

A
SKETCH OF THE ORIGIN AND GROWTH
OF THE
OLD FOLKS' ASSOCIATION,
OF
CHARLEMONT, MASS.

Compiled by a Committee chosen at the Thirteenth Annual
Gathering of the Association, and consisting of R. W.
FIELD of Buckland, KATE UPSON CLARK of Brook-
lyn, N. Y., and E. C. HAWKS of Charlemont.

GREENFIELD, MASS.
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PREFACE.



When the first meeting of the Old Folks was held no prophet had arisen to predict to what proportions the Association then formed would grow. No one suspected that from so small a beginning so large and influential an organization could ever be evolved as that of which we have in this little book the records; accordingly no one took especial pains to keep the chronicles of the meetings as they occurred from year to year, and in many cases bare generalities are all that we have been able to gather concerning them. Many valuable and interesting anecdotes, obituaries and other particulars have thus been lost, but in future everything of the sort will be carefully preserved. With this explanation of what to many who were present will seem a meager and inadequate account of some of the inspiring meetings held by the Old Folks' Association, we leave the record with you, hoping that its descriptions, even if incomplete, will serve to recall to your memories many happy hours spent at the delightful Old Folks' Gatherings.

K. U. C.

A SKETCH OF THE ORIGIN

OF THE OLD FOLKS' GATHERINGS OF CHARLEMONT, MASS.

Arranged for publication by a Committee chosen for that purpose at the Thirteenth Annual Gathering, held September 6th, 1882.

During the autumn of 1870 Judson Booth of Charlemont, having in his family his wife's mother, Mrs. Thirza Wing, widow of the late Bani Wing, then in her 93d year, had an earnest desire that the aged women of his neighborhood might meet at his house and have a social tea party. He accordingly mentioned the subject to several of the elderly men, asking their cooperation, and offering to furnish refreshments for the party.

At his call upon Eugene Field for consultation, Samuel Potter, from the upper end of the town, being present, it was proposed to have a more public gathering; and it was agreed to invite those of the age of seventy and above to meet in the Methodist Vestry, in Charlemont Village, on the 18th day of October, at 10 o'clock A. M.

The notice was given verbally; and also, a request made that the families represented would furnish food for a substantial dinner. Both the notice and the request met with a hearty response.

At this first gathering R. E. Field, Esq. was chosen President and Dea. Phineas Field, Clerk.

Col. R. H. Leavitt read an address of welcome, written for the occasion.

This address is given below. The other exercises consisted of prayer, reading of Scripture, singing from the old books, short addresses and social chat, with a good dinner sandwiched in at the proper time.

At the request of Eugene Field the prayers and grace before and after dinner were offered while all were standing, after

the custom of our fathers. This custom has generally been followed at subsequent gatherings.

A goodly number of middle aged persons were present to assist at the tables, and see if it was possible for a company of Old Folks to have a good time. Both young and old were surprised to witness so cheerful a gathering. The interest was kept up for more than five hours without flagging.

In drawing the meeting to a close the clerk made a motion "That we adjourn to meet again in five years," when Anson Barnard, whose aged father and mother were present, replied "We can't stand that." He then moved that we adjourn for one year. This motion was adopted unanimously.

No record was made of this first meeting, or of the number and names of those in attendance.

ADDRESS OF WELCOME BY COL. LEAVITT.

VENERABLE FRIENDS:

It becomes my duty, and you may be assured it affords me the highest pleasure, to extend to you the hand of welcome on this interesting occasion. We are assembled here, a little remnant of a former generation. We are a few scattered representatives of that by-gone generation which surged to and fro through these streets and avenues which are so familiar to our eyes, and which are now trodden by a new generation, while we are comparatively in the back ground. It is our prerogative to witness rather than to take part in the ever increasing activities of life.

A very large majority of our generation have gone to their final home, and left us to follow one by one to "that bourne from whence no traveler returns." But it is not my purpose to moralize. We are met for a different purpose; our gathering here to-day is to turn aside from the common avocations of life and devote a few hours to social intercourse and enjoyment. Our business then is to make the most of this opportunity to review the past, to enjoy the present and to look forward with joyful anticipation to the future.

In extending to you the hand of welcome on this very interesting occasion, I cannot resist the temptation to indulge in a hasty and brief review of the period of earth's his-

tory which it has fallen to our lot to witness; and in which we have each acted a part, more or less conspicuous. And, venerable friends, what an era has it been! Events of most transcendent importance have crowded upon each other, the bare mention of which would require more time than you would allow me on an occasion like the present. Some are here to-day who were born before the close of the Revolution. The roar of revolutionary cannon had scarcely ceased to vibrate along the hills and vales of the Old Thirteen, when the rest of us came into being. It seems as but yesterday to look back to the French revolution, the death of Washington, the dark day of 1780, the total eclipse of 1806, and the down fall of Bonapart. Witness also the progress in inventions and improvements, calculated to ameliorate the condition of the human race. What developements have taken place in all the sciences and arts! The doctrine of the "divine right of kings" is exploded; the doctrine that a portion of the human race were born to command another portion is also exploded; and the right of the people to self government is fully established. The recent attempt to renew that worn out doctrine of the infallibility of the Pope now, at the close of the nineteenth century, shows conclusively that all the old fogies are not dead, and confirms the old proverb that "Whom the gods are about to destroy they first make mad."

The old hierarchies of Europe are compelled from time to time to let up in their oppressions, and the people of Europe to-day enjoy vastly more of the natural rights of man than they did at the time of our birth. The same may be said of a large portion of Asia and Africa. The slave trade is almost entirely extinguished, and slavery itself is almost driven from the face of the earth.

Who does not recall the sufferings of American captives, men and women, among the Algerines and Arabs? Is there anything like such barbarities practiced among the barbarous and half civilized nations of the present day? Our flag floats everywhere, and is a sure protection to every citizen of our Republic wherever he may be.

Another wonderful advance is seen in the overthrow of American slavery. This institution had worn itself into the warp of society, had complete control of our government in

every department, had installed itself in our ecclesiastical organizations, our most prominent ministers claimed its divine origin from the Sacred Scriptures, and the laws of our land declared that "black men had no rights which white men were bound to respect." Where is American slavery now? The Emancipation Proclamation of Abraham Lincoln, the most transcendently important document in the archives of history, enforced by the bayonets of the North, has established the truth embodied in the Declaration of Independence, that "all men are created free and equal."

Now let us look for a moment at the change in the moral and religious aspect of the globe: Who does not remember the time when Harriet Newell and her devoted coadjutors went forth on their errand of mercy to proclaim the Gospel of Salvation to the benighted heathen world? Three-fourths of the habitable globe had never been penetrated by a single ray of Gospel light. "Darkness covered the earth and gross darkness the people." The seaports of all the eastern world were closed against our missionaries, and this little band were compelled to retrace their steps and abandon for the time being all hope of preaching the Gospel of Salvation to those benighted souls.

How is it to-day?

Every part of the earth's surface is freely open to the missionary of the cross: Ethiopia is stretching out her hands to the Lord; and the Islands of the sea are fast becoming the abodes of civilization and Christianity.

The use of machinery in farming, by means of which one man can perform the labor of a number of men, thus mitigating toil and economizing human nerve and muscle, affords much more time and opportunity than formerly for the cultivation of the intellect and the heart.

What a change in the show of fruit do our agricultural fairs present as compared with everything of the kind when we were young.

The electric telegraph is most wonderful; the vehicles in which we ride are all changed for the better; the very clothing for our bodies, all made by machinery instead of by those weary midnight stitches of former days, is very different and greatly improved.

Finally, let us look for a moment at our own community, who would have believed when you were young that we should one day see that wonder of all inventions, the iron horse, running through the valley of the Deerfield river at the rate of thirty miles an hour, with the prospect that the Hoosac mountain will be bored and trains pass through it in three years?

A kind Providence has smiled upon, and given us one of the most beautiful mornings of the year for this meeting; nature is dressed in her most gorgeous robes, and all of our surroundings betoken a day of unmixed pleasure. We have much to be thankful for, and may our last days be our best days.

1871.

Early in October, 1871, the following call for a second gathering of the Old Folks was printed in the *Greenfield Gazette and Courier*:

NOTICE.

THE Old Folks of Charlemont will hold their annual meeting at the Methodist Vestry in Charlemont village on the 18th of October, (Wednesday,) at ten o'clock A. M. A dinner will be furnished by the voluntary contributions of the families. The time will be occupied in devotional exercises, short addresses and free conversation. We hope many will unite with us on this occasion who are not accounted old.

By order.

P. FIELD, *Secretary*.

That this call was received gladly and responded to with great heartiness is indicated by the following report, published in the *Gazette and Courier*, of October 23, 1871.

The OLD FOLKS' GATHERING in Charlemont, on the 18th instant, was one of great interest. Although the morning was lowery, with some rain, there was a general turnout. The meeting was called to order by Dea. P. Field, and Eugene Field was chosen president, Nathan Ballard, statistical secretary and Dea. Field, standing secretary.

The president, on taking the chair, made a few appropriate remarks, and called on the venerable Dea. Horace Hawks to offer prayer. The prayer and the brief remarks with which it was prefaced by Dea. H. seemed to fill every heart with the spirit of devotion. After singing, Flora and Dora Davis, twin daughters of a deceased soldier, recited the twelfth chapter of Ecclesiastes in a clear and impressive tone and manner, keeping both time and tone as accurately as drilled soldiers keep step. After an adjournment of half an hour for chit-chat, (which was well kept up), there was singing and short addresses until dinner was announced as ready in an adjoining building. Dea. John Porter of Buckland invoked the Divine blessing before, and R. E. Field, Esq., of Charlemont,

returned thanks after the repast. There were ninety seated at the first table and about the same number afterwards; there was abundant and excellent food, with baskets of fragments left.

The singing and speaking were resumed after dinner and kept up until half past three o'clock. The speakers, besides those mentioned at the opening, were Hon. John Porter and Dr. J. Trow of Buckland, Dea. Isaac Hawks of Shelburne Falls, Rev. J. Cadwell, R. E. Field, Esq., Dea. P. Field, Jonas Ballard and Lysander Hillman of Charlemont. The addresses were short, earnest, devout, charitable and cheerful.

The statistical secretary reported names and ages of persons present, and stated that of those who attended the gathering last year, five of the number have passed away. There were present, between 60 and 70, twenty-six; between 70 and 80, twenty-six; between 80 and 90, twelve; over 90, two.

There were several of the old tunes sung during the meeting, and as far as possible in the style they were sung seventy years ago; closing with the song of the Old Folks, from Father Kemp's book. In all its parts this was a pleasant and profitable gathering, and the feeling seems general that a like gathering may be held annually.

Following is a list of the names and ages of the Old Folks present at the gathering:

[Residents of Charlemont where not otherwise designated.]

Thirza Wing.....	93	Ama Rice.....	81
Sela Hathaway.....	90	Rebecca Avery.....	81
Elihu Smead.....	84	Mary B. Hawks.....	82
Judith Smead ...	82	Orick Packard.....	80
Abel Parker.....	83	Allen Barnard.....	81
Rhoda Parker.....	74	Almira Barnard.....	70
Susanna Mansfield, Hawley.....	83	Charlotte Rice.....	81
Dea. John Porter, Buckland.....	80	Dea. Horace Hawks.....	79
Rhoda Porter, " ...	82	Rachel Hawks ...	75
Job Warfield, "	79	Mrs. A. D. Seward.....	74
Nancy Warfield, "	75	Eunice Porter.....	79
Albert Perkins, "	74	Ama Williams.....	79
Jane Perkins, "	74	Dorothy Wells.....	74
Dea. Isaac Hawks,		Rebecca Upton..	75
Shelburne Falls, 76		Thirza Houston.....	73
Ichabod Hawks, Hawley.....	79	Eunice Taylor	74
Roswell Rice.....	79	Dea. Phinehas Field.....	72

Chloe M. Field.....	67	Judson Booth.....	67
Richard E. Field.....	75	Eliza Booth.....	64
Eugene Field.....	71	John Rogers.....	62
Abigail Field.....	73	Patience Barber	66
Elizabeth Field.....	58	Maria L. Baldwin,	
Judith Peirce.....	74	New Milford, Ct.,	70
Zerriah A. Lyman....	76	Hon. Roger H. Leavitt.....	66
Jonas Ballard.....	75	Eliza H. Leavitt.....	69
Angeline Ballard.....	58	Hon. Hart Leavitt.....	62
Wealthy Hunt.....	70	Almira P. Leavitt	50
Dea. Edmund Hartwell.....	70	Sylvester Upton.....	65
Electa Hartwell....	66	Sarah Rice.....	62
Charles Wing.....	73	Ansel Kendrick.....	58
Sylvia Wing.....	73	Fanny Kendrick.....	51
Eli Todd	76	Dr. Josiah Trow, Buckland.....	55
Mary R. Todd... ..	75	Mrs. Trow, "	56
Sarah M. Wood, Hawley	73	Esther Hathaway. "	51
Martha Farley, Coleraine.....	62	Sumner Houston.....	53
Martha A. Pease.....	68	Lucinda Houston.....	51
Richards... ..	63	Julia Elmer	64
Capt. George Mayhew.. .	67	Barnes Dudley.....	60
Rev. John Cadwell... ..	66	Wealthy Sherwin	69
Mrs. Cadwell.....	55	Sarah Thatcher.....	58
Dea. David Avery.....	66	Lysander Hillman.....	56
Lucilla Marcy.....	60	Mrs. Hillman... ..	40
Roxana Albee.....	69	Henry A. Bissell.....	56

1872.

