

there are no forests, or land-marks, or monuments, by which I could recall or identify the localities of which my mind retains familiar and distinct impressions. Inhabitants were then 'few and far between.' Our nearest neighbor was Mr. Gridley, a farmer, rather 'well-to-do in the world,' who would work hard through 'planting,' or 'hoeing,' or 'harvesting,' and then seek indemnity in a week or ten days' 'spree' on new, raw whiskey. The most fore-handed family in the neighborhood was that of Captain Carley, (one member of which, Alanson, then a boy of my own age, was, some years since, a respected member of the Legislature,) among whose luxuries, as I remember, was a young apple orchard, and the only 'bearing' orchard within a circuit of several miles.

"My first employment was in attendance upon an ashery. The process of extracting lye from ashes, and of boiling the lye into black salts, was common-place enough; but when the melting down into potash came, all was bustle and excitement. This labor was succeeded, when the spring had advanced far enough, by the duties of the 'sap-bush.' This is a season to which the farmers' sons and daughters look forward with agreeable anticipations. In that employment, toil is more than literally *sweetened*. The occupation and its associations are healthful and beneficial. When your troughs are dug out (of bass-wood, for there were no buckets in those days) your trees tapped, your sap gathered, your wood cut, and your fires fed,—there is leisure either for reading or 'sparking.' And what youthful denizens of the sap-bush will ever forget, while 'sugaring-off,' their share in the transparent and delicious streaks of candy congealed and cooled in snow!

“Many a farmer’s son has found his best opportunities for mental improvement in his intervals of leisure while ‘tending sap-bush.’ Such, at any rate, was my own experience. At night you had only to feed the kettles and keep up your fires—the sap having been gathered and the wood cut ‘before dark.’ During the day we would also lay in a good stock of ‘fat pine, by the light of which, blazing brightly in front of the sugar-house, in the posture the serpent was condemned to assume as a penalty for tempting our great first grandmother, I have passed many and many a delightful night in reading. I remember in this way to have read a history of the French Revolution, and to have obtained from it a better and more enduring knowledge of its events and horrors, and of the actors in that great national tragedy, than I have received from all subsequent readings. I remember also how happy I was in being able to borrow the book of a Mr. Keyes, after a two mile tramp through the snow, shoeless, my feet swaddled in remnants of a rag-carpet.

“Though but a boy, I was large, healthy, strong, not lazy, and therefore ambitious ‘to keep up my row’ in planting, hilling, and hoeing potatoes and corn. The principal employment of the farmers of Cincinnatus, fifty years ago, was in clearing their land. Cattle, during the winter, for the want of ‘fodder,’ were turned out to ‘browse’ in the ‘slashings.’ As the work of clearing the land was too heavy for men single-handed, chopping and logging ‘bees’ were modes resorted to for aggregating labor. These seasons of hard work were rendered exciting and festive by the indispensable gallon bottle of whiskey. There were ‘bees’ also for log

house raisings. After the loggings, and as the spring opened, came the burning of the log and brush-heaps, and the gathering of the ashes.

“But little wheat was grown there then, and that little was harvested with the sickle, the ground being too rough and stumpy for cradling.

“Our first acquisition in the way of ‘live stock’ was a rooster and four hens ; and I remember with what a gush of gladness I was awakened at break of day the next morning by the loud, defiant voice of Chanticleer ; and when, several days afterwards, I found a real hen’s nest in a brush-heap, with eggs in it, I cackled almost as boisterously as the feathered mother whom I had surprised in the feat of parturition.

“The settlers employed in clearing and ‘bettering’ their land, raised just enough to live on ‘from hand to mouth.’ Their principal, and indeed only reliance for the purchase of necessaries from ‘the store,’ was upon their ‘black salts.’ For these the merchants always paid ‘the highest price in cash or goods.’

“I remember the stir which a ‘new store,’ established in Lisle, (some seven or eight miles down the river,) by the Rathbones from Oxford, created in our neighborhood. It was ‘all the talk’ for several weeks, and until a party of house-wives, by clubbing with their products, fitted out an expedition. Vehicles and horses were scarce, but it was finally arranged ; A, furnishing a wagon, B, a horse, C, a mare, and D, a boy to drive. Six matrons, with a commodity of black salts, tow cloth, flax, and maple sugar, went their way rejoicing, and returned triumphantly at sun-set with fragrant Bohea for themselves, plug tobacco for their husbands, flashy

calico for the children, gay ribbons for the girls, jack-knives for the boys, crockery for the cupboard, and snuff for 'Grannie.' This expedition was a theme for much gossip. The wonders of the 'new store' were described to staring eyes and open mouths. The merchant and his clerk were criticised in their deportment, manners, and dress. The former wore shiny boots with tassels,—the latter, a ruffle shirt,—and both smelt of pomatum! I do not believe that the word 'dandy' had then been invented, or it would have certainly come in play on that occasion. Thirty years afterwards I laughed over all this with my old friend, Gen. Ransom Rathbun, the veritable proprietor of that 'new store.'

"The grinding for our neighborhood was done at 'Hunt's mill,' which on one occasion was disabled by some defect in the flume or dam, and then we were compelled to go with our grists either to Homer or to 'Chenango Forks.'

"I recollect, on more than one occasion, to have seen boys riding with a bushel of corn, (bare-back, with a tow halter,) to the distillery, and returning with the gallon bottle of whiskey, balanced by a stone in the other end of the bag.

"In the autumn following our removal to Cincinnatus, I had 'worked out' and earned leather (sole and upper) enough for a pair of shoes, which were to be made by a son of Crispin, (deacon Badger, if I remember rightly,) who lived on the river a mile and a half away. The Deacon, I doubt not, has gone to his rest, and I forgive him the fibs he told, and the dozen journeys I made barefooted over the frozen and 'hubby' road in December before the shoes were done.

“I attended one regimental review, or ‘general training,’ as it was called. It was an eminently primitive one. Among the officers were two chapeaux, to which Capt. Carley, one of the two, added a sword and sash; four feathers standing erect upon felt hats; fifteen or twenty muskets; half-a-dozen rifles; two hoarse drums, and as many ‘spirit-stirring fifes.’ Of rank and file there were about two hundred and fifty. In the way of refreshments there was gingerbread, blackberry pies, and whiskey. But there were neither ‘sweat-leather,’ ‘little jokers,’ or other institutions of that character, upon the ground. Having, before leaving Catskill, seen with my own eyes a live Governor (Morgan Lewis) review a whole brigade, I regarded *that* training as a decided failure.

“There were no events at all startling, during my residence at Cincinnatus;—no murders, no suicides, no drownings, no robberies, no elopements, no ‘babes lost in the woods,’ occurred to astonish the natives. A recruiting sergeant came along (it was in embargo times), and three or four idle fellows (Herrings and Wilders by name, I think,) ‘listed’ and marched off.

“There were neither churches nor ‘stated preaching’ in town. A Methodist minister came occasionally and held meetings in private houses, or at the school-house. In the winter there was a school on the river; and the master, who ‘boarded round,’ must have ‘had a good time of it’ on Johnny-cake for breakfast, lean salt pork for dinner, and samp and milk for supper.

“There were but few amusements in those days, and but little of leisure or disposition to indulge in them. Those that I remember as most pleasant and exciting,

were 'huskings' and 'coon-hunts.' There was fun, too, in smoking 'woodchucks' out of their holes.

"During my residence there, Mr. Wattles moved into the neighborhood. He came, I think, from what was then called 'The Triangle,' somewhere in Chenango co., and was a sub Land-agent. They were, for that region, rather 'stylish' people, and became obnoxious to a good deal of remark. One thing that excited especial indignation was, that persons going to the house were asked to clean their shoes at the door, a scraper having been placed there for that purpose. A maiden lady (Miss Theodosia Wattles) rendered herself especially obnoxious to the spinster neighbors, by 'dressing up' week-day afternoons. They all agreed in saying she was a 'proud, stuck-up thing.' In those days, 'go-to-meeting clothes' were reserved for Sundays.

"'Leeks' were the bane of my life, in Cincinnatus. They tainted everything, but especially the milk and butter. Such was my aversion to 'leeky milk,' that to this day I cannot endure milk in any form.

"In the fall and winter, corn-shelling furnished evening occupation. The ears were shelled either with a cob, or the handle of a frying-pan. There have been improvements, since, in that as in other departments of agriculture!

"Such are, in a crude form, some of my recollections of life in Cincinnatus, half a century ago. That town, then very large, has since been sub-divided into three or four towns. Upon the farm of my old friends, the Carleys, the large and flourishing village of Marathon has grown up. And then, too, a substantial bridge has taken the place of the 'dug out' in which we used to

cross the river. Of the sprinkling of inhabitants who had then just commenced subduing the forests, and insinuating scanty deposits of seed between the stumps and roots, but few, of course, survive. The settlers were industrious, honest, law-abiding, and, with few exceptions, temperate citizens. The friendly neighborhood relations, so necessary in a new country, existed there. All tried not only to take care of themselves, but to help their neighbors. Farming implements and household articles were pretty much enjoyed in common. Everybody 'lent' what they possessed, and 'borrowed' whatever they wanted.

"You must judge whether these hastily written recollections of Cincinnatus would at all interest the few old inhabitants remaining there; and having so judged, you are at liberty to put them into your book, or into the fire.

"Very truly yours,

"THURLOW WEED."

WILLET.—The town of Willet was organized from the south-east quarter of Cincinnatus, April 21, 1818. The general surface of the town is broken and hilly, yet by no means mountainous. The soil is generally better adapted to grazing than the culture of grain. Its agriculture, however, is respectable. The town is watered by the Otselic, or main branch of the Tioughnioga river. It was named in honor of Col. Marinus Willett, who acquired an honorable fame while second in command at Fort Stanwix, in 1777, and who made a most gallant sally upon the forces of Sir John Johnson, capturing their stores, baggage, and ammunition. He drew lot

No. 88 of the old allotments of the town of Cincinnatus. It was located in the south-east quarter of the township, and when the original tract was carved into four towns, the hero was honored by the conferring of his name upon that portion which contained the land granted him as a partial reward for his valuable and heroic services. We cannot but respect those stern actors, who, in the early settlement of Willet, evinced a determination, worthy of being recorded in the enduring annals of our country. They warred not for fame and glory, but for the improvement of the moral and social condition of those around them. They struck their cabins in the unbroken forest, and endured privation and toil, with the hope of securing for themselves and families a home upon which they might erect their little citadels, dedicated to happiness and social enjoyment. They did not expect the huge "hemlock to snap off like icicles," or the ancient hills to become at once pleasure-gardens or fruitful fields. They did not anticipate that ease and affluence were to be achieved without effort, toil, and privation. No! no! they were men of an entirely different character; and when they determined upon a plan, or resolved to perform a duty, their *wills* became fixed facts.

Ebenezer Crittenden settled in Willet in 1797. He had married at Binghamton, and in order to get to Willet, himself, wife and one child shipped on board his little craft, and by the help of the paddle and setting-pole, at length arrived at his intended home, without shelter—the trees and elements excepted. Then with his axe he cut some crotches, and with some poles formed his tent, covering it with bed-clothes. This was

his dwelling until he could build a log house, which he did in the following manner :—he cut such logs as he could handle, and enough for sides and gable ends, as he had no boards ; he then laid them up, then raised two pairs of rafters, one at each end ; then let in girts or ribs from one pair to the other, in order to hold the shingles, which he made by splitting them out with his axe and putting them on with pegs. As there was no grist-mill, he built him a little one by digging a hole in a big stump and erecting a spring pole, in order to assist his wife in making short-cakes ; while his gun was his meat-barrel, and the Otselic his drink.

Benjamin Wilson was originally from Westchester, N. Y., and from Oxford ; an emigrant and pioneer to Willet, in 1806 or '7. John Fisher, from England, Jonathan Gazlay, from Dutchess co., Thomas Leach, from Madison co., all date their immigration the same year as Benjamin Wilson.

Jabez Johnson, from Vermont, and Phineas Sargent, origin unknown, both located in 1807.

Ebenezer Andrews, from Massachusetts, in 1808.

Joseph Merritt, from Westchester, N. Y., Solomon Smith, origin unknown, Daniel Roberts, from Madison co., John Covert, from Windham, Greene co., William Greene, from Kent co., R. I., Ira Burlingame, from Oxford, Chenango co., N. Y., Altitius Burlingame, from Kent co., R. I., and Edward Nickerson, from Cape Cod, Mass., all located in the year 1809. Arnold Thomas, from North Kingston, Washington co., R. I., in 1810.

Solomon Dodge, from Vermont, after resting at Oxford for a space, entered the town as a resident in 1811. In the year 1816, Samuel Dyer, from North Kingstown, R. I.

John and his brother Peter Eaton, from Cherry Valley, N. Y., Samuel and Abraham Canfield, from Orange co., N. Y., entered and located as pioneers, to battle with the dense forest and privations of the wilderness.

In the language of one whose memory is true to the events of an eventful age, "Death erected his monument of claims to all of mortality, in the newly begun settlement, in the year 1812, by taking the wife of Solomon Smith."

The first birth, in the town of Willet, was a child of Ebenezer Crittenden. The first marriage was that of Solomon Smith. This occurred in 1813.

In 1807 or '8, Benjamin Wilson built a grist-mill, and also a saw-mill.

John Fisher built a saw-mill in 1808, and about the same time Jabez Johnson built another. Wilson built his mills on the waters of the Otselic, in the north part of the town, as may well be proved by most of the learned judges, lawyers, and wearied jurors of the county ; and of such importance has the building of those mills been in the legal movements of the human mind, that could they all be written as were the Acts of the Apostles, they might well be entitled the books of experiment in uncertainty. Fisher's mill was also built on the waters of the Otselic, in the south-west part of the town. And Johnson's mill, on the outlet of the Bloody-pond, so called, in the north-west part of the town.

Benjamin Wilson erected a clothing-mill near his grist-mill, in 1807, and Isaac Smith attended as the workman. He erected a blacksmith's shop in 1810 or '11. In 1808 he kept a public house.

The first school-house was erected in 1814. Thus,

from the workings of mind around the nucleus of labor, progression pushed forward, expanded, absorbed, assimilated, and increased the embryonic town of Willet, until, in 1818, legislatively speaking, it was fully born, baptised, and named, although a feeble infant town, as being regarded in the legal freehold power.

John S. Dyer, son of Samuel Dyer, built a store in 1834, a second in 1837, and a third one in 1848 ; also a public house, or inn, which has since been enlarged. Samuel Dyer was appointed the first post-master, in 1823. The Methodists formed a class, and appointed a class-leader, in 1815 or '16. The Baptists organized in 1821 ; the Congregationalists in 1852.

The first Town Meeting was held at the house of Benjamin Wilson, 1819. Altitius Burlingame officiated as Moderator ; William Throop, as Justice of the Peace. And the following persons were elected as official servants of the town for the term of one year :

Supervisor,—William Throop.

Town Clerk,—Samuel Dyer.

Assessors,—W. Throop, John Eaton, Benjamin Green.

Collector,—Joseph Nickerson.

Overseers of the Poor,—Altitius Burlingame, and Henry Sawdy.

Commissioners of Highways,—Benjamin T. Green, John Briggs, John Eaton.

Commissioners of Schools,—John Briggs, Benjamin T. Green, Abner Wilbur.

Constables,—Joseph Nickerson, John Campbell.

Commissioners of Lands,—Benjamin T. Green, Altitius Burlingame, Peter Eaton.

Inspectors of Common Schools,—W. Throop, Orlando

Salisbury, John Corbett, Anson T. Burt, Bicknell Freeman, Samuel Dyer.

Scaler of Weights and Measures,—Altitius Burlingame.*

In 1818, Arnold Thomas and his much-esteemed wife were drowned in the Otselic river, at or near the termination of the Ox-bow. Mrs. Thomas was a sister of Altitius Burlingame. They were endeavoring to cross the river, on an illy-constructed raft, with a design to attend a prayer-meeting. Miss Hannah Corpse, Nelly Miller, and Mr. Burlingame, were in company with the unfortunate couple. Mr. Burlingame, being an excellent swimmer, succeeded in saving himself and the two young ladies. The bodies were recovered from the watery element, and now repose in one grave, sacred to their memory, in Mr. Burlingame's orchard.

We have previously referred to the spirit of enterprise as exhibited by the agriculturists of Willet. A laudable attention to the improvement of stock, to agriculture and domestic manufacture, marks the efforts of the more active producers of wealth.

The increase of population, with a single exception, has been slow, yet certain.

In 1820 the population of Willet was		437
1825	“	508
1830	“	804
1835	“	723
1840	“	872
1845	“	921
1850	“	923
1855	“	925

* Communicated by Altitius Burlingame.

CORTLANDVILLE was organized from the southern part of the town of Homer, April 11th, 1829.

The surface of the territory is, in some parts, hilly, in others quite level, or but gently undulating. Flats of rich alluvion border the Tioughnioga river in its course through the valley. The more elevated lands are interspersed with gravelly and argillaceous loam.

Much of the early history of Cortlandville rightfully belongs to the original military town of Homer, and is, therefore, comprehended in that portion of our history.

The timber of Cortlandville was unusually heavy, and embraced the various kinds which are yet to be seen dotting the surface of hill and valley. Beech, maple, elm and hemlock were, however, the most abundant. The beautiful and tasteful grounds of the Messrs. Randall and Reynolds, were covered with a most luxuriant forest of lofty elms. Indeed, nothing in the forest line could be more enchantingly alluring. Stretching far to the south-west, these olden elms, that had for centuries towered in lofty grandeur, defying the whirlwind and the storm, are described by the western warriors as greatly rivalling in forest grandeur anything they ever saw in the wide-spread territory once claimed and acknowledged as originally belonging to the Six Nations.

The early pioneers located in the dense forests, erected their rude and unadorned cabins, hoping for the sure rewards of industry, perseverance and economy. But they were often subjected to great inconvenience and suffering, for the want of the necessary articles of husbandry, and also, those of subsistence. We have been told of instances of whole families living for successive weeks upon turnips and salt; of others who boiled

roots gathered in the forest, and ate them with a relish which is unknown to the epicurean lords of the present day. To them a mess of parsley presented by a neighboring hand was regarded as an act of marked and generous attention to their wants.

