CHAPTER XI.

LEGEND OF TIOUGHNIOGA VALLEY.

"Can you tell me a tale or some legend old,
Of the forest wild or the streamlet cold,
Where the Indian, hound, or the arrow flew,
Or the true hearts pledged their love anew?"

THERE are many interesting and instructive legendary reminiscences treasured in the memory of the young braves and chieftains of the scattered remnants of the Delaware tribe. They are particularly fond of rehearsing the unwritten incidents which form the only perfect memorial of the ancient history of their nation. The one which we are about to narrate was gathered from a source which entitles it to a place in our history, and the various corroborating facts derived from the traditions of the early Indian occupants of the Wyoming valley, clothe it with a garb of undoubted reality.

At a period far back in the annals of the heroic past, there were numerous Indian settlements clustered along the banks of the classic Wyoming, the majestic Susquehanna, the serpentine Chenango, and the ever to be admired Tioughnioga. Near the mouth of Cold Brook, a small tributary of the Tioughnioga, the Indians had established a small settlement. The wigwams were rudely constructed, yet sufficiently comfortable to answer

the requirements of these red dwellers of the forest. They belonged to the Leni-Lenape or Delaware tribe, which originally came from the eastern shores of the North American continent. They were a warlike people, proud and ambitious, bold and resolute. Early in the sixteenth century, they separated by common consent from a branch of the parent tribe, which had previously settled in the Wyoming valley. Here they came seeking repose by the side of the beautiful stream that flowed through the picturesque Tioughnioga. They were superior hunters, and lived chiefly by fishing or upon the success of the chase. As their numbers increased and their hopes brightened, the Mingoes, who were scattered along the shores of the great northern chain of lakes, became more or less jealous of the surrounding tribes, whom they endeavored to bring under their subjection, while they extended their jurisdiction over the hunting-grounds of their more feeble neighbors.

The impulses of the Lenapes were warm and ardent —their enthusiasm extravagant, usually leading to laudable ends. They frequently suffered from the incursions of predatory parties of Mingoes, who sought by stealth to lessen their means of enjoyment, or, if possible, arouse in them a spirit of revenge, that they might find in it a pretext for making war against them, and thereby exterminate or make them yield to their dictatorial notions of right. The aggressions of the Mingoes were carried on to the last point of forbearance, adding insult to insult, until finally the cry for revenge was only to be appeased by blood. The old chief was disabled by various infirmities from directing or taking part in the inevitable struggle for which the Lenapes were prepar-

ing. He had fought in many a severe battle, and had particularly distinguished himself in the fierce and bloody wars waged against the Alligewi on the Mississippi, as well as in the devastating incursions against the Mengwes. The scars upon his person were so many certificates of his valor ; and when he saw the storm rising and heard the elements muttering, his soul went up to the abode of the Great Spirit, invoking the assistance of the strong arm of Right in behalf of the oppressed. He called to his presence Ke-no-tah, a young and aspiring brave, and thus addressed him :

"I am an old warrior, but can no more go out to battle. When the moon went down, crimsoned with the blood of my people who fell on the shores of the Great Waters, I was borne from the victorious battle-ground covered with my blood. My father and brothers were among the slain, and I wept that my pierced limbs would no longer sustain this now withered and decaying body, for my heart thirsted for blood. I was then young and strong, and could strike for the hearth-stone of my cabin. A few moons more, and this branchless tree will have fallen to the ground. The night is dark and the wind rages—a storm is gathering about the Great Lakes. Our enemies will soon be upon us, and Ke-no-tah must nerve his right arm to crush the destroyer."

The dark eyes of the young brave flashed a falcon glance upon the venerable chieftain, as his tall and manly form assumed a still more noble and dignified appearance. "Give me," said he, "command of the braves, and we will go out to battle—we will consume

our enemies—we will drink their blood and devastate their homes."

A council of warriors was convened, before whom the powerful eloquence of Ke-no-tah was poured out like a wild gushing torrent, and he was at once chosen chief to lead the young and impetuous braves to battle. He had on several occasions evinced the true, native war spirit, having never faltered, not even when surrounded with darkness and danger, and, if the safety of his people required it, his blood should be poured out upon the red altar which the Mingoes had erected.

The sun had appeared in the orient sky, and his chariot wheels were fast approaching the zenith of the heavens. The dark green foliage clothed the ancient forest trees, the sweetest incense rose from the dewy flowers and was borne upon the balmy zephyrs, hill and dale were made vocal with the native songsters of the woods, the water of the beautiful river lay calm and smooth, and pure as a transparent sheet of glass, the antlered deer bounded over the hills, while at various intervals the scream of the wild bird was heard in the distance. All was peace and quietness in the little settlement. Suddenly, however, "the scene was changed." Three painted savages from the northern lakes appeared at the wigwam of the aged Sachem Conduca, demanding a surrender of their cabins, their arms of defence, and their hunting-grounds. Altahalah, the youngest daughter of Conduca, unnoticed by the invaders of her quiet home, silently withdrew from their presence, and hastily throwing her blanket over her shoulders, she bounded with the speed of a youg nfawn to the home of Ke-no-tah, to whom she had been promised in marriage.

"Brother! brother! they have come!—Fly! fly to the home of Conduca!" It was enough; the young brave, snatching his tomahawk and war-club, hastened to the relief of the worthy and much-loved chieftain. When he entered the cabin he found the Mingoes making loud threats against the peaceful settlement, and intimating that unless a general surrender was made blood would be spilt. This brought Ke-no-tah to his feet. The muscles of his face became suddenly swollen with passion, and his eyes flashed defiance as he thus addressed himself to the foremost speaker:

"Talk not to me of blood; it is my delight. It is the element upon which I live. I was not born like other warriors. I was never dandled upon the lap of a mother. A dark cloud came over the high hills, and from that cloud a thunderbolt was hurled against a large pine tree, shivering it to the stump, and from that stump I sprung up completely equipped for war. Blood is my delight! Vengeance is mine!" Such was the effect of his eloquence and manner that the Mingoes absolutely quailed before him. Thus finding all attempts at bringing the *Lenapes* to their desired terms, they left muttering curses upon the heads of Conduca and Ke-no-tah.

The day declined. The sable shades of night had curtained the earth, and the hollow murmurs of the storm-beaten tempest were heard advancing; anon the muttering thunder told the name of God, and the lightning's flaming wing pointed to his dwelling-place. But hark! what wild scream was borne upon the midnight air? It was the Indian war-whoop, and it fell like a death knell upon the ear of Altahalah. The Mingoes had suddenly fallen upon the little settlement, and

though but partially prepared to make a resolute resistance, were not to be defeated without one gallant effort forcountry and home,—aye, for their lives. The far-seeing eye of Ke-no-tah had watched their approach, and he had already gathered the young braves, as well as many of th e old scarred warriors, around,him. At the first shrill whoop of the invaders, Ke-no-tah and his brave warriors rushed like fierce blood-hounds from their retreat, and fell like a thundering avalanche upon the Mingoes,—whose spring was like the hungry panther as he leaps upon his prey, and whose deafening war-whoop was death ! The contest was short but terrible. The two forces fought with the fierceness of tigers, and when the battle-cry had ceased, and all was still save the low wailing of the wounded and dying, it was found that the Mingoes had fled, leaving the greater number of their well-trained warriors locked in the icy hue of death. The Lenapes had suffered severely, as but few remained to tell the tale of the horrid butchery. The banner of Ke-no-tah had triumphed.

The full-orbed moon rent her mantle of darkness and looked down upon the work of carnage, where many a brave and ardent defender of his rights had fallen. At this moment Altahalah was discovered, clasping in her arms the lifeless form of Conduca, and silently wiping the congealed blood from his wounds. Her face was deadly pale, and a cold tremor ran over her whole frame.

Relaxing her hold on Conduca, and looking down upon his livid features, she exclaimed, " Oh ! my father, my father, has the Great Spirit called thee hence to his

fairer hunting-ground in the brighter land of promise? or, hast thou fallen by the hand of the usurper, whose pointed arrow cleft thy warm heart?"

"Calm thyself," said Ke-no-tah; "the great Spirit has smiled upon the soul of the brave Conduca, and the strong arm of thy friend will protect thee."

A shriek burst from Altahalah, for at that moment a powerful, athletic savage, who had secretly stolen to her side, had seized her and was fast disappearing in the deep, dark wilds. Pursuit was immediately made, but the almost impenetrable thicket into which he had darted with the seeming celerity of a winged spirit, very greatly impeded their progress, and it was only occasionally that they were revealed to their pursuers by the sudden flashes of lightning that glared through the trees. The pursuit was continued until nearly morning, when all signs and traces of their flight were entirely lost. Returning to the place of massacre, what a heart-rending scene met their sight! Many of the dead and dying were still lying where they fell, pierced by the fatal arrow, or the hunting-knife, or still more murderous tomahawk.

"The gaunt wolf,
Scenting the place of slaughter, with his long
And most offensive howl did ask for blood,"

for they had come howling like so many demons to feast and surfeit upon the remains of the slain. It was with difficulty that they were driven back to the hills, or destroyed, that the wounded might be protected and the dead removed for sepulchre.

The last mournful rites having been paid to the dead,

and such protection prepared for the few remaining disabled and infirm warriors, with their wives and children, as the limited means allowed, Ke-no-tah gathered his bold and intrepid warriors who had escaped in the sanguinary conflict, and, putting himself at their head, again sallied forth into the unbroken wilderness to seek and recover the fair captive. Days, weeks and months were spent, but without avail. Once, however, Ke-no-tah supposed that Altahalah was almost within his outstretched arms. Descending a deep ravine, just as night had curtained the earth, a sudden flash of lightning gleamed across the dark mountain pass, and exhibited to view the reclining fugitives. Slowly, but silently, they pursued their way until they had approached within a few yards of the hated foes. Presently another flash of lightning glared fully upon them. There they were, sleeping upon the green verdure of the hill-side; but Altahalah was not there. Was she dead, or had she flown as the young dove wings its way from the talons of the eagle? These were questions which their unlettered minds could not solve. But they resolved that the score of usurpers should die at their hands, and they were true to their determination,—for when the next flash of lightning sent its livid glare over their dark features, they were cold, ghastly, dead!

Ke-no-tah called Altahalah, but he heard no responsive answer; and the horrid thought that she might be dead, or dying by starvation in the wild wilderness, came rushing upon his bewildered and maddened brain, and in his frenzied moments he smote his forehead in agony.

The Tioughnioga valley was deserted, for the red

men had abandoned their homes made desolate by the ruthless barbarity of the unfriendly Mingoes, and had joined the Monceys whose council-fires burned at Minisink on the Makerisk-kiskon, or Delaware river.

The evening shades were gathering their misty folds over the earth. The orient moonbeams sent a golden hue through the tall tree-tops, and the dark shadows of the gnarled oaks looked like huge monsters, as they loomed over the calm, still water. A dusky maiden reclined by the side of her native river, which lay as a polished mirror upon the wild bosom of nature. Her sweet voice, like an æolian harp, chanted the favorite air of her noble brave. She heard the tramp of the fleet-bounding deer, the hoot of the old gray owl, and the sharp, terrific scream of the panther. She saw their eyes glaring like fiery meteors in the thick underbrush near where she had selected for the night her moss-covered couch. Her hair hung in long dark braids over her uncovered shoulders; her eyes were black as the raven's plumage; her complexion of the purest olive, and her whole form of the most perfect beauty and symmetry.

Now she gazes upon a little cloud that is peering o'er yonder misty peak. A gentle breeze ripples the glassy waters; the cloud increases with terrific blackness; the wind sweeps by with tempestuous force; the moon is veiled from sight; one-half of the blue expanse is palled in the tapestry of gloom, and the other half exhibits clouds of every shape, now piled like Alps on Alps in snow-white purity, now bathed in purple, pink and gold; afar, the rumbling thunder is heard, and sharp flashes of lightning leap like tongues of fire

athwart the darkened sky: the rain pours down in torrents. But 'tis passed; delightful coolness fills the air, and all nature is refreshed. She gazed down the river, and her quick ear caught the sound of oars, for at that moment a canoe was gliding through the gentle wavelets. Her eagle eye discerned at a glance the richly ornamented crest and white plume of her favorite chief. Nearer and nearer it approached the shore—a stroke more—the young and devoted sachem leaped upon the shore, and ALTAHALAH was in the arms of KE-NO-TAH, her lover.

CHAPTER XII.

EARLY SETTLEMENTS AND ORGANIZATION OF TOWNS.

"Their fortress was the good greenwood,
Their tent the cypress tree;
They knew the forest 'round them,
As seamen know the sea."

It is a characteristic principle of the correct historian, to describe with the most perfect minuteness, the origin, or first feeble beginnings of a new settlement. These are usually read with more than ordinary interest, and especially if the pioneers suffered many and great inconveniences. In most instances, those progressive spirits possessed many of the self-sacrificing traits of character, kindred to those which contributed most essentially in providing the blessings of freedom which we now enjoy. They labored not alone for themselves, but for their children, friends, and country. It was no easy task to abandon the hearth-stone of their boyish days, the endearments of social ties, cultivated associations and the many luxuries common to settlements that have long prospered under the progressive spirit of civilization. It required something more than mere passive beings to convert these valleys into fruitful fields, or cause these rugged hills to yield forth the rich products of a virgin soil.

The early pioneers possessed something more than mere negative characters. They were bold, enterprising men, well suited to the task of preparing a lodgment in the wilderness. Nay, they were stern realities. The law of progress was most legibly stamped upon their characters. They exerted all their energies to the furtherance of the general improvements of the age in which they lived — whose forward movements were steady and firm as

> "The eternal step of progress beats
> To the great anthem, calm and slow,
> Which God repeats."

We love to study and contemplate the attributes of character which so peculiarly distinguished these brave and devoted pioneers, for great achievements succeeded their bold efforts for the extension of civilization. We delight in recurring to their history, for their good deeds and noble enterprises should forever live fresh and green in our memories, and stimulate us to deeds of patriotism, philanthropy, and a devotional fellow feeling worthy the descendants of those who warred with the mountain oak, when they struck their tents in the wilderness and grappled with stern adversity for the mastery. Their triumphs were of the noblest character, achieved by men whose native dignity and determined will made them what they really were—Nature's true noblemen. They were kind and courteous, possessing none of that apish pride so common among those of more refined regions. Their law of courtesy consisted of justice and equal rights. They loved truth, took pleasure in assisting each other, laboring to increase the happiness of

those around them. They lived not merely for the sake of living, but that good might result from their labors in the field of enterprise. To slumber on in undisturbed repose, or waste their time forgetful of the object of their creation, or the duties of active men — to live, breathe and move as though the world's prosperity and adversity to them were alike—to stand as marble statues in the great waste of time, or voluptuous monuments of ease and indifference, they regarded with the most utter abhorrence. Such men have been the forlorn hope of marching armies and tottering empires. Such were the ever-conquering spirits whom Napoleon held in reserve to strike the blow that should send consternation and death through the ranks of his iron-clad opponents. Such were the resistless and stern actors who, in the bloody conflict which gave an immortality to Wellington for his heroism upon the field of Waterloo, hewed their way to victory or death. Such were the champions of heroic valor, who left the sunny plains of Italy, camped along the banks of the noble Tiber, and finally put forth an impulse that gave a historic immortality to the seven-hilled city, over which was reared the standard of ancient Rome. Such were the daring men of our country's Revolution, who, amid death and desolation, strove to erect the temple of Liberty and Independence. Such were the men who converted our hills and valleys into green pastures and fruitful fields.

The hardy adventurers who first struck their tents along the banks of the Tioughnioga, or reared their rustic cabins on our hill-sides, were subject to incidents common to all pioneers, and which, to them, were full of

point and interest. Many of them suffered severely during their long and weary journey to their forest home. Looking back through the dim distance of the past, we behold a little company of bold spirits slowly winding along the banks of the majestic Hudson. Day after day they toil onward: night after night they sleep in a Connecticut covered wagon, or retire to rest beneath the branches of some huge umbrageous tree, or near by some sparkling fount or limpid rill. They have left home and friends behind, and, like the pilgrims who braved the dangers of the stormy ocean, have resolved to seek a home in the new land of promise. Some of the number, having never seen an Indian, and being unacquainted with their pacific character, were constantly tortured with the idea of being massacred, or perhaps carried away into hopeless captivity. They had read the murderous tales drawn from the bloody scenes of the border wars of New York and Pennsylvania, and had listened to the startling incidents connected with the heroic struggles of King Philip—scenes of devastation and blood, the bare recital of which sends the blood curdling to the heart. As they approached the Mohawk valley, they were met by half a dozen Oneidas, who, in a most decorous and courteous manner, inquired with regard to their health and destination. Their manner, at once so agreeable, struck the ladies with astonishment. The warm shake of the red man's hand became in after time associated with some of the most interesting incidents connected with their adventurous wanderings.

'Tis night. They have paused for repose in a dense wilderness, and their camp fire is already blazing by the

side of a majestic old oak. The last quart of Indian meal is hastily converted into journey cake, the time-worn tea-pot is replenished with a few leaves of old hyson, and the only remaining venison shank assists in the preparation of a plain, but wholesome dish of soup. The end board of a wagon serves for a table, being elevated on a little hillock, around which the company gather to partake of the simple repast. The hoot of the old gray owl is heard in the distance, while the howl of the wolf and the scream of the panther mingle their discordant notes in the mountain gorge. Vapory clouds had o'erspread the face of heaven and shut out from view night's diadem. Far to the northward was heard the rumbling thunder, and anon the forked lightnings dashed athwart the aërial sky. But look ! the electric fluid has descended and shattered a sycamore of three centuries' growth into a thousand fragments ; suddenly the little band grouped about the table are startled by the well-known bark of the old house-dog. At a few rods distant are seen two globes, of fire-like brilliancy. The unerring gun is seized, and quick is heard the sharp report of the Yankee rifle, succeeded by death-like screeches, as some unknown form bounded away in the thicket. But hark ! the death-struggles of the huge monster are heard. A torch is snatched from the camp fire. The Yankee rifle is reloaded with a double charge, and three of the adventurers go in pursuit of the wounded animal. They had not proceeded over ten or fifteen rods, before they came upon an enormous panther weltering in his blood. The shot had taken fatal effect. Another report of the rifle was heard, and all was still. A quarter of an hour after, the animal lay stretched out

before the camp fire, and was found by measurement to exceed nine feet in length.

An hour after, the clouds had disappeared, and the stars

> "That point with radiant fingers
> Thro' each dark greenwood bough,"

looked out in beauty from the vaulted sky,

> "Girt with Omnipotence, with radiance crowned
> Of majesty Divine."