Deacon Field's call for a third meeting appeared in the *Gazette and Courier* early in September, and read as follows:

OLD FOLKS' GATHERING.

The third annual gathering of the Old Folks of Charlemont and their friends from neighboring towns will be at Charlemont village, on Friday, the twentieth of September, at ten o'clock A. M.

Come with your baskets and boxes, with such good things in them as come to hand, and let us have a good time in friendly greetings, social chat and such addresses as may be prompted by the occasion; and sing again some of the *old tunes* we love so well.

PHINEHAS FIELD, *Clerk*.

The report of the meeting indicates that this occasion was one of quite as much interest as any that had preceded it.

REPORT.

THE OLD FOLKS met Friday and had a good time. The stated clerk called the assembly to order, when Lysander Hillman of Charlemont was chosen president; and L. B. Rice, Esq. and Moses Mantor recording scribes for the day.

The Misses Davis, twin sisters, recited the Prayer of Habakkuk, and Rev. John Eastman, of West Hawley, led in an appropriate prayer.

The clerk reported that of the ninety registered as at our last annual meeting four had died—Job Warfield, Dea. John Porter and wife of Buckland, and Mrs. Sela Hathaway of Charlemont. Their aggregate age is 332 years.

Next came singing—"How vain are all things here below"—lined by the clerk and sung to the tune New Durham. Dr. N. G. Trow, of Buckland, briefly delineated the character of those who had died from that town, and Col. R. H. Leavitt and the president followed in further reminiscences of the above and of Mrs. Hathaway.

The clerk read from the Old Folks' Record as follows: "Died in Buckland, Oct. 28th, Job Warfield, aged 79. Mr.

W. had but just greeted his two daughters from the State of New York, as they arrived with his son from Charlemont, in front of his house, when he expired. Many will remember him as one of the singers at our gathering only ten days previous, and with what animation he joined in the exercises of the occasion. In the family, in society, and in the Christian church he was accounted faithful." He added: "These all died in faith, firmly believing in the immutability of the oath and promise of God, and were kept by his power through faith unto salvation." The hymn commencing "Give me the wings of faith" was then lined and sung to the tune of Mear, when we adjourned for social chat and dinner.

The afternoon session opened by a poem, recited by Mrs. Mary F. Atkins, of Buckland, entitled "When we were young." After singing New Jerusalem, Rev. Messrs. Chapman, Marshall and Monroe, all of Charlemont, briefly and pertinently addressed the meeting; when Calvin Cooley, Dea. John Smead and L. B. Rice, Esq., were chosen a committee of arrangements for our next annual meeting.

Old Folks registered at the gathering, eighty-four.

The exercises were closed by singing Northfield.

P. F.

The following names were added to the list of members at this meeting :

Levi Smith.....65	Elijah Clark, Plainfield.....81
Ann Smith.....69	David Dunell, Coleraine.....60
Roxana Smith.....67	Erastus Mansfield, West Hawley, 74
Orin Hawks.....79	Rev. John Eastman, " 70
Mary Montague.....85	Esther Crittenden,
Sally Upton... 74	Shelburne Falls, 71
Rev. David Todd.....65	Clarissa L. Ware, Madison, Wis., 71
E. Flint Upton.....70	Capt. Dexter Atkins, Buckland, 60
Dorinda Upton.....63	Mary F. Atkins " 60
Eliza R. Gleason.....66	Mary S. Legate.....68

1873.

DEA. FIELD'S CALL :

OLD FOLKS' GATHERING.

In Charlemont Village, at the Methodist Vestry, on Friday, the 19th inst., by order of our committee of arrangements, at 10 o'clock A. M., we propose to hold our fourth annual meeting.

Let us come as heretofore, bringing our boxes and baskets, filled for the table, and with warm hearts exchange friendly greetings. We hope old acquaintances from neighboring towns will meet with us on the occasion. Let strangers also come ; we will gladly make your acquaintance. Don't be particular in regard to age.

PHINEHAS FIELD, *Clerk.*

East Charlemont, Sept. 10, 1873.

Two reports of this meeting were published. We append below, first the official report, made up from several communications sent to the *Gazette and Courier*, and secondly, an account from another journal.

Notwithstanding the rain, a goodly number of the old people gathered in the vestry of the M. E. Church in Charlemont, in accordance with the call of their stated clerk. This is the fourth annual meeting, and with each year the interest seems to increase. Much of the time was passed in social chat with friends and neighbors and strangers, of which latter there are a goodly number at each meeting.

One meets more old people here than at any other one place, and those who see each other no other time in the year at this time shake hands and take a pinch of snuff together. We saw two of the oldest passing the snuff in the old way and were much amused at the unusual sight.

Dea. E. C. Hawks was chosen president, and Lieut. L. B. Rice and R. E. Field, Esq., reg. secretaries; Lieut. Rice, Deacons John Smead and M. T. Carter, committee of arrangements for the coming year.

The president, on taking the chair, gave a brief and appropriate address, and read the 28th chapter of Job, after which prayer was offered by Rev. H. G. Marshall. After singing

"Come, Holy Spirit," to the tune of Turner, came the reading of last year's report as follows: Of those whose names are on our roll, (which was not commenced until our second year), the following persons have died since we last met: Mrs. A. D. Seward, 75, of Charlemont; Roswell Rice, 82, Charlemont; Oren Hawks, 79, Charlemont; Sumner Houston, 54, Charlemont; Mrs. Sylvia Wing, 73, Charlemont; John Vincent, Esq., 70, West Hawley; Mrs. Clarissa Ware, 72, Madison, Wis.

The following obituary from *State Journal*, Madison, Wis., by Rev. Mr. Richards, Mrs. Ware's pastor, was then read.—

"Fell asleep in Jesus, at 3 o'clock, this morning, Aug. 22d, 1873, Mrs. Clarissa Ware, at the residence of her son-in-law, F. J. Lamb, Esq., at the age of 72 years.

"Thus suddenly, yet not unprepared, after a brief but probably painless illness of 37 hours, another faithful servant of God has been summoned to enter into her rest. Mrs. Ware was born in Heath, Mass., in 1801, and passed her early years in the old Bay State. She married the Rev. Joseph K. Ware, a faithful and esteemed minister in the Congregational church, and shared with him the labors and cares of his work, in Massachusetts and Western New York. Since his death, in 1854, she has resided, for the most part, with her children, and for the past eleven years has lived in this city, where she has been widely known as a beloved member of the Congregational church. Though of a quiet and retiring nature her earnest Christian character, her persistent fidelity, and her unobtrusive kindness, cause her memory to be cherished tenderly by a wide circle of friends.

"She has been in the enjoyment of usual good health of late, and up to Wednesday noon was in the full activity of her powers. A paralytic stroke fell on her about two o'clock and she passed into a stupor and sleep from which she awakened this morning on the 'Shining Shore.' Her sickness and death are similar to those of her distinguished brother, Rev. Dr. Joshua Leavitt, of New York, last winter."

Next came singing "China," "Why do we mourn?" We now adjourned for a free chat until dinner time, and there was a most agreeable chattering kept up. At the tables Dea. Trowbridge invoked the Divine blessing, and Dea. Field re-

turned thanks, all rising, as was the custom with our fathers. Besides the usual variety found at modern pic nics, Mr. Albee had furnished a four quart pewter basin of nice baked pork and beans, and some pewter plates of the old London pattern. The first table was filled by the older people, the next by those of middle age, and next the little girls who were out of school for the afternoon recess were pressed in for a like service. After all had eaten and were filled, we rallied by singing; then followed addresses from Dea. Silas Trowbridge, of Buckland; Dea. Henry Taylor, of Cleveland, O., a native of Buckland; Col. R. H. Leavitt, Wm. Elliot, of Greenfield; R. E. Field, Esq., of Charlemont, and Warren Albee. The addresses were characterized by brevity, earnestness and adaptation to the occasion.

Of the fifty-one present whose names are on our roll, fifteen are new names. The ages of the four oldest women present ranged from eighty-one to ninety-five.

The speeches of several of the veterans carried us back in imagination to the times when they were boys, as one said, his grandfather told him when a boy, of the deer park he used to have on the banks of the Deerfield, not far from where Buckland station now stands. It was surrounded by a high board fence on the plain by the river, but at the top of a very steep bank it was only two feet high. Over this part the deer would easily jump, but could not jump back. In the morning he would go in and shoot the bucks and open the gate and let out the does, who would flee to the woods only to come back with more of their lordly companions. One morning he went in and standing in his tracks shot down five bucks. That's the way our fathers took the deer. The same old gentleman told his grandson how he shot a bear on a huge rock on the side of Catamount, which he pointed out, and how he came tumbling down the rocky cliff. The gentleman who told us these stories went West nearly forty years ago, to seek his fortune, and goes now by the name of Dea. Henry Taylor, of Cleveland, Ohio. Then Col. Leavitt had to tell how he taught school in Buckland forty years ago, and had this man for a pupil, and how he used to board with the aforesaid grand-father, and used to see him

dressed in short breeches with knee buckles and long hose, with wig and long peruke, and three-cornered hat, a regular gentleman of the old school, doubtless able to cast into shadow any of Father Kemp's Troupe. Then Dea. Trowbridge, of Buckland, told some of the experiences of a life never spent in loafing, but in honest industry, and a long life too, and still vigorous. Wm. Elliot, of Greenfield, R. E. Field and Mr. Albee added something more to the chapter of experiences. Our genial and ever ready clerk brought up the rear with closing remarks, as follows :

" Four years ago, at the close of our first annual meeting, I moved to adjourn to meet again in five years. One of our grey-haired young men, whose father is still with us, signified that he could not stand that, and moved as an amendment that we adjourn for one year. The counsel of the young men prevailed, and we have met annually. Though they have borne the main burden of our entertainment they have cheerfully met it, and to our entire satisfaction, for all which they have our hearty thanks; and our prayer is that when they shall be called to fill the record on Time's table now occupied by us, their social gatherings may be as harmonious as that of our summer songsters now gathering around us, preparatory to their departure for more genial climes.

I now commence my fifth year as your stated clerk, and before your next meeting, in case my life is spared, shall have passed five years beyond man's allotted bound; and I hope you will then release me from this responsibility by choosing a successor, in case I am not earlier released, to join the holy, happy company on high."

Old Hundred was then sung, and with the benediction we slowly took our departure, agreeing that, though we had had a rainy day without, within our spirits had not been dampened, and one of the most enjoyable days of the Old Folks' Gatherings had just passed away. As the day had gone never to return, so some of the aged ones who passed out over that threshold went out never again to gather with that company.

Such gatherings are pleasant and profitable to old and young. To the old a cheer and comfort, to the young a les-

son of reverence for old age, which in these days of irreverence should not be neglected.

Long live the Old Folks' Gatherings of Charlemont.

M.

Names added at the fourth annual gathering:

Calista Stratton, Buckland.....79	Samuel Williams, West Hawley, 71
Christopher West, "72	William Elliot, Greenfield.....71
Gardner Wilder, "66	Dea. Milo T. Carter.....69
Salina Dole, "69	Mrs. J. Marshall....73
Dea. Henry Taylor, Cleveland,O. 64	E. Dexter Hawks.....64
Lucy Simonds, West Hawley. ..82	Warren Albee...65
Mary Rudd,.....62	

REPORT NO. 2.

OLD FOLKS' MEETING. Last Friday, the 19th, was the day set apart for the meeting of the old folks in Charlemont and vicinity. This was the fourth anniversary of this association. Four years ago a meeting of the old people was called as an experiment. It met with a hearty response, and then the association was permanently organized, and since that time we have had very large and interesting meetings. Last Friday morning opened upon us with a heavy fall of rain, which continued through the day, giving very little promise of much of a meeting. But about ten o'clock good Deacon Trowbridge and daughter, from Buckland, drove up with goodly boxes and pails of provision, and from that time until one o'clock the old gray heads continued to arrive, manifesting a very great interest in the meeting. Many of the old ladies insisted that as they were neither sugar nor salt, go they must, and go they would, so there was a goodly number whose ages ranged from seven to ninety years. At about eleven o'clock our old antiquarian, Phineas Field, called the meeting to order and read the call for the meeting. The meeting began, choosing E. C. Hawks, president; Belden Rice and R. E. Field, secretaries; and the reading of the Scriptures and a short address by the president; and prayer by Rev. Mr. Marshall, and the singing of several old-fashioned tunes, led by Mr. Bissell. The meeting took a recess of half an hour for social interviews with each other; at its close we were summoned to the tables, which were loaded with an abundance

of good things for the inner man. The tables were set in beautiful style. The divine blessing was very appropriately invoked by brother Trowbridge, and all did justice to the feast before them, about one hundred, young and old, filling the tables a number of times. After the repast was over the president of the day called for order; a hymn was sung and some appropriate remarks made by the president. Deacon Trowbridge was called upon for a speech. He took the stand and made a most eloquent historic speech, chaining the audience while he gave a thrilling account of his experience through seventy-five years. He said he had always been a hard worker, and never lounged an hour in a bar-room in his life. Col. H. Leavitt, who is a ready speaker, made some pertinent remarks. Henry Taylor, of Cleveland, O., formerly of Buckland, gave us a good talk. The next speaker was William Elliot, of Greenfield, who thought old people ought to keep young hearts; he was much gratified in being present on the occasion. Mr. Albee gave a stirring address, and all seemed to think they had been richly paid for coming out in a rainy day. The untiring attention of the president, E. C. Hawks, added much to the enjoyment of all upon that occasion. The secretary reported three deaths during the past year. How many of us will be called to our great account before another meeting of the old people, of Charlemont, God only knows.