Grain and potatoes were not to be had in the country. David Merrick sent his team through the woods to Geneva by a neighbor, to whom he gave five dollars, just enough to purchase two bushels of wheat. It was procured and ground; but on the return, one of the bags was torn open by coming in contact with a tree, and the flour of one bushel was lost; the remainder was emptied on its arrival by Mrs. Merrick into a four quart pan. Union and a sympathy of feeling prevailed among the settlers, which tended greatly to encourage and brace them for the coming conflicts arising from misfortune and the common ills peculiar to pioneer life. The settlers were mostly from the New England States, and brought with them their high regard for religion, morality, and common honesty of purpose. In these days of cupidity and heartless knavery, too much respect is paid to land pirates and vampyre shylocks. Not so in the early times of the pioneers. A mean act, coming from whatever source, was treated with contempt; the general desire of the people being to extend favors, and, if possible, to lighten the afflicting providences of all to whom they could possibly extend a helping hand. True, there was an occasional exception; and these were always marked by the upright and deserving.

The pioneer settler of Cortlandville was John Miller, a native of New Jersey. He moved in from Binghamton in 1792, and located on lot 56. Mr. Miller was a

man of character and influence, and held several important town offices.

In 1794, Jonathan Hubbard and Col. Moses Hopkins came in and located.

The former selected a location amid the stately elms that stood on the ground now covered by Cortland Village, while the latter erected his palace of poles one mile west, on lot 64, which is at present occupied by his venerable widow, and her son Hiram Hopkins and family. They came in by way of Cazenovia and Truxton.

Thomas Wilcox, from Whitestown, located early in 1795 on lot 64. Reuben Doud, on lot 75. He was originally from New Haven, Conn. James Scott, John Morse, and Levi Lee located on the same lot. Dr. Lewis S. Owen, from Albany, on lot 66. He built the first frame house in Cortland county. It is at present occupied by widow William Mallery. It is situated a few rods west of the residence of Russel Hubbard.

During the years 1796-7, several accessions were made—located in various parts of the town. Aaron Knapp settled on the Roger farm, lot 55. Enoch Hotchkiss, on 76. The venerable Samuel Crittenden and Eber Stone, from Connecticut, located on lot 66. They purchased one hundred and sixty acres. The boundary line between them run in a direct line with Main street, Cortland Village. Mr. Crittenden was located on the east side, and erected a house on ground a little east of the post-office. He came in with an ox team, and was twenty-five days on the road. He has lived to see the surrounding country endowed with religious and literary institutions, and blessed with all the evidences of sub-

stantial wealth, intelligence and enterprise. He is now an honored citizen of Groton, Tompkins county.

In 1798, Samuel Ingles and his son Samuel, Jr., came from Columbia county, N. Y., and located on lot 75. During the year 1800, Wilmot Sperry came from Woodbridge, Conn., and located on lot 73. William Mallery, from Columbia county, settled in 1802. He was a man of substantial worth, and filled various offices in the gift of his friends. He died in 1837. John A. Freer, father of Anthony and Stephen D. Freer, came from Dutchess co., N. Y., and located on lot 74. James T. Hotchkiss, from Woodbridge, settled in 1803 on lot 54. He was an active participant in the war of 1812-15. He was one of Gen. Dearborn's Life Guards, and fell at the battle of Queenstown in 1813. Of his eight children, seven are now living—six in Cortlandville. His daughter Fanny married Daniel Hamlin, of Summer Hill.

Nathan Blodget, from Massachusetts, located in 1805 ; purchased on lots 65 and 66 ; died in 1845 ; left five children—Loren, Lewis, Franklin, Lydia and Elizabeth. In 1808, John Ingles located on lot 74. Lemuel and Jacob Cady were from Massachusetts, and located on lot 73. John Wicks on 72. Edmund Mallery on 74. The latter came from Dutchess county. William and Roswell Randall were natives of Connecticut, but came to Cortland from Madison county about 1812.

Samuel M'Graw, from whom M'Grawville derived its name, migrated from New Haven, Conn., to Cortlandville in 1803, and located on lot 87. He purchased 100 acres. In 1809 he removed to M'Grawville, and purchased about two hundred acres. There were at this time but three families settled within the vicinity of the present

village. He reared a large and interesting family,—eight sons and four daughters,—eight of whom are now living. He died in February, 1836. His widow, at the age of eighty-four years, survives him, and is still living on the homestead, enjoying remarkably good health. His son Harry, father of Hon. P. H. M'Graw, was for many years a merchant in the village. He died in 1849.

Capt. Rufus Boies came in from Blandfort, Mass., in 1812, and located on lot 54, where Linus Stillman now lives. His original purchase was but fifty acres; he, however, increased the farm to one hundred and fifteen acres. He is now, at the advanced age of eighty-one, living in the village with his son Israel Boies. In his subsequent life, he has shown himself a man of the utmost integrity of character, kind-hearted and intelligent; and his worth as a man has been fully appreciated.

Others settled at early periods on various lots: the dates of location being doubtful, we therefore do not name them. Sylvanus Hopkins and Capt. Strong settled on lot 82. Nathan and James Knapp on 84. Eleanor Richmond, with her step-son, on the west part of the same lot. Gilbert Budd and Jeremiah Chase, on 74. John Calvert, from Washington county, on lot 82. John McFarlan, John M'Nish, and Archibald Turner are believed to have moved from the same county. John Stillman, Elisha Crosby and Lemuel Ingles settled on lot 65.

David Merrick came from Massachusetts in 1800, and located on lot 44. In the year 1797, he came to Whites-town to purchase a tavern stand and one hundred acres of land, then valued at three hundred dollars. His

means being limited, he finally concluded not to purchase, and returned home. The next year he visited Whitestown again, for the express purpose of closing a bargain, but the property was then valued at ten thousand dollars, and consequently he did not secure it, and came on to Homer ; a few years after, having been ejected from his premises three times, and being threatened with a fourth, he concluded to leave, and moved to Little York. In 1810, he located in Cortlandville, on lot 65.

Danforth Merrick, son of David, informed us that he drew saw logs to Homer during the winter of 1800. There was then no road—at least only such as had been made by merely underbrushing through. The mud and snow was two feet deep, and as they had to ring the top end, around which they fastened the log chain, “noosing the logs” as they called it, he could draw but two per day.

In the dwelling where he now resides, he kept tavern for twenty years.

At this period, (1800,) a road had been cut through to Virgil Corners to intersect the State road. Another had been cut through to Locke—now Groton ; a third to M'Grawville ; a fourth to Truxton, and, as above noted, a fifth to Homer.

The first barrel of cider drank in town was brought in by Mr. Lyon, who some years after was murdered in Palmer, Mass.

The first public house was kept by Samuel Ingles, in 1810, on ground now covered by the Barnard Block.

The first school-house stood on ground now covered by the Eagle hotel.

The first grist-mill was erected by Jonathan Hubbard, in 1779.

The first merchant was Lemuel Ingles ; he sold goods in a small house near the present residence of H. P. Goodrich.

We have in another portion of our history referred to the early religious efforts of the pioneers of Cortlandville. The first church organization occurred in 1801. This may be said to have been a union effort, for the meetings were held in Homer, Cortland, Port Watson, and on the East river, near the County House. The Baptist Church was erected in 1811, and dedicated in June, 1812. It was located within the present limits of Cortlandville, about one "half mile north of the old Court House." In the autumn of 1825, efforts were made by the association to secure a more advantageous change in the location of church organizations, which happily resulted in the formation of a church in Homer and M'Grawville, "leaving the Mother Church in the centre."* Soon after, three new churches were erected, one in each of the villages referred to.

During the same year, a Presbyterian Church was organized in Cortlandville, which rapidly increased in numbers and in influence.

The first Methodist meeting occurred in 1804, at the house of Jonathan Hubbard, the former residence of Samuel Crittenden. A discourse was pronounced by Rev. Samuel Hill, of the Philadelphia Circuit, and subsequently a class was formed. It was undoubtedly small as to numbers, for at the time of which we now

* See Discourse by Rev. Alfred Bennet, 1844.

write, there were but four houses within the present limits of Cortland Village. The Universalists, or Free Thinkers, and Catholic organizations are of more recent date. The former have a large and elegant church.

In 1830	the population of Cortlandville	was	3,673
1835	“	“	3,715
1840	“	“	3,799
1845	“	“	4,111
1850	“	“	4,173
1855	“	“	4,423

LAPEER was organized from the east part of Virgil, May 2, 1845.

The first settler in this town was Primus Grant, a colored man; he purchased on lot 594, and settled on it in 1799. He was a native of Guinea, and the farm has always been called Guinea. He lived a number of years on his lot, and when he died was buried on one of the high bluffs that overlook the stream known as the Big Brook.

Peter Gray, a native of Fishkill, Dutchess county, was the first white settler; he came from Ulster (now Sullivan co.) in July, 1802, and located on lot 70. His widow still survives, and is believed to be the oldest person now living in the town,—age 84 years. His son, Ogden Gray, resides on the original premises. He left a respectable family of children, the youngest of whom is the wife of Dan C. Squires.

Seth Jennings, from Connecticut, settled, in 1803, on lot 597, where he lived until his death. Harry Jennings, his son, who now resides in Harford, owns the farm.

Mr. Jennings left several children, some of whom are still living in the town.

Timothy Robertson, from the same State, came in about the same time, and lived for a brief period with Mr. Jennings. He was a soldier in the Revolutionary war; was with Montgomery at the storming of Quebec, in 1775. He fought valiantly while the brave and heroic sons, martyrs to American liberty, were falling around him. His son, Eliphalet, the only remaining descendant, is now living in Lapeer.

Thomas Kingsbury and Robert H. Wheeler settled in the south-east part of the town, in 1804. The former was a Revolutionary soldier, and drew a pension. One of his daughters married Marvin Balch, who resides on the homestead. The latter has no living representative in the town. They were natives of Connecticut.

Simeon Luce, father of Martin Luce, of Virgil, located on lot 57, in 1805; and is believed to have kept the first tavern in the town. He was an ingenious mechanic, and an industrious and valuable citizen. He died at an extreme old age, leaving a numerous posterity.

Zachariah Squires and Robert Smith settled, in 1806, on lot 70. The former was the father of Col. William Squires, now residing in the town of Marathon. The latter was an officer in the Revolutionary war, and held a commission from the Commander-in-Chief, General George Washington. He drew a pension a number of years. His children still reside in Lapeer.

John S. Squires and James Richards located in 1807. The former was a native of Connecticut, but removed from Lisle, Broome co., and settled on lot 68. The farm is now occupied by his son, Dan C. Squires. He left

a numerous family, of which James S. Squires, of Cortland, is the youngest. Mr. Richards settled on lot 79, on the farm now owned by Erastus Johnson.

There were sixteen soldiers of the Revolutionary war who settled in Lapeer, and all but one died there.

A number of the soldiers of the last war with Great Britain, resided in Lapeer, and drew land-warrants, or pensions, or both. In 1813, a volunteer company was organized, of which Simeon West was captain, John S. Squires lieutenant, and William Powers ensign. The service of this company was tendered the Government, and those composing it were to be regarded as minutemen, to be mustered into active service on a day's notice; but happily their service was not needed.

Among the earliest clergymen who preached in Lapeer, were the Rev. Mr. Harrison, and Dr. Williston, of the Presbyterian; Mr. Sheopard, of the Baptist, and Mr. Densmore, of the Methodist. All of them were missionaries, or traveling preachers. The latter organized a class. Other religious associations were subsequently formed,—that of the Baptist, in 1820; the Presbyterian, in 1826 or '7; and the Christians during the latter year.

The first child born in Lapeer was John Gray, son of Peter Gray, in 1803. He died in Minnesota, about two years since. The first death was that of Robert C. Squires, 9th of May, 1809, aged about two years. He was a son of John S. Squires. The first marriage is believed to have been that of James Parker to Miss Lucy Wood.

Simeon Luce erected the first grist-mill, in 1827. The first saw-mill was erected by Samuel and John Gee, in 1825. Messrs. Nickols and Turpening were the first merchants, and commenced trading about 1834 or '5.

The first post-master was Royal Johnson. He was appointed in 1849, and still continues to hold the office.

A few rods to the south of the residence of Mr. H. Genung, was, at a former period, an Indian camping-ground. This was on a bluff overlooking and close to the Big Brook. From the banks of this stream flowed beautiful rivulets of cool transparent water. Here, too, were immense forests of elms, basswood, maple, and other timber, the favorite resort of the black bear, once so plenty in Cortland county. Deers, too, roamed the hills and valleys. The wolf and panther made night hideous with their discordant notes of revelry. From the camping-ground the Indians daily radiated in quest of game and fish, and at night returned to their cabins loaded with peltry—the products of the chase.

In 1850 the population of Lapeer was 822.

1855 “ “ “ 750.

HARFORD was organized from the west part of Virgil, May 2, 1845. The first settlement in this town was made in 1803. Dorastus De Wolf, Thomas Nichols, John Green, and Cornelius Worden, were the pioneers who first selected locations and became permanent settlers of the town of Harford. De Wolf settled in the south part of the town, then a perfect wilderness. Wolves were very plentiful, and, as a consequence, he had to protect his sheep at night for about twelve or thirteen years. Bears, also, were in abundance. Deer were frequently seen in droves. Occasionally an elk was seen in the valleys. Foxes and martins, wild-cats and opossums, were numerous, but a beaver was seldom seen.

Rev. Seth Williston was the first preacher who directed public religious worship. The first meeting occurred in 1804.

The first physician was Dr. Fox.

The first school was taught in 1807, by Miss Betsey Curran.

The first post-office was established in 1825, and at that time called Worthington, but was subsequently changed to Harford.

The first merchant was Theodore E. Hart. He commenced business in 1824.

In 1845	the population of Harford was	921
1850	“	949
1855	“	926

TAYLOR was crected from Solon, December 5, 1849.

The surface, soil, timber, and agricultural advantages are so similar to the adjoining towns, that we do not regard it as necessary to present any separate detail. It is watered in the south-east corner by the Otselick creek, but is in the main deficient of water power. The timber is generally maple, beach, elm, butternut, basswood and hemlock. The arable land is at least in the usual proportion of other towns; the town is however better adapted for grazing and the dairy branch of productive industry, than for the producing of grain crops.

The first permanent pioneers of the town of Taylor were Ezra Rockwell, and his sons Thomas, and Ezra, Jr. They were from Lenox, Mass. The father had served in the Revolution, and drew lot 78, on which they located in 1793.

In 1795 Thomas Rockwell went to Cincinnatus and

purchased one hundred acres on lots 9 and 19. He settled on the former, where he remained for thirty-two years, and then removed to Taylor and located on lot 100. He purchased six acres on which the village of Taylor, familiarly known as Bangall, now stands. He also purchased one hundred and seven acres on lot 99. His house originally stood on the ground now covered by the public house kept by E. W. Fish. He has cleared four farms, erected several dwellings, and, with Leonard Holmes, built the tavern, about 1818. Mr. Holmes kept the house a number of years. He now resides on lot 86. Mr. Rockwell is now eighty-one years old, straight and active as a man of thirty.

The Beebes were originally from Connecticut. Roderic located on Mt. Roderic, lot 75, in the spring of 1794. He is described as being an active, hardy and industrious man, capable of enduring great privation and fatigue. The venerable Orellana Beebe migrated from New Haven in 1796, and settled on lot 7 in Solon, now Truxton. He remained there two years, and then removed to Taylor, and located on lot 100. He survives at the advanced age of eighty-eight years, remarkably active and healthy. Mrs. Beebe is eighty-four, blind, and very infirm. Ira Rockwell married his youngest daughter.

Increase M. Hooker, a native of Vermont, located on lot 88, in 1797. He removed the next year to Truxton.

Lewis Hawley, from Huntington, Conn., located on the Howe farm in Pitcher, in 1805. He remained but a brief period, and then came to Taylor and settled on the farm now owned by Ebenezer C. Wicks. One or two years after he settled on the Orrin Randall farm, where

he remained two years, when he was attacked with the Ohio fever, and started for the then Great West. But the snow having suddenly disappeared, he was unable to proceed farther than Bath. The next fall he removed to Lisle, and the spring following returned to Taylor, and settled on lot 78. He subsequently purchased one hundred acres on lot 77, where he died January 15, 1858. He was an industrious, active, and valuable citizen. He reared a family of seven children—all living. Lewis T., resides in Syracuse; James T. on lot 87. Sarah Ann is the wife of John Biger; Francis, on the homestead; Hiram L., at Liverpool, Onondaga county; Cyrus M. is an active, practising attorney in Chicago; John H., in Kansas.

John L. Boyd and John Phelps migrated from Saratoga county. The former located on lot 98, in 1811, and purchased one hundred and nineteen acres. He subsequently made an additional purchase of two hundred and fifty-one acres. The latter settled on lot 86, and purchased eighty-six acres. He now has two hundred and twelve. When Mr. Phelps located on his land, the country around him was entirely covered with timber; or to use his own language, "it was a dense wilderness." By economy and persevering industry, he has accumulated a respectable competence.

In 1814, David Wire, originally of Connecticut, located on lot 100. He has reared a family of eleven children—five living. His father, Thomas Wire, was a native of England; was kidnapped in London when but seven years old, and sold in Boston, where he remained until the commencement of the French and English war. He was then impressed in the English

service for a period of six years. He subsequently settled in Connecticut. When the American Revolution broke out, he entered the army by enlistment, and served throughout the war.