Before the sun had flung forth his flaming beams along the orient sky, the little band of brave pioneers were toiling onward, having disrobed the panther, and left his skinless form to the protecting care of the hungry hyena and rapacious vulture. They passed with entire safety through Indian settlements, receiving the frank expressions of friendship whenever met by any of the roving natives, who, although unwilling to give up their hunting-grounds without a satisfactory equivalent, would not condescend to offer insult, or treat with contempt or indifference their more powerful rivals. They subsisted for several days almost entirely on the wild game of the woods. An old lady, relating to us the hardships through which they passed, remarked, that "had it not been for the deer that roamed at large, they should have suffered still more severely, and perhaps even unto death, as roots and venison were their only food for many a long and gloomy day." And the tears came in the eyes of this sainted mother of Israel, as she told her tale of privation, suffering and sorrow.

There were several families that came in during the

winter season, and were consequently subjected to unusual hardships. The great depth of snow that frequently fell impeded their progress. The Indian trails were often entirely hidden from sight. Then again, another great difficulty interposed almost insurmountable barriers. Many miles had to be traversed, without roads, and in a dense unbroken wilderness. Much of the country through which the pioneers passed presented a very level surface, which, when covered with forest trees, was wet and swampy, and from which arose the foul miasma which not unfrequently generated disease,—if not fevers of a malignant cast, at least those horrid ague chills, which often undermine the strongest constitution, and lead the unhappy victim to prostrate the system still lower with the thousand nostrums and humbug panaceas of the day. There were numerous instances where their progress was obstructed by various obstacles, and to an extent to preclude their making over five or six miles per day; and we have been informed of an instance, where the company, for several successive days, did not exceed three. To us, in these days of progress and steam, it seems like making slow headway if we do not exceed twenty-five miles per hour.

But the idea of being in a dense forest, with little suffering children pleading for food, without having the power to satisfy those wants, is most horrible. And yet such occurrences were experienced by some of the first settlers of this county. What mighty changes have been wrought by the finger of time! What stupendous obstacles have been overcome. The heavy forest trees, over which for centuries the lurid lightning wheeled in awful grandeur, and through which the untamed whirl-

wind swept—those mighty forest oaks which defied the the blast and the storm, have been removed. The rock-ribbed ridges have been converted into productive pastures, and the pestiferous marshes of the Mohawk now form one of the finest and most valuable agricultural districts in that region of country. The Indian trails have disappeared, and in their places have been substituted excellent roads. The terrific howl of the wolf has given place to the sharp, shrill scream of the locomotive whistle. An enterprising population is located in the valleys and scattered over the hills. Wealth has sprung up in almost every department of business, and Mammon stands, with brazen front, contending for power and place.

A New Englander, on his way to this land of promise, who had passed in safety through the northern wilderness, undismayed at the growl of the bear, the howl of the wolf, or the frightful scream of the great northern panther, had arrived within a few miles of Manlius, when suddenly his dream was changed to positive reality. A man of surly, dark features, tall, erect and commanding figure, presented himself before the astonished New Englander, and very politely demanded his money. To this unexpected appeal the Yankee demurred. He did not discover the means by which he was to receive any benefit from such a kind of procedure, and frankly told the supposed wild man of the woods that he had no money for him, and threatened him with a severe caning if he did not depart and leave him to proceed on his journey. But the French trader (for such he undoubtedly was) was not so easily to be put off. Summoning all his commanding powers, he, in a tone the most au-

thoritative, again demanded the granite rocks. But the reply was equally authoritative, that he could have none. Then said the highwayman, "give me the hand of your beautiful daughter—*amor vincit omnia.*"* But the stern old man thundered in his ear in tones the most indignant, "avaunt! scoundrel, avaunt!" Still the higwayman persisted in his unjust demands, brandishing a large hunting-knife over the head of the unarmed pioneer. Suddenly, however, the scene changed, for the invincible New Englander siezed a bludgeon of wood, and in an attitude at once threatening and alarming, made for the wretch who hoped to wrest from the worthy man, not only his treasure of gold, but the idol of his heart; but his shadow was fast disappearing in the thicket before him, from which he did not again venture for the purpose of molesting the stern old man of the granite hills of New England.

The timber was generally of heavy growth, a fact going far to sustain the generally conceived opinion, that the Indians had not for at least two centuries made any very successful attempt at cultivating any portion of the Homer flats. True, we have the opinion of an aged Oneida sachem, and also some traditionary evidence, which go far towards establishing the fact of there having been, anterior to the sixteenth century, a race of red men located along the western shore of the Tioughnioga river, and that by intestine broils and internal commotions they were entirely destroyed. There have been instances in which arrow points have been found imbedded in the hearts of trees of great age,—at least the

* Love constraineth all things.

concentric circles would indicate that they were of more than four hundred years' growth.

During the spring of 1855, while engaged in excavating a mound of earth, we were surprised on finding that it contained specimens of charcoal, in a perfectly sound state. There were also fragments of mouldering bones, and singularly wrought impressions on the surface of dark, slatish-colored stones. How, when, or by whom these deposits were made, are questions which we leave for geologists to solve.

The heavy growth of forest trees was a great drawback to the more rapid improvement of this section of country. At the time the first permanent settler located in the county of Cortland, the Phelps and Ghoram tract was being rapidly settled. The Indian title to the Genesee country had been extinguished prior to that of the Military Tract. And the inducements to settle on the former were much greater than those held out in behalf of the latter. Individuals, natives of Massachusetts and Connecticut, were personally interested in the Phelps and Ghoram purchase, and consequently possessed considerable influence over the greater proportion of those who migrated from the New England States; and in 1790 about fifty townships had been sold. A monster, hideous to the sight of the Six Nations, sat in his den of unhewn logs at Canandaigua, cutting up the rich hunting-grounds of the Senecas into gores and townships, and disposing of them at a mere nominal price, which of course had a strong tendency to facilitate the more rapid settlement of the Genesee country. Many of the original claimants to military lands were dead; others had disposed of their right, which, perhaps

in turn, had been transferred to a third, fourth, or fifth purchaser, which in the end gave rise to many litigated contests before the titles were permanently settled.

Aside from the many privations and hardships endured by the early adventurers in reaching their various points of destination, they were subjected to many and great inconveniences after they had arrived at their new homes,—having no floors to their dwellings, save such as were constructed from split logs; using blocks for chairs, poles tied at the ends with bark for bedsteads, and bark for bedcords; chips for plates, paper for windows, sap troughs for cradles, and so on to the end of the chapter.

The first crop of grain grown by the primitive settlers was a half acre of corn, one third of which was eaten while green. The small amount of meal brought with them at the time of moving had already been consumed, and of necessity they had to resort to various expedients to sustain life and drive away hunger, and as a substitute for the more favorite and substantial food, they dug ground nuts, and many nutritious roots, and after boiling them for a length of time, ate them with a relish quite unknown to that class of "upper tens" of the present day who are living in castles of ivory, or mammoth structures which have been reared by the productive labor of others. In the settlement of western, or central southern New York, we have heard of but a single instance in which this mode of living was surpassed, and that was by Oliver Crocker, who in an early day came into Broome county with a pack on his back, and, while engaged in "clearing his land, lived for some time on roots and beech leaves." He was at this

time only eighteen years of age—had been for two years in the employment of Elder Joshua Whitney, when he found himself able to purchase four hundred acres of land. He became a very enterprising and wealthy man, yet held a most perfect abhorrence of that species of popularity which is purchased at the shrine of gold. His property did not lift him above the common level of humanity.

As soon as the corn had become partially ripe, a quantity was gathered, and after drying, was, by means of a stump hollowed out for a mortar, and a pestle hung to a well-sweep, pounded into coarse meal, which by boiling was coverted into samp or hominy—a most excellent and healthy dish.

The family of Mr. Morse, the pioneer of Cuyler, lived the greater part of one summer, on greens, and yet did not repine, but looked forward for better days.

There were resolute, determined actors, with strong arms, at war with the ancient forest trees. The wilderness was doomed to disappear. Migrators were launching their frail crafts upon the Hudson, forcing their canoes along the Mohawk, Unadilla, and Susquehanna, eagerly pushing forward, with a longing wish for a glimpse of the Onondaga, Chenango, and Tioughnioga. The panther, the wolf, the bear, the deer, and the thousand homogeneous tribes of fur and bristles, were retreating to the swamps and miniature mountain passes with a present prospect of safety from the leaden missiles of New England rifles. The proud old Romans, the native dwellers of the woods, began to exhibit strong symptoms of jealousy towards the "pale faces," who were thus encroaching on their rights; and even

"barbarism drew its fantastic blanket over its shoulders, and, clutching its curiously-wrought tomahawk," was seen "withdrawing to other solitudes, jingling its brazen ornaments and whooping as it went." Improvements rapidly increased, and settlements multiplied. The soil being rich and productive, other crops came in, were harvested, and converted into wholesome food. At this time there were no roads, save such as were made by following the Indian trails, removing the larger logs, cutting away saplings and under-brush barely sufficient to admit of the passage of a team. Eight to ten days were required to effect a commercial intercourse with Chenango Forks, forty miles south; six to eight with Ludlowville, twenty-five miles west; and about an equal number with Manlius square, thirty miles north, at which place they procured salt and grinding. At the former and latter, they purchased tobacco, and linsey-woolsey, while for axes they went to Cazenovia. Tea was an unbearable extravagance. True, a few of the more thoughtful had laid in a small quantity, before leaving the "land of steady habits," and this was resorted to only on extra occasions. An elderly lady told us of a long expedition made by her husband to Ithaca, and how her heart was gladdened on his return, on learning that he had purchased a whole half pound of *Bohea*. It was indeed a luxury.

But now that the delicious article was obtained, its stimulating and soul-cheering effects must be enjoyed. The whole neighborhood received an invitation to come in and spend the afternoon in a social chat, and testify to its merits. The afternoon came, and with it the company. The daughter, a flaxen-haired girl of sixteen

summers, not forgetful of the generous sympathies that prevailed among the primitive settlers, had, in the meantime, contrived to despatch a special messenger, bearing an affectionate billet-doux, to her dear devoted friend John,—a very worthy young man of another settlement,—requesting his presence, inasmuch as they were intending to have a kind of glorification over the choice beverage. She was entirely free from deceit, dishonesty, haughty pride and fashionable idleness, and frankly told her friend that her mother was in want of a tea-pot, and hoped, inasmuch as his mother had one of revolutionary memory, and which had been used by his grandfather in the camp, that he would do her the favor to bring the article with him. John came, and, true to the desired courtesy, brought along the old war relic, and placing it on the slab table, very coolly remarked that he was somewhat given to dreaming, and that in one of his favorite reveries he had dreamed that a party of friends were to be convened at the double log house ; and presuming that the olden trophy of a passing age might be serviceable, had, at the risk of being laughed at, obeyed the direction given him in his nocturnal visitation.

The explanation of John was received with a hearty laugh, and a grateful expression of remembrance on the part of the mother. Not one of the company ventured to whisper a suspicious thought. They could not be so unkind. The visit was really enjoyed, and the *Bohea* proved a most valuable auxiliary in giving life and spirit to the frequent interchange of sentiments.

We were told by Mr. Lilly, that at a later day, himself and brother went on foot to Genoa and Scipio, to

reap wheat. They labored five and a half days each, and earned eleven bushels ; threshed and carried it to mill, one mile east of Moravia.

We have been told of numerous instances of a like persevering industry and kindly attention to the wants of the dear devoted ones at home—of the father or eldest son setting out with a sack of grain on his shoulder, for a journey of twenty-five, and even forty miles, to a mill, in order to secure the wherewith to supply the place of the fast disappearing loaf. It was, however, a prevailing custom, when necessity did not demand more immediate attention, for one who was blessed with a team to take the grists for a whole neighborhood—an act evincing a generosity of sympathy peculiar to new settlements.

A grist-mill at a distance of twenty-five miles was of valuable consideration, when compared with a mortar and pestle.

Linsey-woolsey was a great achievement when allowed to take the place of buckskin pants and jacket coats. Glass windows were regarded as a very great improvement over those fashioned from paper. A service of earthen ware, when allowed to supplant the place of chips and wooden trenchers, was a luxury most ardently desired ; and when a cherry table graced the kitchen, it was looked upon as a mark of increasing prosperity. A wagon with wooden springs attached to the seat, was procured at a most exorbitant price, and was regarded as a luxury to be enjoyed only by the few. A horse was almost deified. They had but few barns, and these were rude huts, their grain being stacked out door, winnowed by the breeze of heaven,

placed into sacks and swung across the beams of the kitchen. Stairs were not yet thought of, and a garret floor was shrouded in their undreamed of philosophy. If they were not the days of gentility and refinement, they were at least the days of lustihood, generosity, and good fellowship. Respectability did not then consist in wealth alone, and a mean and beastly selfishness would have been despised, even though clothed in "silk and faring sumptuously." Indeed, greatness of character did not consist in fine houses and broad acres. Forced smiles and hypocritical pretensions, were reserved for older, and perchance, more refined regions. Land sharks, money shavers, and political gamblers, were not of their order. They possessed not only muscles, sinews and bones, but a fleshy form, containing a human soul. They were not automatons—they could appreciate a good act, and return a favor without accompanying it with a grudge.

Previous to 1791, the territory now comprised within the county of Cortland was known to the whites only by charts and maps, and though forming a constituent portion of the State of New York, was regarded, on account of its location, of but minor importance.

HOMER.—In 1789, Amos Todd and Joseph Beebe migrated from New Haven, Conn., and located at Windsor, Broome co., N. Y. In 1791 they removed from Windsor, and were the first of the noble pioneers who planted the standard of civilization in the Tioughnioga Valley.

These enterprising spirits were accompanied by only one lady,—the sister of Mr. Todd, and wife of Mr. Beebe.

We shall not stop here to recount the various degrees

of unremitting toil, privation and effort through which they passed in their journey to their new and uninviting home.

Mr. Beebe erected his house north of Homer village, near the upper bridge, on ground now occupied by the residence of Joseph Burt. In our mind there is no doubt existing with reference to the locality of Mr. Beebe's house. His son Spencer, who, in 1852, died in a prayer meeting at Harrison Valley, Pa., has left some early reminiscences and data, together with a map, which accurately describes the Tioughnioga, and marks the location of the first four dwellings erected west of the river. These are now in the hands of the writer. The edifice would illy compare with those now occupying the adjacent grounds. It was in the main composed of poles, twelve by fifteen feet. Before this temporary abode had been completed, their team strayed away in the woods. Leaving Mrs. Beebe alone, they set out in its pursuit. She had no protection except the four walls of poles, without floor or roof, and simply a blanket stuck up with forks to cover the space intended for a door. The husband and brother were absent three days and nights, and during the long and lonely hours, Mrs. Beebe maintained a tranquil mind and received no annoyance, save such as was caused by the howling wolf and screaming panther, of whose rapacity for blood she had often heard, and whose terrible yells made night hideous and tenfold more alarming to the tender feelings of a sensitive female. She received but one call, and that was from a wolf, who, being rather timid, only displaced the blanket sufficient to introduce his phiz and take a look at her ladyship.

During the following winter, Messrs. Beebe and Todd returned to Windsor for their effects, and were snow-bound for six weeks. Mrs. Beebe remained at home, the sole occupant of her palace of poles. She must have been blessed with more than ordinary courage and fortitude. Probably but few women in these days of modern refinement, similarly situated, would exhibit an equal amount of patience and force of character. Let us not be understood as wishing to speak disparagingly of the females of the present day : far from it. Circumstances give an entire change to human character. The elements of which it is composed, are variously operated upon. Other circumstances might have made Lord Byron a Washington, or Washington a Byron. Education, properly considered, is everything.

It was a cold day in the middle of winter. Their goods were closely stowed away in their little craft, and as they "pulled away from the shore," and bent their course homeward, a farewell shout echoed from shore to shore.

Arriving at Binghamton, they were joined by John Miller, Esq., father of deacon Daniel Miller, whose company was very acceptable to these half land, half water craftsmen.* The men took turns in directing the course of the boat, while the others followed on foot along the shore of the river, removing obstructions, and driving the cattle. When the stream was too shallow, the boat was drawn across the rifts with their oxen, and then

* Mr. Miller was a native of New Jersey. He lies entombed a short distance south-east of the County House, where four generations of the Millers "sleep."

again set afloat upon the watery element. Then the facilities for moving goods were in wide contrast with those of the present day. Then they were not even favored with a common highway over which to transport their property, but were gratified in having the power to lend a strong arm in propelling a common Indian canoe. Now, in addition to the various other facilities, we have the powerful aid of the Iron horse, whose limbs are steel and whose lungs are fire, and by whose generous assistance the rich treasures of the East and the valuable products of the West are unladen in the very lap of the fertile valley through which he passes, belching fire and smoke.

The brave and hardy pioneers are approaching their new home. There stands the humble cabin, containing the soul and centre of Mr. Beebe's felicity. In the door appears the young and cherished wife of fond affection, ready to greet her more than "noble lord"—her generous hearted husband. She is a high-souled, noble-hearted woman, worth more than gaudy gems or golden crowns. For six long weeks she has been a lonely inhabitant of the valley, and during the stormy days and darksome nights, she was truly "monarch of all" she "surveyed." And now she rushes from her forest palace, with heart all kind, and eyes all bright, with form and mien glowing in the sunlight of pure affection, radiant with hope and beauty, as though just baptized in the sparkling fountain of ever blooming youth.

The sable shades of night have curtained the earth. The moon rolls high in the vaulted dome—the stars look out in beauty from the radiant sky; and joy reigns in the cottager's home,—for peace and gladness dwell in

the breasts of all as they gather around the social board to partake of the frugal repast prepared by the hand of her who had left the home of cherished friends to become the copartner of him who had reared the seat of his chosen empire amidst the stillness of the primeval forest.

Mr. Miller made some explorations of the country bordering East and West River, and then returned to his home near the noble Susquehanna. In the spring ('92) Mr. Miller, John House, James Matthews, James Moore, Silas and Daniel Miller, came in from Binghamton. Camping at the forks of East and West River, they built a fire against a large oak tree, a portion of which is still remaining. Here the women remained, while their husbands went forward and erected cabins for their temporary residence.

Squire Miller, located on lot 56, erected a house near the willow trees ;—almost every person has been made acquainted with their history—how the original sprout was purloined from its parent tree by Dea. Miller, when returning on horseback from a visit to his friends in New Jersey, giving great offence to its owner, and how it served its new possessor in the capacity of a riding whip—was afterwards stuck in the ground, where it took root, sent out numerous branches, some of which have grown to fine trees,—ornaments to the ground on which they stand. Mr. Matthews built on the upper end of the same lot. Mr. House about eight rods northwest of the residence of Ebenezer Cole. Mr. Moore near the bridge south of the Cotton Factory.

Darius Kinney came from Brimfield, Massachusetts, in 1793, and located on East River. About this time, Mr.