F.

1874.

Great pains has been taken by the aged clerk of the Association, who is as witty as he is wise, to vary the calls for the annual gatherings, and make each succeeding one more attractive, if possible, than its predecessor. The following is the call for the fifth meeting :

OLD FOLKS' GATHERING.

At the Methodist Vestry, in Charlemont, on Thursday, the 3d of September, the old folks of Charlemont will hold their fifth annual meeting for social greetings, short addresses, singing and other devotional exercises. Come friends ! fetch along such articles of food as come to hand for the *long table*. The younger ladies of the village will be on hand to set things in order, while we will show them how to grow old cheerfully and gracefully. We extend a cordial invitation to friends in neighboring towns. Ten o'clock A. M. is the hour of meeting. Remember we old folks don't stop on account of rain.

PHINEHAS FIELD, *Clerk*.

Dea. Field says with reference to this gathering :

Agreeable to notice, our fifth annual meeting was held on the third instant. The day was propitious, and all the arrangements satisfactory. From humble beginnings we have grown to a stable institution. We have neither constitution, rules or by-laws ; a record of names, age and residence of those who attend is kept, and the stated clerk gives at each meeting the names of those who have died since the last meeting, so far as he is informed.

The first hour was spent in adjusting the contents of the boxes and baskets, hand shakings, &c., &c. The meeting was then called to order by the clerk, and the printed notice of the call was read, when the usual officers were chosen, viz. :

Dea. E. C. Hawks, president ; Moses M. Mantor and Miss Abby Maxwell, recording secretaries ; Lieut. L. B. Rice, M. M. Mantor, Dea. Milo Carter, Mrs. L. B. Rice, Mrs. Alonzo C. Thayer and Mrs. H. H. Mayhew, committee of arrangements for the next meeting. The stated clerk, having held the office since the first meeting, tendered his resignation, but was unanimously reelected.

The president, on taking the chair, made brief remarks of congratulation, and when the organization was completed, *lined off* an appropriate introductory hymn, which was sung by the assembly. He then read the 13th chapter 1 Cor., and after prayer by the Rev. Ichabod Marcy, the clerk read the names of those who had died from our roll since our last meeting as follows: Miss Sarah Wood, of Hawley, aged 75; Mary R, wife of Eli Todd, Charlemont, 77; in Buckland, Selina R., wife of the late Salmon W. Dole, 69; Dea. Horace Hawks, of Charlemont, 81; Ichabod Hawks, of Hawley, 84; Mrs. Rebecca Upton, of Charlemont, 78; Mrs. Thirza F. Wing, of Charlemont, 96. He also, read the obituary of Mrs. Wing, as published in the *Gazette and Courier*, in March last.

OBITUARY OF MRS. WING.

When in extreme old age one is called from us who has honorably filled every position in life allotted her in the providence of God, it is suitable that some "memorial of her" should be recorded. Such an one was Mrs. Bani Wing, who died in Charlemont, March 7th, having just completed her 96th year. Thirza Flint (Mrs. Wing) was born in North Reading, Mass., March 10, 1778. She was the daughter of Benjamin Flint, who was a native of Reading. Her mother, Olive, was the daughter of Rev. Josiah Richardson, the first minister of Woburn. Her ancestors were remarkable for longevity. Both father and mother were born in 1746, were married in 1768, and both died in 1837, having lived in the marriage relation 69 years and were past 90 at their death. He was in the Continental Army at the time of Thirza's birth. Her grandfather, Ebenezer Flint, was killed in the Old French War, near No. 4, Charlestown, N. H. Her uncle, Daniel Flint, was killed in one of the early battles of the Revolution. Her brother, Benjamin, died in Norway, Me., in 1858, aged 87. Dea. Addison Flint, also a brother, died at the old homestead in Reading in 1871, in his 90th year. A sister, Olive, married Ebenezer Graves of Ashfield and died in 1854, aged 83. Her youngest sister, Ruth, married Theodore Ingalls, of Haverhill, Mass., and was the grandmother of Hon. John J. Ingalls, U. S. Senator from Kansas.

The subject of this sketch, in the year 1797, at the age of 19,

married Josiah Upton and settled in Charlemont. Mr. Upton died in 1811, leaving her with six young children. These, with the exception of the youngest, Mrs. Bissell, who died in Wilmington, Vt., in 1870, aged 60, survive her. Her oldest daughter, Mrs. Houston, is now 75 years of age. A widowed great-grand-daughter, whose hair is copiously sprinkled with gray, was at the funeral. There are several of the fifth generation. In 1821 Widow Upton married Bani Wing, of Wilmington, Vt., where they lived 16 years. They then settled in Charlemont, bringing with them their son, Lucius B. Wing, now of Newark, O. This was in 1837. She was again, in 1847, left a widow. This second husband, Bani Wing, when 17 years of age, in 1779, enlisted in the Revolutionary Army, at Conway, Mass, under Capt. Rice, in Col. Chapin's Regiment. He served two terms of enlistment. The token of recognition which the Government gave him for his services placed his name on the pension roll, and since his death the widow has been recognized as a pensioner of the war of the Revolution. Bani Wing died at the age of 84. He was a man true to his country and his God. Mrs. Wing has, for the last 19 years, had a quiet and peaceful home with her daughter, Mrs. Judson Booth. Mrs. Wing at the age of 18 joined the Christian church, and in her removals transferred her church relations to other Congregational churches, but in social life readily assimilated with all who love the Lord. She held the Sabbath and the public worship of God in like estimation as her pilgrim fathers, and when unable to attend Sabbath services she ever manifested a desire to encourage the attendance of those around her. There is something remarkable about this long life just closed besides the number of its years. While many, under the weight of years, labors and cares, become unbalanced in mind, burdensome to themselves and their friends, she was blessed with the continued use of her sight, hearing and judgment—all her mental faculties. She was interested in the current news of the day, read the newspapers as well as her Bible, and no trouble of the children connected with the family failed to go as direct to her "mother's heart" as at any time in her life. Her cheerfulness and contentment were complete and in the words of her pastor

at her funeral : “ Her presence was a continual benediction.” It may truly be said that her adorning was “ in that which is not corruptable, even the adornment of a meek and quiet spirit, which in the sight of God is of great price.”

After the president had lined off another hymn, to the tune of Northfield, we adjourned for social chat until dinner time. The devotions at the table were led by Dea. Isaac Hawks of Shelburne Falls, and Rev. W. Newell of East Charlemont. After one hundred and fifty-eight persons had been bountifully fed, a large quantity of food was left. After dinner the assembly joined in singing Coronation, and the rest of the time until four o'clock, P. M., was occupied in listening to short addresses by a number of individuals, introduced by a recitation from Miss Jennie Mantor, and the following poem by Mrs. Atkins of Buckland :

MRS. ATKINS' POEM.

It Didn't use to be so ; or, Then and now.

[Read at the Old Folks' gathering in Charlemont, September 3, 1874.]

My Friends, I am happy to meet you to-day ;
We are nearer by twelve months the end of the way
Then when we last met, for converse and chat,
To speak of by-gones, of this and of that.

Here are some who have numbered their three score and ten,
Here are women grown gray, here also are men,
Who hail from the port of the long, long ago,
With barks still afloat on the uncertain now.

Supposing we take a short fancy trip back,
To take in more ballast,—'t isn't sail that we lack,—
To steady our craft, speeding on as we go,
Through the rough, rolling surf, at the tide's fullest flow.

For around the dead past cling memories dear,
And oft in my musings bright visions appear ;
Oft scenes well remembered, that bring to my mind
A joy and a sorrow that's strangely combined.

Our fathers and mothers, with Puritan zeal,
Held fast to the Faith, were as true as the steel,
Believed in a God to honor and fear,
In commandments to keep and crosses to bear.

They studied God's word with reverent awe,
Enforced, by example, each precept and law,
And patiently taught us the way to be good—
Restrained and corrected, as all parents should.

The broad bands of Hymen were enduring and strong,
Divorces for trifles were thought to be wrong ;
'Twas for better or worse, or whate'er might betide,
To love and to cherish till Death should divide.

They had something to do besides dress to look fine ;
'Twas a duty, they thought, to improve well their time ;
Were truthful and honest, lived frugal and plain,
Content with their lot, and very small gain.

They ate their corn bread, and their bean-porridge hot
From a smooth wooden bowl that was scooped from a knot
Then went to their toil in the old-fashioned way,
When work was suspended on the blest Sabbath day.

Sweet Sabbath of rest! to man it was given
To soothe and to chasten and fit him for Heaven :
Alas, and alas ! 'tis a holiday now ;
But in the loved past it didn't use to be so.

Well, it is different *now* from what it was *then* ;
The boys of to-day go ahead of the men ;
And the girls, why, the girls must have their own way ;
They must dress, and must flirt, and play at croquet.

Now lovers pair off as they always have done,
And two loving hearts are made into one ;
'Tis my dear husband, dear, my dear, and my wife,
But they don't seem to think 'tis a union for life.

At first they're loving as loving can be,
But ere you're aware, there'll be bickerings you'll see ;
They'll grow sullen and pout, then off they will go ;
I tell you, my friends, it didn't use to be so.

They say we're progressing ; perhaps it is so ;
Can any one tell us, does any one know,
If some things are better, why others are worse,
Deserving, I'm thinking, God's frown and His curse ?

I have watched with interest a little brown bug,
Or a spider, perhaps, don't think 'twas a slug ;
And I never could tell by seeing him go,
Whether rapid his pace, or whether 'twas slow ;

'Twas sideways, then crosswise, 'twas forward, then back ;

He din't seem careful to keep on the track ;
 And his object, so puzzling, I ne'er could define,
 Unless it was merely to have a "good time."

And so, I am thinking, it is with this age—
 Storm-tossed and afloat, while the wild billows rage,
 Securely, 'tis drifting, never quite on the line,
 Pursuing that phantom—a *coming good time*;

While we, who have stemmed the rough current of life,
 And are rapidly nearing the end of the strife,
 In our old, battered boat, careening as we row,
 Can consolingly think, *it didn't use to be so*.

Q IN A CORNER.

Poet's Seat, Shady Lane, Sept. 18, 1874.

The singing of "New Jerusalem," and the benediction by Rev. Mr. Baker, of Charlemont, closed the meeting. The addresses were interesting and appropriate and were listened to with a stillness that was remarkable; while the house during the time appropriated for dinner and social chat was like a cotton factory and cutlery combined. It seemed to be the general sentiment that this was the most interesting and joyous gathering we have held.

REPORT NO. 2.

[From the Franklin County Times.]

The third instant was a happy day in Charlemont village. Not merely the *old* folks assembled there, but the middle aged, and even the children entered heartily into the spirit of the occasion. I have never seen a more cheerful assemblage. The time appropriated to social greeting was admirably improved; and at the tables all was as it should be, with a superabundance of choice food, and a social cup of tea. On call to the after dinner exercises of singing, recitations and speeches, every ear was attentive, and a remarkable degree of stillness pervaded the house, and the attention was held to the close, at four o'clock.

The president, Dea. E. C. Hawks, though not on the old folks' register, opened the speaking by calling the attention of the young to the fate that befel the Jewish nation for their not following the counsel of the *old men*, and eloquently exhorted the young to venerate the aged; and called upon the clerk (Dea. Field) to meet the clause in the notice of meeting

which relates to "growing old cheerfully and gracefully." The clerk responded by alluding to his grandfather (Capt. Seth Lyman of Northfield,) who at the age of eighty was erect in form, and cheerful and courteous in disposition and manner; and on visiting him in his boyhood, his grandfather would fetch out the bow and arrow, and the balls that many years before have served to amuse his own boys. He also earnestly entreated the young to take special care to preserve that erect posture, which adds so much to graceful motion, and to health likewise; and noticed a young man near his own age, who became permanently deformed through the habit of sitting and lying in a bent posture while he was growing. He also spoke of his father's mother, who was always cheerful; who, marrying a second time at the age of seventy, lived with her second husband twenty years, and, although entirely blind for many years, her son-in-law said her support was no burden, for her influence in his family of children more than compensated the expense of her maintenance. An aunt to everybody, aunt Christian, visiting at his grand-father's, sent the children out of the room because they made so much noise; that act created a prejudice in his father's mind that was permanent. He thanked the president for reading that chapter which speaks of *charity* as "*the hand of perfectness.*" Although he had heard many good sermons on the subject, he preferred Paul's own explanation of charity, as given in the same chapter, 1st Cor., chapter 13th. The fifteen qualities of mind and heart specified by him as the fruits of charity, show that though the "Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom," it is not the end; only the foundation.

