

like the valley of Esdraelon, the passage-way of armies. The colonial soldiers that engaged in the French and Indian wars about Lake Champlain and Lake George passed forth and back through this valley, the home afterward of Ethan Allen and of Warner, and came to know the most fruitful part of New England; and one of them left the memorial of his passage in the original foundation of Williams College. As soon as it ceased to be swept by war parties of Canadian savages the people of Connecticut filled it with their populous and prosperous settlements.<sup>1</sup> I have sketched and dwelt upon this peculiar, and not too familiar, course of New England settlement because of the enormous proportional part borne by the people of this region, in the present century, in the emigration from New England to the territory of the Northwest. Like their predecessors of Plymouth and Connecticut, individual freedom was their civil corner-stone; the church with them hardly preceded the school; and none but a free-man ever breathed in the air of Vermont.<sup>2</sup>

There was almost no emigration from New England prior to the close of the Revolutionary War, nor was it considerable till the beginning of the present century. But in 1840 about half a million people born there were living in other States. Forty years later nothing was more conspicuous than the impress of New England upon the States of the old Northwest through the presence of her people. In proportion to population, by far the largest number is from Vermont, and the least from New Hampshire. Of the native New England population in the Northwest, in 1880, three-fourths were from the three States of Massachusetts, Vermont, and Connecticut; Vermont contributing about three-fourths as many as Massachusetts, and Connecticut less than two-thirds as many as Vermont. The part this emigration has borne in the political and social development of the Northwest, in which the remnants of French occupation are disappearing, is too familiar to be made the subject of present discussion.

<sup>1</sup> Thompson, *History of Vermont*, Part 2, p. 16; Hall, *Early History of Vermont*, p. 4.

<sup>2</sup> Legislative Act of October 30, 1786. *Selectmen of Windsor vs. Jacob, 2 Tyler Rep.*, 194-199. 29 N. E. Reg., 247. Jennings, *Memorials of a Century*, p. 336.