

throughout those early struggles—in which great dependence was placed upon my father and his brothers James and William in carrying on the farm and looking out for the family while my grandfather was away from home at his trade—they all maintained a high character, were loved and respected by all, and received the warm friendship and assistance of many prominent residents, among them the late Eleazar Coburn, father of Ex-Gov. Coburn, and the late Hon. Judah McClellan. Few of these of the seventh and eighth generations can appreciate the hardships of those early days, and the small comforts their ancestors had, compared with the many enjoyed by those of the present day. But love, bravery and endurance were the characteristics of those who made homes in the new parts of our State generations ago, and by these they were sustained while the wilderness was being subdued, and houses being established whose teachings should benefit the world.

After my grandfather moved to the Falls, the younger of my uncles and aunts had the advantages of education offered by the old Bloomfield Academy,¹ which were highly prized ;

¹ Bloomfield Academy was originally incorporated as Canaan Academy in 1807, while Maine was a part of Massachusetts, and it was not till 1819, after the formation of the town of Bloomfield from Canaan, that its name was changed. An academy building was built in 1814, and the school opened under the care of the Rev. James Hall, who continued preceptor for twelve years. "Mr. Hall," says Rev. J. T. Champlin, in his "Education in Maine while a District of Massachusetts," "was a Scotchman by birth,

very rough and eccentric, but withal a good scholar and thorough teacher. The school prospered under his management and attracted to it many young men from different parts of the State—among them the celebrated missionary George Dana Boardman. In 1808—the year that Maine became a State—his school numbered sixty scholars." It may be added to what Dr. Champlin says of its early years, that the Academy maintained a high position among the educational institutions of the State down to a very late period.