AN IMPORTANT INDUSTRY

LIKELY TO BE LOCATED AT THE GREAT FALLS AT MILTON.

Favorable Action at Tuesday's Town Meeting the Only Thing Now Lacking —With That Obtained Pulp and Paper Mills Will be Erected.

Milton, April 5.—If the people of Milton at their town meeting to be held next Tuesday, vote to grade a roadbed ready for the laying of railroad rails and ties from the Central Vermont tracks to the Great Falls, a distance of not more than a mile, then the last step necessary for the ushering in of that era of activity and prosperity, for which the citizens have so long been hoping, would seem to have been taken.

Nature has been lavish in her gifts to this locality. The Lamoille river which flows through the town, dividing it into nearly equal parts, has within a distance of four miles no fewer than six water falls. To the lover of the beautiful this affords scenery which in grandeur and picturesqueness is rarely surpassed, and which is fully equal to many more famous places which tourists travel long distances to see. The visitor of a more practical turn of mind sees a tremendous energy, which is not utilized, and which is fully capable of turning an almost unlimited number of "the wheels of industry." Within a distance of four miles are the Upper Falls, the Great Falls, the Miner Falls, the Holgate Falls, the Manley Falls, and the Lower, or Woods Falls. In this distance is probably a fall of from 250 to 300 feet. The most noted of these is the Great Falls which gives a direct fall of 90 feet. Child's Chittenden County Directory is authority for the statement that here in a distance of 50 rods, the river falls 150 feet. It is doubtful if there is a finer water power in the State, and it is no exaggeration to say that it ranks easily as one of the finest in all New England. Fairfax Falls, farther up on this same stream, is one of the most valuable water powers in Vermont, but between that point and Milton the Lamoille receives as a tributary the Brown river, thus adding a considerable volume of water. The Lamoille has this marked advantage over many rivers the Connecticut included, that it is fed to a considerable extent by springs, and therefore is not so seriously affected by the summer droughts. This river is said to suffer less from this cause than any other stream in Vermont.

Although these splendid water privileges have never been utilized to any great extent, yet there have been times when there have been more industries in Milton than there are to-day. Joseph Clark, who was later associated with ex-Gov. John Gregory Smith in the management of the Central Vermont railroad, at one time owned all this water power with the exception of one side of the river above the Great Falls. A representative of the Free Press in conversation with Mr. Nelson M. Nay, a long time resident, obtained many interesting historical facts. Many years ago the Lower Falls were owned by William Woods and, later, came to be known as Woods Falls. Here were located three saw mills, operated respectively by Joseph Clark, Hiram Clark and John Jackson, also a grist mill. After a time the grist mill was transformed into a small mill for the carding of wool and the dressing of cloth, and was operated by John Wyatt. Later, the mill again changed hands and here B. C. Webster and Josiah Tuttle, with what was known as one set of machinery manufactured woollen cloth on a small scale. Mr. Webster left in the winter of 1839-1840 and the property passed into the possession of the estate of Hiram Clark and was operated by a Mr. Whitney, a nephew of Clark's. After a time Mr. Whitney removed his industry further up the stream to the Miner Falls, as Joseph Clark had moved his saw mill to this place some time before. A saw mill was also located at the Holgate Falls at one time. There were, many years ago, on the west side of the river, at the Miner Falls, an iron forge and a small woollen mill; and on the east side, a saw mill, a grist mill and a plaster mill. After Joseph Clark had removed still farther up the stream, and had, in 1845, erected at the Upper Falls, now Milton village his saw mill and grist mill, Mr. Whitney, as has been stated, established his woollen business at the Miner Falls. The mill was a small one, with one set of machinery, and employed about 12 hands. This was operated two or three years.

It is related that in 1830 a grist mill and a trip hammer shop, at the Upper Falls, were swept away by the great freshet of that year.

