

"to feed the hungry, and clothe the naked." My loving and aged step-mother, with one of her sons (a half brother of mine) now lives on the same farm.

In the winter of 1785—I was married to Hannah Shurtliff, of Tolland, Connecticut, and settled at Randolph, not far from my father's house, where I resided eight years, when I purchased a farm; and removed to Brookfield, a town adjoining.

Here I have resided, until the present time (1816,) and obtained my own subsistence, and that of my numerous family, by means of cultivating the soil. By a steady course of industry, and economy, I have been enabled, under the Divine blessing, to acquire a comfortable support, and enjoy the fruits of my labors, in quietude and peace. As my occupation was that of a farmer, my opportunities for information, like those of many others of my class, have been limited.

My family, not unlike Job's, consists of seven sons and three daughters; nor have I reason to think my afflictions much inferior to his. Although death has never been permitted to enter my dwelling and take any of my family, yet, my substance has once been destroyed, by worse than Chaldean hands, and that too at the very out-set of my adventures in life. Not only were my house and effects destroyed, but myself, at a most unpropitious hour, when far removed from all my friends, compelled to