

## Autobiography of the Author.

The author of this work was born on the 31st day of August, 1818, on Townsend Hill, in the town of Concord, where he remained with his parents until after he was seventeen years of age. As soon as old enough, he was put to work to assist in clearing up a heavily-timbered farm; and the scenes and incidents appertaining to pioneer life portrayed in the several articles in chapter xiv. of this work are from his own knowledge and experience.

His education was principally obtained in the district school, on Townsend Hill, supplemented by a few terms at select school and Springville Academy.

The Winter after he was eighteen years of age, he taught a term of school, and the Spring following, he took Greeley's advice and went west. This was before the advent of railroads, and was quite an undertaking. The journey across the State of Michigan, and from Chicago to Racine, from Racine to Janesville, from Janesville to Galena, and from Galena to Fulton, a total distance of over six hundred miles, was made on foot. At that time, the prairies of Northern Illinois and Southern Wisconsin were unoccupied; the only settlers to be found were located in or near the timber. Chicago at that time was a small town, whose buildings and improvements were confined to a narrow belt of dry land along the lake-shore and river-bank; the ground back being low and covered with prairie-grass and water. Racine was a straggling little hamlet, and the city of Janesville was yet in embryo, its site being occupied by two or three small log farm-houses. He remembers stopping there a few days, and planting corn on the land where the city now stands. Beloit was named, but Freeport was unknown, and Galena was a very small village. The journey for the last two days was made on a single meal. Fulton was surveyed and named, but contained but one log-house. He remained in Fulton two and a half years, putting up buildings in the Summer, and getting out timber and cutting steam-boat wood in the Winter. He built the first frame-house in Fulton, and continued to work at the business until prostrated by sickness.

When sufficiently recovered to travel, he returned to his native town, where for the next eleven years his time was divided between working at the carpenters' trade Summers, teaching school Winters, and attending to the duties of the office of Superintendent of Common Schools.

In 1850, he went to the town of West Seneca, and invested in timbered land, which had formerly been a part of the Indian reservation. For the next fifteen years, this town and the adjoining town of Elma was his home. During these years, he was quite extensively engaged in the wood, bark and lumber business. In 1852, while a resident of West Seneca, he was elected Justice of the Peace, and also town Superintendent of Common Schools. He was also chosen to represent them on the Board of Supervisors, in 1853-54-55. He afterward held the office of Justice of the Peace in the town of Elma. Since his return to Concord, in 1865, he has worked at building several Summers, and taught school occasionally Winters. For the last five years, his time has been principally spent in procuring facts and preparing this work. Since his return to Concord, he has been several times elected Supervisor, although the party with which he affiliates is in the minority; and it is a source of gratification to know that wherever he has resided, he has enjoyed the confidence of his fellow-townsmen.