Revs. Marcy, Newell and Baker, of Charlemont, each said this was the first meeting of the kind they had ever attended; and they cordially endorsed the whole idea, and the carrying out of it, and recommended that the same may be not only a permanent institution in this town, but that it be adopted in other towns. Mr. Albee, of Charlemont, spoke earnest words of *patriotism*, and exhorted the young to guard well the liberties of our nation, which have cost such a treasure of blood. The poems of Mrs. Atkins, of Buckland, added much to the interest of the occasion. Votes of thanks were passed to Mr.

Judson Booth, of Charlemont, as the *originator of the Old Folks' Gathering*; to the young people for their generous assistance in serving on the occasion; to the president for his efficient service, and to the stated clerk for his five years' service, with a renewal of his appointment for another term, and to Mrs. Atkins for acceptable production. Thus ended the well spent day. At their next gathering, "may I be there to see."

Com.

OBITUARIES.

Died in Charlemont, April 29th, Mrs. Judith Smead, aged 85 years and 11 months, and on May 17th, Dea. Elihu Smead, aged 87 years and 3 months. Such is the simple record of the close of two lives which have been lovingly united for a little more than 63 years. In death they were scarcely divided, so nearly together were they called home from the earthly house they had called home for 55 years. For 55 years their names have stood together upon the records of the 1st Congregational church at Charlemont, with the exception of the two or three years they connected with the separation which formed the East Charlemont church. Mr. Smead was one of the first deacons of that church.

"Along the cool, sequestered vale of life,
They kept the noiseless tenor of their way."

Yet in so quiet a life they lived to see many changes; to celebrate their golden and their diamond weddings; to bury six of their nine children, and to survive all their brothers and sisters. Mr. S. was born at Deerfield, early removed to Belchertown, there united with the church of Christ on the same day he became a man in the legal sense, thus coming into his manhood in a double sense. Three years after, on his birthday, he married; living at B. five years, Chesterfield three years, from which place he removed to the home here, which he never left till he went to the heavenly home. For the year past they have been called to pass through much suffering, but through all they have been permitted to give good testimony to the power of a faith in Christ. They have been waiting God's good time. For the last few months each has been watching to see when the other should be released. Their strict integrity and faithful devotion to the teachings of God's word marked them as possessors of that old-fash-

ioned religion which leads where duty calls, however difficult or disagreeable. Their interest in the Redeemer's cause was deep and tender to the last, though they were greatly weakened by pain and disease. To the bereaved children and to the church they have left a precious legacy of prayers and faithful work. Not long before her death when Mrs. S. was asked if the Lord gave her help; she replied: "What should I do without Him?" And this expressed the feelings of both. Almost her last words were, "Rejoice, for the gates are open for me." And now they rest together, and with Him whom they trusted so long.

H. G. M.

A tribute to the memory of Dea. Horace Hawks, of Charlemont, who departed this life Feb. 24th, 1874, in the 82d year of his age.

Dea. Hawks was unpretentious, but manly, loving and genial, sober-minded, discrete and judicious, faithful ever to his convictions of duty, and as some might think, carried his conscientiousness to an extreme. He was a man of prayer, pre-eminently and greatly gifted; the gift, however, being evidently not so much from natural endowment as an attainment of his Christian life. Of him it might truly be said, he was a devout man and one that feared God with all his house. Unambitious of public life, he was a man of *home and family*, finding his pleasure there, and religion had always a pleasing prominence in the household. She who was his loving companion for more than fifty-eight years, and who still lives to mourn his loss, was one with him in prayer and endeavor to train their children not only in the knowledge of the schools, but also in that which ever had with them the preference, viz.: The knowledge and love of God, and the blessing of God attended those prayers, and their accompanying faithful efforts. For all of the children who lived to years of understanding had, and those still surviving have a good hope in Christ, and are following in the pious footsteps of their parents, who prayed and labored so faithfully for them. They rise up now and call them blessed. Five of them now remain, heads of their respective households, and seven have gone on before.

Dea. Hawks' piety was not so much of the hopeful and joy-

ous kind as it was humble, reverent, God-fearing and loving. For some months during his last year, through the gradual weakening of his powers, he suffered from a degree of mental gloom, but as the end drew near, as stated in the funeral discourse by his pastor, the Lord restored unto his servant the light of his countenance, and his last days were peace.

Dea. Hawks was a member of the First Congregational church of Charlemont, between 57 and 58 years, and Deacon nearly 50 years. He loved the church and labored and prayed for it. He was a worthy and beloved associate in succession of the Deacons Aaron and Josiah Lyman, father and son, and of others of like spirit, men of faith and fidelity, who have gone to their blessed reward on high, the memories of whom will long remain fresh and sweet among that beloved church and people.

R. C.

Names added in 1874.

Jared Gragg, Shelburne Falls....	Rev. Ichabod Marcy.....63
John Ballard, Athens, O.....84	Ephraim Leonard.....69
John Jones, Lock Haven, Pa.....67	Mary Coy.....85
Francis Mantor, Buckland.....71	Mary Fuller.... .64
Elmira Mantor, "72	Henry Bassett.....64
J. H. Abbott, "61	Hannah Bassett.....57
James King, "	Mrs. George Chapman, Dennis ..
Mrs. J. King, "	John Nelson, Bernardston.....72
Mrs. Gardner Wilder, "62	Sally Nelson, "75
Freeman Atkins, West Hawley..68	Oren Streeter, Buckland.....63
Rev. W. Newell.....58	Abel Parker.....86
Rhoda Parker.... .79	

1875.

A new feature was introduced into the clerk's call for 1875, as will be seen by reading it as given below :

TO THE OLD FOLKS OF CHARLEMONT.

With the advice and consent of your committee of arrangements, Thursday, the 9th of September, is designated as the time for your sixth annual social meeting. The Methodist vestry at Charlemont Center, at 10 o'clock, A. M., are the hour and place of meeting. The younger folks who are accustomed to wait at the tables, will bear in mind that the aged ones never let the rain hinder them on such occasions. Arrangements are made to have a table set expressly for those couples who have lived in the marriage relation for fifty years and upwards. And in order to bring the two extremes of life together, the offer of a *silver* half-dollar is made to the boy or girl under twelve years who will visit and report to us the names of the greatest number of persons who are over seventy years of age, between the first of September and the time of the meeting. The tables will be supplied from the baskets and boxes brought for that purpose.

Our friends from the neighboring towns, as heretofore, are cordially invited to join us in social chat, short addresses, the report, singing the good old tunes, and such acknowledgement of God's mercies as are appropriate on the occasion.

PHINEHAS FIELD, Clerk.

East Charlemont, Aug. 31, 1875.

REPORT.

The gathering of the Old Folks of Charlemont and adjoining towns was held at the Methodist church vestry in that locality on Thursday of last week. Dea. E. C. Hawks was chosen president, and M. M. Mantor and Abby Maxwell a committee to take the names of those aged persons present who had not been enrolled. A. L. Barnard, M. M. Mantor, L. B. Rice, Phinehas Baldwin, Mrs. L. B. Rice, Mrs. H. H. Mayhew, Mrs. Dennis Baker and Mrs P. Baldwin was chosen as a committee of arrangements for the next meeting. Mary S., daughter of Ira Nichols of Charlemont, returned the names and ages of 40 persons visited by her who are over 70 years; and Katie J., daughter of James Nichols of East Charlemont, reported 102 visited by her. The latter receiving the silver half-dollar offered as a prize for securing the largest number of names.

The devotional exercises at the table before and after din-

ner, were led by Rev. Mr. Guild of Buckland, and Dea. Silas Trowbridge of Buckland. Fifty-one sat down at the first table, fifty at the second, and fifty-six at the third, and at the fourth fifty-six. Total, 213. New Jerusalem and Sherburne were sung. Rev. Mr. Guild addressed the aged, and Rev. Mr. Marshall the young. They were followed by Dea. Trowbridge, who gave an address. Harvey Davis gave a short recitation. Wm. Elliot, Albert Perkins, Warren Albee, Jonas Ballard, and Dr. Trow gave short and interesting addresses. The tune Rainbow by Swan, was sung, and the clerk sung two stanzas of the hymn "When shall we meet again", and after singing Coronation (all joining) Rev. Mr. Marcy closed with the benediction. The total financial expense was \$2.50.

Persons of seventy years and over, visited by Katie J. Nichols, of East Charlemont, (aged 9 years.) since Sept. first.

RESIDENTS OF CHARLEMONT. Dea. Phinehas Field, 76, Chloe M. Field, 71, Col. R. H. Leavitt, 70, Eliza H. Leavitt, 73, Mrs. Charlotte Rice, 85, Mrs. Amy Williams, 83, Mrs. Dorothy Wells, 78, Orrick Packard, 84, Loring Merriam, 71, Jotham Whitney, 74, Eugene Field, 75, Abigail S. Field, 77, Luther Pratt, 79, Dea. Milo B. Carter, 70, Mrs. Wealthy B. Hunt, 74, Allen Barnard, 85, Almira Barnard, 74, Mrs. Sylvester Upton, 91, Mr. Whitman, 84, Samuel Potter, 80, Mrs. Zeviah A. Lyman, 79, Mrs. Wealthy P. Sherwin, 73, Richard E. Field, 79, L. Raymond, 75, Miss Eunice Taylor, 76, Mrs. Thirza Houston, 77, Chas. Wing, 77, Judson Booth, 71, Thos. Cheney, 77, Daniel Warner, 96, Mrs. Eunice Porter, 83, Benj. Albee, 72, Roxana Albee, 73, Mrs. Mary Cary, 85, Mrs. Alvah Wells, 90, Miss Sally Smith, 83, Miss Ann Smith, 72, Miss Roxana Smith, 70, Miss Rebecca Avery, 85, Dea. David Avery, 70, Jonas Ballard, 78, J. Flint Upton, 73, Abel Parker, 87, Rhoda Parker, 79. Total, 44

RESIDENTS OF BUCKLAND. Albert Perkins, 78, Jane W. Perkins, 78, Mrs. Mary L. Field, 85, Mrs. Lucinda Lazell, 78, Jason Tyrell, 71, Francis Mantor, 72, Elmina Mantor, 73, Jonathan Howes, 79, Clarissa Howe, 76, Andrew Butler, 78, Sarah Butler, 70, Elmina E. Wood, 72, Eli K. Smith, 79, Orpha Smith, 71, C. F. Cranson, 80, Mrs. C. F. Cranson, 72, Mrs. Nancy N. Bement, 78, Moses Nelson, 83, E. P. Sherwin, 70, Parna Brooks, 77, Ansel Taylor, 79, Mrs. A. Taylor, 77, Mrs. Rebecca Clark, 87, Mrs. Submit Townsley, 78, Enoch Harris, 84, Zur Hitchcock, 78, Mrs. N. Hitchcock, 74, Alvan Dunham, 81, Mary Dunham, 77, Mrs. Nancy Warfield, 78, Mrs. Melinda Stone, 72, Mrs. Sarah Clark, 75, Christopher West, 74, Mrs. C. W. Stratton, 81, Silas Trowbridge, 77, Levi Stetson, 71, Merritt Stetson, 73, Mrs. Lorana Putnam, 86. Total, 38.

RESIDENTS OF ASHFIELD. Nelly W. Graves, 70, Francis Bassett, 79, Mehitabel Bassett, 75, Joseph Vincent, 84, Chester Sanderson, 86, Olin Bardwell, 79, Mary H. Bardwell, 76, Mrs. Lydia B. Smith, 82, Mrs. T. F. Knowl-

ton, 71, Jesse Edson, 76, Mrs. Abigail Warren, 62, John J. Brannan, 72, Zeveeah Brannan, 70, Elder David Pease, 91. Total, 14.

RESIDENTS OF HAWLEY. Hiram Dodge, 76, Ira Holden, 77, Olive S. Holden, 72, Heman Hitchcock, 76, Elizabeth Hitchcock, 71, Mrs. Alpha Crowell, 80. Total, 6.

Names added in 1875 :

Miss Rebecca Avery.....89	Martha A. Pease, Manchester, Ia...
Amy Williams.....	Geo. Mayhew.....
Eunice Porter... ..80	Judson Booth.....
Dorothy Wells.....78	Eliza Leavitt.....
Rebecca Upton	Rev. David Todd.....73
Mrs. Eunice Taylor.....	Samuel Potter.....85
Dea. Edmund Hartwell.....	Priscilla Fox.....85
Sylvia Wing.....75	Lydia Foster.....79
Charles Richards.....	Sophia Hawks.....70
Charlotte Rice.....76	

1876.

During the summer of 1876 the venerable clerk of the association met with the severest affliction of his life in the loss of his beloved wife. It was only through the help of God and the most determined exercise of the faith and hope, which had become a part of his nature by long practice, that he was sustained during his trial; but, to the joy of his friends, his health and mind were preserved through everything, and he was able to issue his annual call to the Old Folks.

CALL.

HO! OLD FOLKS. Our seventh annual gathering for social greetings, singing some of the good old tunes and such other exercises as the occasion inspires, will be held on Thursday, the seventh day of September next, at 10 o'clock A. M., at the usual place in Charlemont village. (No postponement on account of the weather.) While we exclude none of any age, we claim all within our circle who have arrived at sixty; and those of eighty years and upwards will be regarded as honorary members, and, as such, will be excused from the trouble of bringing their own lunch-baskets; and they will be furnished with a substantial dinner of "Pot-luck," baked beans, &c. We extend the usual invitation to friends in neighboring towns, and to strangers who may be in the vicinity we would say, let us make your acquaintance on this glad occasion.

