

one sister. Jonathan was a diligent, hard-working man, of good moral habits. He owed a farm of about one hundred acres, in one the towns of this country, and carried it on in the usual style in which farms were cultivated in this State, fifty years ago.

He brought up his boys in habits of industry and honesty. Indeed, as soon as they were large enough he kept them constantly at work on the farm. Some of his neighbors were disposed to think he made them work too hard; but as they were strong and active and always in good health and spirits, there was no proof that they were overworked.

They attended the district school two months in the winter and learned to read, write and cipher. James was thought to have quite a turn for mathematics, and by the time he was eighteen, he had mastered Pike's Arithmetic, and could measure a load of wood, and a stick of timber, and could survey a piece of land, provided it were inclosed in tolerably straight lines. He was his father's chief assistant, until he was nineteen years old. His next brother being then able to take his place, his father, by way of assisting him to an outfit when he should be old enough to commence life for himself, gave him permission to hire himself out to 'Squire Jones, who lived about three miles distant.

'Squire Jones needed a trusty young man to work on his farm, and agreed to give James twelve dollars a month and his board. He worked diligently through the year, and at the close of it, found himself in possession of a hundred dollars, a new suit of clothes, a gun and training equipments. The second year, 'Squire Jones gave him fourteen dollars a month, and made him his foreman, for he employed three through the summer, and two through the winter. At the end of the second year, 'Squire Jones gave him his note for one hundred and twenty-four dollars, which he preferred to cash. James continued in his service four years longer, at the same wages. He was now twenty-five years old, and had about seven hundred dollars in good notes. He now thought he should like to see a little more of the world: so in the month of April, he started for Boston, and from thence proceeded in search of employment to the good old town of Dorchester. There he let himself to a farmer, who was principally engaged in raising vegetables and fruit for the Boston market. Here he obtained sixteen dollars a month, for eight months. At the end of this time, having received his hundred and twenty-eight dollars, he returned home. He was now master of eight hundred and fifty dollars, and he thought it was about time to become settled in life, and to this he was the more inclined, as he found within himself a growing attachment to Miss Betsy Fletcher, the daughter of a widow who lived in the vicinity of 'Squire Jones.

About this time, there was for sale a small farm of about thirty acres, with a tolerably good house, and a small barn upon it, some two miles from the centre of his native town. This he purchased for twelve hundred dollars, paying down five hundred, and mortgaging the farm for the balance. The remaining three hundred and fifty, he expended in the purchase of a yoke of oxen, horse, two cows, a cart, plough, harness and tools, and went to work upon his farm in the month of March.

The farm was most of it good land, but had been rather severely worked. The fences were out of repair, and he set himself at work to put them in a safe condition, for he had observed, that among farmers, good fences are not only necessary for the security of the crops, but also for the preservation of good neighborhood. In the process of repairing his fences, he cut down a good many straggling trees, and collected stumps and roots, and brush sufficient for his year's supply of wood. He next scraped together what manure was to be found on the place. Finding the earth of an old coal pit on the field of a neighbor, who was willing to give it to any one who would remove it, he carted some