Beebe abandoned his place of poles, and settled on the premises of his brother-in-law, Mr. Todd, on lot 42, west of the village.

Roderick Owen came from Lebanon, N. Y., and located about one hundred rods south-east of the residence of Dr. Jones.

The Ballards were from Holland, Mass. John first located on the east side of the Tioughnioga ; three years after, settled on the farm at present owned by Paris Barber. It was owned at this time by Capt. David Russel, who had but recently located, and erected a double log house near the north-west corner of Mr. Barber's orchard.

Another company came in by way of Cazenovia through Truxton, in 1794, pioneered by Jonathan Hubbard, and Col. Moses Hopkins. The former of these settled on ground now covered by Cortland village, and the latter one mile west, on lot 64.

During the year 1795, several companies came in by way of Manlius and Truxton. Thomas L. and Jacob Bishop came in from Brimfield, and located on lands now owned and occupied by Noah Hitchcock. In an early day it was known by the name of the Vanderlyn farm. Lot 25.

Thomas Wilcox came from Whitestown, N. Y., and located on Lot 64, where Joshua Ballard now lives.

Zebulon Keene located on the farm now owned by Mr. Sheffield. John Stone, originally from Brimfield, settled on the Albert Barker farm, lot 25. Joshua Atwater, father of Ezra and Joseph, located on lot 13.

Libeus Andrews came from Hartford, Conn., purchased and settled on land south of Mr. Kingsbury, lot 56.

John Keep, Solomon and John Hubbard came in from Massachusetts, and selected various locations. Mr. Keep made a permanent settlement on lot 56, and built the original part of the County House. Solomon settled on lot 25, and John on lot 26, where his son Lyman now resides. His house, when originally erected, was regarded as being by far the most expensive dwelling in the county, and was denominated a "mammoth." The influence and enterprising efforts of these gentlemen, in after years, proved of valuable importance.

On rolls the tide of progress. The spirit of enterprise is awakened, and the brave pioneers come pouring in with warm hearts and strong hands, resolved to make war with the forest oak, or grapple with stern adversity in the dark hour of peril.

Thomas G. Ebenezer and Charles Alvord came in from Farmington, Conn., and settled in the north-west part of the town, on lot 13. The former drew lot 56. When he reached Manlius, he was met by a couple of land-sharks, who, on learning the lot upon which the old hero was intending to settle, very coolly informed him that they had been to Homer, and that they were well acquainted with the position of his land, and could assure him that it was an exceedingly poor, wet lot, the greater part of it being covered with water. In short, he was, by means the most deceptive, induced to part with six hundred acres of most valuable land for the trifling sum of a few dollars. Jacob B. Alvord resides on lot 13—his farm is on lot 12.

In 1797 Joshua Ballard came in from Holland, Massachusetts, and selected a location on lot 45. We shall refer to him in a subsequent chapter.

John Albright, the pioneer of East Homer, located on the lot he drew for Revolutionary services.

Asa White and Caleb Keep migrated from Monson, Mass. The former located on lot 45 ; erected his house on ground now covered by the residence of Jedediah Barber. He purchased and completed the first grist-mill in the county, in 1798. The latter bought and settled on the farm now owned and occupied by Noah Hitchcock, a grandson of Mr. Keep.

During the year 1798, a very considerable accession was made by persons settling in various parts of the town, and more especially along the borders of East and West rivers.

Stephen Knapp came in with his brother-in-law from Goshen, Orange co., N. Y., to explore the country. His father having been killed during the Revolutionary struggle by the Indians on the Delaware river, near the mouth of the Lackawaxen, left him to carve out his own fortune ; and he sought this wild region of country for that laudable purpose. His mother, having some little means, which was placed in his care, a purchase was made through Judge Thompson, of lots 55 and 84. Returning to Goshen, he early made preparations for moving to Homer ; but circumstances over which he had no control, delayed his departure until 1798. He came by the way of Poughkeepsie, Shonkunk, Kingston, head waters of Schoharie ; followed down the river to Prattsville ; thence to Harpersfield ; crossed Wattles Ferry ; thence to Oxford ; thence to Solon, afterwards called Hatheway's Corners. Here he followed the Salt Road about two miles to Squire Bingham's ; thence over the hills to Judge John Keep's ; thence to Mr. Matthews'

on lot 56 ; and thence to Hon. John Ballard's. Here Mr. Knapp and his friends remained for some time, during which period his brother Daniel purchased the farm of Capt. Russell.

Soon after this sale, Mr. Ballard located in the village. Mr. Russell died with the small pox.

Mr. Knapp is still living, a venerable relic of a former age. Neither marble nor fulsome epitaph will be necessary to perpetuate his memory.

The Hobarts were from Monson, Mass. Daniel, father of Alpheus, located on lot 43 ; Samuel on 15 and 16. Gideon settled with his father, and remained on the same farm until his death, April 30th, 1857. The farm is now owned and occupied by Manly Hobart.

Titus Stebbins, from the same town, settled on lot 43.

Samuel Hotchkiss, from New Haven, Conn., located on lot 44.

Dr. Lewis S. Owen came from Albany, and after a general survey of the country, located on lot 66. Here he remained three years, when he moved to Homer village and erected a house on the ground now occupied by his son, Dr. Robert Owen, lot 45.

Deacon Noah Hitchcock came in from Brimfield, and located on lot 25. He was a kind, generous-hearted man, and in brief, a prominent and useful citizen.

The venerable Zenas Lilly came from Brimfield, and located on lot 33, where he lived about twelve years, when he sold to Messrs. Tubbs and Keep, and settled on Factory Hill. Some years after, he disposed of his property and settled in Lenox, but subsequently returned to Homer and located on lots 34–5. His history is closely identified with the history of Cortland county.

Timothy Treat, Enos Stimson, William Lucas, and Asahel Miner were from different parts, and selected various locations. Mr. Treat was from Berkshire, Mass.; he settled about eighty rods north of the former residence of John Barker, now owned by Mr. Bowen. Family consisted of parents and eight children. The third, a daughter, married Stephen Knapp. Mr. Stimson was from Monson ; he settled on the ground now occupied by the elegant residence of Jacob Schermerhorn. He reared a small house and hung out a landlord's sign. The next spring the people were greatly alarmed on account of the *small pox*, which had made its appearance in the valley. Several took it, and died. His wife and children went to Aaron Knapp's, in Cortlandville, and were vaccinated, which, as we are told, caused clear cases of small pox, but soon recovered, and were able to return home.

An incident occurred during the absence of Mrs. Stimson, showing most distinctly the influence of ardent spirits upon the Indian character. Twelve Onondaga Indians called one evening at Mr. Stimson's, drank freely, got highly exhilarated, called for more liquor in their own familiar way—" Tegoye ezeethgath" and "Negauqh,"*—were repeatedly refused, and told that more would do them injury. But no, they had got a taste, were ardently inspired, would not listen to reason. They became uncivil, deranged, and threatened Mr. Stimson with violence. Retreating as they approached him in a menacing attitude, he sought safety up stairs, cautiously pulling the stair-ladder after him. The sav-

* Have you rum and wine, or firewater?

ages were noisy and quarelsome, as might be expected, having made themselves perfectly free with the *aqua morbi et mortis** of the bar, even draining the bottles to the very dregs. But the midnight revel, the bacchanalian orgies not yet ended, for their brains had been fired until the poor degraded beings reeled with delirium. They were bound to the car of Bacchus, which for centuries back has creaked and groaned beneath its burden of blasted hopes, crushed affections, and depraved humanity ; aye, with the blood of hundreds and thousands of wasted wrecks and ghastly skeletons. Not content with emptying the rum, gin, and whiskey decanters, an old sachem seized a bottle containing *picra*, swallowed a portion of its contents, and hastily passed it to a young brave who drank its very dregs. This had a powerful and most alarming effect, for they came very near dying.

Just at this, and to them inauspicious moment, and while some were guarding the garret port-hole through which the landlord had made a hurried retreat, and others were bending over the victims of supposed poison, an aged Indian, at least half "sea over," stepped hurriedly from the door, and mistaking a well-curb for a fence, leaped over and brought suddenly up in the bottom of Mr. Stimson's well. This was rather a severe shock to his *spiritual* feelings, and though famed as a conjuror, he was too drunk to conjure up a plan by which to escape from his unpleasant quarters. His position was truly an uninteresting one. The element which surrounded him was of an entirely different char-

* Poison water of death.

acter from the one that was influencing within. And now, while whooping, yelling, cursing and swearing was going on in the house, the old Roman was alike interestingly employed in the well. At length, assistance came to his relief, and by the aid of a blanket, which was let down to the periled one, he was drawn up from the watery depths below.

The next morning, Maj. Stimson, under certain promises, was permitted to come down and take possession of his house. The Indians were not so spiritually influenced. The *medium* operating between them and the bottle had become inoperative. Spooks, hobgoblins, witches, wizards, and the whole infernal train of delirium devils had disappeared from among them. A few made attempts at cheerfulness, while others exhibited only symptoms of sullenness. The old chieftain felt mortified at his conduct, while the professed juggler had not courage enough left to enable him to attempt any more of his tricks at legerdemain.

William Lucas and Asahel Miner were from Woodbury, Conn. The former located on lot 35 ; the farm is now owned by Samuel Babcock. He erected a portion of Mr. Babcock's present residence. He was an exceedingly active, useful and prominent citizen—what a living witness has defined as one of the very best of men. His four surviving children reside in Ohio. The latter settled on the Lucas Welch farm. He was the first sheriff of Cortland county, having been appointed April 8, 1808. Martin Miner, his son, resides in the village.

Col. Benajah Tubbs came in from Washington county, and located on the ground now occupied by the Geo.

Phillips store. He early engaged in the mercantile trade, and continued the business for many years.

John and Richard Bishop were from Brimfield. The former settled south of the Vanderlyn farm, while the latter located immediately opposite Mr. Hammel Thompson. He afterwards built a one-story house, where Mr. Thompson now lives. Asaph H. Carpenter, some time after, added another story. Under the care of Mr. Thompson it has been made a very pleasant residence.

After 1800, the town began to settle more rapidly. Those who had previously located had passed the Rubicon, and with a determined will, quite superior to that which prompted Cæsar to cross the threshold of his own province for the express purpose of reducing Italy to his power, had labored nobly in the cause of human improvement, and were already in the partial enjoyment of its blessings. We regret that our limits will not allow of our recording the name and place of settlement of every pioneer. From 1800, we can only locate a few in the various sections of the town.

Ephraim P. Sumner came in from Connecticut in 1800, and located on lot 47, where his son E. P. Sumner now lives. He purchased two hundred acres ; died 1843 ; Mrs. Sumner, 1840 ; reared ten children—eight now living.

Noah Carpenter came in from Pomfret, Windham co., Conn., and located on lot 16. His son, Asaph H. Carpenter, who now resides on the original premises, had the honor of being first arrayed in *bib and tucker* while his parents were journeying to this land of promise. He was, however, more fortunate than the Saviour, for

He, being "cradled in a manger," had "not whereon to lay his head."

Peter Vandeilyn, father of Jacob, came from Ulster county, N. Y., and purchased one hundred acres. He drove in fifty head of sheep, the first in the town; also several head of cattle, and the first lumber wagon. He built the first fanning mill that was used in the county; the wings were made of cloth, and it proved a valuable acquisition in the department of saving labor.

Thomas, Nathan, and Samuel Stone were from Brimfield. They located on lot 46.

Waterman and Levi Phillips were from Connecticut. The former located on lot 69, near where Trout creek empties into the Tioughnioga. He purchased one hundred and seven acres. He now resides in the village; is eighty-one years old. His sons are Jefferson, Abel K., and George. The latter located on lot 16. He came in with an ox team and one horse; purchased fifty acres, and subsequently ninety-seven more. His surviving sons are Levi, on lot 28; Charles, at Nanticoke; Oren, on the homestead; and Erastus, in the village. Mr. Phillips died in 1845, aged seventy-eight years; and his widow in 1850, at the age of seventy-nine years.

Several additional settlements were opened during 1801. Seth Keep, originally from Massachusetts, migrated to Homer from Vermont, and located on the north-east corner of lot 33.

Gad Hitchcock came from Monson, Mass., and settled on the farm now owned by Albert Barker. His son, Horace Hitchcock, is an active and worthy citizen, residing in the village.

John Coats located within a few rods of the Congregational church, in 1802.

During the same year, Dea. Thomas Chollar came in from Windham, Conn.; remained some three years, during which time he made various explorations of the country, in order that he might judge correctly with reference to the soil, as well as the general advantages which were likely to be realized by those who thus early plunged into the wilderness, enduring privation, and struggling against forest and flood, disease and death. In the latter part of 1804 he selected a location on lot 17, and settled on it in 1809.

Asa Kendall, father of Abner N. Kendall, was a native of Massachusetts, but removed to Homer from Pompey, and located on the farm now owned by Dea. Conger. He purchased fifty acres.

In 1803, Jacob Sanders, Moses Butterfield, Levi Bowen, and Elijah Pierce, father of Justin M. Pierce, came in and located. Sanders removed from Swansey, Mass., and settled on lot 56. He reared an intelligent family of ten children, all of whom are now living, and in good circumstances. Butterfield was from Canterbury, Conn.; he located on lot 47, where Charles Kingsbury now resides. The farm at present embraces one hundred and twenty-five acres. Mr. Butterfield died in 1820. Bowen settled on lot 7, where E. P. Stickney now resides; he was from Woodstock, Conn. He purchased ninety-six acres; died in 1832, leaving eight children—five now living. Pierce came from Brimfield.

Elie Sherman came from Brimfield in 1803, and settled on lot 47. He is now enjoying good health, and is in the full possession of his faculties—age, seventy-seven.

Abel Kinney, from Brimfield, settled in 1804 on lot 6.

Capt. Daniel Crandall, from Massachusetts, located in 1805 on lot 38. He died in 1857.

Capt. Zephaniah Hicks, originally of Rhode Island, migrated from Connecticut in 1805, and located on the south-east corner of State's Hundred, lot 17. His house stood on the ground now occupied by the dwelling of Norman Southworth. Capt. Hicks was an active, energetic, high-minded man; generous, humane, obliging, and courteous. His hale, prompt, manly greeting gained for him the good will of his neighbors, and gave him much influence in the occasional pioneer gatherings. The influence of Dea. Chollar was much the same. It is related of these men, that when a question of right was to be decided the appeal was usually made to them; the deacon having given an affirmative decision, the almost universal response would be, "That's right, Deacon Chollar; ain't it so, Capt. Hicks?"

The Captain removed in 1835 to Ingham, Michigan, where he still resides, a venerable relic of the "olden time."

Jacob Hicks, his son, who at the time of his migration to Homer was but two years old, is settled on lot 27. His advent on to the Hill dates farther back than that of any remaining settler. His eldest daughter, Nancy, is the wife of Silas Elbridge Mann, a prominent citizen and hardware merchant of Jordan.

In 1806, Col. David Coye, from Royalton, Vermont, and Lemuel Bates, from Cincinnati, came in and located. The former settled on lot 45, where he now resides. He purchased the first acre sold for a village lot. He followed his trade, that of joiner. In 1815, he purchased one hundred acres on lot 44. The rear of his dwelling was

erected in 1808; the front in 1826. His shop, one story and a-half, twenty by thirty-five, stood on the ground occupied by Newton's store. He has filled several prominent offices; among others, that of sheriff. He has reared a family of eleven children—seven now living. Two reside in Missouri; one in Buffalo; one in San Francisco; one married Caleb Sherman, and another Francis De Long, of Lockport; Mary, the youngest, is still at home. The latter settled on lot 26. His sons are Joseph and Ransford. The former lives in Little York; the latter on the forks of the road above Homer village.

William Shearer came from Washington county in 1807, and located on lot 36. His son Reuben lives on the original premises. Mrs. Shearer was an early schoolmate of Hon. Samuel Nelson, and remembers him as a youth of warm and generous impulses.

Stephen and Joel R. Briggs, Ariel Tickner and Erastus Hayes were originally from Otsego county. They located in 1807 on lot 50. The former died in 1844. His widow survives him at the age of seventy-six. She resides with her son, Jabez Briggs. Mr. Tickner died some years previous. Joel R. Briggs lives on lot 38, in Homer, and Mr. Hayes resides in Spafford.

Deacon Ira Brown came in from Brimfield, in 1808, and located on lot 24. He now resides in Cortlandville. He has reared a respectable family, and accumulated a good property.

Joseph Bean, father of Jeremiah, of Cincinnatus, and Samuel, of Homer, located in 1809. He purchased one hundred acres. During the same year, Noah R. Smith and Matthias Cook came in and located. The former came in from Middletown, and settled on lot 45.

He has been a prompt, active, and influential citizen; has filled several important offices by appointment and election; was appointed sheriff in 1819. The latter came from Albany, and entered into the hatting business, which he continued successfully for many years. He was at one time a copartner in trade with Col. Benajah Tubbs. He was appointed county clerk in 1821, elected a member of the legislature in 1824, and was chosen Justice of the Peace at the first election of such office by the people.

Deacon Jesse Ives and Andrew Burr came in during the year 1810. Mr. Ives was from Litchfield, Conn. He located on lot 16, and purchased originally ninety acres of land. He was emphatically a man of progress—an industrious and enterprising farmer, and his genial and excellent qualities made him universally respected and beloved. He died Nov. 27, 1857, aged 81 years.

Mr. Burr was from Sharon, Conn. He originally located on the ground now occupied and owned by William Kingsbury. He early engaged in the manufacture of leather, but subsequently sold his tannery to Willam Kingsbury, who located in 1816, and went into the saddlery and harness business, which he carried on for thirty years. He has erected several dwellings, and otherwise labored to improve and advance the interests of the village. The rear portion of his dwelling is composed of the original or first church which was erected in Homer. The front part was erected in 1812 for a house of public entertainment, and was called the "Mansion House."

Richard Graham and Henry Corl came in and located in 1811. The former was from Herkimer county, and settled on lot 28. The latter was originally from Sche-

nectady, but came in from Locke, Cayuga co., and settled on lot 8, where he remained one year, and then removed to the Abel Owen farm, now owned by Dr. Jones. Here he remained two years, and then settled on the Hill, which now bears his name. He purchased 120 acres. He is now 78 years old—has raised a family of nine children, all now living.

During the war of 1812–15, the progress of settlement was greatly interrupted. The settlements were, however, frequently visited by a kind of floating population, having no fixed purposes, but would come and go like the waves of the ocean.

George W. Samson, from Plympton, Mass., located in 1812 on lot 28 ; remained four years, and then settled on lot 19, being the first settler on the lot. He erected the Mt. Etam Stand in 1824, and went into it the next year ; commenced keeping a house of entertainment in 1827—in Homer village in 1839. He possesses considerable native talent, great vivacity, blended with wit and generous sympathy.

