



THE PINE TREE.

The above is another illustration taken from one of the publications of the Massachusetts Sabbath School Society. We copy the eighth chapter:—

THE REVIVAL—A GOOD TEACHER—THE PINE TREE.

The reader will be pleased to learn at length of a more decided and lasting improvement in Waterville. From the death of Mrs. Hamilton, religion became, more than ever it had before, a subject of thought and conversation in the place. Mr. Hamilton decidedly relinquished the evil habits in which he had indulged in common with his neighbors, and began to pray in his family. As one and another spoke of religion, it was found that there were some individuals who expressed themselves in a way strange to themselves and to others. They discovered all at once that religious language described their feelings, present and past; and were led to think that they surely must have met with a change. This was before the days of peculiar measures in promoting religion, and applying the tests of conversion. This state of feeling continued during the winter and spring after Mrs. Hamilton's death. Three or four persons during that time offered themselves to the church to which she had belonged. In the course of the summer the religious excitement increased.

At this time an eminent servant of God was directed to the place. He came on a

week-day, held two or three meetings in the evenings, and appointed a meeting for the Sabbath. The state of religious feeling was so general and interesting, as to retain this minister there many months. Mr. Hunter made another visit to the place, and was ardently engaged in labors for the spiritual good of his former acquaintances. The organization of a church was proposed, and about twenty or thirty persons were duly set apart as the "light of the world" in that place, long proverbial for its moral darkness.

At first the attention to religion was confined to the older part of the community; but in course of the next winter it embraced the youth and children. I come now to a most interesting point in the narrative of the three boys. Ever since I learned the facts I shall proceed to relate, I have been impressed that they clearly mark the crisis in their lives at which their characters were decided for time and for eternity. This opinion may be wrong, but their history since, and twenty years have now elapsed, has not shown it wrong.

Through Mr. Hunter's interest in the welfare of the people in Waterville, as well as through his desire to see George improve, an excellent and pious teacher was secured in the village school for that winter. Mr. Seymour, for that was his name, entered cordially into the revival. In the want of a minister, he was an excellent substitute, going in his place as a teacher from house to house, staying,