The paper industry is not a new one at Milton, although it was never manufactured on a large scale. A paper mill, owned by the firm of Hunting & Wellington, a little distance below the point where the iron bridge now crosses the river, manufactured writing paper, wrapping paper and the grade used for newspaper purposes. This mill was burned about 1830, but was immediately re-built and was operated by Wellington until he failed in business, when it was purchased and operated by Chauncey Goodrich, a Burlington printer. Later Lyman Burgess and Daniel P. Squires purchased the property and operated it until the night after certain repairs had been completed, it was again burned. The daily product of this mill had been from a half of a ton to a ton of wrapping paper, blue tobacco paper, and wall paper. On the west side of the river, just to the left of the bridge, and a little above the site of the paper mills, a small woollen mill was erected by Ward & Woodruff in 1841. At the right of the bridge a cabinet and wheelwright shop was erected many years ago by Deacon Jairus Mears and Nathan Burnell. This was sold to Isaac Blake, who rented it to Alphonso Kilburn for a small woollen mill. After Kilburn left, it was operated by Z. A. Pearl until his death, about 1851. Then, for a time, it was operated by Mr. Whitney, who also operated the Ward & Woodruff mill. This building was later used for a sash, door and blind factory and was finally torn down, as it had become unsafe and it was feared that in high water it might be carried off and endanger the bridge. Of the various mills mentioned the only ones now operated, or, in fact, standing, are the saw mill and grist mill, erected by Joseph Clark in 1845. The grist mill is now leased by H. E. Powell and the saw mill by W. F. Parmelee, a part of which building is used by him as an excelsior mill.

The water power at the Great Falls was purchased by A. H. Ritchie, a New York engraver, Oct. 6, 1885. The following spring active operations were commenced, continuing through the seasons of 1886 and 1887, some work being done in 1888. A new channel, several rods in length, about 30 feet wide and, perhaps, 25 feet deep, was blasted. One of the strongest dams that could be built was constructed, the width being 100 feet, or at high water, 125 feet. A large number of men were employed, and it is said some $40,000 was expended. Here Mr. Ritchie proposed to erect pulp mills but for some unexplained reason he never built. Various firms talked of purchasing the property, but nothing came of it. Mr. Shepley of Newport proposed, about three years ago, to erect mills; and the town in January, 1892, voted to grade a roadbed to the Falls, but Mr. Shepley finally abandoned the project.

The matter has now been taken up in earnest by Mr. E. W. Richardson of Plattsburgh, N. Y., managing partner of the New York and Pennsylvania Pulp and Paper company, a civil engineer of wide experience, and the Ritchie property purchased.

This company is the largest concern of the kind in America, operating many mills, including those at Fort Edward and Glens Falls, N. Y., and one in the natural gas region of Pennsylvania. This company furnishes the paper for the New York World and the New York Herald. The citizens of Milton are fully alive to their opportunity. At the annual town meeting, the western side of the Great Falls was deeded to the company on condition that they use the power for manufacturing purposes. The company also desired to control the Miner Falls, below the Great Falls, so that in case any difficulty should occur from low water, electricity could be generated here and used as a motive power. One side of this falls was owned by the town, and the other has been purchased of J. P. Clark for $800, the money being subscribed by the citizens of the village of Milton, thus ensuring the company against any possible contingency.

The only condition now remaining is that the town grade a roadbed from the lower switch of the Central Vermont track at Milton to the Great Falls, a distance of one mile, if the line surveyed is followed. It is thought a cut of about one-third of a mile will be necessary, which, at its deepest will be approximately, 15 feet. This matter is to be voted on at Tuesday's special town meeting. If the town accepts these conditions, the Central Vermont railroad will lay the rails and ties. At the end of this track an elevator will be erected for raising and lowering freight from the mills.

If the conditions of the company are accepted a pulp mill and a paper mill, the latter a duplicate of the Fort Edward mill, will be erected. The dimensions of the former will be 50 or 55 by 250 feet; those of the latter, 150 by 250 feet. The proposed pulp mill will employ 50 men and the paper mill 200 men. It is said that the output will be 50 tons of paper daily. The pulp will be manufactured from spruce logs, some of the pulp being brought from other mills. Considerable time is necessary for obtaining machinery for the manufacture of paper, probably a year after the orders are given.