By order of the Committee.

PHINEHAS FIELD, Clerk.

This meeting was very fully reported by *The Springfield Daily Union*, as follows:

The seventh and most interesting of all the reunions of the old folks of western Franklin was held on Thursday, morning and afternoon, at the Methodist church in Charlemont. Deacon Phinehas Field, clerk of the Old Folks' Association, called the meeting to order, and Dr. Josiah Trow, of Buckland, who has just turned 60, the requisite age for membership, was chosen to preside. He made a few remarks appropriate to the occasion, and Dea. Trowbridge, of Buckland, offered prayer. Then everybody joined in singing "All hail the power of Jesus' name," to the good old tune of "Coronation." Dinner followed, and 44 men and women, upwards of 70 years of age, were first served; those young people between 60 and 70 being compelled to take back seats till their

bettors were fed, while the children of 50 and younger were made to wait on the tables. And it was not till the third and fourth tables that all those of three score were served. An appointed committee ascertained that there were just 99 persons over 60 years of age present, of whom two were 88, with others 85, 83, and 82, and four just past 80. Others will, next year, be octogenarians, and Mr. Erastus Mansfield is 78, ten years younger than his wife Susannah, who is a few months younger than Mrs. Rebecca Clark. The latter was the oldest person present, and the Christian old lady, supported to her feet by two aged men, lifted up her voice in warning to impenitent people present (of whom, it is safe to say, there were but few), and in praise to God for his mercies in lengthening her days that she might attend this meeting. It was ascertained that the united ages of all the 99 members of the society present, amounted to 6434 years.

Speeches being in order, Dr. Trow called to the platform Rev. Henry Seymour, of Hawley, whose brief and appropriate remarks were supplemented by words from Rev. Wellington Newell, of Charlemont. Col. Roger H. Leavitt, that courteous and cheerful-hearted man of 71, read a letter from Secretary Joseph White, of the State board of education, a native of Charlemont, who had been invited to be present, but was prevented by official duties from attending. He referred touchingly to the scenes of his youth, and asked, "Is it possible that the little boy who but yesterday stood up to read and spell in the old brick school house, or played tag with the boys on the triangular green in front of it, or slid down hill from James Briggs' to the covered bridge, or fished for trout in Mill or Hoxie's brooks,—that this boy is, now, in so short a time, a gray-haired man, his life-work well nigh done and the evening shadows growing longer? Yes, it is even so. How short the distance appears as the eye turns back upon it! and how the forms and faces of our childhood scenes loom in the path and light up the past! I am now, at 65 years of age, quite well and doing full work, and as yet feel no serious indication of the breaking up of that excellent health with which I have been blessed during almost my entire life."

The choir of youth and veterans who had done musical ser-

vice at different times during the day, closed the exercises with several pieces of old-style music from the "Father Kemp" singing books, preserved by the association for use on these and lesser occasions, and the whole hundred veterans present joined in such familiar melodies as "Invitation," "While shepherds watched their flocks by night," and "Before Jehovah's awful throne," the latter to the good old tune of "Denmark." Catching the suggestiveness of one line so full of meaning to them, in connection with the significance of the occasion, they rendered the repeat of "When rolling years shall cease to move," with a tenderness and effect that would have brought down the house with applause, but for the solemnity that mingled with the festivities of the scene, and sobered the greetings of the participants. Suggestive reminders to these old people that their ranks are being rapidly thinned, were found in the annual mortuary record read by the silver-haired clerk, Deacon Field, who tremblingly announced that he could serve the society but two years more, even if spared so long. Since the last meeting ten members of the association have died, Mrs. Hawks, aged 75, Judson Booth, 71, Mrs. Eliza H. Leavitt, 74, Mrs. Charlotte Rice, 76, Mrs. Chloë M. Field, 76, Mrs. Lydia Foster, 79, Mrs. Eunice A. Porter, 83, Mrs. Mary B. Hawkes, 86, Mrs. Priscilla Fox, 85, Mrs. Judith Smead, 88. And while the meeting was in progress, groups conversed of others that were sick and unable to attend, and one, Jonathan M. Legate, an acquaintance of nearly all present, lay dead at his house not far away. And still, with all these sad reminders, those old people were happy, and, standing in the mellow autumn sunshine of the late afternoon that came in at the windows of the church vestry, joined heartily in singing "Praise God from whom all blessings flow," tenderly, but joyfully, said "that sweet old word, good bye," perhaps for the last time, and separated to their homes along the mountain roadways that diverge from the village green made memorable by these occasions. Dr. Trow, the physician of the region, who, at 60, has hair "black as a crow's wing," and a face beaming with good nature, acknowledges the joke of one of the speakers, that these reunions, by the cheerfulness inspired, were greatly lessening the doctor's business among the old folks and adding ten per cent. to their mortal span.

IN MEMORIAM.

In East Charlemont, July 4, Chloe Maxwell Leavett, wife of Dea. Phinehas Field, aged 73.

To this erring world God has given many noble women, in whose characters are combined excellencies which elevate and enrich society. To some he has allotted spheres of action, where their virtues are widely known. To others a retired life, where they beautify and ennoble a narrow circle.

Of the latter class was Chloe Maxwell Leavitt, daughter of Col. Roger Leavitt, of Heath. She was grand-daughter of Rev. Jonathan Leavitt, first settled pastor of the Congregational church in Charlemont, and of Col. Hugh Maxwell, an officer of great worth and self-sacrifice all through our nation's struggle for independence. Also, was she the younger sister of Rev. Joshua Leavitt, D. D., who won a high degree in public esteem.

Her husband, Dea. Phinehas Field, many years an officer of excellent wisdom and active strength in the Congregational church, in East Charlemont, she justly loved and honored, and "did him good and not evil all the days of her life." Their home, on the beautiful banks of the Deerfield river, was one of happy contentment, and cheerful hospitality. The most scrupulous neatness and good order made Mrs. Field a "pattern housekeeper."

Early in life she identified herself with the people of God, and became a member of the Congregational church in her native town. From that time she was ready to every good word and work. Fifty years she served as sabbath school teacher, efficiently, affectionately winning souls to Christ.

Mental strength and culture gave Mrs. Field a ready appreciation of the conceptions of the human intellect, which crowd our bookshelves. Especially was her mind adorned by faithful study of the Divine word.

The beauties of nature delighted her taste and imagination, and the inventions of genius and works of art were to her themes of admiring praise.

Perhaps gentleness was Mrs. Field's most felt characteristic, which, united with sweet modesty, shed a lustre over her whole being. Joined with these, were firmness and uncompromising integrity.

In a social circle her sweet and unobtrusive way of noticing and assuring the consciously inferior was charming.

During a familiar acquaintance of over twenty years I never heard from her an unkind or impatient word, and do not understand that any one did.

These paragraphs are the overflowings of a heart, which would fain perpetuate the memory of rarest gentleness and sweet Christian fidelity.

Names added in 1876 :

Andrew Butler, Buckland.....	..78		Cordelia W. Doane, Hawley,	62
Lovina Bullard, Rowe.....			60	

1877.

NOTICE.

The eighth annual meeting of The Old Folks will be held at the usual place in Charlemont village, on Tuesday, the 11th of September, from 10 o'clock A. M. to 4 P. M. The picnic dinner will be at 12. A special table will be set for octogenarians, with "pot-luck," baked beans, &c.

Our old friends from the neighboring towns, and strangers stopping in the region, without regard to age, are cordially invited to join us on the glad occasion.

PHINEHAS FIELD, Stated Clerk.

East Charlemont, Aug. 31, 1877.

EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OLD FOLKS' GATHERING AT CHARLEMONT.

The 11th of September instant was a lovely autumn day, and at the appointed hour, 10 A. M., the company began to assemble, and the meeting was called to order by the clerk. E. C. Hawkes was chosen president, and Dr. Josiah Trow, of Buckland, vice president; Chas. Richards and Miss Abby Maxwell, a committee to take the number of the guests at the tables; Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Rice, Mr. and Mrs. P. Baldwin, and Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Burnham, a committee to arrange for the next annual meeting. The choir, led by Roswell Eldridge, of Charlemont, next sang "Come Holy Spirit," to the ancient tune of Turner. The president read the first seven verses of the 78th Psalm, which sets forth the law as appointed by the Lord, enjoining on the parents to perpetuate by oral instruction through all succeeding generations, the "wonderful works that he hath done, that they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments." Prayer was offered by Rev. R. Taylor, D. D., the assembly standing, as was the custom at the beginning of this century. After singing, the meeting adjourned for social chat until dinner. Precisely at noon it was announced that dinner was ready. The head table, set for the octogenarians, was well loaded with substantials such as they were accustomed to in early life, and surrounded by the ven-

erable guests, Mrs. Olive F. Longley, well on in her ninety-first year, gracing the head of the table. A blessing was invoked before, and thanks returned after this repast by Dea. Silas Trowbridge, of Buckland, and Brother Orin Streeter, the guests standing in these devotions. The numbers at the tables at the several sittings was as follows, viz.: First table, 40; second, 44; third, 47; fourth, 43; fifth, 20; in all, 194.

At the close of the second table, at half-past one, the exercises were resumed by singing Coronation, all joining, when the clerk read the record of deaths since our last meeting, as follows: Allen Barnard, 86; Miss Eunice Taylor, 79; Dea. Edmund Hartwell, 75; John B. Rogers, 68; Henry W. Bissell, 61; Abel Parker, 89; Mrs. Elvira Richards, 68; Miss Ann Smith, 74, of Charlemont; Dea. Samuel Hall, West Hawley, 74; Mrs Calista W. Stratton, Buckland, 83.

Mr. Bissell, mentioned above, has acceptably led us in sacred song at each of our preceding meetings.

After singing China short addresses were delivered by the following persons: Orin Streeter, Dea. Silas Trowbridge, Phinehas Field, Rev. R. Taylor, D. D., Mr. Greene of the *Springfield Union*, Dr. Josiah Trow, Abijah Thayer, E. P. Sherwin, Col. R. H. Leavitt, Rev. W. H. Parmalee, Lysander Hillman, John O. Merriam, Pres. Hawks and Warren Albee; Col. Leavitt glowingly recited the poem "Whither goeth thou, Pilgrim Stranger?" Along with these addresses the tunes of Bridgewater, Northfield, Majesty, Concord and Sherburne were sung, closing with "Father Kemp's Song of the Old Folks," "Auld Lang Syne," and the Doxology. The meeting was closed at four o'clock, and was regarded by all as a day of pleasure and profit. We register as members in full those only who have arrived at sixty. Fourteen new names are added this season to our list.

PHINEHAS FIELD, *Clerk.*

1878.

CALL.

HO ! OLD FOLK. The ninth annual gathering of the old folks of Charlemont and vicinity will be held at the Methodist vestry in C., on Wednesday, the 11th of September, at 10 A. M.

The exercises will consist, as heretofore, in social chat, dinner, short addresses, singing the old tunes, devotional exercises, &c. As the interest at these meetings has grown year by year in the past, we expect to make advances the present year.

PHINEHAS FIELD, *Stated Clerk.*

Charlemont, Sept. 2, 1878.

THE OLD FOLKS' GATHERING.

[From the Gazette and Courier.]

The Old Folks' annual gathering was held on the 11th of September, agreeable to notice. Order of exercises : Opened at 11 A. M., by the clerk's reading the call of the gathering from *Gazette and Courier*; singing Sherburne and Bridgewater, led by Roswell Eldredge; reading of Scripture, Eccl. 3, 1—15, by clerk; prayer, Rev. H. Seymour, of Hawley.

Chose officers for the day : Dr. J. Trow, of Buckland, president; Dea. E. C. Hawks, vice president; M. M. Mantor and John Barnard, of Greenfield, committee on registry. The clerk requested to be released from serving after the present year, holding that at the age of eighty, as an honorary member, he should be released from all burdens, and a committee was nominated by the president to choose a successor as stated clerk, and a prudential committee for the next year; sang Turner and adjourned to 12 M., for social chat and dinner.

C. H. Wells, the artist, from Orange, who was a Charlemont boy, invited us to take position at the south end of the Methodist church, that he might take our picture. The result was satisfactory to the artist, and copies will be on exhibition at the Agricultural fair in Charlemont, next week, and all wishing to purchase will have the opportunity.

Dinner was served at 12. A blessing was sought by Dea. Field, and thanks rendered after the repast by Dea. Trow-

bridge, the guests standing in all the devotional exercises, as did our forefathers. The tables set for those of eighty years and upwards, were well supplied with "pot luck," including the renowned succotash, corned beef, pork, etc., and many a platter of baked beans found admirers; cakes, cookies, pies and puddings were provided in abundance, with melons and apples. At the first two sittings one hundred and three persons were fed. The tables were twice more cleaned and spread but were not quite as full; there was no lack of eatables, and all was washed down with a good cup of tea. Dolly, a Shakeress, of Mt. Lebanon, N. Y., sent by Mrs. Charles Peck, greetings, and some nice pears and plums "to the oldest person at our gathering." Mrs. Olive (Field) Longley was the happy recipient, she being in her ninety-second year. The presentation speech was by Dr. Trow, and was responded to by the Rev. Mr. Seymour, of Hawley.