James Hull came from Norfolk, Conn., about 1815, and settled on the farm now owned by Willis Alvord. He now resides in the village. His industrious habits, and moral and social sentiments, entitle him to a just and honorable mention in the pioneer annals of Homer.

Erastus Goodell, father of C. B. and Erastus, Jr., came in from Sturbridge, Mass., in 1816, and located on State's Hundred, lot 7. He originally purchased 50 acres ; has now, with an additional purchase, owned by his son Erastus, 130 acres. His land was entirely covered with a heavy growth of timber, when he came upon it. He first erected a small house in the hollow east of his barn, but soon after put up a log house on the ground now

covered by his present residence. The latter was erected in 1834. His son, C. B. Goodell, owns the Joseph Bates farm.

William Andrews came from Fabius, Onondaga co., in 1817. From 1820 to 1843 he served in the capacity of constable and under sheriff, and in 1831 was elected sheriff, on a union ticket between the liberal portion of the Jackson and Clintonian men. The opposing candidate was Martin Keep. Mr. Andrews is a prominent and influential citizen.

Daniel Josling, from Windham, Conn., located in 1818 on lot 17. Kenneth A. Scudder, from Monmouth, N. J., settled in 1813 in Herkimer county, and subsequently removed to Homer and located on lot 18. He reared a family of eight children, all of whom are living. He died in 1843, aged 77. His widow survives him at the age of 76.

Having thus presented a general outline view of the early settlement of Homer, dating from 1791 to 1818, we shall proceed to exhibit some important dates and facts connected with its history, interspersed with interesting incidents bearing upon the political, moral, social and religious character of the noble spirits of other days.

The town of Homer was organized March 5th, 1794, and, as we have previously stated, originally embraced the townships of Homer and Cortland. The town officers were not, however, limited to the town limits, but Virgil and Solon were permitted to share in their selection, and as such we give their names as though they had really belonged to Homer. The territory has a broken and diversified surface—presenting to the observer the rugged hill and fertile valley. The soil is

generally good,—consisting of clay, sandy and gravelly loam, while flats of rich alluvion border East and West River.

The political temperature of the early pioneers at the time of the erection of the town, stood at about zero, as will appear evident from the perusal of the following document, which is copied from the town records.

STATE OF NEW YORK : } SS :
ONONDAGA COUNTY. }

Whereas the town of Homer, in said county, on the 5th day of April did neglect to appoint the necessary town officers for the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety-five :

And whereas, by a law passed on the 7th day of March, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-eight, directing three justices of the peace of said county, to nominate, and under their hand and seals appoint such officers as under said act is necessary, therefore, we, Asa Danforth, Hezekiah Scott and Daniel Keeler, three of the justices of the peace, appointed in and for said county, nominate and by these presents do appoint,*

For *Supervisor*,—John Miller.

Town Clerk,—Peter Ingersoll.

Assessors,—Thomas L. Bishop, Moses Hopkins, Joseph Beebe, Daniel Miner, Roderick Beebe.

Commissioners of Highways,—Samuel Benedict, David Russel, Moses Hopkins.

* At this time Justices were appointed at Albany, by the Council of appointment.

Overseers of the Poor,—Joseph Beebe, Christopher Whitney.

Constable and Collector,—John House.

Signed, ASA DANFORTH,
HEZEKIAH SCOTT.
DANIEL KEELER.

The meeting at which these appointments were made was held at Squire Miller's on the 9th of April, 1795.

The first annual town meeting for the election of officers, was held at Mr. Miller's house on the 8th of April, 1796. The following were the successful candidates.

Supervisor,—John Miller.

Town Clerk,—Peter Ingersoll.

Assessors,—Ezra Rockwell, Billy Trowbridge, Daniel Miner, Francis Strong, David Russel, Jacob Bishop.

Collectors,—Roderick Beebe, Barzilla Russel.

Overseers of the Poor,—Zera Beebe, Ozias Strong.

Com. Highways,—Zera Beebe, Thomas L. Bishop, Oliver Tuthill.

Constables,—Barzilla Russel, Roderick Beebe.

Overseers of Highways, — William Tuthill, Ebenezer Jones, Zera Beebe, Samuel C. Benedict, Joseph Beebe, Solomon Hubbard, John Morse.

Fence Viewers, — Elnathan Baker, George Strowbridge, Johnson Bingham, David Jackson, John House, Moses Hopkins.

If the officers of those days were not selected with the regularity that attends our elections at the present time, they were at least chosen with less of bitterness engendered by political knaves and unprincipled demagogues. The contests for political preferences contin-

ued to be mild and conciliatory for many years. In 1800, however, the political elements throughout the State were greatly agitated, and in that severe struggle for power, the pioneers exhibited some symptoms of excitement, and shared, to a degree, in the general fever that pervaded the country.

In 1796, it was agreed by vote, "that every man make his own pound. That hogs run at large without yokes or rings.

That fences be made four feet and one half high, and not to exceed four inches between logs or poles."

In 1797, it was agreed by a unanimous vote, "that every man in the town may provide his own pound for every creature that does him damage, and yet be entitled to damage the same as at the town pound. That hogs be free commoners.

That three feet of sound fence shall not be more than five inches between earth, logs or grass."

In 1798, it was voted, "that one inch more of space be allowed between earth and wood."

A citizen of the town was not allowed to bring in or receive cattle from another town to keep for any period of time, under penalty of one dollar.

If some of these requirements were enacted and strictly adhered to, at this time we do not question their beneficial results. At least there would be less wrangling and bitter neighborhood recriminations in consequence of poor fences and disorderly cattle.

In 1797 the town of Homer was divided into highway districts. Amos Todd and Johnson Bingham were Commissioners of highways.

1798. A wolf scalp commanded a premium of from

five to ten dollars, according to size ; bear, five dollars ; panther, ten dollars ; and foxes, fifty cents.

In 1797 Homer contained ninety-two inhabitants. Valuation of property reduced to dollars, $,6,670.

On Wednesday, the 27th of May, 1794, the first meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Onondaga county, was held at the house of Hon. Asa Danforth, in the town of Manlius. Homer had not at that time been organized, and consequently was not represented. The Board, however, made an estimate at random of the valuation of property and proportion of tax for the towns of Pompey, Ulysses, Lysander and Homer. The latter was estimated at £500, and the proportion of tax at £6, 5s.

The pioneers of Homer were a people who revered the Bible, and valued its ordinances. They brought with them corresponding habits. When six families had arrived in town, (1793,) they all convened upon the Sabbath day and commenced public religious worship. From that day to the present time, (1859,) this divine reverence has been continued on the Sabbath, and we are assured from the most positive authority that there has occurred but one omission. This is a fact of marked significance, bearing upon the character of the people and the prosperity of the settlement. It was a common saying, as emigrant families came from New England on to the Military Tract, if you wish to settle among "religionists," go to Homer. The first sermon in the town was pronounced by a missionary, who in a later period was Rev. Dr. Hilliard, of New Jersey. This discourse was delivered in the open air under a large tree upon the Hill, about one hundred rods north-east from the present dwelling of Eleazar Kingsbury. The

people were collected for the purpose of raising a building, and before the work had proceeded far, it was currently reported among the company that a missionary was lending a willing hand in the work of progress, and soon a voice was heard calling out "a sermon, a sermon." Upon which a very polite invitation was extended to the Rev. Doctor of Divinity to favor them with a discourse, and in answer to which he preached a most thrilling and heart-feeling discourse. The next sermon was preached by Elder Peter P. Roots, of the Baptist denomination, in Mr. Baker's barn, from the text, "Faith, Hope and Charity."

The present generation in Homer will do well to pause and look in upon these six families, on this memorable day of their first worship, and intelligently meditate upon the results of this movement, and gratefully embalm their names as the benefactors of the township. The standard then erected has not yet been taken down. The banner then unfurled still waves, bearing on its ample folds, GRACE AND GLORY. The incense of prayer from this little band was an offering accepted of God. The communication then and thus opened between Him and the people has not since been closed. Our God will keep his covenant forever.

The varying views of these pioneers, touching religious doctrine and practice, delayed for several years the formation of a Church. But their frequent consultations and protracted discussions were in good feeling, and they could all happily meet for worship on common ground. But a church organization was a necessity that would not stand in waiting without jeopardy to the spiritual welfare of the community. At length relief

came through the sagacity of a WOMAN. The WIFE of Lieutenant Hobart, and the MOTHER of Deacon Jacob Hobart, of undying memory in the annals of Homer, with deep feeling intelligently weighed her responsibility in this matter. But as the custom then was, and still is, that females must be silent partners in business matters, she earnestly pressed upon her husband that delay should terminate, and procured from him a pledge that a meeting for consultation should be called, and that he should move that those who were so far agreed that they could walk together in church order, should at once unite in the organization of a Church. It is not known whom she prevailed upon to second the movement. This done, she waited before God for the result.

This movement was sustained, and on the 12th day of October, 1801, the Congregational church of Homer was organized by the Rev. Hugh Wallace, of Solon, and the members resolved to maintain a Monthly Church Conference. Thus early, on the banks of the Tioughnioga, and in the centre of Homer, was kindled a beacon light, to reveal to the teeming population in a wide circuit, danger and duty in reference to their religious, intellectual and social interests.

In February, 1803, Rev. Nathan B. Darrow became the pastor of this church, and this connection closed in October, 1808. In October, 1809, Rev. Elnathan Walker became the pastor. He was removed by death in June, 1820. His remains were entombed in the public cemetery, and the hallowed spot was subsequently marked by an appropriate marble monument, bearing the following inscription :

This Monument
IS ERECTED BY AN AFFECTIONATE PEOPLE, AS
THE LAST
TESTIMONY OF RESPECT TO THEIR
BELOVED PASTOR.

His daughter, Tryphena, married the Rev. C. H. Reed, of Richmond, Virginia, one of the most able and eloquent men of the age. Mr. Reed is not only a sound and really able speaker, but he is most emphatically an independent and accomplished orator. His address at the Atlantic Cable Jubilee in Homer was full of bold, pointed Southern sentiments; and yet, proclaimed as they were before a Northern audience holding in the main opposite views, were listened to with marked attention, and elicited, at the conclusion, spontaneous applause.

But to return from the digression. In June, 1821, Rev. John Keep was called to perform pastoral labors for this church, and, like a pious herald of the cross, continued ministering to the spiritual wants of the people until 1833, when he removed to the city of Cleveland, Ohio.

The harmony and enterprise of the Congregational Church and Society happily resulted in the dedication of a spacious and commodious house for public religious worship by the Middle Association of Ministers. Sermon by Rev. Mr. Darrow, June, 1807. During 1824, this "Meeting House" received the addition of an ornamental front, a convenient vestibule, and extensive interior improvements. Its completion was commemorated by public religious exercises on the 23d day of

December. Sermon by the pastor, Rev. John Keep, from the text, "Rejoice with trembling." This was one of his most happy and brilliant efforts. Strong, argumentative, yet touchingly eloquent. When the reasons given for rejoicing had nearly reached their culmination, the large, well-trained choir, accompanied by a full-toned organ, interrupted the speaker by the anthem chorus—

"Oh, be joyful in God, all ye lands."

The early pioneers brought with them the religious sentiments of the New England people, and early engaged in public religious worship. Their meetings were without "denominational distinction," being attended by the religionists without regard to order or sect. Those holding to the Congregational sentiments were most numerous, and put forth the first active efforts for the formation of a church, and although they succeeded in forming the first "Religious Society in the town of Homer, in 1799," they were nine days later in the organization of the Congregational Church, than the Baptists were in the organization of their church, which was formed October 3d, 1801. For a number of years the Baptists were not favored with regular or stated preaching. There were, however, occasional sermons pronounced by Rev. Joseph Cornell, James Bacon, Peter P. Roots, and Rufus Freeman. Rev. Alfred Bennett, became the first permanent pastor.

The Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in 1833. Nelson Rounds was the first preacher. The Calvary Church in 1831.

The Universalist Church was formed in 1839.

The Advent Church was organized December, 1848. John Smith and Joseph L. Clapp, deacons.

The officiating clergymen are Albert Bigelow, of the Congregational ; C. A. Clark, of the Baptist ; and Hiram Gee, of the Methodist.

In 1810	the population	of Homer	was 2,975
1814	"	"	4,046
1820	"	"	5,504
1825	"	"	6,128
1830	"	"	3,307
1835	"	"	3,584
1840	"	"	3,572
1845	"	"	3,602
1850	"	"	3,836
1855	"	"	3,785

The early tradition of Homer, in many instances, is very obscure. In all cases we have adopted such evidence and facts as we have believed to be the most authentic, to the exclusion of every item of doubtful character. The first house was erected on the bank of the Tioughnioga, in 1791, by Joseph Bebee. The first improvements were made the same year by Amos Todd, west of Homer village. The first frame house was built for Dr. Lewis S. Owen. In 1799, the first frame barn was built for Col. Moses Hopkins, on lot 64, and is still standing. The first school-house was built in 1798, about twelve rods beyond where the railroad crosses the road leading to little York, and the second one on the north-east corner of the Green. The first grist-mill was erected by Asa White, John Hubbard, and John Keep, in 1798. Hooker Ballard was the first tailor ;

Matthias Cook, the first hatter ; Aaron Knapp, the first carpenter ; Joshua Ballard, the first school-teacher ; John Osborn, the first permanent silversmith. Eleazar Bishop, the first blacksmith ; Rev. Nathan B. Darrow, the first stated preacher ; Townsend Ross, the first attorney and post-master ; Luther Rice, the first physician ; Maj. Stimson, the first inn-keeper ; John Coates, the first merchant ; Prof. W. P. Beck, the first Daguerreian artist. He built the first Daguerreian carriage in the State ; and is an accomplished artist.

The first death was that of Mrs. Thomas Gould Alvord. She died in 1795. The first male child born in town was Homer Moore. The first female child was Betsey House. The first marriage was that of Zadock Strong and widow Russel. The parties intended to have been married by Squire Stoyell, of Moravia Flats, but being disappointed, they went to Ludlowville on horseback, and were united in the sacred bands by Squire Ludlow.

In 1798, forty dollars and seventy-eight cents were appropriated for the use of common schools in the town of Homer.

The first "burying ground" was on a little knoll, about thirty rods west of the factory.

The are but four of the old veteran pioneers now living, who came into Homer previous to 1800, viz.: widow Moses Hopkins, age seventy-nine ; Stephen Knapp, age eighty-one ; Zenas Lilly, age ninety ; Alpheus Hobart, eighty-four. The two first are in the enjoyment of their usual good health, and in the full possession of their intellectual faculties. Mr. Lilly and Mr. Hobart are slowly but surely wearing away with the infirmities of age ; and yet they are calmly and serenely awaiting

the hour to depart. May they go down to the silent tomb alike honored and respected.

The venerable pioneers are fast passing away, and soon it may be said of them, " they have been, but are not."

SOLON.—This town originally comprised the military township No. 20, and was organized March 9, 1798.

It was subsequently reduced by attaching the four northern tiers of lots to Truxton, and in 1849, by the erection of the town of Taylor.

The surface of the town is considerably broken and diversified. The hills are generally arable, and the valleys rich and productive. Some of the long ridges, or druidical elevations, covered with the deep, thick foliage of the olden forest trees, present a wild, picturesque and pleasing aspect. In brief, the town is well adapted to grazing. The staple products are butter and cheese.

The first permanent settlement was made in Solon in 1794, by Roderick Beebe and Johnson Bingham. The former located on lot 75, on that portion which is usually called Mount Roderick. He was originally from Massachusetts. The latter was a native of Connecticut, but came in from Vermont, and located on lot 62. He purchased 550 acres, reared eight children, seven of whom are living. He was Justice of the Peace for about twenty years, and associate Judge for a long time. Died 1842, aged 79 ; his widow survives him at the age of 95, in the enjoyment of good health.

William Galpin, from New Jersey, located in 1797, on lot 47. His stay was brief, owing to the fact of his having purchased and accepted a forged title. He subsequently settled in Pompey.

It may be well to remark here, that the early settlements were mainly made in the northern and eastern portions of the town; these are noticed in the history of Truxton and Taylor.

In 1799, John Welch came from Wyoming, and located a little to the south of Roderick Beebe. He remained a few years, and removed to Cleveland, Ohio.

Col. Elijah Wheeler, came in from New Haven, Conn., in 1801, and located on lot 100. He originally purchased 100 acres.

The venerable Capt. Stephen N. Peck, from Stanford, Dutchess co., N. Y., located in Solon, lot 62, in March, 1804. He purchased 92 acres, and subsequently, considerably increased the area of his land. He survives at the age of 80 years, more than usually exempt from the infirmities of age.

Garret Pritchard came from Litchfield county, Conn., in 1807, and located on lot 74. He came in with a pack on his back, having but $16,50 in money. He went to work with a determination to carve out a fortune, and he has most fully succeeded. His father, having come in the previous year under greatly embarrassed circumstances, found it very difficult to pay back arrearages, and yet succeed in a new country. His son, however, had the nerve and muscle to accomplish both. He earned and paid $500 for his father; after which he located where he now lives, on lot 75. He owns upwards of 500 acres of land, and is pleasantly and favorably situated.

During the same year, Richard Maybury, from Luzerne, Pa., came in and located on State's Hundred, lot 53. Purchased 100 acres. He was an industrious and

worthy man, and has left several intelligent and valuable representatives. His children are Lewis, John, Josiah J., Elizabeth, Nancy, and Deacon Samuel.

Henry L. Randall, from Sharon, Conn., located in 1808, on lot 74. He moved in with a two horse team, bringing with him a few of the necessary articles for immediate use in his new home. He is now 81 years of age, enjoying in a remarkable degree his physical and intellectual faculties. He has remained for a full half century where he first settled ; has reared a family of five children—Henry, David, William, Linus and Orrin—the three former accompanied him from his New England home.

Jonathan Rundall, from Sharon, Conn., located on lot 74. Ebenezer Blake, from Stoddard, New Hampshire, settled on lot 84. He was a soldier in the American revolution, and was in the battle of Bunker Hill ; drew his land in Ohio.

In 1810, the taxable property of Solon, as returned, was $99,612, and there were 110 Senatorial electors.

In 1800	the population	of Solon	was 370
1810	"	"	1,263
1814	"	"	717
1820	"	"	1,262
1825	"	"	1,781
1830	"	"	2,033
1835	"	"	2,103
1840	"	"	2,311
1845	"	"	2,426
1850	"	"	1,150
1855	"	"	1,057

VIRGIL.—The town of Virgil, named in honor of the distinguished Roman Poet, *Virgil,* and to whom many classical allusions are made, was organized April 8th, 1804. It was No. 24 of the Military townships, surveyed in 1790. The town presents a broken and diversified aspect, and to the general observer, exhibits a great variety of picturesque scenery. Much attention is being paid to the dairy business—the soil being better adapted to grass than to the growing of grain.