The early pioneers were not unfrequently subjected to hardships and privation. Provisions,—the real substantial of life,—were scarce, and the prospect of procuring them from a distance was often precarious and uncertain. Orellana Beebe told us that during one of those periods of scarcity, he and his son, Koakland, went to Genoa, Cayuga county, to purchase wheat, which he obtained, and had ground at Squire Bradley's mill. The next spring he was equally as much in want, and being very anxious to get in a small crop of corn, said to his son, then only ten years old, "Koakland, can you take the horse to-morrow and go to Genoa and get some grain or flour?" The boy's answer was, "I can try." The necessary preparations were made, and at early dawn he was on his way. He took with him three bags, each one containing eight pounds of maple sugar, with which to pay for his wheat, at the rate of one dollar, or eight pounds to the bushel. Almost the entire distance (forty miles) was traversed by marked trees. He reached his destination just at evening, and immediately inquired of Mr. Bradley if he could accommodate him with the grain. A negative answer brought tears into the lad's eyes, for he felt most keenly the disappointment. Mr. Bradley, however, quieted his feelings by generously offering to take care of him and his horse until morning free of charge, when he would open a barrel and let him have the value of the sugar in flour—one hundred and twenty pounds. Morning dawned, and

the boy was duly prepared to start on his return for home. He reached Judge Bingham's, at the Salt road, just at the close of day, and, though contrary to his will, was prevailed upon to remain until morning, the Judge telling him that it would not be possible for him to continue his way by glazed trees. At about ten o'clock in the forenoon of the next day he reached home in safety, much gratified with his trip. That boy had the nerve and the muscle of a man.

William Blackman was the first blacksmith ; Hiram Rockwell, the first merchant ; Ezra Rockwell, the first post-master. The office was established in 1834. Mr. Rockwell continued in the office for fifteen successive years, and is at present the recipient of its perquisites, having recently been reappointed. Barak Niles, the first school teacher. The first saw-mill was erected in 1812, by Thomas Rockwell. A portion of the old mill forms a part of the one now owned by Hiel Tanner. The first grist-mill, by Messrs. Wells & Lord. The first missionary was Dr. Williston. The first settled minister, Ruben Hurd. The first birth was that of Polly H. Beebe, now widow Rockwell, of Wisconsin.

In 1850 the population of Taylor was	1,232
1855	1,201

There are but few who fully appreciate the beauty and loveliness of the TIOUGHNIOGA VALLEY. The strife for rivalry and gain hangs like a fated incubus upon the minds of the people, preventing them from viewing with admiration, hill, dale, and valley, which appear spread out like a splendid panorama. Indeed, we have often wondered how little the citizens were impressed

with the natural beauties and advantages with which they are surrounded. Descending from an elevated point into the valley, we have beheld a luxuriance of unrivaled richness. Here was the green herbage—yonder the golden tinge. An occasional old monarch—a proud relic of three centuries, towered aloft in his glorious majesty, while to the westward of the glassy waters of the Tioughnioga river,* our eyes rested upon the fertile uplands, dotted with the neat white cottage residences of thriving agriculturists. The quiet rural village of Homer,† nestled in the lap of the luxuriant valley; the numerous glittering spires rearing their points towards the azure zenith, and the ever-varied beauties of the surrounding landscape, complete a view rivaled only in the more rugged and picturesque scenes of nature.

HOMER is beautifully located on the west side of the Tioughnioga river, and is regarded as being one of the handsomest villages in the State.

In 1800 there were six houses within the limits of the corporation.

Whole number of its inhabitants, June 1st, 1855—1625. Increase since 1848—225.

The various branches of business indicate a healthful progression.

The present aggregate of business transacted in the village, we have not endeavored to arrive at. It is perhaps sufficient to say that the merchants, grocers

* The Tioughnioga river, as called by the Indians O-nan-no-gi-is-ka, signified Shagbark Hickory.

† Homer, as called Te-wis-ta-no-ont-sa-ne-ha, signified the place of the silversmith.

and mechanics are doing a larger business than at any previous time.

The first merchant in Homer was John Coats. His store stood on ground near Harrop's sign-post.

The first permanent merchant was Jedediah Barber. He came into Homer in 1811, but did not engage in the mercantile trade until 1813. The original part of the Great Western store, twenty-two by thirty feet, was erected at about that period. He entered into business with exceedingly limited means, but by industry, perseverance and economy, he was eminently successful, and finally became the heaviest dealer in the Tioughnioga valley, carved his way to fortune, and established a financial reputation unrivaled in the county. He has done more to improve and beautify the village of Homer than any other man. The monuments of his memory are scattered all around the village in the numerous buildings of various classes he has caused to be erected, or contributed to rear, and they will long remain more honorable and enduring memorials than any marble column which might be erected over his final resting-place. His name is identified with the history of the Tioughnioga valley, and will only cease to be remembered when the spirit of enterprise no longer exists.

William Sherman, the second pioneer merchant, came into Homer during the summer of 1815. He located near the cooper shop. Soon after, he erected a machine shop for the manufacture of nails,—the first of the kind in the State of New York,—the machinery being so arranged as to feed, cut, head and stamp without assistance. On the head of each nail was stamped the letter S. Four-penny nails were then worth twenty-five cents per

pound. Iron was exceedingly high. The manufacturing of oil was another branch of productive employment in which Mr. Sherman engaged. In 1827 he erected the "Homer Exchange" store, in which for a period of nearly thirty years he conducted a heavy mercantile trade. John Sherman, and also his son William, now deceased, were at different periods his active partners in business.

The original part of the store occupied by Geo. W. Phillips, was erected in 1819 by Benajah Tubbs. It has been successively owned by Thadeus Archer, Horace White, Marsena Ballard, Amos Graves, and at present by Giles Chittenden, Esq. The brick part is thirty-six by forty-six. Mr. White added improvements to an amount of \$1,200; Mr. Chittenden, by an increase of land, other buildings, and improvements to the store, to an amount exceeding \$1,300. The brick part cost about \$4,000.

The store occupied by C. O. Newton, was erected at a later period.

The first furnace was built in 1826; it was of a very limited structure, the blowing done by a horse attached to a plunge bellows. It stood on the opposite side of the street, and a little to the north of the foundry of Messrs. J. W. & A. Stone, sons of Deacon Nathan Stone, of pioneer memory. It ceased to be operated in 1838. During this year Jacob Saunders erected a foundry on the west side of the street; it was destroyed by fire during the fall of 1844. Damage, \$2,000. Insurance, \$1,000. It was immediately rebuilt, so that in six weeks from the day of its destruction, a blast was made.

The first engine was of six-horse power. The one at present in use rates somewhat higher.

The foundry was purchased by the Messrs. Stone, March 1, 1853.

The buildings cover one acre of ground. The furnace is forty by forty feet. The machine shop is twenty-six by thirty-six.

Their business is one of increasing importance. They melt upwards of one hundred tons of iron per year.

The grist-mill of Messrs. Cogswell & Wilcox, was put up in 1834. This is located on the ground occupied by the first mill erected in the county in 1798, by John Hubbard, Asa White, and John Keep.

The Homer Cotton Mills of J. O. Pearce & Co. were erected in 1834, and put in operation in 1835. The main building is fifty by one hundred feet. The machinery is propelled by steam and water. The engine is of thirty horse power, and was manufactured in Eaton, Madison county, N. Y., by A. N. Wood & Co. Number of spindles, 2,400 ; looms, 50.

In 1836 the amount manufactured in dollars, \$7,000. In 1855, \$30,000.

The planing mill and carpenter shop of Mr. George W. Almy was erected in 1853. The building is thirty by sixty feet, and two stories high. The machinery is propelled by a steam engine of fifteen and a half horse power. During the past year (1855) Mr. Almy has planed two hundred thousand feet of lumber. The planing and matching is done with a correctness and smoothness which makes it a most valuable auxiliary in the department of saving labor.

In 1855, the population of Homer was 1,625.

CORTLAND.—The valley of Tioughnioga is unrivaled in beauty—in wild, picturesque scenery. The quiet vales of central New York present few, if any, more attractive scenes than are to be found in our own broad valley. These exhibit all the grand requisites for the most varied and sublime spectacles. The forest-fringed hills with their impenetrable depths, present the varied shades of green and yellow, with an occasional tinge of orange and vermillion; while the young and tender leaves glisten in the morning frost, or sparkle amid the fresh dewdrops kissed by the soft rays of the orient sun.

“Here, in this lovely valley, the quiet village of Cortland is situated, about three miles from its twin sister, Homer; and through it a beautiful stream passes with murmuring music on its journey to the Susquehanna, which adds a new charm to the romantic and sequestered spot. This beautiful village exhibits much enterprise, united with social comfort; for the undisturbed retirement of the location invites hither, during the summer, many of that class of citizens who prefer seclusion to the bustle of city life.”

Cortland Village was incorporated November 5, 1853, under the act passed in 1847, providing for the procurement of village incorporations by an order from the Court of Sessions and a vote of the citizens.

Cortland contains many attractive and costly private residences, among which are those of W. R. Randall, Roswell Randall, Joseph Reynolds, W. O. Barnard and G. N. Woodward. The first mentioned was built by William Randall, now deceased, father of the present occupant of the estate. The premises upon which the

building stands, comprises about six acres of land. The portion fronting Main street is beautifully laid out in flower plots, dotted here and there with evergreens and stately shade trees. There are winding graveled walks, on either side of which are beds of flowers, selected and cultivated with great care. In the rear of the elegant mansion is an extensive greenhouse filled with a superb collection of cactus-roses, and flowers of almost every variety and hue, besides orange and lemon trees. In spring time the various buds and blossoms that appear are most grateful to the eye, and impart a most healthful and cheering influence. Poetically, "myriads" of happy songsters fill the air with their melodious strains, making the delightful grounds appear like a Paradise of delight. There are very few more attractive residences in the State.

The village contains four churches, one academy, a number of first class hotels, stores, groceries, manufacturing establishments, and warehouses.

The "Randall Bank" commenced doing business December 3, 1853.

Capital, \$50,000; deposits March 8, 1856, \$80,718; amount of business transacted during the year 1855, \$4,810,685 25. William R. Randall, President; Jonathan Hubbard, Cashier.

The large and extensive hardware, agricultural and seed store of Mr. S. D. Freer, is situated on Port Watson street. The building is appropriately divided into necessary apartments, among which are the foundry, machine, blacksmith, wood, and tin shops. It is thirty-six by one hundred and forty feet. The original portion was erected in 1836—rebuilt in 1848.

The grist-mill,—the second one in the county—was erected in 1799, by Jonathan Hubbard ; is at present owned by Ebenezer Mudge. Originally it contained only two runs of stone ; but during the improvements which were made a few years since, two more were added, making it one of the largest and best mills in the county. The greater portion of the wheat that is ground at this mill is purchased in the northern and southern portions of the State, as also from the southern part of Canada. During the past year there were ground at this mill about twenty-eight thousand bushels of wheat.

There were shipped from the Cortland Railroad station, from April 1, 1855, to March 24, 1856, to the different stations on the Syracuse, Binghamton and N. Y. Railroad, five millions eight hundred and eighty-three thousand one hundred pounds of freight.

We have elsewhere remarked with reference to the productive results of the dairy business—a prominent branch of agriculture, which has already superseded the others in practical importance. The amount of butter purchased and shipped by gentlemen in Cortland, reaches an aggregate amount which is certainly excessively large. The amount paid out in 1855 by James Van Valen, J. D. Schermerhorn, James S. Squires, and J. A. Graham, exceeded \$249,000.

Cortland is a pleasant and prosperous village, with a population (as per census of 1855) of 1,576 persons. There are few villages in central New York, more favorably located, or in which may be found a more active and energetic class of enlightened citizens. In

1813 Port Watson numbered twenty-five inhabitants, and Cortland, twelve.

MARATHON is remarkable for its health and beauty, is pleasantly situated on the Tioughnioga river, and is surrounded by a densely peopled, rich, and highly cultivated country. It has a ready and cheap communication, not only with middle and western New York ; but with Pennsylvania, Ohio, the Canadas, and indeed with the ever prosperous and growing West, by railroad, canal, and the great chain of northern lakes. The mass of its inhabitants are characterized for morality and intelligence, sobriety, industry, and enterprise.

The positive proof of her prosperity may be seen in the result of the numerous transforming influences which for the last few years have attended her healthful growth and permanent strength—in the newly erected public and private residences, as well as the commodious and truly valuable mercantile and mechanical establishments. That Marathon is exceedingly “favorably located, both in regard to the value of the country by which it is surrounded, and the area likely to be tributary to its business interests,” is no longer a question admitting of a doubt.

Of the village of M’Grawville, we have remarked in another place. Cincinnatus, Truxton, East Homer, Preble Centre, and Scott Corners, are pleasant and prosperous villages.

CHAPTER XIII.

GENERAL REMARKS ON EARLY HISTORY—PAST AND PRESENT COMPARED.

Times change—one age succeeds another,
And pining want and grim despair
Are left behind, and fairer, brighter
Scenes the pioneers do view.

THE history of Cortland county from the day when Amos Todd first planted the standard of civilization in this then "western wilderness," is but a record of such incidents as the faithful annalist is usually called to record of the rural or gradually improving agricultural districts of a naturally rich and fertile country. The early pioneers were mostly from the New England States, and were imbued with the Puritan habits of their fathers. In 1800, this inland, obscure, and almost inaccessible region had become dotted with log cabins and small clearings. The burning of huge log-heaps served as landmarks to guide the weary wanderer or returning hunter, as he neared the rustic home of the pilgrim pioneers. Clouds of smoke ascended from hill and valley as the old forest monarchs bowed before the invincible axmen. The wilderness vanished before the hand of civilization. It was scathed with fire, and ruthlessly torn with iron

harrows. While the lowlands were being brought into suitable culture for corn, wheat, and potatoes, the crusaders ascended the hillsides and even made war with the hemlock highlands. This was the heroic age—an age of iron fortitude and persevering industry. The pioneers went forth armed with the conquering axe, impressed with a determined will, and inspired with a devotional feeling for home and country. Years of toil and privation succeeded, and occasionally penury and want communed together. Instances of this character, however, were not often allowed to be repeated, without an effort at prevention ; for the liberal hand of the more fortunate brother did not withhold the alleviating charities, especially if the means were in his power. Unlike their modern rivals in wealth—the golden barons of the present day, who are hoarding up means to procure Grecian, Gothic, and Italian finery—they were most happy in relieving the wants of their industrious neighbor. Unlike the present day, the means of subsistence were scant, and not easily obtained from a distance, and consequently want was not a stranger, even in the Tioughnioga valley. As settlements increased, and improvements spread, hope and joy began to realize the anticipated benefits which they saw in their day dreams and nightly visions. The products of a generous soil were garnered in their various depositories, and peace and gladness reigned in the pioneer's home.

What a change has been wrought in fifty years? Then the majority of the inhabitants were found located in our valleys. How changed the scene! Now the majority are found upon the more elevated lands. The huge log-heaps, sending forth their red-hot flames, like

fiery serpents coiling around some proud old monarch, eating out its very vitals, the charred stumps, and rough brush fences, are no more seen as in days past. The change is hardly to be realized. Then a thousand unsightly scenes met the laborer's eye—the timber was felled in every conceivable form, or as best suited the purpose for the more ready application of the crusader's torch. Here and there were seen half-haggled outlines, and blackened trunks of stately trees, while the sun, half hid from sight, only occasionally glimmered through the thick hemlock boughs, as the rosy-cheeked maiden wandered in pursuit of the favorite cow, listening to catch the well-known sound of the tinkling bell, so frequently heard by the brave old pioneer. Now beautiful and well-cultivated farms, bedecked with the tranquil abode of the husbandman, mark the rapidly-improving aspect of the once hated and shunned highlands. Valuable horses and fine fleshy cattle graze upon the productive meadows. A thousand lights are seen at night from the windows of tasteful and elegant mansions. Carriage wheels rapidly roll upon the roads where once were seen only the Indian trails. The cheering light of science has ascended the hillside, and education erected her standard on the higher summit. A hundred school-houses, within whose walls literature and learning love to linger, as in some royal academic edifice, send forth an intellectual influence of far more service than the entrenched embattlements of a thousand warriors.

An intelligent and enterprising population of twenty-four thousand souls are now living within the boundaries of Cortland county. Mills and machinery are add-

ing wealth and elegance, while the agriculturists are turning up the golden sands of an almost unrivaled soil, and the dairymen are shipping to eastern markets heavy consignments of butter and cheese. The heavy goods of our merchants are not now, as once, "dragged in logy wagons" from Albany and Utica, but the huge monster, clothed in iron mail and steel clad armor, belching fire and smoke, rushes with wild discordant shriek over the iron rails which are laid down through our valley, forcing, as with superhuman speed, heavy trains laden with every variety of merchandize for the retail trade—the sugars from the islands of the ocean, the teas of China, the silks of Calcutta, and the thousands of valuable products from oriental looms and spindles. The *Republican*, *Gazette* and *Banner* enter weekly almost every dwelling, even in the rural districts..

There has been a uniform indifference, and an almost entire absence of correct information, through the western divisions of our State in regard to a correct knowledge of this county, as well as with respect to the intelligence and rapidly increasing wealth of the inhabitants ; and we are very sure that no other portion has been so generally misunderstood and decidedly misrepresented. Indeed, Cortland county has been singularly unfortunate in this particular. And yet, through the active and enterprising exertions of her citizens, she is quietly and rapidly growing to be second to none in the State in all the elements of wealth and prosperity. Her agricultural resources and lumber trade are of considerable importance. The dairy business has increased to an almost unparalleled extent. Beside the home consumption, we have, for several years, sent to eastern

markets large quantities of butter and cheese—of the former, upwards of \$400,000 worth. There were shipped from the three stations—Homer, Cortland and Marathon—during the past year, 1,500,000 pounds of butter. There is still another item of increasing magnitude. We refer to the sale of cattle. There cannot be less than \$220,000 worth of cattle driven out of the county annually. Our grain fields, though not in all respects equal to Tompkins, Yates, Ontario and Monroe, yet are generally very productive, while the grass lands are matters of astonishment to every one. We frequently cut from two to three tons of hay per acre. We refer now more particularly to the back and hill lands, which in times past have been regarded, by certain descriptive geographers of our State, as being only suited to the growth of “wild Yankees and tall hemlocks.”

But “we were not aware until recently that the waters of the Tioughnioga had ever been the highway of so much commerce as to render it a part of the journalist’s duty to publish a “marine report.” We knew that great quantities of whiskey, grain, potatoes and other products of this wild region, were “sent down the river” to Harrisburgh and Baltimore ; but we did not suppose the commerce was of so much importance as the following would indicate. We copy literally :*

INLAND NAVIGATION.