It is hardly necessary to say that this means much for Milton in every way. The location on the direct line of the railroad from Montreal to Boston and New York is favorable for industrial development. If this project is carried out, and Milton becomes, what nature evidently intended her to be, a manufacturing town, not only the residents of the village, but the farmers of that vicinity will be benefited. A market will be furnished for the produce of orchards and gardens and the value of farms will be enhanced, as they always are in the vicinity of manufacturing towns and cities. But there are still greater possibilities if a start is once made. Other parties have already considered the development of the water powers farther down the river. If water is used over and over again as it is from canals at Lowell, Lawrence and other places, why are not the advantages quite as great here with a natural fall? Neither is it by any means impossible to dredge the mouth of the Lamoille, as the government so often does under its system of river and harbor improvement, and provide water transportation through Lake Champlain, the Champlain canal and the Hudson river, directly to New York. All these ideas are by no means idle dreams or castles in the air, but matters which are entirely possible. Milton is certainly to be congratulated upon her natural possessions, her bright prospects and for her almost unlimited possibilities of future industrial development.

THE APRIL SKIES.

Mhe Astronomical Events of the Month Portions of the Planets Fair Luna.

All of the first-magnitude stars visible in March will be in the field of view at the beginning of April, but, will be farther to the westward. Capella, of the constellation of the Charioteer, may be seen in the northwest after sunset; Aldebaran, of the Bull, in the west; Betelgeuze and Rigel, of Orion, in the southwest; Sirius, of the Greater Dog, farther to the southwest than the two latter; Procyon, of the Lesser Dog also in the southwest, and higher above the horizon than Sirius; Castor and Pollux, of the Twins, high in the west; Regulus, of the Lion, close to Saturn, a little south of the zenith; Spica, of the Virgin, in the southwest; Arcturus, of the Cowherd, in the east, and Vega, the most conspicuous luminary of the star group of the Lyre, in the northwest. Spica, Arcturus, and Vega are coming into a more favorable position for observation, while Aldebaran, Betelgeuze, Rigel and Sirius will vanish from the evening sky of April and not appear until the closing weeks of the autumn.

The last quarter of the March moon occurs on the 4th, there is new moon on the 12th, first quarter on the 20th and full moon on the 28th. The conjunctions between moon and planets begin on the 8th, when Mars and Luna give us a very pretty picture in the early morning hours, which unfortunate time will probably prevent many of us from seeing it. Three days later Venus and the moon have a meeting, followed by Mercury and the almost faded crescent of the moon, being at their closest for the month. On the 17th Neptune has the same right ascension with the moon, but the more than the sixty degrees of declination between the two effectually prevents our having a pretty tableau. On the 20th Jupiter and the quartering moon are within two degrees of one another, while on the 28th Saturn and Uranus follow in the order named, and bring the series to a close.

Mercury is in superior conjunction with the sun on the 17th at midnight, and passing, to the eastward becomes an evening star, in which category it will remain until early in June, when it is in inferior conjunction, and once more joins the morning group. The planet is now so close to the sun that we cannot see its disk, and, in fact, it is only when it is at its farthest end of its swing about the sun that we are permitted to see it.

To Jupiter belongs the place of most interest to us, as on the 19th the king of planets reaches the quarter post on his course about the heavens. He will continue his journey toward the sun, getting less and less distinct, until Aug. 12, when he is in conjunction with the sun, and changes from an evening to a morning star, in which gathering he will be found for the remaining months of the year. Jupiter, as we have frequently said, is the greatest of the planets—in fact, he is greater than all the other planets rolled into one. The relative insignificance of the earth when compared with Jupiter is well illustrated by the fact that if we took 1200 globes each as big as our earth, and made them into a single globe, it would only be as large as the greatest of the planets. As we look at Jupiter through a glass, we see a number of bands about his disk, which are occasionally more marked than at other times; in fact, sometimes they can hardly be seen at all. These markings of the great planet, at first somewhat puzzling, are merely masses of cloud, which surround and obscure whatever may constitute his interior.