The citizens generally are prosperous and happy. The town, politically, morally and socially, holds an important and commanding influence in the county, and compares well with that description given in the ancient Chinese aphorism :—

> "Where spades grow bright, and idle swords grow dull,
> Where jails are empty, and where barns are full,
> Where church paths are by frequent feet outworn,
> Law court-yards weedy, silent and forlorn,
> Where doctors foot it, and where farmers ride,
> Where age abounds, and youth is multiplied,
> Where these signs are, they truly indicate
> A happy people, and well governed State."

After the tide of revolution had rolled away, and the people were becoming comparatively happy, conflicting claims and unpleasant controversies were renewed, having a strong tendency to create bitter recriminations between inhabitants of adjoining States, and especially those of New Hampshire, Connecticut, Massachusetts and New York.

The controversy pending the conflicting claims of the two latter States, grew out of an antiquated and pretended or supposed right on the part of Massachusetts,

to a certain portion of land lying within the boundaries of New York.

In 1786, the question at issue was finally settled by an amicable adjustment of the differences of opinion, through the united exertions of Commissioners duly appointed, and clothed with the Confederative power to arrange the matter in controversy, and thus silence the clamor which had for a long time tended to create unpleasant remarks, as well as to weaken the bonds of fraternal fellowship. The Commissioners granted to Massachusetts 6,144,000 acres of land, known as the Genesee country. This tract comprised all the land of the State west of a line beginning at the mouth of the Great Sodus Bay on Lake Ontario, and running due south, through the middle of Seneca lake, to the north line of the State of Pennsylvania, excepting one mile in width, the whole length of Niagara river, which was ceded to New York. Another tract, afterwards known as the Massachusetts Ten Townships, embracing 230,400 acres of land, lying between the Owego and Chenango rivers, was also ceded, without the least equivalent, to Massachusetts, reserving to New York barely the right of sovereignty. The former, as we have previously stated, was sold by Massachusetts to Oliver Phelps and Nathaniel Gorham, for the sum of $1,000,000. The latter was purchased by John Brown & Co., for a fraction over $3,300.

It will be observed that we have heretofore spoken of Virgil as township No. 24 of military lands, granted to the soldiers of the Revolution. It should, however, be noted in this place, that the whole of the town of Virgil did not originally belong to the military grant.

A strip of about 1½ miles in width from east to west, across its southern side, was taken from the Ten Township grant to Massachusetts.

Joseph Chaplin, the first permanent settler, (whose name has occurred in previous chapters,) located on lot No. 50, in 1792, but did not move on his family until two years later. His rude log house was erected during the time he was engaged in exploring and surveying the route for the Oxford and Cayuga lake road, preparatory to his engaging in the enterprise of constructing the work with which he had been entrusted.*

John M. Frank settled with his family on lot 43, which had been granted him for services in the American Revolution, in November, 1795.

In 1796, John Gee, from Wyoming, Pa., moved on to lot 21, having the previous year erected his dwelling, and made some other preparations for the more convenient reception of his family. He was a soldier of the Revolution, and was well worthy of the heroic title. His house was composed of logs 12 by 16. His family consisted of himself, wife, father, mother, and six children. Some of Mr. Gee's descendants still occupy the original premises.

John E. Roe moved in from Ulster county during the winter of 1797–8. The ground was covered with a heavy body of snow, just then dissolving beneath the warm rays of the sun. The journey from the old hearthstone was made in a sleigh, which contained a few of the more costly effects for the new house. Among these were a few fancy, or flag-bottomed chairs, which, unfor-

* This road was sixty miles in length.

tunately, were greatly lessened in value as well as for service, on account of the bottoms holding out a strong temptation to the horses, which were tied to the sleigh, without food, while the family were resting for the night at Mr. Chaplin's, then within a few miles of their destined place of abode. The temptation was too strong, and consequently the chairs were freed of their flags, though a rather poor substitute for hay.

A bridge had not yet been erected, consequently the few that crossed the river were in the habit of using a small canoe belonging to Mr. Chaplin. The high water, which had suddenly risen from the effects of the dissolving snow, to their great surprise had carried away their little water craft. The horses could swim the stream, but as for Mrs. Roe, her case was one of doubtful result. But the pioneers were full of expedients. They were men of enterprise ; and when they formed a plan, or resolved upon a measure, they usually had the will and the power to carry those plans into practical operation. The residence of Mr. Chaplin was on the opposite side of the river, and they must either secure shelter as best they could, where they were, for it was near sunset, or manage some way to get over the swollen stream. As a final resort, a hog-trough belonging to Mr. Chaplin was floated over, and Mrs. Roe, with the courage of an experienced tar—a true son of the ocean, —seated herself in the frail craft, and passed over with entire safety. Mr. Roe and his team next made an effort at crossing, and though it was hard swimming, the horses succeeded in reaching the opposite shore without injury. A three year old heifer, the only cow they possessed, and which had followed the sleigh from

Ulster, was still behind. But she had no notion of being left, and after making a few flourishes with her head, leaped into the water, and after a powerful effort, stood on *terra firma*, on the other side of the river.

The next morning they set out for their intended home ; the weather was unpleasant, and the snow still quite deep ; and besides this, there was no track to follow, and in truth, we might as well say, no road. It was a long and tedious day, for the sun was just disappearing behind the ancient hills as they drew near their uninviting house, the body of which had been put up by Mr. Roe the previous spring. He had hewed and put down a plank floor, and prepared bark for the roof, which, according to an arrangement, was to have been put on by an individual who resided in Homer. But, contrary to his expectation, Mr. Roe found his house in the precise state of completion in which he had left it. He had triumphed over every other obstacle, and was not now to be disheartened, though greatly disappointed. The snow was full two feet deep in the house ; this, however, was soon shoveled out, or at least a portion of it. A fire was built against the logs, and thus commenced their first unpropitious attempts at housekeeping in their long looked for, and at length inauspicious achievement, in their forest home.

The next year, (1798,) there were a number of additional families who came in and settled in different parts of the town. Among these were James Bright, James Knapp, Bailey, John and James Glenny, and Wait Ball.

In 1799, Enos Bouton, Dana Miles, John Lucas, Henry Wells, Jared Thorn, and Primus Gault came in and selected locations.

During the year 1800, James Wright, John Calvert, James Sherwood, Peter Jones, Seth Larabee, John Ellis, Oren Jones, Moses Rice, Abial Brown, Jason Crawford and Moses Stevens were added to the new settlements.

In 1801, Daniel Edwards, Nathaniel Boutton, Prince Freeman and James Clark came in and settled in various parts of the town.

In 1802 the settlement was increased by Jonathan Edwards, Samuel Carson, Alexander Hunter, George Wright, Abner and Ezra Bruce, William Lincoln, and Peter Gray ; and in 1803, Moses Olmstead, Peter Powers, John I. Gee, Andrew Van Buskirk and Dorastus DeWolf.

In 1804, Silas Lincoln, Alexander M'Nist, Obadiah Gilbert, Lemuel Barnes, Peter Tanner and Jeremiah Shevalier came in, selecting locations in different parts of the town.

In 1805, Isaac Barton, Jotham Glazier, Simeon Luce, Zophar Moore, Oliver Ball and Isaac Elwell became resident settlers ; and the next year John Hill, John Green, Zachariah Squires and others came in and located.

From this time the settlements increased more rapidly. The soil, though not of the very best quality, was not of the most inferior kind. Perseverance and a strictly economical mode of living produced wonderful results. It required active and laborious exertions to subdue the wild forest and convert the wilderness into fruitful and productive fields. Had the virgin soil yielded various valuable productions like many portions of the sunny South, without any effort on the part of the proprietors of the soil, and where indolence is most proverbial

among the people, the inhabitants of the new settlements would undoubtedly have exhibited less energy, less enterprise, and would, as a natural result, have been indolent and imbecile. The case was, however, quite the contrary. The pioneers of that early period, and those who warred with the old forest monarchs who had reigned from three to five and even six hundred years on the Virgil hills and valleys, were composed of materials that could brook misfortune, discouragement, and the numerous trials and hardships, the natural results of the first attempts of planting new settlements in a wild and almost unbroken wilderness, swarming with voracious animals, eager, anxious to lap their tongues in the warm blood of some unfortunate victim.

The word "discouragement" did not belong to their vocabulary. What know we of the present day of the toils, privations, and sufferings, through which our fathers and mothers passed, when they thus early struck their tents in the forest, deprived of the many luxuries and conveniences which we so freely and fully enjoy! They did not repine, though they of necessity were compelled to erect their houses of logs, cover them with bark, split logs for their rude floors, using paper windows, wooden trenchers, pine slab tables, crack their grain in a mortar, or journey forty or fifty miles to a grist-mill; and then, perhaps, if not fortunate enough to have a span of horses, which few did, trail along with a yoke of oxen, attached to a dray, loaded with a small quantity of corn or wheat, winding by way of an Indian footpath around the sedgy marsh, fording streams, ascending the hill-side, and again descending into the valley, camping out night after night; or, peradventure,

if still less fortunate, impelled by the wants of the dear ones at home, with three pecks of corn thrown over his shoulder, and a cold lunch in his pocket, he starts off on a wandering tour to a mill at Chenango Point, Ludlowville, or Manlius Square.

When Mr. Agar came into the town and located near the little streamlet that runs gurgling through the rocky ledge, leaping the cascade, and dancing in the sunlight as it enters the Tioughnioga, he had but a cow, an axe and an auger to help himself with. Mrs. Agar was, if possible, quite as poorly provided with articles for housekeeping. Instead of marble tables, foreign sofas, rosewood chairs, Brussels carpets, etc., Mrs. Agar's furniture consisted of a hewed slab elevated on four legs for a table, square blocks for chairs, and a corn husk rug in lieu of an elegant carpet. Chips served the purpose of plates, and a bake kettle for an oven, dish kettle, water and milk-pail, as well as for soup-dish, a frying-pan and a coffee-pot. And yet we are told that they enjoyed life and finally became wealthy. While reflecting on the inventive power of this self-sacrificing woman, we cannot help comparing her genius with that of Joseph Chamberlain, who emigrated from Herkimer county in 1806, and located in Steuben. He was the owner of a dog, a cow, and an axe. He did not possess a single article generally used about the kitchen, or upon the most common table. But he had both tact and genius ; and these were speedily brought into requisition. His cow must be milked, but into what kind of a vessel was a problem which he alone seemed prepared to solve. Near his cabin might have been seen the trunk of a common-sized tree. Into this he had cut a small

notch, or basin. Morning and night he would drive his cow astride of this log and milk her into this rudely constructed vessel. Standing at a little distance, the observer might see him crumb his roasted bread into the milk, which he ate with a wooden spoon.

There are many touching incidents connected with the early history of Virgil, which might be both interesting and instructive, as they exhibit most fully the noble independence and moral greatness of the early pioneers, and evince most evidently the necessity for decisive action in all great enterprises, whether moral, social, or political. We regret that our limits will not allow of extended comments.

The first town meeting after Virgil was organized (1804), was held at the house of James Knapp, on the 2d of April, 1805, when the following officers were duly elected :

Supervisor,—Moses Rice.

Town Clerk,—Gideon Messenger.

Assessors,—Abner Bruce, John Gee, Joseph Chaplin.

Commissioners of Highways—John Glenny, George Wigant, John I. Gee.

Poor Masters,—Jonathan Edwards, Peter Powers.

Constable and Collector,—Shubel S. Marsh.

Fence Viewers,—Moses Olmstead, Abial Brown.

The first *Justice of the Peace* was James Glenny. He was appointed in 1802 by the Commissioners of appointment at Albany.

The first post-office was established in 1808, and Zophar Moore appointed post-master.

The first school-house was erected in 1799, near the

present residence of J. C. Hutchings. Charles Joyce was the first teacher.

The first merchant was Daniel Shelden. When the news of the arrival of his goods spread through the settlement, it was received with great interest, and considered as an important event in the annals of Virgil.

The first saw-mill was built by Daniel Edwards, in 1801.

The first grist-mill was erected in 1805, by Peter Vanderlyn and Nathaniel Knapp. The erection of this mill was regarded as a work of valuable importance. The inhabitants had previously been compelled to procure the grinding of their grain at Chenango Point, (now Binghamton,) or Ludlowville, near the east shore of the Cayuga lake. We have heard of numerous instances of individuals carrying the grain upon their backs to the latter place, a distance of twenty-four miles.

The first carding machine was put in operation by a Mr. Baker, in the latter part of the year 1814.

The first public burying ground was deeded to the town in 1806, by George Wigant. The first tombstone was erected in 1823, to the memory of an esteemed and worthy citizen, James Roe.

The first cider was made by Enos Bouton in 1819. It commanded four dollars per barrel. The apples were bruised by a pestle hung to a "spring sweep;" and the juice was extracted by means of a very simple lever press.

The inhabitants seem to have taken considerable interest in elevating the standard of education. There were gentlemen with warm hearts and active minds

laboring to advance the interests of the school-room. A grammar school was first taught in 1819, by Henry J. Hall.

In 1837 the "Literary Institute" was organized. It continued until 1845, having been successfully taught by N. Bouton and William E. Gee. Various other schools flourished from time to time.

The "Virgil Library" was established in 1807, and another, with a capital of two hundred dollars, was organized under the name of the "Virgil Union Library," in 1814.

The first Sabbath school was organized in 1822.

The first religious meeting was held in 1802.

The Congregational organization was completed Feb. 28, 1805. There were then eight members. Rev. Seth Williston presided.

The Baptist Church was organized in 1807.

The Free or Open Communion Baptist in the south-east part of the town, was constituted in 1820; and that of the Free Baptist Church in the west part, was organized in 1822.

The Methodist organization took place in 1826 or 1827. Their church was built in 1831.

The Universalists organized into an Association in 1831.

The Christian Church was formed in 1828.

The first physician was Elijah Hartson.

The first child born in town was a son of Mr. Chaplin.

The first death was that of a stranger, Charles Huffman, who died in April, 1798, in the woods, while attempting to travel from Ebenezer Brown's, in Lansing, (then Milton,) to Mr. Chaplin's.

The first death of a resident settler was that of Mrs. Derosel Gee, in March, 1802. She was the wife of one of the heroic soldiers of the French Revolution of 1754–63. He was a man of iron frame and active mind, and could repeat tales of the tented field, of blood and carnage, that would never fail to send the blood curdling to the heart.

The first marriage occurred in 1800. The parties were Ruluff Whitney, of Dryden, and Susan Glenny, of Virgil. The event was regarded with more than usual interest, and formed an era, or starting point, from which future events were to be dated. And it is worthy of remark, that when we were collecting our historical materials, we frequently met with individuals, who, when interrogated with reference to certain points, would immediately refer to the marriage of Miss Glenny in 1800, and then figure backward or forward, as the case might be, and thus arrive at what they concluded to be positive periods of time, or certain points of fact.

In the autumn of 1853 a Town Agricultural Society was organized, and held its first annual Fair in 1854. The result was commensurate with its importance. In 1857 it was reörganized, according to the act of 1855, passed to facilitate and encourage the formation of Agricultural Societies. During that year a beautiful piece of ground was obtained on a lease, and a fence, enclosing upwards of four acres in a square form, was erected; as also, a building for the exhibition of dairy products, home manufactures, and needle-work. The building has since been enlarged and improved. A spirit of enterprise has been awakened in the town, and its example has been followed by some surrounding

towns and localities, in the formation of similar societies.

In 1846 Virgil was divided into three towns; the north half constituted one, and retained the original name. The south half was formed into two; the west received the name of Harford, and the east that of Lapeer. Since that time a part of Virgil has been set to Cortlandville, and another part, consisting of lot No. 20, has been attached to Freetown.*

In 1810, six years after its organization, the population numbered 913. There were seventy-seven Senatorial electors, and the whole amount of taxable property was $84,351.

In 1798 the population of Vigil was			30
1810	"	"	906
1814	"	"	1,437
1820	"	"	2,411
1825	"	"	3,317
1830	"	"	3,912
1835	"	"	4,291
1840	"	"	4,502
1845	"	"	4,541
1850	"	"	2,410
1855	"	"	2,231

CINCINNATUS was one of the original townships (No. 25,) of the Military Tract; located by act of Legislature of New York, in 1786, to which reference was made in a previous chapter. It originally contained 100 lots, or 64,000 acres of land. It was organized April

* See Festive Gathering of Early Settlers, by Hon. Nathan Bouton, the able and popular pioneer annalist of Virgil—page 31.

8th, 1804, and retained its original limits until April 21st, 1818, when it was reduced by the erection of Freetown, Willet and Marathon. Freetown was taken from the north-west quarter, Willet from the south-east, and Marathon from the western portion of the township.

The settlement of Cincinnatus commenced in 1795. The inducements were not of that flattering character which were calculated to attract the earlier attention of intelligent and enterprising pioneers. The lands were not regarded as being of the most productive character. In this respect, however, great changes have resulted from the labors of industrious agriculturists. And although the general quality of the soil does not equal the rich flats washed by the glassy waters of the Tioughnioga, or surpass the more elevated lands of Homer, Preble, or Scott ; yet it is quite certain that great improvements have been made, and that farmers are reaping the rich rewards that spring from the industrious pursuits of life. Much of the surface of this town is hilly, though by no means mountainous. The soil is of various qualities, generally better adapted to grass than grain, a fact which appears to be well understood by the dairymen, for we have the most positive authority for asserting that some of the very best specimens of butter, which find their way into Washington Market, New-York, are made in Cincinnatus.

Previous to 1798, when a grist-mill was erected at Homer, the citizens of Cincinnatus were in the habit of going to Chenango Forks, Ludlowville, or Manlius Square, with drays loaded with wheat and corn, drawn by oxen, to get their grinding done. If the reader desires to understand how these drays were con-

structed, it will only be necessary for us to state that they were made from the crotches of trees, having a few boards or cross pieces attached to them by means of pins. They were usually from six to eight feet in length, and, as we are informed, from eight to ten bushels made a very respectable load. In more modern times, the drags, and even stone-boats, were similarly constructed.

