

him, when, about 1803, he got the Ohio fever. He sold his farm at a great sacrifice; but before he collected the money for it, he met a gentleman who had just returned from Ohio, who stated that though lands were cheap, and they could raise large crops of grain and flocks of cattle with little labor, yet many of the settlers were obliged to go twenty or thirty miles to mill, and there was no market for their fine cattle and rich harvests, and that a farmer with a comfortable home was better off in the cold and unproductive region of Northern New York, than in the fertile plains of Ohio without a market. These considerations dissuaded my father from removing to Ohio, and in March, 1805, he settled in Champlain, Clinton county, N. Y., where he purchased a farm, with a log dwelling and forty acres of improvement.

Living thus on the frontiers, and removing from place to place, my educational advantages were very limited. But after moving to Champlain, the nearest school was at the village of Chazy, two and a half miles distant, whither I went pretty regularly for two or three winters. In that day and in a new country, to be able to read, write, and cypher as far as the Rule of Three, was considered sufficient qualifications to teach a common school. I was ambitious to obtain a good education, and relaxed no efforts to be punctual in my attendance, although the distance was great, and traveling through the deep snow was often very laborious. I read with avidity every book that chance threw in my way, or which I could obtain by borrowing in the neighborhood.

In the summer of 1808, I boarded at Champlain Village, and attended the school taught by the late Dr. William Beaumont, who was then a student of medicine. Under his tuition I greatly improved myself in grammar, geography, &c., but at that early day I never saw a school atlas. Opportunities for attending better schools increased and I continued alternately on the farm and at school until I was between sixteen and seventeen years of age, when I engaged in the study of law. I, however, concluded, that from deficient early education and my native diffidence, I