At 2 o'clock the assembly were called to order and joined in singing Coronation. The clerk reported the deaths of members residents of Charlemont, since our last meeting: September 15, 1877, Harvey Wright, aged 72; Mrs. VanNess, 64; Dec. 18, Mrs. Dorothy Wells, 80; March 19, 1878, Olive, wife of Lincoln Raymond, 71; June 15, Mrs. Mary Rudd, 71; July 10, Mrs. Mary Coy, 88; Aug. 2, Rhoda, widow of the late Abel Parker, 82. Mr. Oren Streeter made a brief but moving appeal to the living and said "Who of us will be of the next seven to make up the account of the departed ones for our next gathering?"

"Life is the time to serve the Lord,"—three stanzas were lined off by the clerk and sung to the tune Wells. Dea. Hawks, for the committee on nominations, reported for prudential committee, David Thayer and wife, Gideon Burnham and wife, Phinehas Baldwin and wife; conductor of music, R. Eldredge; and for stated clerk, the old incumbent, Dea. Phinehas Field. His plea for release as having served out his day, and his claim for exemptions from beyond the age of 80 years was unavailing.

Rev. Mr. Seymour addressed the young persons present, and Rev. Mr. Cole the aged; Dea. E. C. Hawks spoke to citizens of neighboring towns; these embraced people from Florida, Rowe, Heath, Coleraine, Shelburne, Greenfield,

Buckland, Hawley and Adams, besides visitors from Northern Vermont, Boston, Ohio and Illinois.

D. O. Fisk felt at home with us, and gave us "good words, acceptable words;" Revs. Horton and Guild were also heard with interest; Col. Leavitt briefly related the origin of our gatherings, tracing it back to Judson Booth, in his solicitude to interest his mother, Mrs. Wing, then under his care. Mr. Booth died in 1875, aged 71, and Mrs. Wing in 1874, aged 96, having been present at our first five annual meetings. Dr. Trow, as president, seasoned the choice dishes as they were served up by the several speakers as one well skilled in such business. The tune Poland, by Swan, was sung, and the clerk gave some brief reminiscences of his forty-one years' residence in Charlemont.

A vote of thanks was passed to the Marthas and their companions for serving at the tables, and to the sons and daughters of "Asaph" for their assistance in sacred song.

Closed by singing Pilgrim's farewell and the Doxology.

P. F., *Stated Clerk.*

[From the Franklin County Times.]

The Old Folks' Gathering at Charlemont on September eleventh, 1878, was held agreeable to notice in the Times. People came from Florida, Rowe, Heath, Coleraine, Shelburne, Buckland, Hawley, South Adams and Greenfield, besides visitors from northern Vermont, Ohio, Illinois and Boston. The tellers reported sixty persons from seventy to eighty, nineteen in the eighties, and two that were past ninety. Dolly, a Shakeress of Mount Lebanon, N. Y., sent, with greetings, a present of pears and plums, to the oldest person in our assembly. Mrs. Olive Field Longley, of C., now in her ninety-second year, was the recipient. The donor's age is one hundred and two. Dr. Trow, of Buckland, in a neat speech made the presentation, and Rev. Mr. Seymour, of Hawley, responded in behalf of Mrs. Longley. The exercises opened at eleven, and closed at four P. M., with two hours interim for greetings, and dinner. During this time, Mr. C. H. Wells, of Orange, invited the assembly to take position south of the meeting house, that he might try on them his skill as an artist. The result was a splendid 10 by 12 inch

picture. Mr. Wells announced that his pictures will be on exhibit and for sale at the agricultural fair in Charlemont this week. A bountiful supply of "pot-luck" graced the table set for the nineties and the eighties, and baked beans, puddings, pies, cake, &c., with melons and fruit, with a good cup of tea, gave evidence that the "Marthas" and their companions have well earned the "vote of thanks" given them at the close for their services. At the first two sittings one hundred and three persons were served. At the two succeeding sittings the numbers were not as many. Near three hours of the five were spent in singing the old tunes, and in short addresses from O. Streeter, Revs. Seymour, Cole, Harlow and Guild, Dr. Trow, Col. R. H. Leavitt, Dea. E. C. Hawks, D. O. Fisk, Hon. G. Crittenden, F. Perkins and Dea. P. Field. It was computed that more than 300 persons were present, and that the last exceeded in interest any of the preceding gatherings.

Names added in 1878.

John W. Richards.....72	Sally Smith.....86
Charles Lusly.....69	Deborah Blodget.....76
John Whitman.....87	Amy Williams.....87
Amy Rice.....89	

1879.

CALL.

HO! OLD FOLK.

The tenth annual gathering of the old folks of Charlemont and the neighboring towns will be held at the hall of the Deerfield Valley Agricultural Society in Charlemont, on Wednesday, the third of September next.

The hall will be open at ten A. M. for the reception of contributions for the repast, and the exercises will commence at eleven, by singing old Denmark; then will follow the business, devotional and social exercises, as has been our custom in past years.

As in the past, year by year, the interest in these gatherings has steadily increased, we expect the next will be in advance of the past.

N. B.—No postponement on account of the weather.

By order of the Committee.

PHINEHAS FIELD. *Stated Clerk.*

Charlemont, Aug. 18, 1879.

REPORT.

The tenth annual gathering of the old folks of Charlemont and vicinity was held on the third of September, at the Agricultural hall, in Charlemont, agreeable to the published notice. The weather was favorable, and the gathering exceeded in numbers, and in interest, any of our former meetings. Several persons were with us from the neighboring towns, and joyfully lent their aid. The meeting was opened at 11 A. M. by reading the notice by the Clerk. The singing of Denmark was next in order. (We are under special obligations of gratitude to singers from Shelburne Falls and Hawley, for their free and efficient aid, with the musicians of Charlemont; both vocal and instrumental, in rehearsing several of the old tunes we love so well.) Deacon James Cain of Savoy, led in an appropriate prayer, the assembly standing. As officers of the day, Dea. E. C. Hawks was chosen president; Dr. Josiah Trow of Buckland, vice president; D. Thayer and E. Field, registering committee. The stated clerk, (Dea. Field) announced the object of the meeting, by stating that "there are three cardinal principles which embody all human obligations, viz.: Homage and obedience to our Crea-

tor, our social, and our industrial duties. The second of these constitutes the main object of these gatherings, and only one branch of this grand theme is appropriate on this occasion; the interchange of friendly greeting, and social converse. (As iron sharpeneth iron, so a man the countenance of his friend by hearty counsels.) I move that we now adjourn until after dinner, and I hope there will be no cold shoulder, or hand or heart among us." The adjournment was at 11:45. Then followed such a good time as none but we old folks know how to enjoy. A table was spread the whole length of agricultural hall, and at the first four sittings more than two hundred were fed; and at the fifth sitting some twenty-five or more found an abundance. At the first table at which the oldest were seated, a blessing was asked and thanks returned by Rev. Jacob Davis, of Rowe, and Deacon Field of Charlemont, the guests rising, as in days of yore.

Mrs. H. H. Rice of Charlemont, had prepared a gorgeous bouquet for the oldest person present; this fell to Mrs. Olive Longley, now well on in her ninety-third year. The presentation speech was by Dr. Trow. Mrs. Eliza Booth had a like present for Mrs. Erastus Mansfield, of Hawley, now in her ninety-second year. At 3 P. M. the meeting was called to order, and an anthem was sung. Next, the clerk read what he called "Christ's Inaugural Address," Matthew v. 1-9, and vii. 24-27. In the first part, he said man is recognized as a sinner. Then follows, in the order in which the mind and heart work, such exercises as change the character and lay the foundation on which alone moral action is successfully built; for we learn by the last clause read, that the test is applied to the foundation.

Mortuary record read by the clerk, since our last meeting, of persons belonging to Charlemont who have met with us heretofore, and have died since then: John N. Richards, 72, Cephas Rogers, 81, James Whitman, 87, Mrs. Deborah Blodgett, 71, Miss Sally Smith, 86, Mrs. Amy Williams, 87, Mrs. Amy Rice, 89, John A. Winslow, Esq., 70, Ephraim Leonard, 74.

Rev. James Ballard, of Grand Rapids, a native of Charlemont, made the opening address in the afternoon. He depicted in eloquent language the changes and the progress

that he had witnessed in his day, and said “ We were older than Methuselah”—in the arts of life. Brief and pertinent addresses were made by Rev. Mr. Davis, Orin Streeter, of Buckland, Capt. Stephen Fellows, of Shelburne, Dr. Willis, of Shelburne Falls, and Deacon Cain, of Savoy. As it was now near 4 o'clock, the remaining business of the meeting was disposed of by re-electing Mr. Roswell Eldredge, “ Master of Song,” and the old committee to make arrangements for the coming year, with power to call in needed assistance. It was voted unanimously, that hereafter the tables be filled but once, and for the oldest, the others taking their lunch as best they may, having only tea furnished them. This arrangement will save much needed time for speaking, etc. A hearty vote of thanks was given to the singers, and to the committees for their efficient services.

COM.

Names added in 1879 :

Olive Longley.....93	Priscilla B. Smith, Buckland....65
Sarah Emerson, Amherst.....76	E. P. Sherwin, “73
Aaron Smith, Heath.....79	J. G. Carroll.....60
Martha Purington, Buckland....67	Patience Barber74
Sophrana Veber.....68	Zerviah A. Lyman.....84
John A. Rathburn61	Salinda W. Leonard.....65

1880.


CALL.

HO! OLD FOLK.

The eleventh annual gathering of the old folks of Charlemont and vicinity will be held in the hall of the Deerfield Valley Agricultural Society in Charlemont, on Wednesday, the first day of September next.

The exercises will begin punctually at 11 A. M., and it is desired that provisions for the table be deposited in the dining room in the basement previous to that hour. The rooms will be open at 10. Conformably to the vote of last year, the public tables will be set but once, for the graduates of "three score years and ten" up to the nineties, the rest accommodating themselves as best they may. This arrangement will give us more time for the exercises that are to follow, and greatly relieve those who are to serve at the tables. Tea will be furnished to all as heretofore.

We cordially invite visitors from abroad, and transient boarders in this vicinity, to join us on this glad occasion.

 No postponement on account of the weather.

PHINEHAS FIELD, *Stated Clerk.*

Charlemont, Aug. 20, 1880.

REPORT.

[From the Gazette and Courier.]

A perfect day permitted an unusually large and happy attendance upon the now firmly established institution of the place. At an early hour vehicles full of old and young folks, all bearing suggestive baskets, began to move toward the Agricultural grounds, where the meeting was to be held, and at the usual hour for opening the exercises the clerk, Dea. Phinehas Field, called the assembly to order and read the published notice announcing the meeting. He then read an appropriate portion of the Scripture and prayer was offered by Dea. Silas Trowbridge, of Buckland. Dea. E. C. Hawks, of Charlemont, then rose and gave a pleasant address of welcome, in which he paid a graceful tribute to the aged, but wonderfully efficient, clerk of the association, Dea. Field, and spoke in affecting terms of those who a year ago had gathered here with the rest, but who to-day were absent never to return. Dea. Field's response was, as usual, appropriate and felicitous. He remarked in closing that when at the first annual gathering of this sort he had made a motion that the

meeting adjourn to assemble again in five years, it was a young man who had protested, "We can't stand that," and by Dea. Hawks' suggestion the meeting became an annual one. Dr. Josiah Trow, of Buckland, was made president of the day and Messrs. Charles E. Cooley and Roland Bassett and Miss Alice C. Bissell were appointed recording secretaries. Dea. E. C. Hawks, of Charlemont, was elected the president for the next year in order to lighten the burdens so long and patiently borne by Dea. Field. Singing followed, the audience rising, and a spirited address was made by Dr. Trow, the president of the day.

An hour was then spent pleasantly in social intercourse, and the audience, with considerable merriment, were classified so that the oldest had the place of honor and the juveniles of sixty and thereabouts were forced to take back seats. Nobody under seventy was of the slightest importance, and to be under sixty was felt to be almost a disgrace, while the two smart and bright old ladies over ninety were the belles of the day. These were Mrs. Susanna Mansfield, of Hawley, and Mrs. Cynthia Hathaway, of Savoy. Wonderful stories were told of the spinning and weaving done by these accomplished women and some interesting anecdotes were related concerning Mrs. Hathaway, who met with "the old folks" to-day for the first time. She remembers distinctly the death of Washington, the universal grief which prevailed and the badges of crape which many wore to indicate their sorrow. Pictures of Washington were worn on the handkerchiefs and all kinds of devices employed to show the veneration in which he was held. She remembers well how in the year 1800 the boys used to cut the rather odd-looking date in the tops of their wooden desks at school and fill the figures with ink, and her memory is full of interesting stories about the early years of the century. This remarkable old lady keeps house by herself, though under the same roof with another family, and does her work still with her own hands, although she has had thirteen children and was one of thirteen children herself.

The dinner was served in the basement of the hall and was bountiful and excellent. At its close a box of grapes was presented by Mr. Rogers, of North Adams, to the two oldest present. Cake was also given them and numerous bouquets

were distributed, Dea. Field getting, perhaps, the most gorgeous. After dinner all adjourned to the hall and most hearty and delightful addresses were delivered by Dr. Trow, Mr. Rogers, of North Adams, the Rev. Mr. Davis, of Rowe, and others. All the speakers alluded in glowing terms to the extraordinary beauty of Charlemont and to its hospitable people. A poem was read, songs were sung, the band played with grand effect, and the company departed, declaring that it had been good to be there. Too much cannot be said in honor of the good Deacon Phinehas Field, to whose executive ability and happy faculty of making all feel at home, the association owes the greater part of its success. There were present forty-eight people over seventy years of age. Twenty-nine were between seventy and eighty, seventeen between eighty and ninety, and two were between ninety and one hundred. Nine of these had never been present at any of the ten gatherings, but they assure us that they "wouldn't miss it again for anything."