The settlement of Cincinnatus commenced in 1795, under the auspices of John Kingman, Thadeus Rockwell, Zurial Raymond, Dr. John McWhorter, Ezra Rockwell, and Samuel Vining. Mr. Kingman was a native of Massachusetts, born in Wethersfield, October 5, 1770. With an ordinary education, he left home at the age of sixteen, and learned the shoemaker's trade with Mr. McGee, an Irishman, who carried on the business in Sheffield. At the age of twenty-five he came to Cincinnatus, and located where he now lives, on lot 19. He had never worked at farming, and consequently purchased originally only fifteen acres. He possessed a strong physical frame, and was an active and energetic man. He busied himself in clearing his land in the daytime, and in making shoes and boots during the early portion of the night; in this way he paid for much of his hired help. He subsequently made different purchases, until he had secured 150 acres—which is now owned by his sons Charles, George, and John. In a military capacity, he rose from 2nd Corporal in a company of infantry to Colonel. He was supervisor of Cincinnatus for eleven successive years; and held numerous other town offices. He has reared a very intelligent family of children: Leroy W. resides in Owego, Tioga

county; Lyman, in Groton, Tompkins county; and Oliver, Charles, and George I., at Cincinnatus. All have been merchants; and it is worthy of remark, that neither of them ever failed in business, and are therefore enjoying the well-earned fruits of their own industry. Oliver, John and George have been members of the Legislature; the former was an associate Judge from 1828 to 1846. Leroy, at the time of writing, is the popular county clerk of Tioga county. The Rockwells were from Lenox, Massachusetts. Ezra first located in Solon, now Taylor, in 1793, but in '95 removed to Cincinnatus and settled on lot 19—purchased 100 acres. Thadeus settled on lot 9. Mr. Raymond was from Williamstown, Massachusetts. He located on lot 29, on a revolutionary claim, which he had the fortune to secure through his wife, Widow Young. Dr. McWhorter came in from Oxford, Chenango county. He married the step-daughter of Mr. Raymond, a very interesting and accomplished lady. This was the first wedding that occurred in Cincinnatus. Thomas Rockwell told us that at the time referred to, there was no person there authorized to marry, and consequently a clergyman was employed to come from Oxford and officiate. This done, another difficulty arose, but was easily overcome. The clergyman had no authority to marry out of the county of Chenango; and hence the company, pioneered by Thos. Rockwell, marched out and as they supposed crossed over the border line into Chenango, but, in reality, had not reached the then limits of Onondaga. They had, however, approached a romantic spot, such as the marvellous would presume to be the retreat of sylphs and nymphs; and there, beneath the pavilioned sky, in the

midst of the unbroken forest, on a beautiful moss-covered heath, the happy couple were duly and appropriately married. Dr. McWhorter was a man of more than ordinary ability; was an active and prominent politician, and was at different periods elevated to responsible positions. From 1804 to November 8, 1808, he was a member of the New York Assembly. He also held, by appointment, the office of surrogate. He reared a large family of children; three are now living. One is the wife of Burton Wakeman, son of Judge Wakeman, of Pitcher,—a gentleman of respectability and fortune. Another daughter resides on the Genesee Flats, and a son, Zurial McWhorter, near Buffalo.

Phineas Sergeant, from Oxford, in 1796 came to Cincinnatus, and was employed as a kind of general jobber.

Charles De Belle was from Berkshire, Massachusetts. He located in 1797, on lot 9. He died in 1854. Mrs. De Belle is still living, and is remarkably active and healthy. She is eighty-three years old, yet frequently walks upwards of a mile—not of necessity, but from preference—to visit her brother, Thomas Rockwell, of Taylor. Mr. De Belle left five children, all in good circumstances. Their names are Truman, Polly, Sophronia, Francis, and John.

Jesse Locke, from Oxford, settled about 1800, on lot 19. Of his family or fortune in life, we have no particulars.

The Wyoming Indians occasionally visited the valley, (Otselic,) during the few first years after the settlement commenced. The Onondagas and Oneidas, also, made periodical visits. In 1796, forty of the Oneidas camped

on the ground occupied by the Brick store ; and during the fall and winter they killed forty-two bears. The oil they preserved in some of the larger intestines, and used it in cooking their meats. Soon after Col. Kingman began to improve his land they erected their cabins farther down the river. He informed us that they were very peaceable, and well disposed towards their white neighbors.

The inhabitants exhibited considerable public spirit in their efforts to establish and render beneficial the common schools, which claimed their early attention. Public religious worship did not commence at as early a period as in many of the sister towns. This, however, was not owing to any lack of moral culture or religious belief on the part of the people, but should be ascribed to circumstances beyond their control.

The Union Congregational Society of Cincinnatus and Solon was organized November 18th, 1822. The trustees were John L. Boyd, Barak Niles, John Covert. Clerk, Barak Niles. Presiding officers, Oliver Kingman, Barak Niles.

The first sermon ever preached within the original limits of Cincinnatus, was pronounced by Dr. Williston, of the Congregational order. It was delivered in a log barn, from the text, " Hear ye."

James Tanner was the first merchant. The first miller, Benjamin Wilson. The first store was erected by Col. John Kingman, on ground now covered by the Brick store. The first school-house was built by Mr. Kingman, and stood a short distance south of his house. The first frame house was erected for Dr. John M'Whorter, about 1802. The first school was taught by Miss Hepsy Beebe.

In 1810	the population of	Cincinnatus	was 1,525
1814	"	"	1,614
1820	"	"	885
1825	"	"	1,057
1830	"	"	1,308
1835	"	"	1,018
1840	"	"	1,301
1845	"	"	1,195
1850	"	"	1,206
1855	"	"	1,119

Much of the matter rightfully belonging to Cincinnatus, will be found in our sketches of Freetown, Willet, and Marathon.

PREBLE was organized April 8, 1808, from the original south half of the old military township of Tully. In 1815 it was reduced to its present limits by the erection of the town of Scott.

The standard of civilization was first erected in the town of Preble, in 1796, by James Cravat and John Gill. The former was a native of Connecticut, but migrated from Pompey Hill, and located on lot 68. The latter located on lot 76. Samuel and Robert Cravath came from Norfolk, Conn, in 1797, and settled on lot 68. Harry Hill and Elijah Mason came in during the year 1798. The former was from Montgomery co., N. Y., and located on lot 87, which he drew for Revolutionary services. The latter settled on lot 78. Seth Trowbridge, from Montgomery county, located in the early part of 1799 on lot 59 ; and during the next year, Samuel Trowbridge, Minnah Hyatt, and Samuel Orvis settled on the same lot. Trowbridge served in the Revolution

and drew the lot. Widow Trowbridge, of Homer, mother of Mrs. Oliver Glover, was a daughter of Mr. Hyatt. Mr. Orvis was from Norfolk, Conn. He subsequently removed to Prattsburg, Steuben county, where he died in 1851, at the advanced age of ninety-eight years. His surviving children are Reuben S., now living in Hastings, Oswego county. Phebe, (Lee,) Clarissa and Eliza reside at Prattsburg.

In 1801, Augustus Thorp located on lot 78. In 1802 Jabez B. Phelps, John Osgood, Silas Topping, and Samuel C. Buckelow came in and selected various locations. Judge Phelps was originally from Hebron, Conn., but came to Preble from Cazenovia. He located on lot 88. For the first few years he practised medicine, and was honored with the title of Doctor, but he subsequently turned his attention to politics, and was at different periods elevated to important positions, and creditably filled the office of Associate Judge, Surrogate, and member of Assembly. He died December 20th, 1850, aged seventy-four years. His widow is seventy-eight years of age, and is in the enjoyment of excellent health. Mr. Phelps reared ten children, seven of whom are now living—three in Ohio. Sophronia is the wife of Charles Clark of Groton; Laura Jane is Mrs. Dr. Burdick; Augusta is Mrs. Harry Hobart, of Truxton; Lydia married Dr. Alfred Hall, of Navarino, Onondaga county; Amanda is the wife of Hon. Ezekiel Chew, of Richland, Ohio; Abram J., of Newark, in the same State; Lydia, wife of Dr. Hall, of Onondaga; and Calvin B., of Chrysoline, Ohio.

Osgood settled on lot 77, Buckelow on 67, and Topping on 96. In 1802, Lytle Ferguson, from Montgomery

county, located on lot 65. He purchased one hundred and nineteen acres; reared seven children—six of whom survive him. His sons are Michael, William, Thomas, Elias, and Lytle.

In 1803, Amos Skeel and Jason Comstock came in from Schenectady county, and selected locations. The former settled on lot 59. He was an industrious and valuable citizen. He died in 1842, at the age of seventy-five years. His widow survived him eleven years, and died at the advanced age of eighty-eight. He was the father of Hon. Ira Skeel, as also of William W. The former lives in Preble; the latter has but recently removed to Homer. His son William is at present a prominent citizen and public officer of Jefferson county, Missouri. Mr. Comstock located on lot 58. His daughter Saloma is the wife of D. G. Duncan. In 1804, John Callyer, Dr. Robert D. Taggart, and Edward Cummings, selected locations. Callyer, father of Casper Callyer, came from Greene county, and settled on lot 58. Taggart came from Colerain, and located on lot 59. He was an exceedingly active and prominent man. Cummings, came in from Peterboro, N. H., and settled on lot 59. He purchased one hundred acres, and reared a respectable family of thirteen children—eleven of which are now living—seven of whom are sons residing in Preble.

In 1806 several additional settlements were made. Garret Van Hoesen and his sons—Garret, Francis and Albert—came in from Greene county and located on lot 68. He purchased of James Cravat, the original settler of the lot, three hundred and fifty acres at twelve dollars and fifty cents per acre. Garret and Francis are still living on the lot; the former at the advanced age

of ninety, and the latter at eighty-two years. William Vandenburgh, from the same county, located on lot 77. He was the father of Lambert and Richard : the latter lives on lot 85 in Scott. John C. Hollenbeck and Richard Egbertson, also from Greene county, located about the same time on lot 58. Mr. Hollenbeck left two sons, —Abram and John,—and one daughter. John occupies the homestead. The daughter, Mary, is now widow Beeman, of Tully. A daughter of Mr. Egbertson is the wife of David Beeman. Tunis Van Camp, from Schoharie county, located on lot 69. The farm is now owned by Frederick Poor. His son John lives in Tully.

In 1807, Rier Van Patten, from Schenectady, located on lot 56. His children are Mrs. Martin Vanderwarker, Mrs. Mary Ann Hobart, Asenath, now widow Egbertson, John K. and James S. The latter lives in St. Charles, Illinois.

The town of Preble presents a broken and diversified aspect. The western portion exhibits several abrupt and high elevations, the highest point of which is Mount Topping. There are numerous legendary reminiscences treasured up in the minds of some of the old sachems of the Iroquois tribe, which give a somewhat prominent feature to this rugged miniature mountain. Here the bear, the wolf, and the panther were driven from their strongholds, or made to pay a forfeiture of their lives for their unbecoming temerity. An old scarred warrior, of the seventeenth century, having pitched his hunting camp at the eastern base of this high point of land, was suddenly aroused from a sound sleep, about the middle of a cold December night, by the scream of an enormous panther, which had been attacked by a drove of hungry

wolves. Springing from his pallet of dried skins, and seizing his French rifle, which had been given him by a young Adirondack chieftain, and which had often before done him good service, and creeping stealthily to the door, which he opened with the utmost care, to his surprise he beheld the fiery orbs of three ferocious animals. Levelling Long Tom, a leaden missile made a death lodgment in the brain of the panther. The wolves retreated a few rods, and as hastily returned, for they had already got a scent of the fresh blood that freely flowed from the dead animal, now secured within the unadorned walls of the hunter's tent. The purple current was soon lapped up, and then the midnight air resounded with the discordant howls of the more than half enraged wolves.

But hark! the terrific howl is answered from Mount Topping, and reëchoed in mournful expression as it dies away on the other side of the Tioughnioga. And now, while the hungry pack are hurrying down the mountain glade, the unterrified red man sits smoking his pipe, with all the coolness of a Roman knight. A few moments elapse, and they have snuffed the scent of blood, and are yelling around the pent-up confines of the stern old man. The muzzle of Long Tom presently appears emerging from the port hole, belching fire and lead; and though he spoke in an authoritative tone, and silenced forever the voice of one, he did not frighten away the voracious clan. But Long Tom continued to emerge at various intervals from the unnoticed embrasures, until seven wolves were weltering in their blood. A few escaped with broken limbs to the mountain gorge.

The first school which had any important bearing on

the moral habits and intellectual training of the children, was taught by Miss Ruth Thorp, in 1801. Under the old organization, when Preble was a part of Tully, Moses Nash furnished the settlers with goods from his little store, established at Tully Village in 1803. Two years after, he was succeeded by John Meeker, who greatly extended the limits of commercial intercourse with the hardy pioneers of the country. A public house was opened in 1802. In 1803, when Tully was orga - ized, several of the early settlers of that portion of the town of Tully, afterwards comprised in the town of Preble, were elected to responsible town offices. Among these were the Cravaths. Mr. Nash, after disposing of his mercantile interest, located in Indiana, and at a later period came within one vote of an election to the gubernatorial chair of that State.

Previous to the establishment of a post-office at Preble Corners, about 1812, the then central point of Tully, the settlers received their letters, papers, &c., from Pompey Hill. The first dwelling-house was erected by James Cravath, in 1798.

In 1804, public religious worship was commenced by the organization of the Congregational church in Tully, and consisted of eleven members. It was organized through the active and zealous efforts of the Reverends Theodore Hinsdale and Joel Hale, who were missionaries from Connecticut. This association, at a subsequent period, assumed the name of the First Presbyterian Church of Preble. In its infancy it was connected with the Middle Association; but, on the dissolution of that organization, it was assigned to the Presbytery of Onondaga, and at a still later period, to that of Cortland.

Rev. Matthew Harrison, its first pastor, entered upon his labors in 1812. Reverends Enoch Bouton, L. Weld, A. P. Clark, G. K. Clark, W. Jones, B. F. Foltse, E. H. Payson, and W. W. Collins, severally ministered to the spiritual wants of the people up to 1825, when there were seventy-seven members. Three years after, the number had increased to one hundred and nineteen. Twelve years later, there were two hundred and ten members. The next year (1841) eighty of its members withdrew and finally organized themselves under the appellation of the "First Free Church" in Preble, and might properly be termed *Unionists*.

The Baptist Association, organized at an early period with but fourteen members, owes its origin to Elder Abbott, the first spiritual teacher of that order, who labored ardently in his efforts to impart public religious instruction. The church is now under the charge of Elder Capron.

The Methodist organization dates back to 1827, and was formed by Calvin Winslow. Elder Sayers was the first stated preacher. He was followed by the ever to be remembered Elder Puffer, who was appropriately termed "Old Chapter and Verse." It was a custom of his to omit naming any chapter or verse upon which his public discourses were based. We recollect of his telling us, in our earlier days, that, if the Bible, through some unexpected revolution, should be destroyed, he could re-write every chapter, verse, and even word, in their appropriate order and place.

The dairy business is being regarded with much more attention than in former years; and consequently, the high lands are greatly improved, not only in value,

but in their general appearance. The rich Preble Flats are hardly surpassed, for fertility and beauty, by any in the county.

From the highest elevation of Mount Topping, portions of Onondaga, Cayuga, and Tompkins may be seen, with their varying scenery, blending the beauties of rich productive fields with the more rugged features of nature. Standing on that lofty point, the observer may have a fine view of Homer, Preble, and Tully Flats—lands that will compare favorably with any in the State. And there, too, he may view with admiration and wonder the work of Deity, as exhibited in the numerous ridges and long sloping valleys, the rounded knolls and picturesque dales, all richly diversified, and producing in abundance the various crops common to the country. Indeed, there are many magnificent views to be taken from this rugged point, as it looms up in all its ancient grandeur. We were most agreeably surprised with our visit to this olden spot of Indian warfare, where the red man contested the right of inheritance with the wild beasts of the mountain glen, or forest glade. Had we, in our childhood, given a willing ear to the marvellous, when one of our far-famed orators endeavored to instil into our mind the fanciful stories of fairy lore, we should, we opine, not hesitate to imagine that the retreat of sylphs and nymphs was somewhere about this romantic mount.

Amos Skeel was the first supervisor and justice of the peace; Garret Van Hoesen, the first town clerk; Samuel Taggart, the first constable.

The first marriage was that of Amos Bull to Sally Mason, in 1799. The first birth, Nancy Gill, October

25, 1796. The first death was that of John Patterson, 1798. The first permanent merchant was Noah Parsons, at Preble Centre, 1817. The first grist-mill was erected in 1806, by Samuel C. Woolston, a native of Montgomery county. In 1827 the building was taken down, and the main part of the present mill erected on the original site. In 1853, the mill property and farm, comprising two hundred acres of valuable land, were purchased by W. E. Tallman, formerly an enterprising citizen of Tully. The mill was thoroughly renovated and improved by the replacing of new bolts and an additional run of stone. He has extended a line of shafting to his barn, a distance of three hundred and sixty feet, where the power is used for threshing, separating grain, elevating straw, shelling corn, and sawing wood, requiring less than half the usual number of hands to do the same amount of work. What a vast amount of hard labor is thus saved! What an improvement is thus suggested to other mill proprietors! Mr. Tallman has also recently purchased a water-power about thirty-eight rods below the mill; and he is new engaged in running a shaft back to his mill (six hundred and twenty-seven feet), where it will be connected with an extra run of stone, thus enabling him to use a portion of the water a second time,—another important suggestion to mill-owners; and it is with this view that we have thus freely spoken with reference to this valuable mill property, as well as to the enterprising efforts of Mr. Tallman.

In 1810	the population of	Preble	was 1,179
1814	"	"	1,311
1820	"	"	1,257
1825	"	"	1,327
1830	"	"	1,435
1835	"	"	1,408
1840	"	"	1,247
1845	"	"	1,325
1850	"	"	1,312
1855	"	"	1,219

In 1810 there were in Preble ninety-four Senatorial electors; the taxable property $54,710.

TRUXTON.—The town of Truxton was organized from the south half of the military town of Fabius, April 8, 1808. It also embraces four tiers of lots taken from the north part of Solon.

As we look back over the dim vestiges of the past, and behold the hardy pioneer of civilization penetrating the boundary line which now marks the northern limits of Cortland county, we feel that his was a hazardous effort, and that a great amount of energy must have been embraced in his enterprising and wild, romantic character. Doubts and fears had little or no influence upon his mind, for he was one of those energetic characters of quick and discerning mind,—and bold, resolute actors who, when having resolved upon a purpose, allow no mere probable contingency to deter them from the accomplishment of the enterprise. The foot-prints of civilization had not then penetrated into this then dense wilderness. True, the French traders had visited the Indians in their rude cabins, and even estab-

lished trading-posts; but these had disappeared with time and change, and the confines of the now county of Cortland were invaded only by the red man in his hunting garb, or as he went forth upon some stealthy march. The panther, the wolf, the bear, and the deer, roamed free as the mountain bird, without dreaming of the horrid crusade that was about to be waged against them. Yet through the deep, thick forest of hemlock, maple, elm, and basswood, wandered the bold, resolute pioneer, Samuel C. Benedict, who, in the fall of 1793, located on lot 12. He erected a log-citadel, and christened it—"Home."

