

scenes and of change in fortune, more or inter-
 course with celebrated men and women, than falls
 to the lot of hundreds of those whom the world re-
 gards as occupying lofty and romantic places."

THE VALLEY OF THE BLACKSTONE.

Something more than a year since, the publica-
 tion of a series of articles under the above caption
 was commenced in this paper, the object being to
 give an account of the business and statistics, past
 and present, in the valley of the river, together with
 such items of local history as would be of value to
 the general reader. Unforeseen events prevented
 their continuance at that time, and the attempt is
 now renewed, with the assurance of their appearance
 at such intervals as will retain the interest of those
 who have a taste for information of this character.

Three articles were written and published in re-
 lation to the cotton, iron and banking business of
 the village of Pawtucket. More, however, remains
 to be noticed here as well as in the town of Paw-
 tucket on the Massachusetts side of the river, but
 this will be reserved until the last number of the
 whole series.

CENTRAL FALLS.

Ninety years ago, this place, one mile north of
 Pawtucket and five from Providence, was unknown
 as a distinct locality. It was at this period of time
 that Stephen Jenks and two of his sons, Moses and
 Eleazer, built the first dam here for manufacturing
 purposes. They also erected a small mill for the
 making of snuff, and this article was sold in the sur-
 rounding settlements, while considerable quantities
 were ground for people living in Newport and other
 places on the island. This business was carried on
 for three or four years, when the dam, a rude struc-
 ture, was washed away by a heavy flood. Twenty
 years later, or seventy years ago, Charles Keane
 came to the place, rebuilt the dam, put up a build-
 ing for the making of scythes, and this enterprise
 was prosecuted with varied success for twenty
 years.

More than fifty years ago, Col. Levi Hall was en-
 gaged in the manufacture of "wash leather," which
 was then in great demand and exceedingly profit-
 able. At one time he had a large quantity of skins
 stolen from him, while in the process of finishing,
 in value near \$2000. The people of the surround-
 ing region were filled with consternation at so bold
 an operation, and handbills, giving publicity to the
 theft, were sent to Boston and other eastern places.
 A long time afterwards, the skins were found buried
 in the woods a short distance from the village, but
 in a ruined condition. This was before the "era"
 of stupendous frauds and forgeries, and doubtless
 the occurrence furnished material for many a "nur-
 sery tale."

Some sixty-five years ago, as near as can be as-
 certained, the building known as the "Chocolate
 Mill," was erected by Col. Hall. It was from sixty
 to seventy feet in length by about thirty in width.
 Here chocolate was made from the cocoanut, but to
 what extent and for what precise length of time
 this branch of domestic industry was carried on is
 not now known. It was before the days of protective
 tariffs, and the makers must have enjoyed a monop-
 oly of the business. The cotton interest was strug-
 gling in its embryo state at Pawtucket, under the
 direction of Mr. Slater, and doubtless the surplus
 water of the Blackstone was readily directed to the
 promotion of any enterprise that promised the means
 of living and a small profit to the early settlers.
 Mr. Hayden, in his excellent "Dictionary of Dates,"
 says that "chocolate was first introduced into Eu-
 rope from Mexico in 1520. It is the flour of the
 cocoanut, makes a wholesome beverage, and is
 much used in Spain. It was sold in the London
 coffee houses soon after their establishment in 1650."

In 1806 the chocolate mill was filled with cotton
 machinery, and a company formed for the manu-
 facture of goods, consisting of Messrs. Rufus Wa-
 terman, of Providence, Benjamin S. Walcott, (fa-
 ther of Edward, of this city,) Elisha Waterman, of
 Cumberland, and Stephen Jenks, under the name
 and style of the "Smithfield Manufacturing Com-
 pany." This business was prosecuted until 1821
 or 1822, when the water privileges were divided
 into six parts, subsequently sub-divided and sold
 out to different individuals. From this time the
 village has been known as "Central Falls." Pre-
 viously it was called the "Chocolate Mill" or "Cho-
 colate Mill Settlement." The old mill, which was
 seriously injured by the great flood of February,
 1807, stood for some years after its abandonment
 in 1822, and from its dilapidated condition was
 known as the "Quail's Trap." Twenty years ago,
 it had entirely disappeared.

From 1798 to 1802, Stephen Jenks and Dr. Ho-
 sea Humphrey were engaged as partners in the
 business of making muskets for the government.—
 Their contract was for 3000, at \$13 40 each; but
 they lost money at this rate, and were afterwards
 indemnified by order of Congress. This was re-
 garded as an enterprise of great magnitude, but,
 doubtless, the early records of many other locali-
 ties would disclose similar cotemporary under-
 takings. This, too, was at the period when war
 with France was "nearly inevitable," and private
 companies and individuals filled the orders of the
 government. The armory at Harper's Ferry was
 established at this time, and there existed arsenals
 only at Springfield and Carlisle. When Silas
 Dean, the first agent for the colonies, was sent to
 Europe, in 1776, his secret instructions, drawn by
 Dr. Franklin, required him to obtain information
 upon any subject that would be of value to the
 Continental Congress. On the 18th of August he
 writes as follows:

"I spent at Angouleme a day in viewing what,
 as to manufactories alone, deserves great attention
 on the journey, the foundry for cannon, where the
 greatest part of those used in the kingdom are
 manufactured; the cannon are cast solid, after
 which they are put in a turner's lathe, and bored
 out, and the outside smoothed and turned at plea-
 sure. They can bore and complete a twelve-pounder
 in one day in each lathe, which takes four men only
 to work; the workmen freely showed me every
 part of their furnace and foundry."

This description would now be considered as ex-
 ceedingly puerile, but seventy-eight years ago it was
 written to such men as Franklin, Ben Harrison,
 John Dickerson, Morris and Jay by the pioneer in
 our revolutionary diplomacy.

This business was again carried on at Central
 Falls, by Stephen Jenks and his three sons, from
 1809 to 1812-3. Their contract with the govern-
 ment was for 6000 muskets. This was the last of
 gun making here, and there is not now a single
 vestige of any of the branches of industry men-
 tioned above, except the cotton, to be found in the
 vicinity.

Dr. Humphrey was a physician of the old school,
 lived in the village of Pawtucket, where he kept a
 store or office for the sale of drugs and prescrip-
 tions; and while there he built the house now oc-
 cupied by John H. Weeden, Esq. His politics
 made him unpopular, for he was a republican of
 the era of 1800. The Federalists, who were men
 of mark and ability, "spotted him," and he re-
 moved from Pawtucket in 1805.

THE BOSTON DAILY ADVERTISER.—This vet-
 eran paper appears in new type, and with a new ar-
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 ers very well but which we, who so often wish to

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