The mortuary record for the past year embraced more names of those belonging to the association than that of any preceding it. The names and ages of the dead are as follows: Miss Patience Barber, 74, Mrs. Zerviah A. Lyman, 84, Mrs. Olive Longley, 93, Miss Rebecca Avery, 89, Mrs. Selinda W. Leonard, 65, Rev. David Todd, 73, Samuel Potter, 85, Mrs. Wealthy B. Hunt, 76. Of non-residents who have died we have the names of the following: Mrs. Maria Baldwin, of New Milford, Ct., 79, Mrs. Oren Streeter, Buckland, 57, Rev. John Eastman, Wellesley, 77, Mrs. David Dannel, Coleraine, 65, Freeman Atkins, West Hawley, 73, John Ballard, Athens, O., 89. Of these it was said that nearly all of them had for years professed faith in and exhibited the spirit of Him who said "Whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die."

During the progress of the meeting a collection was taken up to pay the necessary expenses pertaining to it, the remainder to go to the band, whose playing had greatly enhanced the pleasure of the occasion. All spoke in the highest terms of their music, and many contributed liberally in the hope of rendering them aid. The Old Folks' Gathering will be looked forward to more eagerly than ever next year after such an earnest and delightful meeting as to-day's. K. U. C.

Names added in 1880.

Capt. Stephen Fellows, Shelburne, 83	Wealthy B. Hunt... ..76
Dea. James Cain, Savoy..... ..78	Lydia Dinsmore..... ..71
Dea. Samuel Williams,	Benjamin W. Hawks, Hawley...61
West Hawley, 70	Thomas Wilcox, Rowe.....65
Gratia Williams, "	Mary P. Wilcox, "61
Abraham Parker, Hawley.88	Lucinda Houston..... ..60
Cynthia Hathaway, Savoy91	Sarah Thatcher..... ..67
Lincoln Raymond..... ..80	Mrs. H. W. Bissell..... ..65
Lucinda Raymond..... ..80	Lydia Dickinson..... ..71
Thomas Legate..... ..80	Mary Polly, Savoy..... ..
Jotham Whitney..... ..80	Dea. S. H. Lincoln, Plainfield ...
Benjamin Albee78	Dea. Whiting, "
Roxana Albee..... ..78	Ansel Kendrick..... ..67
Sophia Ballard..... ..71	Fanny Kendrick..... ..60
Rev. John Hurd, Buckland.70	Electa R. Hartwell..... ..76
Abijah Thayer, "71	Orin Vincent..... ..84
Mrs. Abijah Thayer, "64	Louisa Rice..... ..80
Esther Hathaway, "60	J. Stockwell, Buckland69
Larned Rice, Pittsfield..... ..78	Mrs. J. Stockwell, Buckland66
Lawrence P. Dole,	D. W. Leach,..... ..61
Copenhagen, N. Y., 64	A. L. Barnard..... ..63

1881.

CALL.

HO! OLD FOLK.

The twelfth annual gathering of the old folks of Charlemont and vicinity will be held in the Agricultural Hall, in Charlemont, on the 7th of September, 1881. The hall will be open at 10 A. M., and the public exercises will commence at 11 and close at 4 P. M.

The usual invitation is extended to the aged of neighboring towns and to visitors from distant parts.

The octogenarians will dine at the free tables, and others will bring their own provisions.

PHINEHAS FIELD, *Clerk.*

OLD FOLKS' GATHERING AT CHARLEMONT.

The twelfth annual gathering of the "Old Folks" took place at the Agricultural Hall, in Charlemont, on Wednesday, Sept. 7th, and, in spite of the extremely hot weather, may be counted a decided success. In point of numbers it fell a little below some that have preceeded it, the deficit being largely caused by the absence of many of the village people, who usually go, but who felt unequal this year to the hard climbing up Agricultural Hill in the rays of the torrid sun. The attendance from abroad was larger than ever before. A hearty welcome was extended by the venerable clerk of the society, Dea. Phinehas Field, whose snowy hair and beard are whiter than ever, but whose heart is as warm and whose head is as clear as of yore.

The morning exercises, as usual, consisted of little more than the opening prayer by the Rev. H. Seymour, of Hawley, and reading of the Scriptures by the Rev. C. L. Guild, of Charlemont. The call to the meeting was read from the *Gazette and Courier*, and the report of that of last year by Dea. Field. There were the usual hand-shakings and pleasant interchange of greetings between the old folks, and then all descended to the lower hall, where the collation was spread, some of the rocking chairs, provided for the oldest present, being taken down stairs for their accommodation. A bless-

ing was asked by Dea. Cain, of Savoy, and at the conclusion of the repast thanks were offered by Dea. Lincoln, of Plainfield. Just before arising from the table a beautiful wreath was handed to Mr. E. C. Hawks, who, in a graceful speech announced that it was to be presented to the oldest lady in the room, Mrs. Cynthia Hathaway, of Savoy. The ceremony of placing it upon her head was performed by Dr. Josiah Trow, who accompanied the act by a few happily chosen words. A remarkably fine peach was also presented to Mrs. Hathaway by Mr. Hawks, it being the gift of Mr. Hurd, of Buckland. Mrs. Erastus Mansfield, of Hawley, aged 93, the oldest person belonging to the association, was too feeble to be present, but an elegant bouquet and a large cake were sent to her as tokens that though absent she was not forgotten.

The company then adjourned to the hall, where, after a season of social intercourse, Coronation was sung by the entire assembly. The Charlemont Cornet Band, with its usual accommodating spirit, kindly furnished music for the occasion, and added greatly to the pleasure of all. The exercises of the afternoon consisted mostly of short speeches from the aged ones present. Several from the far West were present, and all were glad to testify to their joy in being there and their unalterable determination to come in the future "every chance they could get."

Dea. Field gave a brief but exceedingly interesting account of the recent meetings at Northfield.

One of the pleasantest features of the day was the singing of Miss Edith Leavitt of Boston, who kindly favored the audience with two beautiful selections, rendered in a thoroughly charming manner.

An original poem, prepared expressly for the occasion by Elder Deming, of Savoy, aged 89, and written during the noted darkness of the preceding day, was read distinctly by the author, and much enjoyed. A hymn was recited by Jonas Ballard, of Charlemont, and the band played "The Sweet Bye-and-Bye."

The organization of the society for the coming year was effected as follows: President, Dr. Josiah Trow, of Buckland; vice president, E. C. Hawks; committee on music, Roswell

Eldredge; executive committee, P. Baldwin and wife, A. E. Field, Myron Hawks, Alonzo Thayer and wife, C. H. Leavitt and wife and David Avery.

The mortuary record for the past year is as follows: Mrs. Olive Leavitt, 56; Hart Leavitt, 72; Eugene Field, 81; Willard Barber, 72; Erastus Mansfield, 83; Abram Parker, 88.

There were present eighty-two people over 60 years of age, forty between 60 and 70, thirty between 70 and 80, eleven between 80 and 90, and one above 90—Mrs. Cynthia Hathaway, of Savoy—a very interesting old lady of 92.

The closing speech was made by Dr. Trow, of Buckland, whose remarks are always peculiarly acceptable to the old people and do much to keep up the hearty spirit which is the great charm of these unique gatherings. A letter was read by the president of the day, Dea. E. C. Hawks, whose dignified and easy conduct of the meeting contributed largely to its success, from the Hon. Joseph White, of Williamstown, who regretted deeply his inability to be present, and who hopes another year to come surely. No word was received from Mr. Warner, but anyone who has attended one of these interesting meetings and seen the look of enjoyment upon the faces of the aged participants will be only too glad to do anything in his power to add to their entertainment.

It is greatly to be hoped that the old people will take pains during the coming year to "think up" the events of their early lives and to present, next September, some account of them, together with descriptions of any old-fashioned customs which are different from those of the present day. A portrayal of a genuine quilting, or corn husking, or singing school, or any of the parties so popular then, would be vastly entertaining and instructive to an audience such as usually attend these meetings. Younger people could be found to relate the stories, if necessary, if the "old folks" would only recall them.

The last exercise of the meeting was the singing of "Shall We Gather at the River?" and the goodly company slowly dispersed, lingering to listen to the sweet strains of the band and to gaze upon the fairest prospect in the world, which lay spread out in the valley below. It is safe to say that no one who was present at the meeting this year will fail to come to

the next one, for all the old people are loud in their praises of the "good times" which they enjoy at this their own peculiar festival.

K. U. C.

REV. AMOS DEMING'S POEM.

For the Veterans of the 18th Century at Charlemont, Sept. 7, 1881.

Ye dear old cronies of the past,
I'm glad to meet you here ;
Though gray with age, and failing fast,
Old mem'ry shines out clear.

We need not think with wrinkles deep
That we are in our prime,
For nature's laws the Lord will keep
Through all the wastes of time.

This world is full of wonders wild,
And things too deep to know ;
Though once a man and twice a child,
We scarce know what to do.

All tribes of men in every land,
The oldest people say
Were form'd by God's almighty hand
From one small lump of clay.

Think ! how must father Adam feel,
When Eve, a lovely miss,
Before her beau did kneel
To give the first sweet kiss.

The acorns strewed on mountain ground,
Or spots of little note ;
A war-like navy now is found
On raging seas afloat.

The lightning, tamed by Franklin's hand,
And taught by Morse's skill,
Flies through the sea and o'er the land
With tidings, sent at will.

The fruitful fields, where men did toil,
And sheep and lambs did play,
Some hundred feet below the soil
The cars roll night and day.

While men of study rack their mind,
 And science yields her lore,
 There's many to their sorrow find
 That they are weak and poor.

God shows to mortals every year
 Rich tokens of His love :
 He swells the buds, the flowers appear.
 All water'd from above.

The harvest in, with ripen'd grain,
 Soon wintry clouds appear ;
 The snow descends instead of rain,
 The trees are all stripp'd bare.

Thus God is teaching us to sow
 Good seed in early spring,
 That we may reap and homeward go,
 And with the ransomed sing.

We may be call'd at any day—
 To part from all that's dear—
 Or hour to meet a judgment day,
 Where all must soon appear.

1882.

CALL.

HO, OLD FOLKS !

The thirteenth annual gathering of the Old Folks of Charlemont and vicinity will be held at the Agricultural hall in Charlemont, on Wednesday, the 6th of September next. We extend our usual invitation to the aged of neighboring towns and to strangers now in this vicinity. A table will be spread for the octogenarians only, and tea will be furnished for the picnickers. The hall will be opened at 10 a. m. The exercises will begin at 11 and close at 4 o'clock P. M.

PHINEHAS FIELD, *Clerk.*

REPORT.

THE OLD FOLKS' GATHERING

Has come to be looked upon as almost as great an occasion as the annual cattle show, and attracted a larger number than ever before on its thirteenth anniversary, last Wednesday, about four hundred people being present in the hall to listen to the afternoon exercises. The oldest person present was, as last year, Mrs. Cynthia Hathaway, of Savoy, who retains her faculties to a remarkable degree, and joined heartily in the singing of the familiar hymns. Through some oversight the exact number of those present over sixty was not ascertained, but it is computed that it was considerably larger than ever before.

The morning exercises were opened by singing by the choir, reading of the scriptures by Mr. E. C. Hawks, prayer by the Rev. Mr. Guild, and addresses of welcome to the old folks by Dr. Trow and Mr. Hawks. A shadow was cast over the whole company by the early announcement of and constant allusion to the absence, on account of illness, of the venerated and beloved secretary of the society, Dea. Phinehas Field, whose presence has heretofore been the prime inspiration of each meeting. R. W. Field, of Buckland, was chosen assistant clerk. After singing again the old folks enjoyed a long and delightful period of social enjoyment. This is, per-

haps, the happiest part of the day for them. The dinner passed off very successfully, ending with the presentation of cakes, as usual, to the oldest persons present.

