

and, as soon as they could obtain them, the boys went to situations where they could earn something to aid in their support, and the girls became successful teachers of country schools. In those early years Norridgewock, from being the older place and the shire town of Somerset county, naturally assumed a higher business, political and social rank than Skowhegan. The population of Skowhegan in 1830 was but 1006, while that of Norridgewock was 1710; and in 1840, even, Skowhegan had but 1474, while Norridgewock had 1865. Soon after this Skowhegan began to assume the ascendancy, and in 1870 it contained 3893 population, while Norridgewock had but 1756. With one exception, I believe, that of my aunt Martha, all our family attended church at the Congregational meeting-house, which was built in 1825, near the present residence of Asa Emery, Esq. There I attended church when a boy of eight years, and the interior of the meeting-house—its high pulpit, the singing gallery, the pews, and even the countenances of many whom I used to see there—are as vivid in my mind as when a boy. Rev. Fifield Holt was pastor of this church from 1814 to 1830, and Rev. G. W. Hathaway from 1833 to 1860. This building was taken down in 1862, and a new one, "Island Avenue Congregational Church," was built the same year, on the Island. Among the contemporaries of my father and his brothers and sisters, with whom, I remember,

Its preceptors have been good educators, and some of the most prominent men in the State have been numbered among its pupils, or have fitted for college under its instruction. My grandfather was for many years on its Board of Trustees, of

which he was for a long time Secretary. The corporation still maintains its organization, and has an income of \$800 annually, which is expended in connection with the Free High School, situated on Bloomfield Island.