PORT WATSON.

Highwater—Monday, 6th inst.

CLEARED.

Bark *Exporter*, G. Rice, master, for Harrisburgh, laden with cheese and gypsum.

* See “*Cortland Democrat*,” of August 2, 1855.

Bark *Crazy June*, L. Rice, gypsum, for Harrisburgh.

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------|---------|-----------|
| " <i>Dutch Trader</i> , | Shapley, | gypsum, | " |
| " <i>Navigator</i> , | Parsons, | gypsum, | Columbia. |
| " <i>Brother Jonathan</i> , | Taylor, | gypsum, | Columbia. |
| " <i>Gold Hunter</i> , | Sherwood, | " | " |
| " <i>Indian Chief</i> , | Billings, | " | " |
| " <i>Resolution</i> , | May, | gypsum, | Marietta. |
| " <i>Perseverance</i> , | Wakefield, | gypsum, | Marietta. |
| " <i>Phoenix</i> , | " | " | " |
| " <i>Enterprise</i> , | " | " | " |
| " <i>Lazy Tom</i> , | " | " | " |
| " <i>Sour Krout</i> , | " | " | " |
| " <i>Yankee Rogue</i> , | " | " | " |

We doubt not the memory of our venerable friend, Major SHAPLEY, whose recollection is not altogether dimmed by age, of "hair-breadth 'scapes" from shipwreck, of the dangers of "taking in" too much freight—of passages over dams, and other adventures incident to the life of the Susquehanna raftsmen—will be greatly refreshed by the foregoing list. But the glory of the Tioughnioga has departed—the "ship yard" of Port Watson has gone to decay—the earth whereon those jolly barks were built, is now made to yield to the labors of the gardener and husbandman—the contest between nature and art has resulted adversely to the former, and the raftsmen's song has given place to the shrill scream of the steam whistle, and the products of our county are whirled to other markets, at a speed somewhat greater than two or three miles per hour. Many an "old craft" has smoked his last pipe and uttered his last oath; and those who are left behind cling closer to the chimney corner as the frosts of age gather around them, while they recount to incredulous

youth the deeds which wrought the hut into the mansion—the forest into the hamlet—and extended to their descendants the benefits of schools, religion, and the comforts and refinements which prosperity and wealth produce.

The few remaining relics of the “olden time” are now trembling on the verge of an hundred years, and treading, as it were, the confines of another world. As they look back upon the mighty changes which time and industry have wrought, they seem overwhelmed and bewildered. But, after resting a moment to collect their scattered thoughts, they enter into a warm and interesting disquisition on the moral and industrial habits of the present generation, as compared with the more active and laborious life of their fathers. They feel conscious that a very great change has taken place in the moral and social habits of the people, and that although the age in which we live is marked by the hand of progress, and an enlightened civilization, they do not perceive the same union of sentiment pervading the various associations, or cementing the more endearing ties of fraternal friendship. When they first landed from their canoes upon the banks of the Tioughnioga, they regarded themselves as being beyond the boundaries of civilization, and as having cast their destiny in the far distant West. They can hardly comprehend the means by which new territories are settled and admitted into the union of confederated States, with an energetic population of two years’ growth, christened with the name of “State.”

The inhabitants of this county are, in many respects, quite dissimilar to those of some of the sister counties

of the State, being principally made up of Connecticut and Massachusetts people, or their descendants, though there is an occasional sprinkling of the Dutch ; yet the peculiar characteristics of the universal Yankee are predominant. The agriculturists are proverbial for their frugality and propensity to hoard money, yet with extremely few exceptions, are affable, courteous, and dignified in their deportment.

Our merchants, too, as a class, are a very worthy portion of community—intelligent, high-minded and honorable, and such as would be creditable to any country. Many of them are in the enjoyment of considerable wealth, honorably acquired.

And last though not least, the clergy deserve a passing notice :—distinguished alike for liberality of sentiment, generosity of purpose, and commanding powers of mind. The religious sentiments, greatly liberalized by the descendants of the pilgrims, and cultivated by the early pioneers of Cortland, are properly appreciated by the enlightened clergymen who conduct public religious worship in our various temples of christianity.

Of the legal fraternity we have remarked in another place.

The first military organization, embracing portions of the territory of this county, dates back to 1796. In March, 1794, after the erection of Onondaga county from Herkimer, various appointments were made for the new county ; and especially for the battalions, of Majors John L. Hardenburgh, Moses De Witt and Asa Danforth. The latter battalion, in 1796, was made a regiment, and comprised the townships of Hannibal, Lysander, Cicero, Manlius, Pompey, Fabius, Solon, Cincinna-

tus, Tully, Virgil, Camillus, Sempronius, Locke, Dryden, and the "Onondaga Reservation." Asa Danforth was made Lieutenant Colonel Commandant.

The act of April 8, 1808, authorizing the erection of Cortland county, provided for the holding of three courts of Common Pleas and General Sessions of the Peace, which were to be held on the second Tuesday of April, and the first Tuesdays of September and December, in every year after the due organization of the county. These Courts were to have the same jurisdiction, powers, and authorities as the Courts of Common Pleas and General Sessions of the Peace in the other counties of the State have in their respective counties. Suits previously commenced, however, were not to be affected so as to work a wrong or prejudice to any of the parties; nor were any criminal or other proceedings on the part of the State to be in the least affected; but on the contrary, all such civil and criminal proceedings were to be prosecuted to trial, judgment, and execution. The act also provided that the Courts "should be held at the school-house on lot No. 45, in the town of Homer." John Keep received the appointment of first Judge, April 3d, 1810.

Cortland county was made to form a part of the Western Senatorial District, and part of the Thirteenth Congressional District, and was entitled to one member of Assembly, and so continued to be up to 1823, when Daniel Sherwood and John Gillett were elected. By a change of Representation, in 1846, Cortland was reduced to one member, and in 1847 Timothy Green was elected to a seat in the Assembly. Ephraim Fish, the

first member, was elected in 1810, and took his seat at the opening of the 33d Session.

The first court-house was erected on a commanding eminence west of Cortland Village. Various sites were examined by the locating commissioners, there being numerous interests operating upon the minds of the people in the different localities. Homer, Cortland, Port Watson and M'Grawville, were equally interested in securing the location of the public buildings, and the good citizens were, apparently, equally certain of success. The commissioners, however, after examining the different locations, and listening to the fervent and eloquent appeals of interested individuals, finally stuck the stake at the south-west corner of where the venerable old relic of a passing age now stands, "solitary and alone," a monument of other days and of the yet remembered differences of an excited people. The decision, as was naturally expected, did not meet with the general approbation of the community. A ludicrous representation of the commanding structure, and of some of the opposing interests, was prepared by a wag, which was rendered, from existing circumstances, somewhat amusing. The "was to be" elegant and dignified edifice appeared quite accurately drawn on old-fashioned foolscap, rearing aloft its bold outlines of pine and hemlock, and looking down with defiant scorn on the outraged citizens of Homer and Port Watson. Two lines of heavy cordage were attached to it; one leading to Homer, the other to Port Watson; and to each of these ropes were clinched the firm hands, as with a tiger's grasp, of several of the prominent and

most influential leaders of the aggrieved parties. There they stood, pulling as if for life, resolved upon at least bringing the stupendous fabric to their notions of right, inasmuch as they had failed in securing the good will and approbating judgment of the self-willed commissioners. If they could not bring them to correct judgment, they could, at least, pull the magnificent structure down. But look again. On the other side of the *legal pile*, stands William Mallory, grasping a still heavier piece of cordage, determined on contesting the skill and strength of the opposing forces. There he stands, a proud representative of the immortal Wallace, of enormous form and determined will. His heels are imbedded in the earth, as he braces himself to the work of preservation.

But the scene was suddenly changed on turning the paper over, though the ludicrous picture was measurably the same. There it stood, an unyielding mass of timber,—of tenons and mortises. There stood the venerable Mallory, holding on to his undis severed rope, while a smile, peculiar to him alone, played over his flushed countenance. But where were his hitherto unyielding opponents? Their cords had parted, and forced them into the unpleasant attitude of turning double semi-circles down the declivated pathway.

The venerable pile that in former days

“O'erlooked the town and drew the sight,”

long since failed to attract attention or gratify the pride of an enlightened and prosperous people. And in order to properly secure the ends of justice, the old structure was condemned and pronounced “unsafe,”

and measures were taken, which in due time resulted in the erection of the present court-house, which was completed in 1836.

The clerk's office was erected in 1819. The first county clerk was John Ballard, who was appointed April 8, 1808.

The county house, with one hundred and eighty-eight acres of land, was purchased in 1836, for \$5,000. The house was originally erected by John Keep, at a very early day. It has been enlarged and variously improved at different periods.

At the time of our visit to the county-house, there were in all fifty-one paupers. The average number for several years past, as shown by the keeper's book, is a fraction over fifty-eight.

The ages of those bending under the weight of years, were variously classed as follows: two, fifty-five—one, sixty-six—two, sixty-nine—two, seventy-nine—three, eighty-five—four, eighty-nine—and one, ninety-two years.

Randall Bank, organized December 3, 1853. Capital \$50,000. William R. Randall, *Banker*. Jonathan Hubbard, *Cashier*.

The Cortland County Medical Society was organized in 1808. The officers and members were as follows:

- Lewis S. Owen, Homer, President.
- John Miller, Truxton, V. President.
- Jesse Searl, Homer, Secretary.
- Robert D. Taggart, Preble, Treasurer.
- Luther Rice, Homer.
- Allen Barney, Homer.
- Ezra Pannell, Truxton.
- Elijah G. Wheeler.

Dr. John Miller, of Truxton, is the only living member of its original organization. The Association, with occasional amendments of by-laws, has been continued to the present day.

The Cortland County Agricultural Society was organized October 1, 1838. William Berry, President ; Jesse Ives and C. Comstock, Vice Presidents ; C. P. Jacobs, Recording Secretary ; H. S. Randall, Corresponding Secretary ; Rufus Boies, Treasurer ; Paris Barber, C. McKnight, Israel Boies, Morris Miller, and C. H. Harris, Executive Committee.

The Union Agricultural Society of Truxton, Willet, Marathon, and Lapeer, was organized in the winter of 1856.

The post-offices organized at various periods, are as follows :

Blodget Mills,	Willet,
Cincinnatus,	Cortland Village,
Cuyler,	East Freetown,
East Homer,	East Scott,
East Virgil,	Freetown Corners,
Galatia Valley,	Harford,
Homer,	Kinney's Settlement,
Lapeer,	Little York,
M'Grawville,	Marathon,
Messengerville,	Preble,
Scott,	Solon,
South Cortland,	Taylor,
Texas Valley,	Truxton,
Union Valley,	Virgil.

COUNTY JUDGES.

John Keep, appointed	April	3, 1810.	Fed.
William Mallory, "	Jan.	31, 1823.	Buch.
Joseph Reynolds, "	March	9, 1833.	Jack.
Henry Stephens, "	May	17, 1838.	Dem.
Daniel Hawkes, elected	June,	1847.	Whig.
Lewis Kingsley, "	Nov.	7, 1851.	Whig.
R. Holland Duell, "	Nov.	6, 1855.	Rep.

COUNTY CLERKS.

John Ballard, appointed	April	8, 1808.	Dem.
Reuben Washburn, "	"	3, 1810.	Fed.
John Ballard, "	March	4, 1811.	Dem.
Mead Merrill, "	April	2, 1813.	Fed.
William Mallery, "	March	2, 1815.	Dem.
Joshua Ballard, "	July	7, 1819.	Clin.
Matthias Cook, "	Feb.	14, 1821.	Clin.
Sam'l Hotchkiss, jr., elected		1822.	B.
Orin Stimson, "		1834.	Whig
Gideon C. Babcock, "		1840.	Whig.
Sam'l Hotchkiss, jr., "		1843.	Dem.
Rufus A. Reed, "		1849.	Whig.
Rufus A. Reed, "		1852.	Whig.
Rufus A. Reed, "		1855.	Rep.
Allis W. Ogden, "		1858.	Rep.

DISTRICT ATTORNEYS.

Augustus A. Donnelly,	1819.	Clin.
Edward C. Reed,	1827.	Dem.
William H. Shankland,	1836.	Jack.
Horatio Ballard,	1844.	Dem.
Augustus S. Ballard,	1847.	Whig.

R. Holland Duell,		1850.	Whig.
Edward C. Reed, appointed		1856.	Dem.
Abram P. Smith, elected		1856.	Rep.

COUNTY TREASURERS.

Justin M. Pierce,	Nov.	1848.	Whig.
Edwin F. Gould,	"	1851.	Whig.
Isaac M. Seaman,	"	1854.	Whig.
Horace L. Green,	"	1857.	Rep.

SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS.

Noah C. Dady, appointed	June 10,	1856.	Amer.
Dan C. Squires,	" June 10,	1856.	Dem.
Noah G. Dady, elected		1857.	Amer.
Daniel E. Whitmore,		1857.	Rep.

SHERIFFS.

Asahel Minor,	April 8,	1808.	Dem.
Wm. Mallery, appointed	June 9,	1808.	Dem.
Joshua Ballard,	" April 3,	1810.	Dem.
Billy Trowbridge,	" Mar. 25,	1814.	Dem.
William Stewart,	" " 2,	1815.	Dem.
Noah R. Smith,	" Feb. 13,	1819.	Clin.
Moses Hopkins,	" " 12,	1821.	Buck.
Moses Hopkins, elected		1822.	Buck.
David Coye,	"	1825.	Buck.
Adin Webb,	"	1828.	Antima.
William Andrews,	"	1831.	Union.
Gilmore Kinney,	"	1834.	Whig.
E. W. Edgcomb,	"	1837.	Whig.
Alanson Carley,	"	1840.	Whig.
Christian Etz,	"	1843.	Dem.
George Ross,	"	1846.	Dem.

J. C. Pomeroy,	elected	1849.	Whig.
Frederick Ives,	"	1852.	Whig.
John S. Samson,	"	1855.	Rep.
Silas Baldwin,	"	1858.	Rep.

SURROGATES.*

John McWhorter,	app'd	April	8, 1808.	Dem.
Mead Merrill,	"	"	3, 1810.	Fed.
Luther F. Stevens,	"	March	4, 1811.	Dem.
Adin Webb,	"	"	9, 1816.	Fed.
Jabez B. Phelps,	"	"	27, 1823.	B.
Charles W. Lynde,	"	April	15, 1828.	Dem.
Townsend Ross,	"	March	9, 1832.	Jack.
Anthony Freer,	"	May	4, 1836.	J.
Adin Webb,	"	"	4, 1840.	Whig.
Anthony Freer,	"	"	4, 1844.	Dem.

MEMBERS OF ASSEMBLY.

Ephraim Fish,	elected	1810.	Dem.
Billy Trowbridge,	"	1811.	Dem.
"	"	1812.	Dem.
"	"	1813.	Dem.
William Mallery,	"	1814.	Dem.
S. G. Hatheway,	"	1815.	Dem.
Joseph Reynolds,	"	1816.	Dem.
John Miller,	"	1817.	Dem.
S. G. Hatheway,	"	1818.	Dem.
Joseph Reynolds,	"	1819.	Dem.
John Miller,	"	1820.	C.
John Osborn,	"	1821.	B.

* Since the adoption of the Constitution of 1846, this office has been merged in that of the County Judge.

Daniel Sherwood, elected		1822.	B.
“ “ “		1823.	B.
John Gillett,	“	1823.	B.
Matthias Cook,	“	1824.	C.
William Barto, jr.,	“	1824.	C.
Josiah Hart,	“	1825.	B.
J. Chatterton,	“	1825.	C.
John Lynde,	“	1826.	B.
Augustus A. Donnelly,	“	1826.	C.
Nathan Dayton,	“	1827.	B.
Cephas Comstock,	“	1827.	C.
Nathan Dayton,	“	1828.	D.
John L. Boyd,	“	1828.	D.
Gideon Curtis,	“	1829.	Antima.
Alanson Carley,	“		A.
Henry Stephens,	“	1830.	W.
Chauncey Keep,	“		W.
Fredus Howard,	“	1831.	Jack.
Charles Richardson,	“		J.
Andrew Dickson,	“	1832.	J.
J. L. Woods,	“		J.
David Mathews,	“	1833.	W.
Enos S. Halbert,	“		W.
Oliver Kingman,	“	1834.	J.
S. Bogardus,	“		J.
Barak Niles,	“	1835.	W.
Aaron Brown,	“		W.
Chauncey Keep,	“	1836.	W.
Cephas Comstock,	“		W.
Josiah Hine,	“	1837.	W.
John Thomas,	“		W.
John Osgood,	“	1838.	W.

David Mathews, elected	1838.	W.
G. S. Green, “	1839.	W.
George Issacs, “		W.
Jabez B. Phelps, “	1840.	W.
William Barnes, “		W.
Nathan Heaton, “	1841.	W.
Lovel G. Mickels, “		W.
Oren Stimson, “	1842.	W.
Jesse Ives, “		W.
H. M’Graw, “	1843.	W.
George N. Niles, “		D.
J. Kingman, jr., “	1844.	D.
Platt F. Grow, “		D.
John Pierce 2nd, “	1845.	D.
Geo. J. J. Barber, “		W.
Amos Graves, “	1846.	D.
John Miller, “		W.
Timothy Green, “	1847.	W.
James Comstock, “	1848.	W.
Ira Skeel, “	1849.	W.
Lewis Kingsley, “	1850.	W.
Alvan Kellog, “	1851.	W.
Geo. W. Bradford, “	1852.	W.
Ashbel Patterson, “	1853.	D.
John H. Knapp, “	1854.	W.
Geo. J. Kingman, “	1855.	R.
Joseph Atwater, “	1856.	R.
Nathan Bouton, “	1857.	R.
Arthur Holmes, “	1858.	R.

The interest manifested by numerous prominent political actors, with reference to our full and complete

table of county officers, from its organization in 1808 to the present time, with the names of the various parties to which they were attached, has induced us to add a comprehensive list of State, Congressional, and Senatorial members which have been chosen from this county.