In 1794 Nathaniel Potter, Jonah Stiles, Christopher Whitney, David Morse and Benjamin Brown came in and selected various locations. Potter was from Saratoga county, New York. He purchased lots 77, 86, and 96. He erected a small house on lot 96, near the State bridge. In July, 1798, he was suddenly killed by the fall of a tree. Stiles came from Ruport, Vermont, and located on lot 4. He purchased one hundred acres, now owned and occupied by Samuel Freeman. He died in 1840. His daughter Julia married John Wicks; Sophia, Alexander Forbes, of Litchfield, Ohio; Jonah lives at Seville, in the same State; Samuel, at Franklin, in Delaware county, New York; and Otis, near Almiron W. Crain's Wool Exchange, at Stilesville. Whitney migrated from the east, and located on lot 3. One of his daughters is widow Moses Hopkins. Morse came from New Jersey, and settled on lot 87. He served his country in the revolution, and drew the lot where he settled, now in part covered by the village of Cuyler, where his two surviving sons, David and Joseph, now

reside. Brown was from Connecticut. He located on lot 57. His surviving children are Abner, Alvin, and Wesley.

John Shedd located early in 1797 on lot 63. During the same year Nathaniel E. James and Charles Stewart, came in. The former located on lot 63; and the latter, from Colerain, Massachusetts, drew and settled on State's Hundred, lot 93.

In 1798 a number of additional settlers came in and located. Robert McNight and John Jeffrey were from Monmouth, New Jersey, and settled on lot 2; Charles McNight, a son, lives on the homestead. Billy Trowbridge, from Westchester county, New York, settled on lot 5. He filled several respectable county offices; was twice elected to the State Assembly, and for one term held the office of sheriff. His sons John, Levi, and Hubbard, reside at Detroit, and Smith, in Syracuse. Stephen Hedges, from Troy, located on lot 93. Increase M. Hooker was a native of Bennington, Vermont. He was with Ethan Allen during a portion of the Revolution, and witnessed the terrible conflict at Bennington, August 16, 1777. He married in Litchfield, Conn., and some years after moved to Greene county, N. Y. In 1797, removed to Solon, on lot 88; and the next year came to Truxton, and settled on lot 94. Soon after, he purchased a grist-mill of Joseph Sweetland. It was covered with elm bark, and contained one run of stone. It was rebuilt in 1816 by his sons. In 1842 he removed to New Jersey. In 1848 he visited his son in Illinois, and on his return died at Onondaga Hollow. He reared five children: two now living, John H., and Harley; the former lives in Newbrunswick, N. J., and the latter

in Rockton, Ill. John H. Hooker recently told us that he visited Onondaga county when there was but one house at Manlius, one at Pompey, and one at Onondaga Hollow.

John Miller, from Amenia, Dutchess county, located in 1801 on lot 93.

Hugh and William Stewart, from Colerain, Mass., settled in 1803 on lot 4.

Lewis Wicks came from Saratoga county, in 1804, and located on lot 13.

The Pierces were from Colerain. Zebulon migrated in 1805, and located on lot 34. He reared a family of eleven children—four now living.

Judah settled in 1806 on lot 12. He left eight children—three reside at the West. Ethan lives on the homestead. Mr. Pierce accumulated a large property; was an influential citizen. He died at the age of seventy.

Dea. James Bell was from Ruport, Vt. He migrated to Truxton in the winter of 1812, and located on lot 95. In 1821 he removed to Medina county, Ohio. He was a most excellent citizen, and reared an interesting family. His sons, James and Jacob, are active and prominent politicians; the former has occupied a seat in the Ohio Legislature.

In 1814 Asa Babcock, originally from Rhode Island, came in from Madison county, N. Y., and went into the mercantile trade, which he continued for a period of forty-three years. With the sands of life running low, he calmly awaits his summons to depart.

Asa Campbell was a native of Hampden county, Mass. He came in and settled (1816) on the farm now

owned by Jennings Bennett. The widow and daughter reside in the village.

Stephen Ambler came in from New Berlin in 1818, and located on lot 83. He purchased one hundred and twelve acres; reared nine children—four now living; two sons in Cuba.

The settlement was visited quite early by itinerant missionaries, and public religious worship was instituted in 1801, through the laudable exertions of Rev. Hugh Wallis.

The first post-office was established in 1799, and Stephen Hedges appointed post-master; he was also the first merchant. John Miller, the first physician. The first miller was Joseph Sweetland. The first child born was Stephen Potter, in 1794. The first death was that of the father, Nathaniel Potter, already referred to.

In the earlier town organization, this town belonged to Pompey, which was organized in 1794, and included the townships of Pompey, Fabius, and Tully; and also, "part of the Onondaga Reservation, lying south of the great Genesee Road, and east of Onondaga Creek." Fabius was erected from Pompey in 1798, and at that time included two military townships,—Fabius and Tully,—and comprised the present towns of Fabius, Tully, Truxton, Preble and Scott, with portions of Spafford and Otisco.

The pioneers of the town of Truxton labored early and late to procure a support for themselves and families. The luxuries they enjoyed were the real necessaries of subsistence. They dealt only with the stern realities of life. The follies and fooleries of our times were unknown to the primitive settlers. They studied nature as she really was, rather than in what they

would have her to be. When success had so far crowned their laborious efforts as to enable them to spare a portion of their products, they did not deem it a hard task to place the scanty surplus on an ox sled, and, taking an Indian trail, or such road as had been cut through the wilderness by wandering emigrants, thus trudge on from day to day, until they reached Utica, Whitestown or Herkimer, where they exchanged them for the substantials of the farm and the kitchen. The exchange did not then, as in these days of refinement, consist of satins, silks and lawns for their daughters, but in a few yards of linsey-woolsey; an axe, bush-hook, grub-hoe, and last, though perhaps not least thought of, a half-pound of *old Bohea*, which was always received by the happy matron with a smile as sweet as the lively lay she sang.

The surface of the town of Truxton presents a broken and diversified aspect. The Truxton Flats are, however, very beautiful, rich, and abundant in agricultural elements; yet they are unquestionably better adapted to the growing of the coarser grains, though wheat is produced to a limited extent.

In 1810	the population	of Truxton	was 1,031
1814	"	"	1,768
1820	"	"	2,956
1825	"	"	3,325
1830	"	"	3,885
1835	"	"	3,712
1840	"	"	3,658
1845	"	"	3,587
1850	"	"	3,623
1855	"	"	3,444

In 1810 there were one hundred and twenty-nine Senatorial electors ; and the taxable property was assessed at $47,673. The village contained twenty houses. The town is well watered, and especially by branches of the Tioughnioga, which have their origin in the town.

The streams of Truxton afford many excellent mill-seats, which in most instances are used to good advantage, placing her in the front rank of manufacturing towns in the county. There are five grist-mills, several saw-mills, a large sash and blind factory, a firkin and tub factory, and a Wool Exchange. The latter we propose to briefly notice. In 1809 Jonah Stiles and Alvin Pease erected a grist-mill, the second one in the town. In 1810 they erected a carding machine. These subsequently passed into the hands of Otis and Jonas Stiles ; the latter, however, soon sold out to Samuel Stiles ; and finally, the latter interest was purchased by Otis, who, in 1814, added to his business another branch, —that of cloth dressing. A few years previous, Jacob Otis commenced cloth dressing, but he discontinued it in 1820. In 1826, Mr. Stiles rebuilt, and engaged more largely in the manufacture of cloth. In 1837, he added the improved machinery. In 1838, Almiron W. Crain became an active partner, and in 1848 sole proprietor. In 1854 Perry P. Crain became a partner. In 1826 the business of exchanging cloth for wool was commenced, and has been gradually increasing until the present time. The sum total of exchange during the year 1858, amounted to 25,000 pounds of wool. We re-

NOTE.—Since the main portion of our history was placed in the hands of the publisher, the recently organized town of Cuyler has been formed from the east half of Truxton.

gard the wool exchange business as one of great practical importance to the wool-growers of Cortland county, for while they get their cloth at a reduced price, they receive an advance profit on their wool, making the exchange a profitable investment.

SCOTT.—The town of Scott was erected from the west part of Preble, April 14, 1815.

The first permanent settlement was made in this town in 1799. There had, however, been a rude hunter within its boundaries as early as 1795. He erected a bark shanty, and lived by hunting,—a kind of employment for which he seemed peculiarly fitted, and to which he was greatly attached. He spent about one year and a half in the deep solitude of that unbroken wilderness, when he was joined by a half-breed Indian, originally from Three River Point, Canada; and in a few months after, they gathered up their peltry and furs, and made their way to a French trading post, then established near Whitestown, where they made a profitable disposition of their effects, and then sought, if possible, a still more gloomy retreat in the wilds of the far West. He was an eccentric and original genius, constitutionally fitted for the rude life he lived. His birth-place is not known, though it is evident from certain excentricities of character that he was of French extraction. An Indian of the *Leni* tribe, from whom we gather these facts, and who occasionally visits the Oneidas, relates many characteristic anecdotes touching this singularly strange, yet interesting original. Years after, he was seen standing upon the bank of the great Father of Waters,—the majestic Mississippi. There was heard a

shriek, a plunge,—the waves closed over the lone hunter, and all that was mortal had disappeared forever. And when the horror-stricken Indian, who had watched his movements, called for the white man of the woods, the evil genius that had wrecked his hopes in early life and made him a wanderer, answered :—

" Where the dark tide runs strongest,
The cliff rises steep ;
Where the wild waters eddy,
I have rocked him to sleep.

" His sleep is so strong,
That the rush of the stream,
When the wild winds are abroad,
Cannot waken his dream."

During the year 1799, several settlements were made. Peleg Babcock, accompanied by his brothers Solomon and Asa Howard, came in from Leyden, Massachusetts, and selected locations. Peleg settled on the south part of lot 82. Solomon located on the north-west part of the same lot, while Howard stuck his post a little to the east of Solomon. About the same time George Dennison, from Vermont, pitched his tent on the west part of the lot, making the fourth settler on No. 82. Cornish Messenger and Daniel Jakeway came in from De Ruyter in 1800, and settled on lot 92. In 1801 Maxon Babcock came in from Leyden, and located on the north-east corner of lot 82. Ghershon Richardson, and his two sons-in-law by the name of Clark, came from Pompey, Onondaga co., and located on lot 71. In 1802, Henry Burdick, a native of Rhode Island, migrated from Colerain, Massachusetts, and located on lot 72. He purchased originally, in company with John Babcock, 109 acres. He was an active and prominent

pioneer in his locality, and now, at the venerable age of 78 years, lives retired from the toil and bustle of life. His youngest son, A. B. Burdick, of New York, is the enterprising publisher of this work.

Jared Babcock came in during the year 1804, and spent some three or four years. In 1809 he was enlisted in the mercantile trade in Spafford, being the first merchant in that place. He subsequently moved to Homer, where he still resides.

John Gillet, from Norfolk, Connecticut, located during the same year (1805), but did not purchase until 1807 or '8, when he selected 100 acres on lot 84. The farm has been increased at different periods, and at the present time embraces nearly 300 acres. He has already passed through a long, busy and prosperous life—a life of activity, of public employment, and of private enterprise. He filled the office of Justice of the Peace for a period of twenty years; that of supervisor and other town offices, at various times; was associate judge of the county court for fifteen successive years, and also member of the legislature, and presidential elector.

Jacob Smith, from Delphi, located in 1806, on lot 84. His original purchase was 50 acres: he, however, made subsequent additions until he had secured 105 acres, which he has but recently disposed of with a view of locating at Little York.

In 1806 Daniel Doubleday migrated from Lebanon, Connecticut, and located in the town of Homer. In 1809 he removed to Scott, and settled on lot 85. He has reared a respectable family, accumulated a good property, and now, at the advanced age of seventy-two, rejoices in having spent a long life in an honored and productive employment. Mr. Doubleday is in the

enjoyment of remarkable health, and in the full possession of his mental and physical faculties.

During 1805, Elisha Sabins and John Babcock cut and cleared a road from Scott Corners (then called Babcock's Corners,) to Spafford Corners. They transported their goods to their new home on sleds, and found it a rather difficult task. The next year, Isaac Hall, of the latter place, passed over the road with a wagon, and after purchasing a load of lumber at Babcock's settlement, placed it on his wagon and conveyed it to his home in Spafford.

In the summer of '99, Solomon Babcock tells us that he was in the habit of making frequent visits to his brother's cornfield, accompanied by a small dog, for the purpose of frightening away the bears, they being very troublesome and destructive to the corn crop. It was a common occurrence to find a half dozen in at a time, and to him it was rather amusing to see how they would hurry away at the mere sight or bark of the little fellow.

Early in the month of March, he went into the woods for the purpose of obtaining a birch broom-stick. The snow was some three feet deep, and the crust sufficiently strong to bear up a man. A strong, active, fierce and well-trained dog, belonging to his brother Peleg, bore him company, and before the trunk of the little sapling was secured he had actually killed seven deer.

The first ordained preacher was Elder Town. The first persons baptized were Mr. and Mrs. Solomon Babcock—the former in Homer, and the latter in Scott. The first merchant was Nathan Babcock. The first inn-

keeper was James Babcock. The first post-master, John Gillett. The first marriage, Solomon Babcock to Amy Morgan. This occurred in the Fall of 1802. There being no authorized person at hand to marry, the parties came to Homer on horseback, and after attending church, went to Squire Bishop's on East Hill, where they were appropriately married. The first child born in town was Harriet Babcock. The first death was an infant daughter of Peleg Babcock.

Public religious worship commenced about the year 1806 or '7.

The Close Communion Baptists, the Seventh Day Baptists, the Presbyterians, and the Methodists, have each a convenient house for religious worship.

The first post-master of East Scott was Alvin Kellogg. It was with this gentleman that Ex-President Fillmore learned his trade,—that of clothier.

The town of Scott, though containing much broken land, is favored with many most excellent farms. It is not, however, a grain growing town. The land being generally better adapted to grazing, the agriculturists are found adopting the more reasonable and productive pursuit of increasing their means in the dairy business.

In 1820	the	population	of Scott	was 775
1825	"	"	"	1,006
1830	"	"	"	1,452
1835	"	"	"	1,504
1840	"	"	"	1,332
1845	"	"	"	1,368
1850	"	"	"	1,290
1855	"	"	"	1,293

FREETOWN was organized April 21st, 1818. It comprises the north-western quarter of the old military township of Cincinnatus, and lot No. 20 from the eastern part of Virgil. The soil is a clay loam, better adapted to grazing than grain growing ; but more recently has produced good crops of corn, oats, barley, flax, and potatoes ; wheat not being grown here to any considerable extent. Freetown is situated on a ridge between the Tioughnioga and Otselic rivers, and was settled principally by emigrants from the north and eastern portions of the State. The inhabitants are an honest, industrious, hardy race of men. The early settlement of this town was attended with deprivations, hardships and discouragements that required the energies and fortitude of a class which none but pioneers in a new country are capable of exercising and enduring.

The early pioneers, in preference to going to Ludlowville or Chenango Forks, to mill, usually went to Onondaga Hollow, or Manlius Square, a distance of forty miles, fording creeks and rivers, exposing themselves to cold and storms by night and day, being obliged to camp out two or three nights during their journey to and from the mill, through an almost entire wilderness, filled with wolves, panthers, and other ravenous beasts of prey. As there were then no roads, they traveled by marked trees, whiling away the dull hours of time by whistling or singing some merry tune, or in telling some legendary tale which may have been preserved for centuries by Indian tradition. At night, tired and hungry, the jaded horses were tied to a tree, and, by the roots of some enormous oak or hemlock, the pioneers would find a resting-place, with the bags for pillows

and an Indian blanket for a covering ; and there, in the deep forest, surrounded with gaunt, howling wolves, and poisonous reptiles, with the "deep blue sky above," all radiant with night's diadems, or perchance o'erspread with tartarean blackness, while the harsh, hoarse thunders rolled and reverberated through the wide expanse ; now startled by a vivid flash of forked lightning as it leaps athwart the darkened sky, or shatters a proud old relic of the ancient wilderness into a thousand pieces, would await the return of day to resume their journey. And thus they endured these attendant privations until 1798, when a mill was erected at Homer,—or a year later, when Mr. Hubbard, of Cortlandville, built the old Red Mill, now owned by Mr. Mudge.

Robert Smith, a Revolutionary soldier, was the first settler. He drew lot No. 2, and moved on to it with his family in 1800, having only previously prepared a mere cabin of logs for their reception. He was originally from one of the New England States. He made a small improvement on his lot, and after struggling through many severe hardships, and enduring the privations incident to most new settlements, sold to Samuel G. Hatheway. Some of Mr. Smith's descendants are now living in Marathon.

Soon after Mr. Smith located on his lot, Caleb Sheopard and David H. Monrose moved from the eastern part of the State, and settled with their families on lot 22. Mr. Sheopard, several years since, removed to Michigan. Mr. Monrose remained on his farm until his death, which occurred in 1837. His son Daniel occupies the old homestead.

William Smith, a native of Vermont, migrated from

Great Bend, Pa., to Freetown in 1802, and located on lot 25. He made various small purchases of land until his farm numbered some one hundred and sixty-five acres. In 1835 he disposed of his property and settled in the town of Cortlandville, where he now resides. His step-mother, Eunice Smith, lives with him, at the advanced age of 95. Mr. Smith has held most of the town offices, besides several military positions. Of his nine children eight are living.

In 1804 Gideon Chapin located on lot 42, and erected soon after the first saw-mill in the town. There is at present one of a larger size covering the same ground.

In 1805 Gen. Samuel G. Hatheway, originally from Freetown, Mass., removed from Chenango county and located on lot 2, having purchased the Robert Smith farm, which consisted of about three hundred acres. The General was a man of energy and enterprise, as was evidenced in the rapid improvement of his farm. He can now relate many interesting anecdotes touching his early life. Soon after he came into Freetown, he desired to make some addition to his stock of cattle, and hearing that Caleb Sheopard, near the Salt Road, about five miles distant, had a calf to sell, made arrangements to procure it. He started from home near evening, having previously completed his day's work, for Mr. Sheopard's, with a rope halter in his hand with which he intended to lead his calf, if successful in a purchase ; and thus equipped, without coat or stockings, he plodded his course through the woods, by way of marked trees, there being no road. He succeeded in obtaining the calf, and started for home ; but night coming on, and it being much darker than he antici-

pated, and carelessly hurrying along with his treasure by his side, he soon found himself unable to distinguish the glazed trees, but still persevered, hoping to come out right. It was not long, however, before he found he was out of the right course, and concluding that for the present he was lost, very calmly set about camping out for the night. He fastened the calf to a tree, and, reposing by its side, was delighted through the long and darksome night by the hooting of owls, howling of wolves, screaming of panthers, and other music of a like interesting character. At length morning dawned, and, as Aurora flung her gorgeous rays over the dense forest, revealed to his eager gaze his position on the Pine Ridge, one or two miles out of his way. His calf was hastily detached from the tree, and he again set out for home, which he reached at an early hour, having a sharp appetite for his breakfast, and much to the gratification of his anxiously awaiting mother.