At half past one Dr. Trow, the efficient president of the association, announced that the best of the feast had now arrived, and after distributing handsome bouquets to Mrs. Eli Todd, Mrs. Hathaway, Mrs. Houston, Mrs. Eugene Field, and others, and the singing of "Strike the Cymbal," by the choir, he called up Dea. Trowbridge, of Buckland, who made a short but amusing speech, and was followed by Dea. Lincoln, of Plainfield. Mr. William Riddle, of Greenfield, then spoke and gave some very interesting reminiscences of early days. He attended the second burial made in the now sadly overcrowded village church-yard. Mr. Riddle is now an old man, but he says he is still able to do a good day's work. The remarks of the Rev. Mr. Davis were very interesting indeed. He remembers well the time when there were no railroads at all, and that when they were first introduced, "Uncle Joshua Eddy," a famous lumber dealer, expected to make a fortune in providing for them rails of chestnut. "Uncle Joshua" felt very sad when he found that iron was to be used instead of wood for rails, but he experienced another reaction upon learning that ties were necessary, and that his chestnut lumber was just the thing to make them of. Mr. Davis also commented upon the striking and encouraging fact, that while fifty years ago no meeting of this sort would have been considered complete without an abundance of liquor, there was none to be seen to-day, and the children were deprived of what used to be their great delight, the sipping of the sugar from the bottom of the glasses. He thanked God for the growth of the temperance sentiment, and prayed that it might increase still further. After the singing of the "Old Folks at Home" by Miss Edith Leavitt, of Boston, who gave it most impressively, old Mr. Rice made a strong plea for cheerfulness among his aged brothers and sisters and hoped that the remarks of Dea. Lincoln, concerning the lament of a good mother, when a barrel of flour came, "She didn't know where the next was coming from," would be applied by each to himself all around. He thought "Count up your mercies" would be a good motto for all to take, for the promises of

God were sure and not to be broken. The company was then greatly entertained by a humorous poem, composed and admirably read by Mrs. M. F. Atkins, of Buckland. It was founded upon a quaint and amusing conceit in regard to our first parents, and gave great delight to all. An appropriate poem was then read by Mr. N. B. Baker, of Savoy, from the pen of the aged Dea. Cain, also of Savoy. Mr. Guild then made some brief, but, as always, timely remarks, in which he rejoiced at the large attendance present, especially in the preponderance of elderly people, and suggested a longer noon-ing in order that the old folks might enjoy each other's society more fully.

The officers for the ensuing year were then elected as follows: President, Dr. Trow, of Buckland; vice president, E. C. Hawks, of Charlemont; musical director, R. H. Eldridge; executive committee, Mr. and Mrs. Phinehas Baldwin, Mr. and Mrs. Squire Benson, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Leavitt, Mr. and Mrs. Myron Hawks. A vote of thanks was then given to Mr. Phinehas Baldwin for the able manner in which he had for ten years discharged his obligations as head of the executive committee, and measures were taken to provide some substantial token of high-esteem in which he and his good wife are held by the society. Messrs. Daniel Gale, N. B. Baker and Rev. Mr. Davis were then appointed as a committee to nominate three persons for arranging and publishing the archives of the society. The persons so chosen were Mr. R. W. Field, Mrs. Clark and E. C. Hawks. Short speeches were made by Messrs. Abijah Thayer, of Buckland, and Franklin Joy, of Plainfield, and Vandyke Brown's clever little poem on "Growing Old" was read by Mrs. Clark. Col. Leavitt was then called upon to speak, but he begged to be excused in order that the Hon. Joseph White, of Williamstown, present at the gathering for the first time in several years, might be sooner heard. There were loud cries for Mr. White, and as soon as the committee soliciting funds for the printing of the archives could be induced to suspend their energetic efforts, Mr. White arose and made some brief, but most effective, remarks. He recalled the old school-house and the school-mates of his boyhood, and spoke of the old resident of Hawley who had such a thunderous voice that

when he spoke he could be heard from Plainfield, on the one side, to Charlemont on the other. Mr. White then reverted to the fact that he was in the latter half of his seventy-first year, and, though in comfortable health, was aware—a consciousness deepened by what he had seen and heard at this meeting—that he was growing old. Mr. White's remarks, though simple and unstudied, were full of eloquence, and when he spoke of the Spanish milled dollar which his mother gave him when he left home to go to school, and which was still treasured fondly by him, scarcely a dry eye was left in the audience.

After singing by the choir short addresses were made by Mr. E. C. Hawks and Dr. Trow. "Auld Lang Syne" was sung and the company dispersed well pleased with the day and its experiences. The Charlemont Cornet Band played finely and often, and in their new uniforms looked very handsome indeed. Great thanks are due to them and to the choir. The singing was the best that the old folks have ever enjoyed on any similar occasion, and Mr. Eldridge deserves the highest credit for collecting together and drilling so excellent a choir. Miss Edith Leavitt's bright face and beautiful voice were a great addition to the pleasures of the day. The cornet playing of Mr. Martin King, which accompanied all the singing, was very tasteful and reflected great credit upon Mr. King.

One of the curiosities of the day was the rocking-chair, brought to the hall from Savoy by Mrs. Cynthia Hathaway, 94 years old, and which she had had since she was fifteen years old. The weather was perfect; nothing untoward occurred to mar the pleasure of the day, and, excepting for the absence of Dea. Field, which was deplored in a hearty vote of sympathy with him and sorrow for his illness, which, it is to be hoped, will soon terminate, leaving him well and strong once more, the gathering was unanimously pronounced to be the most successful ever held.

POEM READ BY MRS. M. F. ATKINS.

It seems a long time since I met with you here,—
So long that I scarcely remember the year,
So I thought I would come and see you to-day

And with your consent I have something to say
 To¹ Phinehas here, a lad of four score,
 And to all of you, too, be the same less or more.
 And if it's not asking a favor too great
 Please give your attention while I shall relate
 Some facts and some fancies that may lead us all
 To be less severe on Mrs. Eve for her fall.
 Of course, you all know that I'm old and am weak,
 And not much accustomed in public to speak.

Now a long time ago, when the world was first made,
 In a garden there dwelt a man and a maid ;
 And they married, 'tis said, and I guess it was so,
 For three little boys came along in a row.
 We are told 'twas the Great Proprietor's plan
 That Adam—for that was the name of the man—
 Was to till and to dress this garden so fair—
 In short, 'twas committed to his special care,
 And little Mrs. Eve kept house, I suppose,
 Cooked his meals, washed his shirts, and mended his hose ;
 Was a quiet, affectionate, dutiful wife,
 And to please Mr. Adam was the aim of her life,
 Now all we housekeepers do very well know
 How right wrong end foremost things will sometimes go,
 And I s'pose Mrs. Eve had like trials of old,
 That she often felt cross, and sometimes would scold.
 Well, suppose that one day, sometime in July,
 Completely " fagged out " she sat down for a cry,
 For the bread wouldn't rise, and the butter came soft.
 And the boys were a-conjuring up in the loft.
 And Adam, dear man, had just brought home a coon,
 And that must be roasted and ready by noon.
 From the city some cousins were expected to tea
 And would tarry all night if convenient 'twould be.
 It was dust and disorder all over the room,
 For she hadn't had time to use even a broom.
 Then the fire was all out, for the wood wouldn't burn,
 And Adam, great lout, had tipped over the churn.

Hark ! a tap at the door, so gentle and light,
 What ! company coming, and in such a plight !
 Dear me ! what a fix, everything in a whew !
 I'll warrant that Adam *invited* them too—
 For " 'tis just like a man ! he don't seem to care
 How much of life's burden falls to woman's share,
 No matter how busy or tired you be
 'Tis ' my dear, will you put a patch on my knee? '"

But she wiped up her eyes, went to answer the call,
 And there stood the Devil, yellow neck tie and all.
 "Good morning, dear madam ! why, how do you do ?
 I thought, as I passed, I would call on you.
 What ! alone, and in tears ? Where is Adam to-day ?
 And the dear little boys ? Ah, I see, they're at play.
 You are working too hard, you ought to have rest,
 And some time to recruit, it would give life a zest.
 There is a tree in the garden somewhere you will find,
 That bears fruit delicious,—I've forgotten the kind,—
 And if you'll partake of it freely, my dear,
 'Twill set you all right, make everything clear."

"I know—but the Master's forbidden its use,
 And to disobey Him—I should have no excuse—
 And more, He has told us,—my husband and I,—
 That if we should eat we should both of us die."

"Oh, fie, on such nonsense ! I know tisn't so,
 Am I not His agent with power plenipo'—
 Sent out to adjust everything that is wrong,
 And see how that Adam and you get along."

So kind, sympathetic, such a gentleman too,
 She verily thought what he said must be true.
 So she plucked and she ate, gave to Adam and fell.
 The result of that act I have no need to tell.

Now if Adam had done as all husbands should
 And assisted his wife whenever he could,—
 Had provided her books and papers to read
 And a season for rest, such as all women need,—
 Had stepped to the front and relieved her of care,
 And not have required every meal to be "square."
 Had oftener yielded, his partner to please,
 With grace quite becoming and manifest ease,
 I do not believe she would ever have fell,
 And then there'd have been no need of a hell.
 She wouldn't have listened to that "cranky cuss,"
 And brought so much woe on herself and on us.

MORAL.

If heads of household would concede
 That each the other's help doth need,
 Methinks ther'd less divorces be,
 And more of love and harmony.

POEM COMPOSED BY DEA. JAMES CAIN, OF SAVOY.

How pleasant it is for friends here to meet,
 Where love and true friendship is always so sweet ;
 'Tis pleasant to see this aged old band,
 Greeting each other by shaking the hand.
 How sweet is the music, so charming to hear
 Such words from the choir ; our hearts it doth cheer.
 The angels sung at the Savior's birth,
 Good will unto men who dwell on the earth.
 We think of the year, how quick it has fled,
 And yet we are living, while others are dead.
 We now bow in prayer, and well we may,
 And thank the good Lord we are living to-day.
 But some aged friends have gone on before,
 Their smiles and their faces we see here no more ;
 But watching and praying, with swords in our hands,
 We are waiting to meet them in Canaan's fair lands.
 We thank the young people, so pleasant and fair,
 They meet here to-day our pleasures to share.
 They have spread out our table and poured out our tea,
 And sweetly enjoyed this great jubilee.
 So, when they are old and their heads have grown gray,
 They will meet in this hall as we meet to-day,
 And others will come, we humbly trust,
 And wait upon them as they wait upon us.
 A word to the band, so good and so kind,
 They are always on hand and keeping good time
 And now if we ask them, they will not deny
 To play us once more the Sweet Bye-and-Bye.
 And when our work is all done here below—
 But when that will be there is none of us know—
 But let us prepare for the joys that are given
 To those who love Jesus, to praise him in heaven.

OBITUARY.

Mrs. Susan Mansfield, who died in Hawley September 18th, had been the oldest person living in that town for about four years ; she was also the oldest member of the Old Folks' organization which has its headquarters at Charlemont. Mrs. Mansfield was born in the town of Middleboro, Mass., on the 9th of July, A. D. 1788, and was 93 years, 2 months and 9 days old. At the age of nine years her father, Benjamin Shaw, removed his family to the town of Buckland, in this County, upon a farm just north of the present residence of W. S. Wil-

liams. In 1835 she married Erastus Mansfield, of Hawley, where she spent the remainder of her life. She had been a member of the Congregational church for about 70 years. She was a cheerful, trusting Christian woman and her life was in the home circle. Since the death of her husband, who died the 1st of last April, she has been anxiously "waiting for the boatman," but said "The Lord knows the best time." "None knew her but to bless." Truly, "The path of the just is as the shining light, which shineth more and more until the perfect day."

DIED.

In Savoy, Aug. 8, Rev. Amos Deming, aged 89.

Rev. Amos Deming was born in Weathersfield, Conn., Oct. 16th, 1792. He enjoyed the best educational advantages at Hartford until he was 16 years old, it being his father's design to send him to college, but having marked out a different course for himself, much to his father's regret, this plan was abandoned. At the age of 16 he entered the cabinet shop of his brother-in-law, Simeon Deming, and at the end of four years he was in every respect master of his trade. About this time his parents removed to Savoy, Mass. In 1816 he was married to Miss Priscilla Sears of Goshen, who survives him. At a revival of religion in Savoy he was hopefully converted to God, June 29th, 1823, was baptized by Rev. David Woodbury, and joined the First Baptist church in that town. In 1832 he removed to Adams, but was ordained pastor of the Second Baptist church in Savoy, May 27th, 1834. He has been pastor of churches at Adams, Florida, Windsor, 1st church in Savoy (18 years), Hinsdale, East Brewster, (Cape Cod), Cheshire, East Windsor and Hawley. He has baptized from 150 to 200 persons, married 149 couples, attended 500 funerals. He died Aug. 8th, 1882, aged 89 years. "As a preacher he was earnest, yet unpretending; as a pastor and friend he was faithful, yet unassuming, kind, yet unobtrusive."

In Shelburne, July 2, Capt. Stephen Fellows, aged 84 years and 6 months. Funeral at his late residence, Tuesday, July 4, at 2 p. m. Friends are invited without further notice.

In Buckland, Aug. 23, Rev. John C. Hurd, aged 72.

Names added in 1882 :

William Riddell, Greenfield.	84	R. W. Field, Buckland	62
Fanny Lamb, "	81	D. W. Porter, "	65
S. O. Lamb, Esq. "	60	Mrs. D. W. Porter, "	49
Lucy Lamb, "	54	G. K. Ward, "	62
Elizabeth Livermore,		Mrs. G. K. Ward, "	61
West Townsend, Vt.,	86	Mrs. Silas Dodge, "	86
Catharine Bryant	74	Mrs. J. G. Stodard	56
Sanford Stetson, Adams	72	G. W. Truesdell, Shelburne, . . .	60
Caroline Stetson, "	65	Mrs. G. W. Truesdell, "	52
Abbie Johnson, "	61	J. B. Totman, Conway	62
Francis Joy, Plainfield	60	Mrs. J. B. Totman, "	
Samuel Streeter, Wilmington, Vt.	67	Ephraim Tower, Florida	71
John Williams, Ashfield		O. D. Leach	67
Caroline McGoskin, Ashfield	69	D. S. Howes, Ashfield	70
T. F. Rice, Michigan	67	Dea. E. F. Longley	70
Louisa B. Rice. "	61	R. Baker,	62

