

possession of a small independent property, it is easy for him to acquire a great fortune ; just so with countries ;—possess them of a few inhabitants, and let those be unmolested by Indians and enemies, the land will soon swarm with inhabitants. But when a feeble band only are gathered together, and obliged to contend with pestilence, famine and the sword, their melancholy numbers will decrease and waste away. The situation of our ancestors has often been described in language that did honor to the hearts that conceived it. The boisterous ocean, with unknown shores hemmed them in on one side, and a forest, swarming with savages, yelling for their blood, threatened on the other. But the same undaunted spirit which has defended them in so many perils, buoyed them above despair in their early struggles for safety and liberty. I shall be pardoned for the digression when I observe, that I have in all my travels felt a degree of pride in recollecting, that I belonged to a country whose valor was distinguished, and whose spirit had never been debased by servile submission.

At the age of fourteen, in 1744, I made a visit from Leominster to Charlestown, to visit my parents. Thro' a long wilderness from Lunenburg to Lower Ashuelot, now Swanzy, we travelled two days ; a solitary house was all the mark of cultivation that occurred on the

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