

St. Johnsbury Caledonian.

St. Johnsbury, Vt., Friday, Feb. 14, 1873.

Vermont in Early Times.

COMPLETION OF THE BOSTON-JOHNSTOWN RAILROAD.

NEW YORK, Vt., Jan. 30, 1873.

For more than a century before its exploration by the French and English, Vermont was the dark and bloody ground on which the Algonquin Indians of New England and the Iroquois of western New York, engaged in deadly conflict. It was a war of havoc and extermination, attended by the most appalling cruelties. Hence, few Indians occupied the territory when it was traversed by the earliest explorers from Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

CAUSES OF EARLY SETTLEMENT.

Unlike New Hampshire, hot waterfalls and valleys show few traces of algonquin occupancy. At a few points in the Connecticut valley, and especially near Newbury, just on the verge of the Ox-bow meadows, a large number of stone implements have been discovered, and on fields and burial grounds were visible to the early white settlers. Their stone implements consisted chiefly of the pestle, axe, gouge and chisel, made of slate, spear and arrow-heads and dressing knives made of jasper and quartz, dishes of soapstone and pottery of burned clay.

Newbury was the gateway of the Connecticut valley, the point where various tribes passing annually between Canada and the lower valley of the Merrimack, found a convenient landing place. Its rich meadows, sheltered from the cold winds, furnished the most northern grounds on which corn and beans could be planted and ripened. The settlement was limited to a small tract, and they withdrew to the hills when the Penobscot abandoned the valley of the Merrimack in 1760.

Still, the territory of Vermont remained a wilderness. It was exposed to the attacks of the French and Indians on the north and east, and was a common ground, to the jurisdiction of which none of the English colonial governments as yet laid claim. Some years later it became evident that these lands had a value, and New York, New Hampshire and Massachusetts each labored vigorously to secure them.

A SHEWED OLD GOVERNOR.

New Hampshire at this time had Fleming Wentworth for a royal governor, a dignified gentleman, affable in manners and fastidious in dress. He was a man of high standing in the colony, and his name was as well known as that of any other man of the province. He ruled long and well, and had but to hold his position till the day of his death, had not his avarice and great wealth excited the envy of other ambitious men of the province. Some men from his principle, and disregarding personal ends are purely philanthropic; but like angels visible, they are few and far between. While the Governors of New York and Massachusetts were quarreling as to the disputed territory, Gov. Wentworth saw a golden opportunity. A son of Credit Mobilier, before him, self-interest whispered that it might be improved. So he speedily and secretly set his surveyors at work upon the richest portions of the disputed territory, and before the worthy rulers of the two neighboring provinces were aware of it, three tiers of townships on the west side of the Connecticut, and smaller others on the eastern border of Lake Champlain were laid out, and ready to be charted.

Gov. Wentworth now became a great favorite with his people, for a short time all went on as good terms with him, all who had never before, and all who had but a few yellow socks enough to pay good round fees, were suddenly enriched by the Governor. Many of them had to do as was drawn up a petition, get the requisite number of signers, go to the Governor with a nice piece of gold, and a charter was sure.

HOW SETTLEMENTS GREW AND CONFRICTS AROSE.

In this way not less than one hundred and eight townships in Vermont were chartered, and they were held for the most part by enterprising men, no time or effort was spared to have them speedily occupied. Settlements began to spring up along all the Connecticut valley, and westerly to Lake Champlain.

We cannot stop to tell of the mighty wrath of the New York officials when the acts of Gov. Wentworth became known; and how by fraud and the cunningness of Albany, after ten years later established a claim of their own.

In the meantime, eastern and southern Vermont had become dotted with the claims of stalwart men from Massachusetts and New Hampshire. The officers sent on by Gov. Tryon of New York, told these backwoodsmen that they must vacate the new lands on which they had built their rude dwellings, or pay them for the same. The settlers boldly and bluntly refused to do either. So they seized and carried off a few of the trespassing Yankees to be tried before the courts of New York. This roused the ire of the Green Mountain boys, and when the Royal party came again in 1770, they were seized, stripped, tied to the trees, and whipped without mercy. The "blue boys" was the name given to them, and in Yankee tradition to every one who has ever had the temerity to risk a repetition.

This struggle was not merely about the price of land, but it was a conflict between a state of a free liberal and aristocratic principle, between the township system with local elections and taxes, and colonial centralization. Gov. Tryon issued a proclamation offering a reward for the seizure of Ethan Allen, and the Colonial Assembly passed a resolve that if the rebel leaders did not surrender themselves within thirty days, they should incur the penalty of death without the benefit of clergy. In the latter region the property of the settlers was seized and confiscated.

This controversy, now growing violent, was suddenly stopped or settled by the startling event of the Revolution's solution. By common consent local feuds were laid aside to await the issue of the great struggle then impending, and to which all classes were lending their best energies.

VERMONT AN INDEPENDENT STATE.

After the organization of the Continental Congress in New York, the Vermonters claimed to the disputed territory. But the people of this little country had decided to become an independent state, and demanded admission to the confederacy. A vote was taken, as it might be, to refer to the Continental Congress the petition of this people. The would-be state of Vermont was answered, and we might respect the neighbor. The British, however, knew this, and sent agents with British gold to persuade her to adhere to Canada and remain an English province. The few who were sent they brought, and the great majority were faithful to the American cause.