SECRETARY OF STATE.

Henry S. Randall, Cortland, elected 1851. Dem.

REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS.

	Elected.	Session.	
John Miller, Truxton,	1824	19.	C.
Edward C. Reed, Homer,	1830	22.	D.
Sam'l G. Hatheway, Solon,	1832	23.	J.
Joseph Reynolds, Virgil,	1834	24.	J.
Lewis Riggs, Homer,	1840	27.	D.
Harmon S. Conger, Cortland,	1846	30.	W.
Harmon S. Conger, “	1848	31.	W.
R. Holland Duell,	1858	36.	R.

MEMBERS OF THE NEW YORK SENATE.

	Elected.	Session.	
William Mallery, Cortland,	1818	40.	D.
Samuel G. Hatheway, Solon,	1822	46.	B.
Chas. W. Lynde, Homer,	1830	54.	W.
Wm. Bartlit, Cortland,	1841	65.	D.
Geo. W. Bradford, Homer,	1853	77.	W.
Geo. W. Bradford, “	1855	78.	W.

In 1855 there were in the county 3,388 farmers and agriculturists, 95 merchants, 56 clergymen, 20 lawyers, 49 doctors, 32 inns, 184 school-houses, 6,426 names of pupils on teachers' lists—average attendance, 4,157.

No. of churches, 51—valued at \$99,900. Real estate on which they are located, valued \$18,100. Salaries of clergymen, \$17,164. Agricultural products, 1,212,074 bushels. Value of orchard products, \$24,613. Value of market gardens, \$508. Gallons wine, 81. Dairy products, 3,087,936 lbs. Tons of hay, 56,769. Clover seed, 866 bushels. Other grass seeds, 1,585 bushels. Hops, 10,327 lbs. Flax seed, 1,978 bushels. Wool, 120,793 lbs. Maple sugar, 521,052 lbs. Maple molasses, 2,769 gallons. Beeswax and honey, 24,360 lbs. Cloth, 21,800 yds. Common school libraries, 184. Number of volumes in Dist. School libraries, 19,669. Aggregate population, 24,957. There were 245 persons who could neither read nor write; there were 95 who could read, but not write. Number of colored persons, 30. Owners of land, 4,212. The oldest person residing in the county (1855) was Margaret Berry, of Taylor, age 106 years.

In 1840 there were seventy-nine persons entitled to pensions for Revolutionary or military services. Of these, twelve resided in Truxton, fifteen in Cortland, eleven in Homer, eight in Preble, two in Scott, fifteen in Virgil, two in Solon, six in Cincinnatus, two in Marathon, three in Freetown, and four in Willet. In 1855 there were none reported.

ASSESSED VALUATION OF REAL ESTATE FOR 1855,

	\$5,352,153 00
Assessed valuation of personal prop- erty,	530,691 00
Aggregate taxation, 1855,	29,909 49
Military tax, do.	543 00

INCORPORATED COMPANIES LIABLE TO TAXATION.

Syracuse, Binghamton and New York Railroad, and Randall Bank.

Assessed valuation of Syracuse, Binghamton and New York Railroad, in the towns through which it passes, is as follows :

Cortlandville,	\$30,000
Homer,	30,000
Lapeer,	1,000
Marathon,	18,000
Preble,	30,000
Virgil,	5,000
Assessed valuation of Randall Bank,	50,000

It is a matter of no little astonishment to the enterprising and progressive tourist, as he visits our county, —with 194,736 acres of improved land, her beautiful farms, green pastures, watered by lovely streams, and her quiet picturesque villages located in her rich valleys, like gems in a golden casket,—that so little attention should be given to the growing of fruit. In 1855, the Marshals reported the number of bushels of apples grown in Tompkins county at 417,757 ; in Cayuga, 522,751 ; in Chenango, 553,554 ; in Onondaga, 624,545 ; and in Cortland, 351,975. The reader will readily perceive that Cortland county falls far behind either of the sister counties above quoted. Our soil and climate is not as well adapted to the growth of the peach and quince ; but we believe that all the prominent fruits may be equally well grown here.

The wealth of our county does not lie in jewelled

skulls and golden shrines, but in a commerce which enriches our agricultural producers.

The neglect in the culture of the apple is attributable to several causes, but mainly to the want of good, healthy nurseries. Until within a few years, no permanent nursery had been provided from which to secure the various trees for transplanting into orchards. A second, and most excellent reason is, that the people have been sadly imposed upon by men of little or no experience in the science of grafting. The permanent nursery of Messrs. D. C. Hobart and E. H. Knapp, in the town of Homer, comprising about thirty thousand grafted trees, of the most choice varieties, must eventually add greatly to the wealth of the county, as well as to the convenience and comfort of those who purchase and propagate the more desirable qualities of fruit.

The first and only death-penalty inflicted in Cortland county, occurred September 2d, 1853, upon the person of Patrick O'Donohue, for the murder of Mrs. Jane Ann Kinney, of Truxton, September 3d, 1852. The particulars attending the bloody tragedy are briefly as follows: His daughter Elizabeth, a girl of ten years, had been forbidden to visit the house of Mrs. Kinney. But contrary to the expressed wish of the father, the little girl had disobeyed; and to escape the vengeance of his fiend-like temper, her two elder sisters secreted her in a ledge of ragged rocks, and then informed their father that she had been stolen away. O'Donohue hastened from his work in the woods, accompanied by his wife and two or three other children, all in a high state of excitement. He was falsely made to believe that the

abductor was no other than the husband of Mrs. Kinney, whom he presumed to be his enemy.

Little did the daughters think of the sad and mournful tragedy that was soon to follow their improper deception. Little did they presume that their indiscretion was so soon to lead the father to imbue his hands in the heart's blood of an unwarned and unprotected mother and child; that murder—black-hearted and fiend-like murder—was to be the result of their inconsiderate conduct, and in a few short hours to send the life current curdling to the heart of a whole community. What a reflection to be forced upon the mind of the erring girls—sad, mournful, and truly tragical!—a lesson to the young written in the warm blood of the innocent.

A search for the little girl was instituted, between the father and son, the former carrying a loaded gun. The search was not a prolonged one, as it was given up about the middle of the forenoon. At about this time Mrs. Kinney, and her daughter, Amanda Jane, were on their way to the residence of a neighboring family, and of necessity had to pass the house of O'Donohue. Just as they drew near the gate leading to the barn, they were met by the murderer, who angrily asked Mrs. Kinney if she had seen Elizabeth. Receiving a negative answer, he flew into a terrible passion, leveled his gun and fired at Mrs. Kinney; the contents of the deadly weapon, however, merely glazed her side, causing her to reel or stagger. His uncontrolled temper now raged with greater fury in his unrelenting and fiendish breast. Hastily reversing the position of his gun, he struck her several blows with the butt end, the second of which dislocated her neck, causing immediate death. Not yet

satisfied, but like a demon hot from the infernal pit, he flew at the daughter, who in the mean time had fallen from fright, and plunged a bayonet into her body, from which spirted the vital current of life. And although the fatal instrument was seized by the wounded and dying girl, it was quickly wrested from her grasp, and with a desperation scarcely equaled in the bloody records of crime, was again and again plunged into her body. And while the younger victim of O'Donohue's cruelty was yet weltering in her warm heart's blood, Charles McKnight, who had left his house at or about 10 o'clock A. M., for the purpose of superintending some work, was attracted by certain suspicious actions of the murderer's son to the place where the horrid deed was committed. A most revolting and heart-sickening scene at once met his sight. There lay the wife, the mother,—bleeding, ghastly, dead! A few feet distant lay the mangled form of the daughter, struggling in the terrible agonies of expiring nature. He heard her death groans, and saw her raise her hand, wet with her own blood, to wipe the death damps from her marble brow.

When Mr. McKnight first approached the spot where the fatal tragedy was enacted, his life was threatened by O'Donohue; yet he managed to get a fair view of the murdered victims. The heartless wretch still thirsted for more blood, and called to his wife to bring him some caps that he might assassinate another of his presupposed enemies, and add still another blot to his soul already crimsoned with the darkest hues of crime.

Before leaving him, Mr. McKnight advised him to go to the village and give himself up to the proper authorities, presuming him to be crazy; and as men laboring

under the horrible malady of a diseased mind were not always responsible for their acts, perhaps he might not be hung. The advice, it would seem, was finally accepted, for O'Donohue, with his wife and son, did pass over the hills to the village, where he was finally arrested. But before leaving, under a fresh impulse of Satan, and as if to make his work of assassination more doubly certain, he returned to the bleeding, ghastly, and death-struggling victim, and again plunged the crimsoned steel into her breast.

Grim scowls pass'd o'er his dusky face
 Like shadows in the midnight sky ;
 Each fiend-like passion mark'd its trace
 By muttered oath or deep-drawn sigh ;
 With rolling eye,
 And stifled breath,
 He thought of blood, revenge, and death.

He was indicted at the October term of the County Court, 1852, and tried at the following July Court of Oyer and Terminer,—Hon. Schuyler Crippin, one of the justices of the Supreme Court, presiding, with associates John S. Dyer and Noah H. Osborne. R. H. Duell, District Attorney, and Gen. Nye, appeared on behalf of the people. Horatio Ballard and Daniel Gott, counsel.

The charge of the Judge was able, forcible and pointed. The Jury, after an absence of forty minutes, returned into Court with a verdict of " Guilty of Murder."

The records of the Court contain entry of his sentence, [Aug. 3d, 1853.]

The sentence was duly executed, and the spirit of O'Donohue was ushered uncalled for into the presence of his Maker, wreaking with the blood of the innocent.

After the last and final struggle between the American Republic and the Kingdom of Great Britain, the pioneers of the Tioughnioga valley, and indeed of the yet infant county of Cortland, began to look forward to the successful achievement of such measures as the wisdom of our State legislature might devise for the better development of science and the progress of art.

It was most evident that the Tioughnioga river, as a commercial highway, could never be available to any great extent, and that other channels of communication must be provided in order to encourage enterprise and reward adventure. State roads had been laid out and were measurably improved ; and the county had been cut up into gores or townships, while each of these was made to resemble an imperfect checker board, being variously marked out by "bridle paths," or to say the least, very undesirable roads. Yet poor as they were, the brave pioneers regarded them as acquisitions of great importance. Post horses and post coaches once, and finally twice a week, gladdened the sight of the toil-worn laborer. The Erie Canal, commenced in 1817 and completed in 1825, established a more direct line of communication with the eastern cities. Previous to this, the heavy goods of our merchants were brought up to Albany by way of the North river ; were then conveyed by land to Schenectady ; then through the canal at Little Falls ; then through Wood creek, Oneida lake, Onondaga river and the Tioughnioga, or were transported by land-carriage from Albany or Utica.

Cattle were usually driven to the Philadelphia market ; potash was sent to New York or Montreal ; wheat was

shipped on rafts and arks down the Tioughnioga and Susquehanna to Baltimore.

In 1826 there was a charter granted by the New York legislature for the construction of a railroad from Syracuse to Binghamton. This was the first charter ever granted by the legislature of this State. Internally shut out from the natural advantages or the more remote benefits of artificial communication with which other sections of country were blessed, the citizens located on the rich flats of Cortland, Homer and Preble, were made thrice joyful in their exultations of success. The toils, the sacrifices, and the cost of building a railroad had not, however, been fully considered or counted, and hence the active projectors were doomed, like the inexperienced alchemist, to see their golden dreams fade away.

As the country increased in population and productive resources, renewed efforts were made to revive or obtain a new charter. But up to 1848-9 nothing of importance took place.

In the mean time the growing West had become populous, while her commercial products were of an almost unlimited magnitude. Trade east and west had materially increased, as the various avenues of communication fully evinced. The store-houses contiguous to the great northern lakes were filled to their utmost capacity with the valuable products of the fertile fields of a rich and vigorous soil. The Erie canal, then the most powerful artery of trade in the Union, and though practically of very great importance, was found to be insufficient for the demands. The New York and Erie Railroad was projected and was rapidly hurrying to com-

pletion, while connecting links were put under contract, or completed, with, in many instances, "only a remote possibility of appropriating" a very small portion of that constantly increasing trade. The coal fields of the Lackawanna valley were laid open, and the black diamonds, which were really of more importance than the bloated mines of the Pacific coast, were exhumed, and a railroad was projected and completed, which united them with the Erie road at Great Bend, fifteen miles from Binghamton. The city of Oswego sat like a golden gem upon the shore of the lake, bearing the proud appellation of "Ontario's maritime port." Syracuse, the central city, was admirably spread out like a great heart in the centre of the State, with her salt springs to "preserve and enrich the empire." And the village of Binghamton, with her ten thousand enterprising inhabitants, sat queenlike upon the classic shores of the beautiful Susquehanna and Chenango, "receiving tribute and homage from both." These important locations were regarded with very great favor, and especially, when glancing at the map of the United States, it appeared positively evident that they were located within the most eligible and certainly the best commercial route from the seaboard to the great lakes of the west. The result thus far most amply verifies the conclusion. A few of the original charter petitioners went to work with renewed energies. The legislature was again petitioned, and a second charter granted. Meetings were called in various sections, and the people were ably and eloquently addressed with reference to the propriety of immediate action in behalf of the laudable enterprise. Books were opened for subscription, and early in 1850

the footings seemed to warrant the necessary survey to be made. Thus encouraged, the enterprising actors, most of whom resided in the growing villages of Homer and Cortland, redoubled their exertions, and with their shoulders at the wheel, determined to push on the car of progress. W. B. Gilbert, Esq., an accomplished, and indeed one of the most competent and energetic engineers in the State, was employed to make the necessary survey.

It is not our province to refer to all the opposing influences that were brought to bear against the speedy organization of the Company, or the immediate construction of the road—of the difficulties and delays attending the former—the almost unexampled stringent monetary pressure threatening to arrest the latter. These are already matters of history. They have been set forth in the more than thrilling eloquence of a Baldwin, or the persuasive and touching language of a Lawrence. The shock, though it swept over our country like the destroying host of Attila over the plains of Italy, arresting the progressive labors “of most other companies that were struggling into being,” happily had become too much weakened to produce a suspension, and the work went steadily on “from its commencement in 1852 to its completion in 1854.” Great credit is awarded to the various efficient actors in Cortland county, for to them belongs the honor of having revived or called up from the tomb of the Capulets the old exploded sympathies which finally terminated in securing for the project enough of popular sentiment to place the completion of the road beyond a reasonable doubt. Nor were the active efforts of prominent citizens of Binghamton, Syr-

acuse and Oswego unimportant or unappreciated. Their highly valued influence was productive of the most favorable results, and when their purse strings were unloosed, or their bank deposits called forth, the cheering word of "liberality" was echoed and re-echoed from one end of the Tioughnioga valley to the other.

The road having been completed, a formal opening to the public took place on the 18th and 19th of October, 1854. Returning from an eastern tour, with our family, we joined the excursion party at Binghamton. The train consisted of twenty-seven passenger cars, which were crowded to such an extent that it was impossible for only a portion to be seated. It was reported by the editor of the Railroad Journal as a "perfect jam, the people numbering twenty thousand." Our estimate fell somewhat short of this round number. The display at the various stations presented a somewhat truthful conception of the joy of the citizens. From every church that had a bell went forth a joyous welcome; cannons were fired; and bonfires and illuminations signaled the auspicious event.

The road passes through one of the most delightful and productive valleys in the State. The scenery on either side is picturesque and beautiful.

The stockholders number about two thousand.

The total cost of the road up to November 5th, 1855, is reported by Mr. Gilbert to be \$2,274,394 33. Its length is eighty miles.

Aggregate miles run by all engines during the year, 272,777. Number of passengers carried in the cars, 234,560. Amount of earnings for the same number of

months is reported at \$159,489 91. Expense of operating the road, \$136,981 62.

It will be readily seen that the earnings fall considerably short of the original estimates. This seeming failure is satisfactorily accounted for by the Superintendent. In our mind there is no depreciation of real value. We never supposed that the estimates would be reached under the existing circumstances.

The Lake trade has been realized only to a limited extent.

“When this work was projected, the invariable and strong argument used for its construction, in reference to profitable results, was a continuous line to Lake Ontario, by which alone it could derive the benefits of that trade.

“The Directors having been unable to attain this, through the existing road from Syracuse to the lake, another Company was organized under the General Act, for the purpose of constructing a broad guage road on the east side of Onondaga lake and the Oswego river. But the necessity of an arrangement with the holders of Mortgage Bonds of the Company, whereby they could agree to withhold action under the existing mortgages during the construction of the new road, suspended operations.

“Up to 1855 no agreement had been effected, which the Directors regretted, as the delay increased the financial embarrassment under which the Company labored.”

In 1856 the stockholders were unable to complete the road to Oswego, as contemplated, or even to the Erie Canal, for the delivery of coal and other freight, or

to meet their bonded and other debts, and consequently the bondholders were obliged to foreclose and sell the road in October of the same year. The Company was subsequently reorganized, the road finished, and extended to the Erie Canal, and the track and machinery put in perfect repair. There was also an arrangement made at Binghamton with the New York and Erie Railroad Company, to accommodate the cars of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad Company, for the transportation of their coal and other freight, making the Syracuse, Binghamton and New York Railroad the proper channel for the transportation of their coal to the Erie Canal at Syracuse, and to Lake Ontario at Oswego, the Canadas and the great west.

Since the road has been thus reorganized, it has already proven profitable as an investment to the holders thereof, having, as we understand, paid the interest on its cost, and will be, as it is designed, extended to Lake Ontario, at Oswego, forming a continuous line of broad guage road to New York and Philadelphia, and in the event prove one of the best routes for travel and freight, and will realize all that was predicted or expected by its early friends as a richly remunerating investment.

The Syracuse, Binghamton, and New York Railroad may, with propriety, be regarded as an invaluable link in the chain of communication between Lake Ontario and the Atlantic cities.

The lake trade is immense, and must continue to be for all future time. The inexhaustible resources of the great west, with her fertile fields, her agricultural and mineral productions, and the vast amount of eastern

merchandise that is necessary to meet her unprecedented increase of population—the greater portion of which must pass east or west through the State of New York.

