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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF JOEL MUNSELL.

"TO BEGIN with time out of mind, the autobiographer's first period, 'I was born' on Monday, April 13, 1808. . . . To prevent all future dispute, and that the place of my birth may not be made the subject of contention, I deem it necessary to mention that this little village [Northfield, Mass.] is entitled to all the honor of that event. The fate of Homer should forewarn all geniuses to leave the place of their nativity on record."

Thus playfully wrote the famous printer of Albany in a diary begun at the age of twenty, when he had charge of a bookstore in that city. Like so many thousands of worthy citizens in the villages of New England, his father was in humble circumstances, and as the boys grew to manhood they were compelled to colonize and begin the battle of life for themselves. The residence of his grandfather was near Hartford, Conn., whence his father removed soon after his marriage with Cynthia Paine, in 1807, to Northfield, Mass. Here the subject of our sketch spent his boyhood days, and as the parental discipline was somewhat lax, with one boon companion he roamed the fields as he listed. What New England town with its woods and brooks and hills does not furnish an endless museum of wonder and delight to a curious and enterprising lad? If his studies suffered in the mean time, he was strengthening the body for the toilsome life that lay before him.

In his twelfth year his bosom friend was removed to other and sterner occupation, and in the solitude thus forced upon him he began to reflect. The necessity of learning dawned on his mind, and for nearly three years no more faithful and assiduous student was found in the school of Northfield than young Munsell. At the