



REAPING.—BELL FARM, NORTH-WEST TERRITORY.

## EXTRACTS FROM AN OLD DIARY

**I**N the early settlement of the Township, Sherbrooke was known as "the Lower Forks," (sometimes called "Hyatt's Mills") and what is now Lennoxville, was called "the Upper Forks." The first point was the junction of the Magog and St. Francis Rivers, and the latter the junction of the Massawippi and St. Francis Rivers, sometimes called "Ascot" as being within the Township, of that name. From 1806 to 1812, John Bement, an uncle of the writer, was in trade at the Upper Forks, and at that time owned the tract of land lying south of Lennoxville village generally known as the Morris Flat. His supplies were brought by *bateaux* from Three-Rivers, by way of the St. Francis River, and paid for in pearl-ash and furs principally, which were transported to Three-Rivers in the same manner during the summer season. The pearl-ash was manufactured from salts, as they were called, being salts of lye made by the early settlers out of the ashes produced in clearing off and burning the timber on their lands. Nearly every little trading post had its pearl-ashery in those days and the trader had a double profit in buying salts at his own price, and paying for them in goods, also at his own price. The present site of Bishop's College was a favorite resort for parturiges at that time. Mr. Bement was a Vermonter, and left Ascot at the time of the war of 1812, declining to take the oath of allegiance to the British Government. I met him nearly thirty years ago at Woodstock, Vt., and he was then over ninety years of age. The following are extracts from a diary in my possession, kept by a then resident of this part of the Township, and which also contains memoranda of commercial contracts entered into. It commences with an account of a trip to

Woodstock, which is now made by rail in about seven hours.

"24th January, 1810. Started with a double sleigh and two horses for Woodstock, Vermont, and passing over three leagues, stayed at Woodward's, Hatley."

"25th Jan'y. Went to Hopkinton's, in Salem, Vermont."

"26th Jan'y. Passed through Brown-ington, Barton, Glover and Greensborough, and stayed at Warner's, Hardwick."

"26th Jan'y, 1810. Passed through Wallen, Cabot, Peacham, Ryegate, and stayed at Parmelee's, Newbury."

"28th January. Passed through Bradford, Fairlee, Orford, Lyme, and went to Squire Bushe's, Hanover."

"29th January. Passed through Lebanon and Hartford, and arrived at the place where I was born, Woodstock, it being almost as tedious a day as ever was known."

"Monday, 19th Feb'y, 1810. Started for Windsor. It rained all day. Returned at 5 p. m. River very high and breaking up."

"Tuesday, 20th Feb'y, 1810. This day I am 20 years old. Snow going very fast. Taft's dam carried away by the ice."

"Tuesday, 27th Feb'y, 1810. Started from Woodstock for Ascot in a covered wagon. Stayed at Smith's, Hanover, the first night."

"28th Feb'y, 1810. At 10 o'clock arrived at Uncle Thompson's at Lyme, and stayed there one day and one night."

"1st March. Started on for Ascot. Saw Mrs. Bryant, of Bradford. Stayed at Hale's over night."

"2nd March. Through Ryegate, Barret, and stayed at Dr. Lord's."

"3rd. St. Johnsbury, Lyndon, and Wheelock, and stayed at Jennings's, in Sheffield."

"4th March. Through Barton, Brown-ington, Salem and Derby, to Moore's at

the Line, over night."

"5th March. Came on to Woodward's."

"6th March. Came on in a sleigh from Woodward's, and arrived at Ascot, sun an hour high."

Here follows a memo of contracts made and entered into.

"26th Nov., 1810. With Nehemiah Snow, to pearl salts at \$16 per ton, as fast as they are turned in and he gives receipts for them."

"27th Nov., 1810. With David Wallis, of Compton, to make and deliver at Capt. Snow's pearl-ashery, as many barrels as I may want for 4s. 2d. a piece, in cash."

"27th Nov., 1810. With Asaph Shirliff, of Compton, to take money of me and pay out upon Capt. Snow's receipts for salts at at 15s. per cwt."

"29th Nov. With Cyrus Warner, to board me one month, find me a room, and draw me wood enough to the door for one month, for \$9."

"29th Nov. With Abel Learnel, to take in salts at the pearl-ashery, Eaton, at 15s., having given him money."

"29th Dec. With Leonard Coats, of Eaton, to draw 4 bbls ashes from Learned pearl-ashery to Ascot Center, for 15s. paid him 2-6."

"1811, Jan. 16th. With David Moe, to carry 10 cwt. and fetch the same from Montreal to Compton for \$30, start as soon as snow falls 6 inches."

"1811, Jan'y 18th. With Timo. Betts, to carry to and fetch from Montreal, 10 cwt. for 30 dollars. Start next Tuesday."

"1811, 24th Jan'y. With Capt. Nehemiah Snow, to carry two sleigh loads to Montreal, as soon as Moe and Betts return, and bring the same back to Shipton, at the rate of 7 1/2 per cwt."

"1811, 1 Feb. With Gabriel Bergeron, a French man, to carry 4 bbls from Ascot to Montreal, at 6-8 per cwt. for the pearl-