“The value of foreign imports from Canada at the port of Oswego was in 1845 \$41,313, and in 1855 it was over \$6,000,000. The whole value of import and export trade with Canada in 1845 was \$2,350,409, and in 1855, over \$12,000,000.

“Under the operation of the Reciprocity treaty, the trade both ways with Canada has more than doubled in 1855 over the preceding year, 1854. In 1845 the whole foreign and domestic trade of Oswego, imports and exports, did not exceed \$8,000,000, and in 1855 it amounted to over \$40,000,000. The tonnage of vessels enrolled and licensed at this port shows a corresponding increase.”*

The free-trade principle of Canada gives to the port of Oswego a powerful increase of business.

“For six months ending September 30th last, the duties chargeable on imports arriving at Oswego, and going east in bond, were \$186,009 87, in addition, the value of these bonded imports being \$930,107 49.”†

The flour of Oswego, the salt, gypsum, water and quick lime, and marble of Onondaga—the vast agricultural products of a wide and fertile surrounding country, with the iron and coal of the Lackawanna and Wyoming valleys, will give to the Syracuse, Binghamton and New York Railroad an amount of local tonnage which will surpass that of any other road of the same length in the Union.

* J. M. Schermerhorn's Report, 1855.

† W. B. Gilbert's Report, 1855.

The coal trade is to be one of great importance. If in the single city of Syracuse 2,000 cords of wood are used per day for the manufacture of salt, and otherwise, at five dollars per cord, what are we to presume will be the sum total of the coal that will be conveyed over the road when properly connected with Oswego ?

The road is regarded as being one of the best built and equipped in the State.

The agents have uniformly been enterprising and active business men ; the conductors attentive, obliging, and gentlemanly.

The retirement of the able and courteous president, Hon. Henry Stephens, was widely regretted, yet his post has been admirably filled in the person of Jacob M. Schermerhorn, Esq., to whose unremitting and laborious exertions the Company are mainly indebted for the final completion, and the present prosperity of the road. No man ever labored harder. No man ever succeeded under more, if under equally, discouraging circumstances. He should have his reward.

CHAPTER XIV.

HUNTING INCIDENTS.

Hound-like they scent the track.

IN previous chapters we have incidentally referred to the various species of animals that inhabited the wilderness, and against whom the pioneers waged a crusade, even with musket ball and rapier knife. The repose of the settlers was frequently disturbed by the terrific howl of the wolf, the piercing scream of the great northern panther, and the unfriendly growl of the old shaggy black bear of the hemlock forest. The flocks and herds were often preyed upon to an alarming extent, and the bold pioneers were not unfrequently placed in imminent peril. They had left the happy hearth-stones of their native land, and had pitched their tents in the valleys and on the hill-sides of this then western boundary of civilization ; and, unpleasant as it was, were of necessity compelled to wage an exterminating war against these more than savage beasts of prey. The heart chills at the recital of the often narrow escapes from the jaws of the gaunt, hungry wolf, the more prowling, rapacious panther, or the unsociable hug of the unterrified, snarling old bear.

The tender-hearted might shrink back at the howl of a single wolf, even in the day time ; but it took a whole clan, headed by a huge grizzly chorister, whose discordant howls, snaps, and snarls made night—dark, tartarean night—tenfold more hideous, to make the veteran forest hunter quail, or feel for the particular location of his heart. The women, too,—the bold republican women,—were occasionally called upon to exercise all the energies of a bold and noble spirit. We are told of one who was pursued for a distance through a winding and unfrequented glen, by a panther, whose long, greedy proportions told too truly of his powerful strength. If she hastened her step, the animal did the same. If she stopped short, he instinctively squatted as if preparing to leap upon his unarmed victim. She saw her peril, and resolved to make one bold effort at deliverance. Seizing a bludgeon of wood, she flew at him in a menacing attitude, uttering several successive screams as she dealt him a severe blow on that point of the proboscis which brought forth a hasty snuff and a sneeze, and turning upon his well-practised and flip-pant heels, he made a number of enormous leaps, and then seated himself in the branches of a partially decayed hemlock. Remembering that she was near the cabin of a successful and fearless hunter, she screamed with all her might for the bow-legged marksman. The animal not particularly relishing his treatment from the hand of the fair patroness, began to exhibit the most unmistakable evidence of a preparation to leap upon the bold defender of her forest rights. A moment more, and he hoped to gorge his ferocious rapacity with her warm heart's blood. But the sharp crack of a rifle was

heard some twenty rods distant, just as he drew himself back to leap, and the next moment the long proportions of the mountain veteran were stretched dead at her feet. In the trunk of the decaying ancient relic, a couple of nursling "*painters*" were found. But in the very instant of leaving with them, the father, an old crippled martyr, who had snuffed upon the breeze the fresh scent of blood, was rapidly approaching. Another leaden missile, hurled from the old blue barrel, brought him to the ground. But he was not yet prepared to yield, for the victory was not yet achieved. The hunter succeeded in only partially reloading his gun before the maddened animal had sprung to his feet, and was ready for a contest or measurement of strength. The youthful matron stood by the side of her deliverer, resolving to share in the glory of victory, or die with him in a noble effort at resistance. On he came, ten times more ferocious, but was defiantly met with such a succession of blows as to induce him to retreat and take a position in a small tree, where he might look contempt upon his assailants. The old blue barrel was again leveled with unerring aim, and in an instant the panther's brains were lying at the base of the tree.

At an early day, and at a period when Marathon was yet a wilderness, and when but a few families were located within her rugged confines, the bears, wolves and panthers made terrible havoc with the stock and poultry of the but partially protected and often unarmed pioneers. During the latter part of November, 1799, an old hunter, and native of Long Island, was passing through the country lying between the Tioughnioga river and what is now known as Freetown Centre.

Ascending the rugged elevation, he struck an Indian trail leading in a direct line for the "pine woods." He had, however, proceeded but a short distance before he heard a sharp, piercing scream, as if coming from a female in distress. In a moment it was repeated again and again. Hurrying forward he soon heard it much plainer, and at intervals could distinctly hear moaning, as if coming from some object in nature that was suffering from the infliction of some horrible treatment. His anxiety was soon relieved, for just as he reached the summit of a little elevation, perhaps three-fourths of a mile west of the "panther forest," he saw to his astonishment an enormous panther spring upon a deer that was floundering upon the ground, and almost covered with blood. The old and unarmed hunter paused for a moment, that he might observe the movements of the half-enraged animal, and the better concentrate his scattered thoughts ; and was pained to hear the moans of the wounded and dying deer, as the panther screamed and then suddenly sprang upon his prey, burying his claws in the sides of the deer, and his tusks in the neck, tearing the flesh from the body. He knew it would be very unsafe for him to attack the panther, as he was but partially gorged with blood, and he therefore chose the better part of valor and hurried on his way ; but he was suddenly startled by a noise behind him which appeared like the sudden springs of a panther. Remembering that he had a few pounds of fresh venison which he was carrying to a sick friend, and knowing the danger of an encounter with such an animal, he picked up a heavy bludgeon of wood and quickened his steps until he came to the "mammoth log ;" then hastily cutting

his venison into three parts, he threw one piece just into the mouth of the log, and the balance at a short distance from each side of it. He had hardly taken a position to await his approach, before he saw the bloody panther within a few feet of him. It was now night, but luckily the moon rolled forth from behind a dark cloud as he saw the animal nearing the huge opening which he endeavored to enter, for he had scented the fresh meat. The old man suddenly sprang to his feet and dealt the animal a heavy blow on the back, which rendered him partially powerless. The panther drew back, uttering a horrible groan, which was followed by several screams ; these were, however, soon silenced by a few more well-directed blows.

His hide was hurriedly stripped from his body, and the dauntless pioneer retraced his steps, arriving home near midnight.

The next day a grand hunt was proposed and entered into, which resulted in the death of three panthers, five wolves, and six bears. Three of the wolves, however, were not taken until the morning of the second day, when they were holed near Chenango Forks, and hastily despatched.

Three persons started out in March of 1799 in pursuit of bears, which had committed unwarrantable depredations in the town of Scott. One of them soon gave out and returned, but the other two continued the pursuit, the trail leading in the direction of Skaneateles lake ; but the snow being very deep, they, too, finally gave up, and concluded to return home by a circuitous route, in the hope of meeting with an old bear which had wintered within a mile or so of their home. As they

approached the place of concealment he was discovered. Both hunters immediately discharged their guns, but only wounded the bear. He hastily left for other quarters, followed by his pursuers, who after camping out near Skaneateles lake for the night, drove him into a clearing some eight miles from home, in Sempronius, where they took off his hide, out of which they made each of them a cap, as they had lost theirs the day before, and were therefore hatless.

There are numerous instances showing the firmness and forethought of many a matron lady. A single example will suffice to exhibit them in their proper light: David Scofield, of Virgil, informed us that when he was but a lad, and while playing upon a brush fence, he accidentally fell off into the brush. He was immediately seized by a bear about two-thirds grown, who hastened away with him. It being near the house of his father, his aged grandmother observed them, and hastily snatching up a hot loaf of bread hurried to his relief; and just as he was entering his den she threw him the bread, at which he dropped the child and secured the warm loaf, of which he made a hearty meal.

Wolves frequently followed the hunter's trail in droves, making the night hideous with frightful, fiendish howling. There is, perhaps, no other animal which exhibits so much of the real demon, as the half-starved, lean, lank wolf, as he pursues his intended prey, eager and anxious to surfeit on the warm, gurgling blood, of which he is particularly fond. We repeat, upon the authority of one who frequently engaged in the chase,—not merely for the sake of stilling their “eternal snapping and snarling,” but because he liked the sport,—

a case in point, which, though it did not tend to immortalize his name, gave him great credit for the courage which prompted the encounter. He had been out on the border line of Cortland and Chenango; and while returning upon his almost indistinct trail through the snow, he was followed by a hungry gang of wolves. He was met by a huge panther, who appeared determined to contest the right of soil on which he had thus unexpectedly met. With the wolves snapping at his heels in the rear, while the untterrified panther had blockaded his advance progress, he paused but a moment's time for reflection. The moon, peering out from behind a dark cloud, enabled him to draw a close sight upon the barrel of his unerring rifle, when suddenly a leaden missile went whizzing through the panther's brain. A moment more, and the whole pack of wolves had seized upon the dead animal and were lapping up the blood and brains that were scattered around him. Taking advantage of this propitious moment, he hastily took refuge some thirty feet high in the branches of a bushy hemlock. Here he resolved to remain until morning, or conquer in the unequal contest. Hastily loading his gun, he again brought it to such a level as would enable him to see with exactness the forward sight, when the rifle cracked again, and the bloody ghosts of two of the ferocious wolves had departed; and thus he continued until he had impartially extended the same treatment to three more of the gang. The others becoming alarmed at the frequent reports of the death-dealing weapon, made a hasty retreat for the unexplored *lagoon*.

During the early part of the present century, the

antlered deer bounded through the forest, not doubting their right to the supremacy of the territory through which they thus proudly ranged. They were almost as numerous as the dairymen's cattle are at the present day. Authority of the most positive character might be referred to in support of the truthfulness of our assertion. Twenty, and even thirty, noble bucks have been counted in a drove, as they swept through the woods pursued by the hunter's well-trained dogs. One old hunter, a Frenchman, whose home was among the Wyoming hills, came to this county to spend the winter with a brother, and during his stay killed upwards of two hundred deer. We have been told by the grey-haired veterans of those stern days of toil and trial, of numerous instances of a hunter sallying out at day-break, and before the hour of nine in the forenoon returning for lunch, having slain five, seven, and even as high as ten deer.

Notwithstanding the horrid crusade that has been waged for upwards of half a century against the graceful, sprightly, bounding deer, his progeny has not been fully exterminated, for even to this day, (1855,) an occasional buck, bearing aloft his noble antlers, may be seen bounding through the southern limits of this county. During the past autumn and early part of the winter, several were killed on and about Michigan Hill, in the town of Harford.

We remember how in our boyhood's days our young and ardent mind was inspired by the marvelous tales told by the hunters of our native county; and we have always had a strong desire to bring down a noble buck. But of the numerous droves that we have seen

shaking their horns in the wild gorges of the North American forest, or as they tossed them aloft while they swept over the flowery glades of the sunny South, it has failed to be our luck to bring a rifle to bear directly upon them. The various interesting incidents told us by the stern veteran pioneers, would more than fill a volume of the size it is our province to write. And however interested they may have been in repeating them, we have seldom heard one told with more felicitous feeling than one which is related by Charles Hotchkiss, of Virgil.

A gentleman by the name of Turpening came up from Newburg, and felt very desirous to take a hunt. Mr. Hotchkiss told him that it would be very unsafe for him to proceed alone, for if he should happen to kill a deer it would bleat, and that would arouse every deer in hearing distance, and that they would assuredly kill him. His brothers, however, persuaded him to go. Having equipped himself in hunting order, he sallied forth for glorious war. Approaching the deer-lick south of Virgil Corners, he espied a young fawn just upon its outskirts. Keeping one eye on the gun and the other on the deer, he waited for the appearance of more, but not being gratified with their approach, he blazed away. As the gun cracked the fawn leaped several feet from the ground, gave a bleat, as is usual, and fell dead. Presuming the story of Mr. Hotchkiss to be true, and expecting a whole clan of mad, frightened deer to be upon him with their bloody antlers poised to gore him to the heart, he hurriedly made tracks for home, stripping off hat, coat, vest and boots, and hurling them to the ground; puffing and blowing for the want of breath,

and with impeded powers of locomotion, he entered the pioneer's home declaring that every deer in the lick was at his heels, frothing and foaming ; and that they had gored him almost to death.

John H. Hooker, son of Increase M. Hooker, an early pioneer of Truxton, now residing in New Brunswick, N. J., recently related to us some interesting incidents with reference to trapping the various animals of the wilderness. One plan was to dig a pit about six feet wide by twelve deep. Around this a pen, or kind of curb, would be raised from two to three feet high. Over the pit a pan would be placed, balanced properly, so that when an animal should spring upon it for the purpose of obtaining the bait, which was appropriately hung above it, the pan would turn and precipitate the monster into the pit. In this way Mr. Hooker and two other gentlemen caught in one night the very respectable number of five wolves. They were lassoed in the morning and led round and exhibited to the neighbors, after which they were dispatched.

In 1803, Mr. Hooker was watching at a deer-lick, and in consequence of the almost impenetrable darkness, was compelled to remain all night in the woods, a distance of five miles from his father's log cabin. During the night he heard the approach of an animal, and presently discovered, a few feet from him, two balls resembling liquid fire. The animal undoubtedly anticipated a warm meal. Mr. Hooker, not a little excited, raised his unerring rifle, looked quickly over the barrel, and fired. The monster gave a piercing scream and bounded away in the darkness. He was found at a little distance with his under jaw broken, and dead.

Mr. Hooker was much surprised on finding that he had killed a panther nine and a half feet in length. It was not an uncommon circumstance for him to be followed by panthers and wolves when in pursuit of his father's cattle. On one occasion he made a rather hasty flight from the sugar bush. A panther had made him a visit and desired to contest the right of soil; Mr. Hooker, however, preferred to defer the matter, and, as he informed us, if ever he made tracks he made them then, and he presumed them to be few and far between, for he could distinctly hear every jump of the huge monster behind him, and he was only relieved when within a few rods of the house by the watchful and ever trusty old dog.

CHAPTER XV.

LITERARY AND BENEVOLENT INSTITUTIONS.

"I'll note 'em in my book of memory."

THERE are but few, if any, counties in the State at present in the enjoyment of greater educational facilities than Cortland county. The Cortland and Cortlandville Academies—the former located at Homer and the latter at Cortland Village—are enjoying a good degree of prosperity. The New York Central College, located at M'Grawville, has had a somewhat chequered existence, and the Cincinnatus Academy, located in Cincinnatus, is in a flourishing condition.

The light of the sun was scarcely let in through the dense forests of Homer, upon its extended and fertile plains, ere the light of science sent its genial rays among her people.

The first settlers, being chiefly from Connecticut, brought with their books and their love of books, their school-master and their high regard for literary institutions.

Among the earlier school-teachers of Homer was Maj. Adin Webb. The active business men and the efficient housewives now living in Homer look upon that venerable

priest of Minerva—still bearing high alike his whitened locks and his golden honors—with mingled feelings of gratitude and reverence.

From the common school, which he so long and so successfully taught on the spacious common in the centre of the village, grew the Cortland Academy, which has been, for forty years, nestled among the churches which adorn the same Common, and whose graceful spires so significantly point to the same great Source of Light and Love, as does the less pretending spire of the academic edifice.

Cortland Academy was incorporated by the Regents of the University of the State of New York on the 2d day of February, 1819. The first trustees were Dr. Lewis S. Owen, Hon. John Miller, John Osborn, David Coye, Chauncey Keep, Hon. Townsend Ross, Rufus Boies, N. R. Smith, Elnathan Walker, Andrew Dickson, Matthias Cook, Reuben Washburn, Jesse Searl, Martin Keep, Benasjah Tubbs, David Jones, and George Rice.

Of the original trustees, David Coye, Rufus Boies and Noah R. Smith have continued to serve as trustees—the places of the others having been made vacant by death or by resignation.

The present members of the Board of Trustees are Jedediah Barber, President ; Hon. E. C. Reed, Secretary ; Noah R. Smith, Treasurer ; David Coye, Rufus Boies, Hon. Geo. W. Bradford, Hammond Short, John Sherman, Prof. S. B. Woolworth, Hon. Geo. J. J. Barber, Wm. Andrews, Ira Bowen, Caleb Cook, Geo. Cook, C. H. Wheldon, Rev. C. A. Clark, Noah Hitchcock, Thomas D. Chollar, J. M. Schermerhorn, Giles Chittenden, Esq., Wm. T. Hicok, Manly Hobart, and Rev. Albert Bigelow.

The late Rev. Alfred Bennett, Joshua Ballard, Charles W. Lynde, C. Chamberlain, A. Donnelly, Tilly Lynde, and Horace White, also served as Trustees.