Mars remains a morning star, and is up some three hours ahead of the sun, and is gradually widening the distance. This eccentric planet is much nearer us sometimes than at others, and we shall have to wait until 1909 before we can again have it as near as it was in 1892, when it was only 35,000,000 miles away. It is our next door neighbor in relation to distance from the sun, and has been found by astronomers to be by far the most interesting planet in our solar system to study. Mars is much smaller than the earth, its diameter being 4363 miles, and it is much lighter than the earth. The planet makes a revolution around the sun once in 687 of our days, that being the length of the Mars year. It turns on its axis in 24 hours 37 minutes. The atmospheric conditions on Mars, so far as scientists have been able to study them, are such as to lead to the belief that the planet is inhabited, and some extremists go so far as to declare that the people are highly civilized.

Venus keeps moving toward the sun, and has now reached a point within an hour and a half of him. This distance will be reduced to zero early in July, when the planet will be in superior conjunction, and after that it will be an evening star the remainder of the year. The planet's diameter is now slowly increasing in size, but in December we shall find it half as large again as it is at present, when it will shine as a beautiful object in the crisp, clear air.

Neptune is one of the evening stars, and is slowly lessening the distance separating him from his point of conjunction with the sun. It takes the planet until December to traverse the space between conjunction and oppostion, at which latter time he will be most favorably situated for observation. But it is only those who are fortunate enough to have a look through a telescope who can distinguish the planet from his surroundings.

Uranus begins the monthly record of conjunctions with the moon and distinguishes himself by again playing the same role at the close of the month, neither meeting being sufficiently close to prove particularly attractive. The planet is still to be found in the constellation of the Bull, but not very near any of the brightest stars of that group.

Saturn is now within a month of his position of opposition with the sun, where he will arrive early in May. The telescope lenses are being polished brighter than ever now so that a real good look can be had at this beautiful planet, which rises as the sun sets and remains in full view throughout the night. This will be our best chance for the year to see the wonderful ringed planet, as he is at his largest at that time and his soft mellow light is most attractive.—New York Times.

THE CAPTURE OF JEFFERSON DAVIS

W. P. Stedman, the Man Who Actually Captured Davis, Lives in Washington.

William P. Stedman, the man who actually captured Jefferson Davis when the president of the late confederacy was trying to escape, is now a messenger in the agricultural department, where he was appointed by Secretary Morton two or three years ago, says the Washington correspondent of the Chicago Record. Mr. Stedman is a resident of Owosso, Mich., and has been engaged in farming since the war. He is an unpretentious man, but talks and writes well, and his recollection of the historical events in which he was the second actor of importance is very clear.

The story he tells is, that, while at Abbeville, Ga., on May 9, 1865, Col. Pritchard of the 4th Michigan cavalry met Col. Harnden of the 1st Wisconsin, who informed them that Jefferson Davis and some other refuges from Richmond had crossed the river the night before; that he had been following them for two days, and claimed the right of way. Col. Pritchard acceded, and offered to lend a part of his regiment, which Col. Harnden declined, and proceeded south on the trail of Mr. Davis. Pritchard afterward learned that there was another road in the same direction, and, taking 120 of his best mounted men, started to follow it. That night they accidently ran upon the camp of Mr. Davis' party, which they surrounded and waited for daylight.

"As I sat by in the morning," said Mr. Stedman, "some of our men went to the tent-door, but were met by a woman who asked them to keep out, as there were undressed ladies within. Soon after she inquired if we wo uld let her servants go after some water. Consent was given, when out came a tall person with a lady's water-proof overdress on and a small brown shawl over her head, a tin pail on the right arm and a colored woman leaning on the left arm. The tall person was stooping over as if to appear shorter. I concluded it must be Davis in disguise, and as the guard did not halt them I rode around, recognized Davis and told him his disguise would not succeed. A man by the name of Andrew Bee, a Swede, who was cook for Col. Pritchard, came up on the run, grabbed both hands into the front the dress that Davis had on, jerked it open and said to him, 'come out of this, you old devil!'"

"Davis, at this attack, straightened up and showed anger. At the same time he put his hand to his back under his dress. I thought he was after a revolver and covered him with my carbine. But Mrs. Davis threw herself in front of the gun and cried out that her husband was not armed. Davis then took off his dress and shawl, threw them on the ground and started back to his tent. The clothing is now in the war department.

"When Col. Pritchard came up shortly after Davis was sitting on a log across the road from his tent, calm and cool. Col. Pritchard asked him what his name was. He answered:

"You may call me what you please."