After the states had gained their national independence, the old controversy was continued with bitterness, and many acts of lawlessness, disgraceful

to both parties, were committed. In 1790 New York, conscious that the contest was unavailing, proposed to relinquish her claim for the moderate sum of \$30,000. The offer was accepted and with it terminated one of the severest feuds in American annals. (In March, 1842, Vermont was admitted as the fourteenth state of the American Union.)

In the early history of Vermont two men soon became prominent among her people, acquiring a national reputation, and retaining their popularity to the close of life. Without them the state would not have achieved her independence. The more widely known of the two was

ETHAN ALLEN.

Ethan Allen was an anomaly, even among the heroic men of the Revolution. Capable of immense physical endurance, he encountered with ease hardships which crushed others. Of pronounced convictions and fiery temper, he often uttered words which could not meet the least criticism. With natural culture and manly manners, he was as truly a born orator as Patrick Henry. No other man could sway the masses as he did. His rare sense of justice, among the moralists. His personal magnetism was wonderful, and he manipulated men like wax.

More than once the "Five State Rangers," as they were called, tired, half-faded and horse-sore, great weary companies, were sent by the British to the side of the British and Indians on the other, and declared they would go home to their suffering families and neglected fields and leave the great question to settle itself. Then Allen would mount the nearest stump, make a ten minute speech, and close with a shower of cheers for "Five Vermont," and contrivances that he would lead them against their oppressors.

ILLUSTRATIVE INCIDENTS.

Rough and stern as Allen was, he had the tenderness of a woman. An illustration of his humanity is seen in a home incident. Two little girls, one four and the other seven years of age, were lost in the woods of Sunderland. During the night search party, he made the family and neighbors without avail. The next day the search was continued by the whole town. This was continued all the afternoon of the third day, when the weary and discouraged crowd collected in the intention of dispersing to their homes.

But there was one who believed that the search should not be abandoned—it was Ethan Allen. Standing on a log, in his horse and a pair of breeches, he and another, or belimed with soot and called on every one present to make his own, and say if he could contentedly go home without one more effort to save the first-born of the province. The girls were pulled down by his face, and "Eli go," was heard on every side. They hurried to the woods, and before night the lost children were rescued in safety.

Allen, as well as his brother, was a marked trait of Allen's character. His marriage to Frances Buchanan, the step-daughter of the leading loyalist of the territory, at whose invitation a reconciliation was effected, was in accordance with his preference. Miss Buchanan was much his junior, an accomplished, fascinating woman. She was doubtless attracted by the originality of his views and conversation, and conversant with the highest talents of the province. She was a woman of work upon the richest portions of the disputed territory, and before the worthy rulers of the two neighboring provinces were aware of it, three tiers of townships on the west side of the Connecticut, and smaller others on the eastern border of Lake Champlain were laid out, and ready to be charted.

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work, the street door opened, and a young man with a basket of flowers, which he presented himself. When told that nothing in his line was wanted, the little rascal began to "talk back," in a most impudent manner, and was finally ordered to leave the premises. He refused to do so, and thinking to scare him, the student pulled a string, and open flew the door where the skeleton was hidden, and that emblem of death sprang out at the boy, who, frightened out of his wits, dropped his basket and scampered out of the office, taking up a position on the opposite side of the street to await further events. Just then the doctor, "Old Bones," returned, and, learning the cause of the uproar, he went to the door and motioned the boy to come, and get his reward. "No you don't," he called out, "I know you if you have got your clothes."

Man and Wife.

Thomas Jefferson wrote the following advice. There is much human nature and good sense in it:—

"Harmony in the human state is the very first to be aimed at. Nothing can preserve affections uninterrupted but a firm resolution never to differ in will, and a determination of duty to consider the love of others of more value than any object whatever on which a wish had been fixed. How light, in fact, is the sacrifice of any object which weighs against the reflection of the wish with whom we are to pass our whole life! And though opposition in a single instance will hardly of itself produce alienation, yet every one has his weight against the reflection of the opposites are put; while that is filling the alienation is insensibly going on, and when filled it is complete. It would puzzle either to say why, because no one difference of opinion has been marked enough to produce a serious effect by itself. But he finds his stream of little checks and obstacles. Other sources of discontent, very common indeed, are the little crosses put in the way of husband and wife, in common conversation, a disposition in either to criticize and question whatever the other says, a desire always to demonstrate and make him feel himself in the wrong, especially in company. Nothing is so goading. Much better therefore, in our companion way, a thing in a light different from what we do, leave him in quiet possession of his own. What is the use of rectifying him if he thinks he is in the wrong? Let us for the present, and wait a softer moment and more conciliatory occasion of rectifying the subject together. It is wonderful how many persons are contented with their faults, but when they are in the way of their own, they are not so contented. They are not so contented with their faults, but when they are in the way of their own, they are not so contented.

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Estates.

STATE OF VERMONT, Essex County.

In the Hon. County Court for the County of Essex, Vermont, on the 28th day of January, 187