

the lumber was shipped to Whitehall, Troy, Albany and other places to the south which were accessible by way of the Hudson river.

Receiving such poor returns for their labor seemed to beget a mania for the destruction of the forests so that the land might be reduced to a state of cultivation and a better compensation be obtained for their labor.

Few men can appreciate and fewer still will ever know with what toil and hardships this task was accomplished.

Destroying Valuable Timber Lands.

During the driest portion of the year fires were started in the choppings of the previous winter and they were encouraged to extend into and devour the uncut forest and consume what to-day would be most valuable timber. These extensive fires raged in all directions, filling the air with clouds of smoke by day and their seething flames lighting up and making lurid, fantastic, and thrilling pictures by night as they seized upon and devoured their prey as a roaring wild beast might seize upon and devour an innocent victim.

Stretching away from west to east along the northern boundaries of New York, Vermont and New Hampshire to the state of Maine for a southern boundary, and with the St. Lawrence river for a northern boundary, nothing now remains in the included territory of the extensive forests of valuable timber that then covered the land as with a protecting mantle.

It is now a bootless task to ask if a clearer insight and forecast would not have prompted the exercise of a wiser discretion and spared at least a portion of the wealth of the forests so wantonly destroyed to meet the wants of a later time.

In many places the hard wood ashes were gathered up by the more enterprising, the lye extracted by very crude appliances and boiled into potash in great iron kettles and an honest dollar well earned thereby. In other places and especially along the highway leading from the village of Bedford to Missisquoi Bay many lime kilns were built and large quantities of lime was burned and sold to the settlers in other parts where no