"Col. Pritchard placed the prisoner in my charge, and as we sat by the fire a soldier by the name of Lynch came up leading a fine bay horse and said: 'Jeffie, here is your horse; you won't need him any more; won't you give him to me'?

Davis did not answer. But Col. Lubbock, one of his attendants, became very angry and declared that he 'would not see his president insulted.' Lynch responded with an oath: 'What is he president of?' Lynch and one of his officers afterward quarreled about this horse and on Saturday morning shot him. Lynch is the same man who got Mrs. Davis' valise containing her valuables, said to amount to several thousand dollars. He hid it near Macon and went there and got it after he was discharged from the army.

"There was no violent language used in my hearing except by Andrew Bee, when he tore open the waterproof on Mr. Davis.

THE MODERN STORE.

Cleveland Plain-Dealer.

Obliging Clerk.—"Ten yards of brocaded satin—there you are, ma'am! En'g else——"

Customer—"Er—yes; a kit of mackerel——"

"Yes'm Send 'em home?"

"I see you have some very fine laces, I see——"

"The rarest, ma'am. A few yards off this piece?"

"Well, yes; send eight yards and a load of coal——"

"Exactly. And the ribbons?"

"Send twenty yards of the pink and a bale of hay——"

"Um-huh! Now, as to the wrap. Here's a beauty for——"

"That will do. Send it with a bushel of turnips and a barrel of lime——"

"So. And the silk muffler—want it—think?"

"Oh—I—yes. You might send it with a thousand lap shingles, a peck of onions, a pair of tongs, a bolt of tidy cotton and a load of tanbark."

TO MARRY A GODDESS.

Her Profile Appears on Every One of Uncle Sam's Big Silver Dollars.

The announcement that the Goddess of Liberty is about to be married has aroused new interest in the woman whose face is known to more people than that of any other woman of the American continent, says the New York Mail and Express. Every man, woman or child who has a silver dollar carries the handsome profile of the Philadelphia school teacher, Miss Anna W. Williams. Her classic features have been stamped upon millions of the silver disks.

It is 20 years since the pretty blonde girl became world-famous. It was then stated that Miss Williams' profile was the original of the Goddess of Liberty on that much abused, much admired and equally much disliked Bland silver dollar. The friends of the young woman placed every obstacle in the way of possible identification, but failed in their object. The story of how Miss Williams came to be the Goddess of Liberty may be retold, now that it is said she is soon to become a bride.

In the early part of 1876 the treasury department secured, through communication with the royal mint of England, the services of a clever young designer and engraver named George Morgan. Upon his arrival in this country Mr. Morgan was installed in the Philadelphia mint and was assigned the task of making a design for a new silver dollar. After many months of labor the young engraver completed the design for the reverse side of the coin, upon which he represented the American eagle. His attention was then turned to the other side, and his fanciful head representing the Goddess of Liberty. But the ambitious designer was too much of a realist to be satisfied with a mere product of fancy. Finally he determined the head should be the representation of some American girl, and forthwith diligently searched for his beautiful maid.

It was a long search, although pleasant. He told his friends of his desires, and one of them spoke of the really classic beauty of Miss Anna Williams. The English designer was introduced to the girl. Mr. Morgan was at once impressed by her beautiful face and studied it carefully. Then he told her what he desired, and she promptly refused to permit herself to be the subject of the design. Her friends, however, induced her to pose before an artist. After five sittings the design was completed.

Mr. Morgan was so enthusiastic that he declared Miss Williams' profile was the most neatly perfect he had seen in England or America. His design for the Bland dollar was accepted by Congress, and so the silver coins have been pouring from the mints all these years adorned with the stately face of a Quaker City maiden.

Miss Williams is a decidedly modest young woman. She resides on Spring Garden street, not far from the school in which for years she has been employed as an instructor in philosophy and methods in the kindergarten department. She is slightly below the average height, is rather plump, and is fair. She carries her figure with a stateliness rarely seen and the pose of the head is exactly as seen on the silver dollar. The features of Miss Williams are reproduced as faithfully as in a good photograph.

