

MFT TO CTL 6/18/1889

Previous to the inroads of this class of fanatics regular S. meetings were well attended - young people walking 4 and 6 miles - or riding part way in turn "ride and tie" was the term used - some on horseback with wife on pillion behind them - a large block near the yard stood ready to alight and mount from. One good old man I remember was so deep in thots of what he heard that he failed to miss the clasp of his wife round his waist, and rode off leaving her perched on the block till someone called him back. The mt. house with its 2 score of large windows, was guiltless of stove or furnace heat - women had goot stoves wh. they renewed with coals at the parson's house opposite where good fires in winter were ready and benches purposely encircling the big fireplace for general use. in summer the water pail and drinking cups were provided and both arrangements were well patronized at intermission - those coming a distance bringing their lunch found the fire and water very acceptable - the parson's family had a busy day - someone must keep guard and replenish all needful. How unlike present usages were many customs of past days! Civilization has taken from us much that simple, informal and enjoyable in return we have beauty, grandeur, leisure and great progress in science and all that tends to mental and spiritual development. Can we say it has left integrity, uprightness and purity of character.

Scarboro had many very sterling characters - but with these mingled another element of the savage nature - imbibed perhaps from early contact with and dread of their indian foes - proofs of this were evident in the treatment of Mr. King and others for differences of views during the Rev. Father occupied the King house, near the Landing so called, the first decade of this ministry - as a child I well remember seeing marks of the axe gashing the beam in the hallway made by the mob, that in other savage ways insulted and even sought his life by placing ropes across the road to throw him from his horse at night etc. These savages were not all Scar. men but some were known to be. One specially rose to be Deacon of the Church in later days but ~~but~~ Mr. K's daugh. Mrs. Southgate refused to take the Elements from his hand and he was changed to the opposite aisle. He was a saintly man I remember in looks.

When reading yr. purposed plan, my sister agreed with me in saying there were some pages we cared not to turn, in such a view of our old dwelling place - even our near neighborhood had many undeveloped beings whose deeds were outside the pale of civilized life. They have put off the flesh with its temptations and I will not revive their life course - rather turn to more attractive subjects. When Father settled there, Dunstan was quite a busy village, lumber trade and building vessels at the Landing employed many - several stores were well supported - the owners of them moving to Portland when that business ended - this ~~changed~~ the place greatly - men of energy like Jewet Wm. Wood - Capt. Haines - Rufus Emerson all well known citizens of P. whose children live there now and began their life in Scar. Society was good large families graced these homes but as business died out and no new enterprize succeeded young men left for other prospects. The town was called a good place to migrate from and it has sent out to enrich and grace various points of our broad land many who have won both fame and fortune as well as benefiting the world by talents improved.

MFT TO CCL 6/18/1889

One of the odd characters of the time, was Richard or Dick King as generally called a brother of Rufus, on his Father's side and Gov. Wm. and Cyrus of Saco - but unlike any of them - a man of great and physical and mental power but without culture - piqueing himself on lack of it - yet he was well read specially in T. Paine's works professing to Deistic views - he was strong in argument and often silenced opponents by witty retorts - during the war of 1812 he was a released prisoner from Halifax, I think was carried into N.Y. in a dilapidated state of apparel - buying a yd. of cotton cloth he tied up his neck - went to brother Rufus's house and sent in his name. Rufus had a party of distinguished men at dinner. He told the servant to show the gent. in at once - he came very gingerly avoiding ~~xx~~ to step on the flowers of the rich carpet - pretending to think them real and wishing to mortify his aristocratic brother - but failed - his party were surprised when introduced but confounded when listening to his philosophical conversation. He lived on Scottow's Hill - had a large family not one like to himself in any respect - a son became Meth. preacher. Dick King the infidel was a noted character then - now, we don't fear the influence of Paine's followers but understand better the true animus of the man - one step up in civilization and liberality of thought!

The best part of 2 Parish in S. was on the Nonsuch river and Beach Ridges where were many thrifty farmers whose sons went to Mass. and farther W. doing credit to the old town. Port. also has the honor of several solid men from that younger stock but I know nothing of the present inhabitants - thirty five yrs. have passed since leaving there - changes for better have no doubt taken place - the sterile soil of Dunstan and Broadturn, may now bear fruit from mechanics and artizan culture while some seed sown in the past on mental soil may have slowly taken root under more favorable circumstances of the present day. I have jotted down at various times this potpourri of words as they rose to mind, if you care to read and can gather any rains of wheat from so much chaff - put it to use - if not give the scrap basket these pages. Questions might have called up some things more to your purpose and spared you much you may find irrelevant. However I mail it with the best wishes of

Your Aged Friend

M.F. Tilton

C. T. Libby Esq.