The first Principal, under the charter, was Oren Catlin. He was, also, the sole teacher. To him succeeded successively Mr. Ranny, Noble D. Strong, Charles Avery, A. M., Franklin Sherrill, Oliver S. Taylor, M. D., Samuel B. Woolworth, A. M., (now LL. D.), and S. W. Clark, A. M.

Since 1821 there has been a Female Department connected with the Academy, under the supervision, successively, of Flavilla Ballard, Caroline R. Hale, Melona D. Moulton, Elizabeth Steele, Harriette A. Dellay, Catharine A. Coleman, Mary Bascom, Mary S. Patterson, Helen H. Palmer, Esther L. Brown, Anna J. Hawley, and Harriet S. Gunn.

Since 1830 the Musical Department has been continued under the supervision and instruction of Frances Rollo, Harriet Foot, Julia A. Gillingham, Abigail F. Moulton, Maria L. Reston, Mary Fessenden, Sarah E. Reed, J. M. Palmer, and Isabella Livingston Brunschweiler.

Of the Assistant Teachers there have served in the Department of Ancient Languages, Abel F. Kinney, A. M., Charles E. Washburn, A. M., (now, also, M. D.,) Henry A. Nelson, A. M., Ezra S. Gallup, A. M., J. M. Woolworth, A. M., and Heman H. Sanford, A. M.

In the Department of Mathematics, A. F. Ranney, A. M., Geo. R. Huntington, L. S. Pomeroy, A. M., Alvin Lathorp, A. M., W. H. Lacey, E. M. Rollo, A. M., A. J. Kneeland, Louis A. Miller, Charles S. Lawrence, and Joseph R. Dixon, A. M.

In the Department of Modern Languages, Augustus Maasberg, and Oscar M. Faulhaber.

In the English Department, there have been eighteen different teachers.

At the present term, (1859), the various departments are filled by the following :

TEACHERS.

Stephen W. Clark, A. M., Principal ; Miss Harriet S. Gunn, Preceptress ; Heman H. Sandford, A. M., Languages ; Frederick B. Downes, A. M., Mathematics ; Miss Harriet Taylor, Modern Languages ; James S. Foster, Natural Sciences ; Miss Lucy B. Gunn, English Department ; Mrs. Mary Lund and Miss Harriet D. Gaylord, Instrumental and Vocal Music ; Almon H. Benedict, Penmanship.

Of the sixty-six teachers who have been connected with the Academy, two only have died while at service. The first was Abel F. Kinney, " a man who will not cease to be loved and venerated so long as any live who felt the power of his soul, and observed the strong fellowship which existed between his principles and his life. It was his rare privilege to say, on his death-bed, that he *never received the slightest insult from any pupil* — a fact which those whom he taught may remember with gratitude, and which his biographer may record as eloquent praise on his character as an instructor. Mr. Kinney commenced teaching before he was twenty years of age, and died before he was thirty-five. Most of his life as a teacher was spent in Cortland Academy, and few persons have done more to make it what it is. Within our village burial ground his pupils have placed

a marble monument to his memory. But still richer memorials of him are to be found in the personal recollections of those who knew him, and in the Wednesday evening meetings for prayer which he established.

The other was Louis A. Miller, a mathematician of rare promise, and a teacher of remarkable tact and energy. Beautiful and appropriate monuments, the offerings of grateful pupils, mark the resting-places of their dust in the village cemetery of Homer.

Since the organization of the Academy more than eight thousand different students have been instructed in it. Of these many are numbered among the most distinguished men in the State, in the Church, and in the various professions of science and art. "Many are now occupying places of usefulness and honor in their own country; others have gone to show the benighted millions of heathen lands the way of life, and others have gone to the land of rest and seraphic bliss, which knows no change, and where dwell the good, the pure, and the great."

Among the various Academies of the State, the Cortland Academy has been uniformly distinguished for its giving decided prominence to its Classical Department. During the last three years the average number of pupils in the department of Ancient Languages has been eighty, while the average number in attendance in all the departments has been 240.

The number of students annually reported to the Regents of the University, "as having pursued, for four months or upwards, classical studies or the higher branches of English education," has increased in each suc-

cessive year to the present time—the report of 1858 showing 642 students thus reported :

The growth of the Academy has been gradual and healthful. The assets of the corporation are,

Value of land and building, . . .	\$5,100
“ “ library, . . .	995
“ “ apparatus, . . .	1,243
“ “ other property, . . .	6,375
	<hr/>
Total, . . .	\$13,713

Its annual income for 1858 from tuition bills, literature fund, and interest, was . . .	\$4,449 58
Annual expenditure, . . .	4,208 78

The Cortland Academy is pleasantly situated on the public square. It embraces various apartments for study and recitations, a well-selected library, philosophical apparatus, and every facility needed to impart a good, thorough, and practical education. Indeed, it is with much pleasure that we refer to Prof. S. W. Clark, the gentlemanly and accomplished Principal, and his able and competent assistants, under whose faithful discharge of duties the Academy is made an ornament to the place, as well as one of the best educational Academic Institutions in our State.

The Cortlandville Academy was incorporated by the Regents of the University in the year 1842, and commenced in August of that year.

The original officers were Joseph Reynolds, President ; Henry S. Randall, Secretary ; Joel B. Hibbard, Treasurer. The Trustees were J. Reynolds, Wm. Elder, H. S. Ran-

dall, Wm. Bartlit, James S. Leach, John J. Adams, Jno. Thomas, W. R. Randall, Asahel P. Lyman, Frederick Hyde, J. B. Hibbard, Horatio Ballard, Henry Stephens, Abram Mudge, James C. Pomeroy, Clark Pendleton, Anson Fairchild, Parker Crosby, L. S. Pomeroy, and Otis Stimson.

Among the first instructors were Joseph R. Dixon, A. M., Principal; Henry E. Ranney, Assistant; Miss C. Ann Hamlin, Preceptress; Miss Fanny M. Nelson, Assistant; Miss Sarah M. Parker, Assistant during third term; Miss Mary E. Mills, Teacher of Music.

The number of pupils reported August 1, 1848, was 216.

The Trustees made a very flattering report, and anticipated increasing prosperity. They congratulated themselves upon their good fortune in being able to retain their very able and popular Principal, Joseph R. Dixon. Mr. D. continued Principal for four successive years.

The present members of the Board of Trustees are Frederick Hyde, President; J. A. Schermerhorn, Secretary; Morgan L. Webb, Treasurer; Joseph Reynolds, Henry S. Randall, John J. Adams, Horatio Ballard, Henry Stephens, James C. Pomeroy, D. R. Hubbard, Henry Brewer, Ebenezer Mudge, Horace Dibble, Hamilton Putnam, Henry Bowen, W. O. Barnard, Madison Woodruff, Martin Sanders, Rufus A. Reed, James S. Squires, W. P. Randall, Thomas Keator, R. H. Duell, and George Bridge.

TEACHERS.

Henry Carver, A. M., Principal ; Miss Maria S. Welch, Preceptress ; Ridgway Rowley, Languages ; Miss Mary M. Bartlit, Primary Department ; Frederick Hyde, M. D., Lecturer ; Mrs. F. R. Mudge, Instrumental and Vocal Music ; Mrs. A. R. Bowen, Drawing and Painting.

The Academy is large and conveniently arranged, and is located in a healthy and pleasant part of Cortland Village, and the students in attendance number about 150.

The Institution is furnished with a new Philosophical and Chemical Apparatus, an extensive Library, and all the necessary means to impart a healthful and practical education. The prospects were, perhaps, at no time more flattering than at the present.

Prof. Carver, the accomplished Principal and instructor in Natural and Moral Science and the Higher Mathematics, is deservedly worthy of his well-earned reputation. His zealous and active efforts to promote and advance the interests of the Academy are justly and fully appreciated.

The well-arranged lectures of Prof. Hyde on Anatomy and Physiology, are like the sands which descend with La Plata's rushing torrent, rich with golden ore. They are, indeed, of marked importance to the Institution.

And it is but just to add that the Assistant Corps of Instructors are admirably fitted for their various positions ; hence the Academy will flourish, and continue to rank among the best educational institutions in the State.

New York Central College.—In 1846 the attention of

gentlemen of enlarged views and liberal sentiments, residing in this and other States, was turned to the necessity of establishing a Collegiate Institution which should be entirely free from sectarianism, while the tendency of its teachings should be favorable toward a true hearty christianity. They felt that the opportunity to gain a liberal education should be extended to all as impartially as are the light and air, and that the minds of students should rather be made free and independent, than moulded according to creeds or the dicta of fashion. They reflected long and earnestly upon the subject, and finally resolved to found an Institution of Learning, in which character, not circumstances, color, or sex, should be the basis of respect ; in which the course of study should be full and useful to those who looked forward to a life in one of the learned professions, as well as to those who expected to devote their lives to honorable toil ; in which labor should be regarded as eminently honorable, and facilities for engaging in it should be furnished as fully as practicable ; in which the minds of students should be untrammelled by the restriction of the freedom of speech, and undarkened by the shadow of some great name ; in which the most noble life of usefulness, and practical, impartial Christianity, and every incitement to such a life should be placed before the student. Calling upon those who sympathised with them in their effort for assistance, they raised an amount of money sufficient to found an Institution, and on the 12th day of April, 1848, a charter was granted by the Legislature to New York Central College, located at M'Grawville, and on the 5th of September following it was opened to students. The buildings were large and

commodious, and to which was connected a farm of 167 acres, upon which students could labor for a fixed compensation, or, if preferred, might rent pieces of land to cultivate for themselves.

The number of students at first was small, and has not at any time been large. Everything that an able faculty could do to advance the interests of the Institution has been done, and yet the College has not prospered. Its friends are discouraged, and the Board of Directors disheartened. Present appearances indicate that the College will either pass into the hands of its colored friends, or be purchased by the citizens of M'Grawville, and be renovated and reorganized into a seminary or academic institution, or finally cease to exist as a College.

Prof. Leonard G. Calkins, the hitherto active and efficient Principal, has resigned his position, and entered an eminent law school in Albany, with a design to fit himself for the bar. He is a finished scholar, an accomplished orator, and a true gentleman; a deep thinker, of active temperament, and is in all respects admirably qualified to fill the position to which he now aspires, and we doubt not he will prove an ornament to the legal profession.

CINCINNATUS ACADEMY owes its origin to the spirited efforts of a few of the citizens of Cincinnatus, through whose exertions a meeting was held in December, 1855, when a committee was appointed to solicit subscription for the purpose of erecting a suitable building for an academic school. A sufficient sum having been obtained, and plans and stipulations adopted, a building was erected by George L. Cole. It is delight-

fully situated in a retired part of the village of Cincinnati, in the Otselic valley, and commands a beautiful view of the surrounding country. It is by far the most tasty educational edifice in the county. The rooms are spacious and airy, and are arranged with a due regard to comfort and convenience. In short, the building is in all respects an ornament to the town, and especially to the village in which it is located. And while it is honorable to the taste and enterprise of its founders, it reflects great credit on the architect.

On the 19th day of December, 1856, the Academy was first occupied as a school-room. Prof. Hatch, Principal, was a graduate of Madison University. Miss Mary T. Gleason, Preceptress, and Miss Mary Winters, Assistant. The school opened with the most flattering auspices, but for a variety of reasons, at the close of the first term Mr. Hatch resigned his position, and was succeeded by A. P. Kelsey, A. B.

In April, 1857, the Academy was incorporated by the Regents of the University of the State of New York.

Miss Gleason continued in her position as Preceptress until the 17th of March, 1858, when in consequence of the illness of her friends she resigned, and was succeeded by Miss A. A. Field, a graduate of Oneida Conference Seminary.

The institution is indebted to the liberality of the citizens of the village for a select library, consisting of 160 volumes, valued at \$180 ; as also for a philosophical and chemical apparatus. The entire property owned by the corporation is \$3,654 08. The entire income for the past academic year, ending September 7th, 1858, was \$1,232 26. The number of different pupils in attend-

ance during the year was 151 ; tuition bills made out for the same time, 247.

The present members of the Board of Trustees are— Jeremiah Bean, President ; Benjamin F. Tillinghast, Secretary ; John Kingman, Jr., Treasurer ; Peleg Holmes, Matthew G. Lee, Waite Wells, Israel Gee, R. R. Moore, Oliver Kingman, John Potter, Adna Warner, Dayton Kingman, Jacob A. Ressegieu ; A. P. Kelsey, Register.

TEACHERS.

Ambrose P. Kelsey, A. B., Principal ; Miss A. A. Field, Preceptress ; Miss Cornelia J. Dutton, Assistant ; Frank Place, Mathematics ; Miss Cornelia Kingman, Music ; Almon H. Benedict, Penmanship.

The first apportionment of the Regents was \$115 35 ; that of the present year is \$184 34. There has been also apportioned the sum of \$60 for the purchase of apparatus.

In November last this institution was selected by the Regents of the University to instruct a class in common school teaching, and the class is now in process of instruction.

At the time of our visit to the Academy, there were eighty students in attendance, and the various exercises were conducted with marked success. At the date of writing the number in attendance is much larger. The career of the institution thus far has been of unexampled prosperity. Not an instance of discipline has yet occurred. And from the character of the Board of Trustees, we cannot doubt but that it will continue to increase in popularity. They will use every laudable effort to promote its prosperity, and furnish every facility

which the ability and talents of competent teachers can impart.

Prof. Kelsey graduated with high honors in 1856. He is a self-made man, having been deprived by death of his father when but five years old ; he early learned to depend upon his own energies for success in life, and bracing himself for a career of emulation, he has gradually carved his way to his present honored position. With the faithful and accomplished principal at its head, the Cincinnatus Academy will soon rank among the best educational institutions in the State. Indeed, we believe that with the experienced and highly competent teachers, and the valuable philosophical and chemical apparatus, the academy offers every facility needed to impart a good, thorough, and practical education.

The Academy is entirely free from that baneful species of aristocracy so common in older institutions, and hence should be vigilantly guarded, that the pernicious influence so seriously felt in other localities may not be permitted to enter its honored halls.

ODD FELLOWS.

This Order was founded in Cortlandville, February 16th, 1847, by the institution of a Lodge ; and again at Homer, March 30th, 1847, and now numbers six lodges, as will be seen by the following statistics :

Lodges.	No.	P. G's.	Memb's.	Receipts.	N. G's.
Toughnioga,	50,	8	37	102 26	Frank Goodyear.
Homer,	280	20	67	136 50	O. Porter.
Preble,	409	8	19	65 00	H. M. Van Buskirk.
Marathon,	415	4	24	171 00	John H. Preston.
M'Grawville,	459	8	28	75 92	Leander B. Palmer.
Virgil,	465	7	15	81 88	Henry Luce.

ASTROESSA ENCAMPMENT, No. 19.

The Encampment is a higher branch of the Order, having a separate organization, but receiving its character from the Grand Encampment, and is otherwise responsible to the Grand Lodge of the United States. Its charter was granted January, 1848, and was instituted February 12th, 1848.

D. Hawkes, R. O. Reynolds, Seth Haight, J. S. Leach, J. D. Clark, E. M. Leal, L. Reynolds, charter members.

J. S. Leach, D. Hawkes, E. M. Leal, L. Reynolds, R. O. Reynolds, A. G. Bennett, G. K. Stiles, J. Freeman, I. M. Seaman, J. B. Fairchild, Z. C. Allis, S. R. Hunter, H. P. Goodrich, J. Price, W. O. Barnard, W. S. Copeland, P. G. P's.

This branch of the Order is in a very flourishing condition. "The door of the Patriarch's tent is never closed to the needy or distressed."

Cherishing the principles of love, purity and fidelity, temperance, benevolence and mutual aid, a galaxy of unrivaled brilliants, the members of the various lodges have extended to the needy and distressed the more substantial means of comfort and social union.

In September, 1854, a Masonic Lodge was instituted in Homer by dispensation from the Grand Lodge of the State of New York, and the Hon. Ashbel Patterson was appointed W. M., Cornelius B. Gould, S. W., and Lyman Reynolds, J. W.

This lodge, under the most favorable auspices, is increasing in numbers and in means of usefulness, and we have no reason to doubt that a long course of prosperity is open before it.

CHAPTER XVI.

BIOGRAPHICAL.

“Lives of great men all remind us,
We can make our lives sublime ;
And, departing, leave behind us,
Footprints on the sands of time.”

It is one of the pleasurable duties of the annalist to record the names and services of the most active and energetic characters who have taken part in forming new settlements, originating and reducing to systematized order such plans and measures as appeared best calculated to secure union and harmony among the various discordant elements of which society is composed, to extend civilization and dignify virtuous character. A due appreciation of the blessings of civil and religious liberty that surround us, urges us to laudable efforts to perpetuate those privileges, and contemplate the circumstances that tended most largely to make us thus happy and prosperous. The noble spirits of other days who devoted their best energies to the achievement of the means of happiness with which we are surrounded, are deserving of our warmest gratitude. We honor them for what they were while living, and now that they are dead, regret that we can only pay them just homage by recording their worthy efforts in the

furtherance of the progressive improvements of the times in which they labored, and in emulating their cherished virtues. And to those who still survive the stern strife of the enterprising and brave pioneer, we extend our warmest and heartfelt congratulations. It is not our province to record their names or virtues in marble or in brass, in poetry or in eloquence ; but we will hope to make a plain yet faithful record of a few of the more prominent characteristics which marked their course through life. True history is but a simple and unvarnished record of men's actions. The few usually originate measures of public policy which are adopted by the many, and when the projectors of those measures devotedly cherish a sympathy of feeling for those whom they are calculated mostly to affect, do their acts reflect credit upon themselves, and inspire us with a regard for their worthy efforts. The few names we have selected are such as best presented us with positive data regarding their lives. True, it has been difficult for us to discriminate between the many who appeared equally worthy of a brief notice from us, and of whom we should have been pleased to have recorded their generous efforts in the popular enterprises of the day, did not circumstances and the limits of our work preclude the possibility of extending to any great length our biographical sketches. We shall, therefore, be pardoned for selecting a few names only from among those who have labored equally, ardently and devotedly for the advancement of our happiness and prosperity.