LARGEST LIST OF FAILURES

EVER REPORTED FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF THE YEAR.

The Formation of the Steel Trust Causes a Sharp Advance in Prices—Unfavorable Features the Most Prominent in Business.

New York, April 3.—Bradstreet's to-morrow will say:

Stormy weather at the Northwest, continued restriction of distribution of staple merchandise and unsatisfactory mercantile collections continue to be the leading characteristics of general trade. The conspicuous change is in the steel and iron markets. The formation of a pool of manufacturers of steel to regulate production and maintain prices results in the advance of $3 per ton in quotations for steel billets and $1.25 per ton for bessemer pig iron. A corresponding stimulus is given quotations for other forms of iron and steel. Whereas, leading metal markets were dull and depressed a week ago, activity is now reported with a prospect for further advances. This must naturally tend to stimulate kindred industries. The movement in the steel and iron markets during the next few weeks will attract an unusual share of attention.

The first quarter of 1896 presents the largest list of actual commercial and industrial failures in business in the United States, those in which liabilities exceed assets, ever reported for a like period. The total (including financial institutions) is 4512, or 709 more than in a like portion of 1895, 543 more than in 1894, and 1443 more than in the first quarter of 1893, increases of 18.11 and of 47 per cent respectively. The largest preceding like total, 4050, was reported in 1885. Liabilities of those failing this year amount to $62,513,000, an increase of 30 per cent as compared with a year ago, 27 per cent as compared with the first quarter of 1894, and 60 per cent as contrasted with three years ago.

March bank clearings are in contrast to those of February, when the total was 20 per cent. larger than the corresponding total one year ago. The March aggregate is $4,108,000,000, only 1 per cent. more than the total for February and an increase over the March total a year ago of only 2.2 per cent.

Exports of wheat (flour included as wheat) from both coasts of the United States this week aggregate 1,693,000 bushels against 1,744,000, 2,233,000 in the week a year ago, 2,778,000 bushels in the week two years ago 9,365,000 bushels in the like week in 1893.

THE LEADING FARCE COMEDY.

Friend—Did your farce comedy succeed on the road?

Manager—Everwhere except Washington. When we played there the Senate was in session.—Truth.

OUR GREAT PATTERN OFFER!

Cut Paper Patterns for Readers of the FREE PRESS.

We have made arrangements by which we are offering to the readers of the FREE PRESS the Demorest Cut Paper Patterns, which are worth from 20 cents to 50 cents each, thus making every copy of this paper worth from 20 cents to 50 cents. Cut out the coupon below and mail according to directions on it, and you will receive by return mail the pattern in the size chosen.

Enclose five 2-cent stamps to pay for mailing, handling, etc. Without the coupon the pattern would cost you 25 cents.

Save this Illustration and description to compare with the pattern when you receive it.

THE FAVORITE JACKET

935—MEREDITH JACKET.

Sizes for 34, 36, 38, and 40 Inches Bust Measure.

Smooth-faced Meltons and Kerseys in coaching drab, and a great variety of both rough and smooth cloths in black and dark green or blue are used for these convenient jackets. The back is fitted with the usual seams, and the skirt flares in full ripples, but fits easily, without superfluous fullness, over the hips. The seams may be spread and stitched flat or strapped, and the seams of the Mandolin sleeve are finished to match those of the coat. Large pearl buttons fasten the front of the garment, and the edges are simply finished with rows of stitching.

A special illustration and full directions about the pattern will be found on the envelope in which it is enclosed.

Free Press Coupon Pattern Order,

Entitling the holder to one Demorest Pattern.

Fill in below, the number and size of the pattern you desire, and mail this coupon to FREE PRESS Association with ten cents to pay for mailing, handling, etc. *Be sure to give your name and full address, and choose one of the sizes that is printed with each design.*

Number of Pattern _____ ADDRESS:

NAME _____

Size Desired. _____ STREET _____

TOWN _____ STATE _____

This Coupon is good for any Demorest Pattern that has been or may be published in the FREE PRESS, if sent with the requisite ten cents to pay for mailing expenses.

No pattern need be expected before 10 or 15 days after the order is given as we have to send for them.