable to all the interests of the people, inasmuch as it has been a spring of action in the right direction.

The Adventists have also a house of worship and a minister.

As the Congregationalists were the first who became permanently established at Danville, so the Church of England were the first at Richmond. The Methodists however had labored there, but finally located themselves on the opposite side of the St. Francis, in Melbourne. The site of the English church in Richmond was conveyed to the Lord Bishop of Quebec by Shubael Pierce in 1830, and the edifice soon after was erected. It was the first put-up in the township, except a small Roman Catholic chapel on Brand's Hill. And though there has been a variety in their experience, they have on the whole been prosperous, influential, and useful. The Roman Catholics were the second who built themselves a house of worship in Richmond, and their numbers and congregations are now large.

The Free Church came later into the field, and have now a convenient house of worship.

There are also four houses of worship on the other side of the river, in Melbourne, viz. the Congregational, Methodist, Kirk, and Adventist, whose members in part belong on this side. Some also from Melbourne attend religious worship in Richmond. There are also a few scattered members of three other denominations in the vicinity, making ten in all. It might therefore be inferred that the people are very quarrelsome or very devotional. But perhaps they are not distinguished in either way. The circumstances of former localities have for the most part occasioned the variety. And there is much among them all to commend.

But the number of religious denominations cannot be otherwise than detrimental to religious prosperity. From the feebleness of each, they cannot bring that influence against the cause of Infidelity and irreligion which might otherwise be the case. Their means also being scarcely adequate to support the Gospel among themselves, they do far less abroad. And there is a far less amount of preaching and religious influence on the whole in the place than there might be if the denominations and houses of worship were diminished by one half. The multiplication of religious denominations therefore tends to lessen the

means of grace. Hence we ought to preserve greater harmony in our counsels on religious subjects, remembering that union is strength, while divisions and alienations tend to weakness and dissolution.

CHAPTER XVIII.

THE CONTRAST.

In the preceding chapters we have considered the township at its origin, when the primitive forests covered the soil and the wild-beast roved over it at pleasure. But the forests have for the most part disappeared, and nearly every lot of land is occupied. A population of four thousand inhabitants are scattered through the two present townships of Shipton and Cleveland,—in the former twenty-five hundred, in the latter fifteen hundred,—possessing the advantages in a high degree which are usually found in an advanced state of society. The village of Danville contains about four hundred inhabitants, that of Richmond nearly as many.

There is in Danville the railroad station, 84 miles from Quebec and 12 from Richmond station. Several lines of stages also run to different places. There are in the township eleven saw-mills, four grist-mills, two oatmeal-mills, a wool-carding machine, a fulling-mill and a cloth-dressing establishment, an iron-foundry, a lathe-mill, a carriage-

shop, a chair-shop, a cabinetmaker's shop, a general manufactory, 4 carpenter's shops, 3 cooper's shops, 7 blacksmith's shops, 5 shoemaker's shops, 1 tailor's shop, 1 tin-shop with hardware, 1 tannery, 2 taverns, and 6 stores. There is also a school-house, an academy, and 2 church edifices.

There is in Richmond the railroad station, 72 miles from Montreal, 96 miles from Quebec, and 221 miles from Portland. Stages also run from this place to others in various directions. There are in the Township of Cleveland, of which this is the village, 4 saw-mills and 1 grist-mill; in the village, 2 bakers, 2 butchers, 3 blacksmiths, 3 joiners, 3 shoemakers, 1 tanner, 1 printing-office, 1 iron-foundry, 1 tailor, 1 wheel-wright, 1 land-surveyor, 1 railroad saloon, 2 taverns, 1 school-house, and 3 churches. St. Francis College has its location here, at the junction of the railroads, and the court-house is in the process of erection.

Most of the professional and business men, and the mayors of the townships, Enoch Baker of Shipton and C. B. Cleveland of Cleveland, reside in the villages. And throughout these townships and villages there is every appearance of industry and prosperity; and from their situation and circumstances they are destined to still greater advancement in all that is desirable. It is true, in some places at the West, society advances more rapidly

than here; but the wealth employed is not produced on the spot, being usually imported from the East. But where is there a community which has created its own resources, that has done better than this? Most of the original inhabitants and their children are now in possession of all the necessaries of life, and some are quite affluent. The means of mental and spiritual illumination are also abundant, and the prospects of the future are inviting and cheering. The laws of the country have been greatly improved, and the spirit of the age has had its effect upon us. How great the contrast when we look back through the space of sixty years, and consider the origin and progress of the township.

CHAPTER XIX.

CONCLUSION.

As we review the whole history thus set forth, we see in all the circumstances, manifest indications of the Divine goodness. That our lines are cast in pleasant places, and so many advantages have been secured for us, requires an acknowledgement of our indebtedness to our bountiful Benefactor. And the return suitable on our part is a heart of gratitude and devotion. At the same time, we should prove ourselves worthy of the high position we have attained, by acting in these circumstances in a fit and becoming manner. And it will be found that public spirit and liberality will always react upon ourselves for our own best good, while a failure here will greatly retard our progress, and perhaps keep us permanently on the background. And as those who have gone before us have suffered so much for us, we should feel our responsibility and act in view of it, both in respect to the present and the future.

And there is a duty devolving upon all. Our municipal organizations are important, and those

who are in authority under them should be faithful to their trusts. The school commissioners and teachers of youth have also a great and good work before them, and the faithful performance of it would be attended with the happiest results. But above all, our churches and religious institutions are most essential to every rational individual, and they should be sustained and promoted in every suitable way. As descendants and successors of our forefathers here, let us improve from their experience, cherishing the right spirit, and pursuing the proper course; and all our interests will be secured both for the present and the future, and the generations that follow will be benefitted and blessed in consequence.