TOM ANTONE, was born at Oquaga, (now Windsor,) in July, 1770. This place has been made famous in history on account of its having been the ancient

dwelling-place of a respectable tribe of Indians—the proud old Romans of the wilderness. Being located upon the Susquehanna river, and but a little distant from “the north-east angle of the Great Bend,” it naturally became a half-way resting-place for the Six Nations, as they passed and repassed upon the war-path, or as they more frequently propelled their canoes between the Mohawk and Wyoming Valleys.

The father of young Antone was a chief of great and commanding influence ; and he reared his son in accordance with the strictest precepts of right. He was undoubtedly of French extraction, as many of his natural eccentricities were peculiarly French. He bore upon his person the certificates of his valor, for he had distinguished himself in many a hard-fought battle. His flesh had been cleft with arrows, and his bones had been shattered with leaden missiles. In 1794, though his hair had become whitened by the frosts of time, and his form bent with age, he bade adieu to the valley of Ohnaquaga, and united with his brethren in arms in Ohio, who were preparing to make a bold defence against the invading force of General Wayne.

At about this time, Tom came into the Tioughnioga valley, and erected his rude wigwam a little to the east, yet within sight of the present village of Cortland. His disposition was antagonistic to that of his father, who, when around the camp fire, took pride in telling his shrewd and often comic yarns, or practical jokes. On the contrary, Tom was strictly taciturn—a stern, cold Roman hunter. His path had been crossed by a northern trapper, whose polished steel pierced the heart of his young and cherished princess, and she fell

a bloody sacrifice to his heartless inhumanity. Revenge, hatred deep and undying, settled upon his hitherto generous mind, and he resolved to avenge the wrong by pouring out the blood of his fiendish foe. Numerous instances are related of his cruelties inflicted upon wild beasts, in imitation of the horrible tortures which were to be visited upon the person of the murderous trapper.

And yet, Antone possessed many fine traits of character, among which stood preëminent an idolatrous affection for her whom he called "wife." His love, like the generous sympathies of the heart, was warm and ardent. Indeed, we might describe it as being purely reverential. He hoped entirely to exclude himself from the association of "the pale face," unless he could destroy the foe who had wrecked his happiness. As the refining hand of civilization appeared in front of his cabin, he drew his blanket more closely about his person, and was seen retreating back into the wilderness. The New Englanders, with their rifles, strode manfully through the Tioughnioga valley, or ascended the hillside in pursuit of game, without receiving the slightest insult from their savage brethren. Antone would have regarded their conduct with the greatest displeasure, had they conducted otherwise than in accordance with his expressed wishes. He loved fame—he loved glory; but he would purchase neither on any other terms but such as justice dictated, or honor required. His hate, really, was directed or cherished against only one person, and that was the murderer of her who had strewed his youthful path with the fairest of flowers.

Leaving Tioughnioga valley, he struck forward in the wilderness in a direct line for the highest elevation bordering the majestic Mohawk. Here by mere accident he caught sight of his mortal enemy. The war-whoop was instantly echoed from hill to hill, and Antone leaped from the threshold of his cabin and darted forward in hot pursuit of the fast disappearing and hated destroyer of his happiness. The pursuit was continued to the shores of Ontario, beyond the thundering Niagara, around the southern coast of Lake Erie, to the banks of the Great Father of waters, where he left the coward's heart upon the sandy beach, a foul and fetid thing.

He fought under the brave Tah-wan-nyes* at the terrible massacre of Wyoming. He was at the Genesee Castle on the approach of General Sullivan, and fled just in time to escape the vengeance of the troops. Standing at a little distance, his eyes beheld its utter annihilation. But his proud and noble spirit did not break. His mind went back to the achievements and wide desolation which marked the course of his brethren when they swept along the majestic Mohawk, bearing the torch of conflagration; and his dark eye saw the ghastly spirit of massacre, charred and blackened, while the voice of lamentation was heard throughout the settlement of Cherry Valley. He clenched his tomahawk with a firm grasp, and with his long knife sheathed at his side, went forth to battle for glory and conquest in the fairer fields of the "sunny South."

And still Antone lives; and he who visits the West-

* Gov. Black Snake.

ern Reservation may look upon his stooping form, and behold his unblenching eyes as they glare upon the objects around him.

He was never cowardly—never unmerciful, unless driven to the adoption of measures which, under other circumstances than such as those tending to utter extermination, he would have despised and detested.

JOSHUA BALLARD was born in the town of Holland, Massachusetts, July 21, 1774. His early literary advantages were respectable, and by a close application to study he became an excellent scholar. The various refining influences under which he was reared were well calculated to fix their impress upon his naturally generous and impulsive heart. At the age of twenty-one, (1797,) he left his native town and selected a location in the town of Homer. The next year he returned and moved in his young and interesting wife, who having enjoyed similar advantages in obtaining an English education, and in cultivating the moral and social virtues, was rendered an agreeable and cherished companion. They came in by way of Cazenovia. Their entry into the town of Homer, then a mere "dot in the wilderness," on horseback, and by a scarcely discernible "bridle-path," was hailed by the firm-anchored forester with sensations of heart-felt joy. He originally purchased about one hundred acres of land, but subsequently made several valuable additions. He was affable and courteous in his deportment. In intellect he afforded a rare combination of excellence. His judgment was sound and active. He read much—thought much, and as a natural consequence, usually arrived at correct conclusions. He became an active participant

in the political strifes of the day, and few, if any, in our county, have acquired a greater or a more correct reputation as a practical thinking man. And few, perhaps, if any, for upwards of half a century have been more intimately connected with public affairs,—political or progressive,—than Mr. Ballard; and the numerous offices of trust and emolument to which he was at various periods elevated, furnish the most positive evidence of the confidence reposed in him as a just and worthy citizen.

He taught the first school in the old town of Homer, was one of the “projectors and directors of the Fifth Great Western Turnpike Company, whose road was built at an early day through this county. The Cortland Academy owes much of its present as well as past high reputation to the early exertions of Mr. Ballard, who was one of its founders and most permanent supporters. He was also a firm pillar in the Congregational church of Homer, of which he became a member in 1813. He was appointed Sheriff, April 30, 1810. He was an active member of the Legislature of 1816. He was appointed County Clerk, July 7, 1819, soon after which he located in Cortlandville. He also held most of the important town offices in Homer and Cortland. At one period of his life he took quite an interest in military affairs. He raised the first company of cavalry in the county, and was appointed its captain; and afterwards held the office of Brigadier Major and Inspector.

The greater portion of his life, however, was spent in agricultural and mercantile pursuits. The impulses of his heart were warm and ardent. His philanthropy gave

ample evidence of a fellow feeling and sympathetic nature. Place and station never swayed nor influenced him from the path of duty. Kind and generous, his social and beneficent sympathies were always favorable to the unfortunate or oppressed. Frank and open, having no concealments, he was never charged with being time-serving. He never trimmed his sail to catch the popular breeze, but rather sought honest defeat than corrupt success.

He died January 10, 1855, having reached fourscore years. His illness was short but severe, yet his dying moments were like those of a child sinking into a calm and pleasant sleep, and his approach to the tomb was like that of one

“ Who wraps the drapery of his couch
Around him, and lies down to pleasant dreams.”

The hand that once aided in subduing the hoary growth of forest trees, and in planting and rearing the early germs of civilization, is cold and nerveless. The tongue that often spoke fervently and eloquently, is mute and dumb in the cold chamber of the grave. The reflection, pleasing and grateful, is forced upon the mind, and we justly exclaim—

“ He was the noblest Roman of them all ;
His life was gentle ; and the elements
So mixed in him, that Nature might stand up
And say to all the world, this was a man.”

JOHN ALBRIGHT, the pioneer of East Homer, was the son of a plain republican, who was originally from the land of the liberty-loving TELL. Of his ancestors we know but little—of his birth-place, nothing. Nor have

we any definite information regarding his early advantages ; but, from his limited knowledge of letters, we are left to conclude that they were not of the most flattering character. His father died a little previous to the Revolution. He had, however, some time before been apprenticed to the tailoring business, to a gentleman whose only son was drafted at the commencement of hostilities into the American service. The young man not appreciating this favor, and his father not relishing the idea of his son being made a mark for British fusileers, consented, after due reflection, that young Albright, who had offered to volunteer, might go in his son's place. The matter being thus settled, John Albright, then only in his sixteenth year, with a heart full of patriotism which neither difficulty nor danger could chill, entered into the service of his country, and went forth to win laurels upon the ensanguined field of military glory. We have not the records at hand from which to glean the name of the commanding officer of the detachment to which he was at first connected. Numerous commissions were tendered him, but declined. In the office of Quarter Master he officiated for some time. He remained in active service until the fall of Montgomery, when he was taken prisoner by the British and carried to New York. He remained there eleven months, suffering all the hardships to which prisoners in the hands of the enemy were exposed ; but his uniform good behavior and honorable deportment won for him many friends. At the time he fell into the hands of the enemy he had an excellent dog, to which he was much attached. After repeated efforts the dog was separated from his master, and taken possession of

by a British officer. He was occasionally permitted to visit his sister Elizabeth, who was living in the family of an English surgeon. Just before he was exchanged he was on his way thither, and was very much startled by something springing suddenly upon his back ; turning quickly around he was greatly surprised at beholding his own dog, the officer then being at head-quarters. At the time the animal was taken in custody the officer requested Mr. Albright to tell his name, which, for certain reasons, he refused. But finally, being assured that no harm should occur to him in consequence, he told him that his name was Liberty—a name that was dear to the oppressed, though hateful to tyrants.

After being exchanged he again entered into the service of his country, and continued an efficient actor until after the taking of Fort Stanwix. Soon after this event, he and a few other soldiers, being engaged at a short distance from the main army in picking berries, were surprised and taken prisoners by a company of tories and Indians, and were conducted to Canada. We regret that we are able to give but a few of the interesting incidents connected with his second captivity. During his toilsome march to Canada he was compelled to carry a heavy pack ; his shoes having become worthless, were left on the way ; and his feet, already blistered and torn, became so very sore that he could be tracked by his own blood. There were in the company an old Indian and an aged squaw, whom he had previously known,—the former he had befriended ; the latter called him “son,” while he courteously called her “mother.” They were consequently his friends. The young Indians appeared to take pride in vexing and tor-

turing the prisoners. One of them sought every opportunity to follow close behind Mr. Albright, and tread upon his lacerated, bleeding heels. He feared to make any resistance, lest it should offend the chief and other influential Indians. But the repeated cruelties inflicted upon him at length exhausted his patience and forbearance ; he turned suddenly upon his persecutor, and with one powerful and well-directed blow of his fist laid him at full length upon the ground. As was natural, he expected to meet the indignant frowns of the Indians, but to his surprise they clapped their hands and laughed most heartily ; then, approaching him, they slapped him on the shoulder and exclaimed, " brave man ! brave man ! "

At another time the march had been so rapid and protracted, and his pack so heavy, that he thought he must sink and die under it. He at length threw it down, declaring that he would carry it no farther. Again he expected to meet the angry displeasure of his enemies, and perhaps be tomahawked on the spot ; but, after they had uttered some angry words and exhibited many fearful gesticulations, an Indian was ordered to take up his burden, and he was permitted to proceed unmolested. When they encamped for the night he was tied to a tree, and during the absence of his protector, an Indian, whose hate seemed unrelenting, threw his tomahawk at him, which fortunately missed him and spent its force in a tree not more than three inches from his head. He was finally obliged to run the gauntlet. Then his face was painted jet black, indicating that his death had been determined on. But the squaw whom he called " mother " obtained access

to him, and removed the filthy composition from his face ; and, through her influence, he escaped with only a few lacerating blows upon his back. Reaching the point of destination, he was thrown into the prison, the dampness of which soon brought on a fever. He was attended by a British physician, who gave him such large doses of calomel that the most fearful result was anticipated. His tongue became excessively swollen, and protruded from his mouth ; but by the kind interposition and skill of a French physician he was saved. After suffering every species of cruelty and hardship for nearly a year, he was again exchanged and returned to active service, in which he continued until the announcement of peace.

He was certainly a brave and heroic man, displaying the true characteristics of the reflecting and devoted soldier ; not the least of which were exhibited while accompanying General Sullivan during most of his skirmishes with the Indians and Tories.

He married a young lady by the name of Catharine Smith. They spent several years in the city, but at length concluded to exchange the pleasures of city life for those of a more rural character ; and with his cherished wife, four daughters, and aged mother-in-law, he left with the determination to locate on the land which had been assigned by his country for services in her cause. He stopped and remained a year and a half at Charlestown, a little west of Schenectady. During this time, accompanied by his wife, on horseback, he came on and explored his "military" lot ; after determining to occupy it, they returned to Charlestown and remained until the spring of 1797. On the 12th of March, they

reached Mr. Benedict's house in Truxton, where they remained until Mr. Albright could erect a small house on his lot. It was of the most primitive character, being composed of logs covered with bark.

His nearest neighbors were Mr. Benedict, on the east, near where Judah Pierce now lives ; and John Miller, on the west, where the willow trees have since grown. Toil and privation discouraged him not ; he had already passed through the trying scenes of life. Necessity compelled him to go to mill a distance of forty miles ; there being no road, he had to pick his way by marked trees. He was unaccustomed to agricultural pursuits, having no knowledge of farming, or the best mode to adopt in order to clear the heavy growth of forest trees preparatory to fitting the soil for the more common crops. Help was difficult to obtain,—his children all being girls, who from the nature of things could be of but little service to him,—and consequently he had to rely on his own strong arms and resolute will to sustain and accomplish what in the future crowned his persevering efforts. As his daughters grew up, they learned to do most kinds of out-door work ; and we are told, upon excellent authority, that his mother-in-law, then sixty-five years of age, and who had previously known nothing of country life, soon learned to chop, and would fell from six to eight old foresters in a day. Wolves and bears were plenty. But he paid little attention to hunting, save when rambling through the woods in pursuit of his cattle ; then his gun was his constant companion and trusty friend. At one time he discovered five bears in a tree gathering nuts, two of which he managed to bring down, and which served as a very good substitute for beef.

As a neighbor and friend he was universally esteemed. His benevolence was proverbial. Previous to his locating in East Homer, he was a member of the Reformed Dutch Church. In 1808 his house was opened for religious meetings. Subsequently himself and wife united with the Methodist order, and for several years meetings were held beneath the roof that sheltered the pioneer family from the storm-beaten blast. Favoring circumstances led others to locate near him, among the first of whom were James White, Samuel Greggs, David Lindley, and Samuel Crandall.

Mr. Albright lived on the most intimate terms with his neighbors, and to many he extended the hand of a father's friendship. If at any time they were in pecuniary difficulty, they hesitated not in appealing to him with an almost positive certainty of obtaining relief. He pursued an elevated course of action, entering into none of the speculations so common to new settlements; and although he did not amass any great wealth, yet he secured a reasonable competence, from which he could draw.

ASA WHITE was born in Monson, Mass., in the year 1774. His educational advantages were such as the common schools of his native State afforded. He early exhibited those traits of character which peculiarly distinguish the business man. Inheriting the energy and active habits of his father, he soon learned to rely upon his own efforts for self-advancement in the world, and thus by persevering industry, economy, and a just appreciation of an emulous reputation, he became the artificer of his own fortune and the moulder of his own character. In 1798, at the age of twenty-four, he emi-

grated to Homer and located on lot 45. He erected a house on the site now covered by the residence of Jedediah Barber. The farm is the same as now occupied by him, except that Barber has added to it on the north two small pieces of land which were known in an early day as Maj. Stimson's orchard, and Judge Ross' pasture. There has been sold from it the plot of ground lying between Main street and the creek, bounded on the north by the Stimson tavern property, and on the south by what was known as Dr. Owen's orchard.

He was married in 1800 to Miss Claricy Keep, daughter of Caleb Keep, who purchased and settled in 1798 on the farm now occupied by Noah Hitchcock.

At the date of Mr. White's advent into Homer, a grist-mill frame had been raised and was partially enclosed. The proprietors were Solomon Hubbard and John Keep. The interest of the latter was purchased by Mr. White, and the enterprise speedily pushed to a final completion. The bur-stones, or rather rock-stones, were procured from the bank east of the residence of Lyman Hubbard, and were drawn by thirteen yoke of cattle to their place of productive labor. The bolts were purchased by Mr. White, of Utica. The mill, though finished as originally designed, produced only a very ordinary specimen of flour. But as there was no other mill in the county, the people, sensitive of their wants, were not disposed to find fault. The interest of Mr. Hubbard was subsequently purchased by Mr. White, and the mill was thoroughly renovated and improved. When it was fully completed, the people believed that they had reached a great attainment. In it they held their public meetings, their Sabbath worship, and social gatherings. Here the

young folks held their balls. We have in our possession a record dating back to that period. Mr. White was a manager of one of these entertainments. The managers were placed in a rather unpleasant predicament. Neither rum nor molasses was to be had in town. And as a failure to procure such a *desideratum* would be an unpardonable lack of gallantry in gentlemen, a special messenger was sent post-haste thirty-three miles to Manlius Square for a gallon of rum and a half gallon of molasses, from which they made blackstrap for the company. The Maine Law had not then passed. The grist-mill, now owned by Messrs. Cogswell and Wilcox, covers the site of the original or first mill erected in the county.. The various kinds of grain ground at this mill exceeds thirty-one thousand bushels per year. It is a fitting landmark or memorial to be situated on the original site of the first mill erected in the Tioughnioga valley, whereby the people may be the better enabled to point out the spot where the olden relic stood. If the primitive settlers "rejoiced over the final completion of White's mill," with its single run of stone, how much more should their descendants rejoice at having a first-class mill, with its four runs of stones in constant operation, producing the very best quality of flour?

Mr. White was the owner of three-fourths of the first cotton factory erected west of Utica. It stood on the ground opposite the present building. It was built in 1813-14, and destroyed by fire on the 25th of December, 1815.

Mr. White possessed many valuable traits of character, and was especially serviceable in giving the embryo village an auspicious commencement. He pos-