Eleazer Fuller came from Northampton, Mass., in 1806, and settled on lot 12. He purchased one hundred acres. He reared a family of four children ; a daughter, with whom he lives, is the wife of William Mantanye. His son, Austin Fuller, is Auditor of Indiana, residing at Springfield. Mr. Fuller is seventy-five years old, and is, at the time of writing, greatly afflicted with a cancerous ulcer, which must eventually terminate his life.

In 1808, Rockwell Wildman and Isaac Robertson came in and selected locations. The former migrated from the north, and settled on lot 15. He died in 1855. His children occupy the original premises. The latter came from Connecticut, but was not permitted to enjoy for more than a few brief seasons the fruits of his labor ;

he died in 1811 ; his wife in 1815. He left eleven children—three are now living.

In 1809, John Aker, father of Abram, came from Albany county and selected a location.

Henry Gardner, from Plainfield, N. Y., came in during the same year and settled on lot 32. He purchased one hundred acres ; died in Illinois in 1858 ; age eighty years ; left seven children—all now living. Mrs. Gardner died in 1852.

At about this time, or perhaps a little subsequent, Charles and Curtiss Richardson, William Tuthill, Jacob Hicks, Isaac Doty, John Backus and Aruna Eaton came in and selected various locations. Curtiss Richardson lives with his son William, in Canandaigua.

John Conger migrated from Granville, Washington county, in 1812, and located on lot 12. He purchased one hundred and five acres. Fifty acres have been added to the farm, which is now owned by Hugh M'Kevitt.

Mr. Conger was an enterprising, public-spirited man, and creditably discharged the duties of several town offices. He died in 1836, aged 55. Mrs. Conger, at the advanced age of seventy-five, is remarkably healthy and active. Mr. Conger was the father of five sons and four daughters—Joseph, Samuel, Harmon S., Bemon S., and Damon. Malina married David Gardner, of Harvors, Illinois ; Mary is now widow Crosby ; Esther is the wife of Ransford Palmer, of Cortland ; and Rhoda is Mrs. J. M. Barclay, of La Cross, Minesota.

In 1813, Austin Waters removed from Saybrook, Conn., and located on the same lot. He purchased one hundred and five acres, which was entirely covered with a heavy growth of timber. Having but limited

means, and indeed nothing but his ambitious desire to achieve something in the way of human progress, he perserved in his toilsome efforts, and kept from yielding to the numerous discouragements with which he was surrounded. He resolved to succeed, and he triumphed over all difficulties ; and he lives, at the venerable age of eighty years, to see Freetown one of the most productive dairy towns in the county.

Walton Swetland, a native of Conn., migrated from Granville in 1814, and settled on the Trip farm, on lot 22. He made several purchases, until he had secured a farm of one hundred and thirty acres. He attended to the clearing and cultivating his land until 1838, when he disposed of it with a view of entering into another branch of business. In 1846 he engaged in the mercantile trade, and up to the present time has continued the business with general success. He has filled various town offices, among which are those of School Inspector, Superintendent, and Justice of the Peace. The latter office he has held for twenty-eight years, and still continues to officiate in that position. He was appointed an Associate Judge in 1844, and held the office for a number of years. From a corporal in a company of infantry, he rose to the rank of major.

Judge Swetland resides at Freetown Corners ; is about sixty-five years old ; and is still an active, useful and prominent citizen.

Geo. I. Wavle, from Montgomery county, N. Y., located in 1814 on lot 4, where his son James now resides. He purchased four hundred and fifty acres. He was an industrious and honorable citizen. He died in 1825, leaving a respectable family of children.

During the early period of settlement, Freetown was regarded as being rather cold and sterile, and frequently the prospects of the settler were blasted by early frosts, which cut down the crops before they came to maturity; but more recently, frosts have not been as frequent, and for several years past, as good crops of corn have been raised as in most other towns of the county. But the attention of agriculturists is being more generally turned to dairying, in which they succeed much better than in their laborious efforts to grow grain, the soil being better adapted to this department of productive employment than to any other branch of industry.

The first clergyman who statedly preached in Freetown, was Elder Sheopard ; he was of the Baptist order, and resided in the town of Lisle, Broome county. Elder Benjamin W. Capron was the first preacher who made a permanent residence in this town. Don A. Robertson was the first school teacher ; his father came into town soon after General Hatheway, and reared a large family of sons. Peter McVean was the first merchant. He located at what is now called Freetown Corners, continued in the business a short time, and was succeeded by John M. and Sylvester M. Roe from the town of Virgil.

In 1820	the population of	Freetown was	663
1825	"	"	877
1830	"	"	1,051
1835	"	"	962
1840	"	"	950
1845	"	"	925
1850	"	"	1,035
1855	"	"	955

Perhaps no town in the county was settled under more discouraging circumstances than Freetown. It was decidedly "a hard town," the citizens were generally poor, and were necessarily subjected to more hardships and privations than under other circumstances would have been endured. Settlers came in slowly, and at no time made very rapid progress; even as late as 1828, when Reuben Northrop came in from Washington county and located on lot 20, what now constitutes his valuable farm was an entire wilderness. But the industrious and persevering habits of the citizens have wrought a most favorable change; and Freetown has become prosperous and influential. The inhabitants are intelligent, affable, and courteous.

MARATHON.—The territory embraced within the boundaries of Marathon,* was set off from the south-west quarter of Cincinnatus, April 21, 1818, and organized into a town under the name of Harrison, in honor of Gen. Harrison, of the late war, but was subsequently changed to Marathon, on account of there being another town of the same name in the State. The first actual settlers of this town were Dr. Japheth Hunt and wife, both aged people, two sons, James and William, and three daughters, Betsey, Nancy, and Hannah. The advanced age of the parents disqualified them as pioneers of a new country, and unfitted them to encounter the hardships and privations incident to such an enterprise. Their children, however, were of mature age, of robust constitutions, and possessed energy of character, which

* Communicated by Dr. S. M. Hunt.

enabled them to accomplish the laborious duties which now devolved upon them. They entered the valley of the Tioughnioga from the south, in canoes, in the year 1794, and located on a piece of land on the east side of the river, about a mile south of the present village of Marathon, since known as the Comstock farm and now owned by Edward Moore. Their log house was erected a few miles north of Mr. Moore's barn, on a knoll, or rolling piece of ground, immediately west, and near the present highway. Upon this rising ground were discovered a great number of excavations or depressions, of a circular form, in close proximity, rendering the surface of the ground uneven. Each of these depressions, upon examination, was found to contain human bones, which had, apparently, been deposited there for several preceding centuries. Upon removing the road a few years since, from the top to the base of this hill, some of these depressions were opened by the plough, and were found to contain not only human bones, but several curiously carved vessels or pots, of a substance resembling clay, probably wrought by the Indians to contain succotash, or boiled corn and beans,—deposited in the grave, as is their custom, to supply their departed friends in their journey to the world of spirits.

About the time that Dr. Hunt's family settled here, a road was surveyed and partially cut through the wilderness from the south, near the river, until passing their land, when diverging from the stream, it crossed the south line of lot number 72, about three fourths of a mile east of the village of Marathon, and continuing in a northerly direction, intersected the State road at the

farm recently owned by Mr. Charles Richardson, of Freetown, and extending north to its terminus at the salt works, which gave it the name of the Salt Road.

Another road, about this period, was surveyed and partially opened as a State road, by the way of Oxford westerly through the centre of the town subsequently organized as Cincinnatus, and consequently on the north line of the present town of Marathon, and crossing the river at Chaplin's ford, now known as State Bridge, and thence westerly through the county by Virgil Corners.

Dr. Hunt was an emigrant from one of the New England States, and had served his country in the Revolutionary war, in the capacity of surgeon. He died March 7th, 1808, at the advanced age of 97, and was the first person buried in the east burying ground of Marathon. His son William married Anna, daughter of Matthew Cole, an early settler on a farm south, adjoining the county line, being the present residence of Col. Lucian E. Crain. His son James was never married, and died at Genoa, Cayuga county. His daughter, Nancy, married Abram Smith, and died about forty-five years since, leaving three children, who are yet living in the town of Virgil. Betsey Hunt married Oliver Mack, of Genoa, and Hannah, the youngest daughter, married Nathan Thorp, of the same place. Wm. Hunt, some time after the death of his father, sold the farm and located again two miles north of Marathon village, where Stephen Johnson now resides, but finally emigrated with his sisters from Genoa to the "Far West," to some part of Indiana. In the latter part of the winter of 1796, John, the eldest son of Dr. Hunt, who had

married Lydia, the daughter of Major Samuel Mallory, of Hillsdale, Columbia county, N. Y., was induced to move from that place into the new country in the vicinity of his father's residence. A man with horses and sleigh was employed to bring his effects, and family, which then comprised himself and wife, one daughter three years of age, and a son of six months. After several days' travel over the rough roads, they arrived at Oxford, a new settlement on the Chenango river, where their teamster left them and turned back in consequence of poor sleighing produced by a thaw. Mr. Hunt having one horse of his own, harnessed him to a hastily constructed sled, and placing a bed and a few necessary articles of furniture and provisions, with his wife and children thereon, started westwardly by the way of the State road for the place of his destination. The first day they proceeded about seventeen miles into the wilderness on this rough road, passing over several of the smaller logs which had not yet been removed from the path, when night overtook them in a dense forest, which soon became vocal with the sounds of wild animals. Fortunately, they soon came to a log cabin, recently erected, covered with bark, and having a floor of slats split from logs, with a place for an entrance, but destitute of a door to exclude the air. By means of his gun and tinder, he kindled a fire ; and, placing his horse close to the opening, with his provender in the sled, which served for a manger, and having hung up a blanket at the entrance, and placed their bed on the floor, being very weary, he retired to rest, and slept comfortably through the night. But his wife, unaccustomed to such privations, was less inclined to sleep. The howling of

the wolves also annoyed her, and she wondered how her husband could sleep so composedly in such a dismal place. The next morning they resumed their journey, and before noon came to the Otselic river, and were cheered with the sight of a house on the opposite side of the stream. This proved to be the residence of Wm. Tuthill, who kindly assisted them in crossing the river, and hospitably entertained them till the next day. This was at a farm subsequently owned by Ebenezer Crittenden. From this place they traveled west, till they came to the intersection of the Salt road, when turning south along the latter path at a distance of four miles, they found the new home of his parents and family. His goods were subsequently brought in canoes from Oxford, down the Chenango river to the Forks, and then up this branch, then generally called the Onondaga, to their new location.

John Hunt purchased one hundred acres out of the south-west corner of lot No. 72, and moved his family there, being on the east side of the river, upon which land a large portion of Marathon village is located. Here his second son, Samuel M. Hunt, was born, October 30th, 1798, being the first child born in this town. When a young man, he chose the profession of medicine, and pursued that study with Dr. P. B. Brooks, now of Binghamton. He has practised medicine for thirty years, principally in Broome county ; but for three years past, he has been located in Marathon village, on the same premises formerly the residence of his parents. As early as the beginning of the present century, John Hunt was appointed by the Governor and Council a justice of the peace ; which office he held by successive

appointments to the period of his death, which occurred August 8, 1815, at the age of fifty years. His widow is still living, in the eighty-fifth year of her age. Their eldest daughter married Mr. Charles Richardson, of Freetown, and is now residing in the village of Marathon. Two other daughters are yet living. Four others of their children lived to be married and settled in this section of country, but are now deceased. Abram Brink with his family moved into the present bounds of this village in the spring of 1800, and located a few rods south of Mr. Hunt's, on the north part of lot No. 82, then State land. He came from the present town of Union, below Binghamton, on the Susquehanna river, bringing his family and furniture in a canoe. He was a son of Captain William Brink, a patriot of the Revolution, who had suffered much by the depredations of tories in the war at Wyoming, and subsequently lost a great amount of property by the great ice-flood in that valley. Abram Brink was a robust and industrious citizen, and a valuable pioneer in clearing up the rugged wilderness, and preparing it for the residence of posterity. He kept the first tavern ever licensed in this town, from the commencement of the present century up to the time of his decease in 1824. Intoxicating liquors, as a beverage, were at that time considered as necessary as food in a tavern for the refreshment of guests. And although their deleterious effects were visible, not only in occasional carousals, but in the physical, moral and mental prostration of all who indulged in the potation, yet the traffic was for a long period sustained by public sentiment and by the laws of the State. Mr. Brink was succeeded in the tavern by his only surviv-

ing son, Chester, for a few years, when, influenced by a strong aversion to dealing in intoxicating liquors, he relinquished the business and employed himself in cultivating and improving the same farm, and some other adjoining lands, which he had acquired by purchase. A few years previous to the arrival of Mr. Brink here, a family by the name of Alford had settled about three-fourths of a mile south, on the State's lot, and some years after sold out to Daniel Huntly, a son of Deacon William Huntly, who resided for several years on the next farm south, now owned by Patrick Mallory, jr. A man by the name of Lee also lived a few years on the premises of Mr. Alford, having married his daughter. At the close of the last century, a traveler from the north, in passing down this valley, after leaving the ford-way at Chaplin's, would find the following residents on the east side of the river :—First, the family of Mr. Hunt ; 2d, Mr. Brink ; 3d, Mr. Alford and Mr. Lee ; next Dr. Hunt ; and lastly, Mr. Cole, in this county. South and near the county line on the east side of the river, was the residence of Gen. Samuel Coe, and directly opposite, on the west bank, was the house of Jonathan Cowdrey.

Soon after this period John S. Squires located on a farm south of Mr. Alford, but shortly after purchased a farm in the present town of Lapeer, and removed his family there into the forest at quite a distance from neighbors ; it being the same farm where his son, Dan C. Squires, now resides. About the year 1800, Ebenezer Carley moved into this town from Unadilla, and located on the west side of the river where his son Alanson now resides. He was commissioned Captain of

Militia company No. 1, organized in this section of the country. He had a large family of children. Ezekiel C. became a Captain of the militia, and also held the office of justice of the peace. Of this large family none are now living except two brothers, Alanson and Orin. Alanson Carley, Esq., has held the office of justice of the peace of this town for several years, has been a member of the Legislature, and has served as sheriff of this county for three years. Orin Carley is now residing in Broome county. It would be a difficult task, at this remote period, to ascertain the precise date of the arrival of each family of the first settlers here, as far back as the close of the last century, or the regular order as to the priority of time, in every case, when they entered this valley. In February of the year 1805, Patrick Mallory, (who some years after became a Captain of militia) a brother of Esq. Hunt's wife, arrived here with his wife and one child, and settled on a farm one mile north of Marathon village, now the residence of G. Pennoyer. He resided a few weeks with his sister's family, while erecting a log house for the reception of his own. This was early in the spring, when each family was actively employed in manufacturing maple sugar. To secure a supply of such an important article for domestic use, it became necessary for him to tap his trees prior to finishing his house. The farm was situated mostly on the west side of the river, and his maple trees were on the flat, directly across the stream. Being busily engaged one day, assisted by his wife, in gathering and boiling sap, they were detained till approaching darkness reminded them that it was time to start for home. They then entered their canoe, and had

just reached the eastern shore and found the narrow path that led down the stream to Mr. Hunt's, when, to their surprise and consternation, their ears were saluted with the most clamorous, violent and discordant sounds, directly across the river, they had ever heard. The woods were apparently full of monsters in pursuit of them, as their intended victims, and engaged in fiendish strife respecting the several shares of the spoils. How to escape from these monstrous cannibals was the subject of anxious thought and hasty deliberation. Mrs. Mallory advised a rapid retreat; but her husband, being a very stout man, and wishing to retain his reputation for bravery, had a great aversion to "an attack in the rear." He therefore firmly grasped his axe, which he carried in his hand as an instrument of defence, and cautiously followed his wife, who alternately ran forward a few rods with speed, and then fell back again, urging him to make a more rapid progress. Notwithstanding the Captain's resolute intention, it is probable that the march was not very slow; and they soon reached the house of their friends without suffering an attack, and gave the alarm of the approaching enemy. But they were soon relieved of their fears, though somewhat mortified to learn that these savage monsters were nothing more than a class of nocturnal birds called owls, incapable of injuring either man or beast.

In 1820	the population	of Marathon	was 807
1825	"	"	873
1830	"	"	895
1835	"	"	986
1840	"	"	1,063
1845	"	"	1,080
1850	"	"	1,149
1855	"	"	1,341

Thus it will be seen from the above table of census reports, that the town of Marathon has been steadily increasing in population, unlike the fluctuating or periodical changes referred to in some other towns of this county. The soil is generally productive, and when considered in connection with other facilities, natural and internal, we do not wonder at its progress.

We cheerfully give place to the following exceedingly interesting letter from Hon. Thurlow Weed. Mr. Weed resided in the western part of Cincinnatus—now Marathon :

" ALBANY, May 16th, 1858.

" H. C. GOODWIN, Esq.:

" MY DEAR SIR,—Your letter of 30th of April has remained quite too long unanswered, partly on account of severe illness in my family, but mainly because your kind and not unusual request embarasses me. Several applications similar in character, from book-makers, I have simply declined, because, first, there is nothing in my life entitled to historic attention ; and second, if any of its events were worthy such attention, it is neither proper or becoming in me to furnish the materials. So strong are my convictions of propriety in this

regard, that many years ago, after declining to furnish information relating to myself, asked for by the late Jabez D. Hammond, I declined also to read in manu script what he had prepared. The consequence of that refusal is, that I go down to posterity—if Hammond's Political History outlives the present generation—as a '*drummer in the war of* 1812.' Now I am entitled to no such distinction; for I never learned and never could learn a note or stave of music. I remember to have gone, when a boy, once or twice to an evening singing-school, but after unavailing attempts at quavers and semi-quavers, the teacher snatched the gamut from my hand and turned me out of the class. I will, however, in this instance, depart so far from my usual practice as will allow me to furnish you the dates you desire—though in doing so, I feel as I suppose one should feel in robbing a henroost. I will now give you some 'reminiscences' connected with my early residence in Cortland county.

"In the winter of 1808, my father,—an honest, hard-working man,—whose industry, subject to the various draw-backs of sickness and ill-luck, which the poor only can understand, enabled him to furnish but a scanty support for his family, in the hope of 'bettering his condition,' removed to Cincinnatus, in Cortland county, where Nathan Weed, his youngest brother, resided. We were settled in a log house, upon a small clearing, about a mile from the Onondaga river—or for the purpose of fixing our locality—I had better say about that distance from 'Brink's tavern.' Cincinnatus then, whatever may be it present condition, was in its almost wilderness state. I have not been there in half a *century*, and am told that