CHAPTER VIII.

THE PAIL FACTORY.

The building of the pail factory was commenced in March, 1857, by Henry C. Hamilton & Co.; the company being Aldrich, Smith & Co., Henry C. Hamilton of Two Rivers and William H. Metcalf, a brother-in-law of Hamilton, of Lockport, N. Y.

The firm of Aldrich, Smith & Co. consisted of William Aldrich, H. H. Smith, generally called "Deacon Smith," and a Mr. Medbury of Milwaukee, Wis. The architect of the pail factory was Homer Glass a millwright of ability, who superintended the erection of the building, which was 40 x 120 feet two stories and an attic, with an addition on south side for saw mill of 14 x 26 feet, he installing two boilers, an engine, shafting and pulleys, a muley saw, a cut-off saw, and two bench circular saws of 36 and 40 inches diameter. After completing the work he moved to Racine where he died several years ago. Mr. G. H. Albee arrived in Two Rivers March 30, 1857, he having been engaged by Mr. H. H. Smith to superintend the erection of the pail and tub making machinery and the operation of the factory.

Obed Mattoon, a retired chair manufacturer of Milwaukee now and Harrison Cheney, of West Swanzey, N. H. (Mr. Albee's native place), accompanied him. They came on the schooner "Brilliant" of Milwaukee from that city, as there was then no railroad north of Milwaukee. An uncommon incident occurred on their trip. The first morning out from Milwaukee, they found Lake Michigan perfectly still and covered as far as could be seen with a thin coating of ice, about one-half inch thick, through which the schooner had to
plough its way at a slow rate of speed. By about ten o'clock the ice had melted or been broken up.

The schooner landed them on the north pier about 1 P. M. of the second day out. They immediately went to a hotel on the north side of Main St. next to the East River bridge, kept by Mr. House, for their dinner. Later in the day they had their baggage carried to the Lake House, which had just been opened by L. H. Phillips, who kept the house for transient and local customers for some dozen or more years and where Mattoon and Cheney remained as long as they stayed in the place. Mr. Albee remained until married in the Spring of 1859. Mattoon and Cheney secured employment in the chair factory until the pail factory was in running order, when they had jobs of painting there, and Mr. Albee commenced on the work of the pail factory. The piles for the foundation were then about half driven. John Millis was in charge of the pile driver, and Pat. Brazil drove the team. The river was open and there had been but a few inches of snow during the Winter, but on April 15th snow to the depth of 18 inches fell. It remained but a few days.

Indians were quite plenty here at that time, bands of 6 to a dozen being in the village every few days. Upon going to the factory grounds one morning quite early and before any of the workmen were there, Mr. Albee says, "I discovered an Indian's 'Dug Out,' or a round bottomed log canoe, tied up at the river bank. It was the first I had seen, and having a Yankee's inquisitiveness, like the boy who cut the bellows open to see what made the wind, I decided to investigate it. I therefore got into it and attempted to sit down with the result that my next move was to crawl out of the river a wetter but wiser man, a dry suit of clothes being the next most necessary thing to get. I let the Indians' canoes alone after that. Four or five years later I had a canoe of my own which I used nearly every day during the Summer, the bottom of which
was of such form, that a 'tip over' was almost impossible."

The woodenware making machinery first installed in the factory consisted of one tub stave saw, two pail stave saws (the heading was sawed upon the 40-inch bench saw), one tub turning lathe and matcher, three pail lathes and matchers, one heading planer, one bottom jointer, one pair of hoop rolls, one pail and one tub hoop punch, one tub bottom cutter, one pail bottom cutter, one pail ear cutter, and one paint grinding mill. All of this was on the second and third floors. Within 6 or 8 years the factory was extended upon its east end 88 feet, another tub lathe installed, an engine lathe and iron planer added, a feed mill and also a machinery for making barrel covers and hand sleds put in. Ten brick dry houses supplied the dry stock.

Upon the lower floor David Pratt of Swanzey, N. H., installed two clothes pin lathes, a pin slotter and saws, of his own, and made the clothes pins for an agreed price per box, the factory furnishing the stock in the board. Pratt remained nearly two years when he sold to Mr. E. E. Bolls who added broom handles, he selling out in 1861 to S. J. Fay and Mr. Albee, who put in, in 1863, gang saws and improved clothes pin lathes, and selling out in 1865 to the factory owners.

The financial crash of the Fall of 1857 threw the firms of Aldrich, Smith & Co., and that of H. C. Hamilton & Co. into difficulties too great for their resources and an assignment was made to S. H. Seaman & Co. which was composed of S. H. Seaman and Conrad Baetz. Mr. William Aldrich retiring and the firm of Henry C. Hamilton & Co. being wiped out, Messrs. S. H. Seaman & Co. operated the business of Aldrich, Smith & Co., which included the "Old Mill" on the north bank of the Neshoto river, near the Washington St. bridge, the "New Mill" directly opposite on the south side of the river, the blacksmith shop, store, Lake House, several dwellings, farm and timber lands in Manitowoc and Brown counties,
teams, barns and warehouses, and they also operated the pail factory until the Winter of 1860-61, when Mr. Joseph Mann of the firm of Mann Bros., Milwaukee, came to Two Rivers and then or soon after, purchased an interest in said properties, H. H. Smith retaining an interest, but S. H. Seaman & Co. retiring from the management, which Mr. Mann then assumed. Leopold Mann came to Two Rivers three or four years later and acquired an interest in the business and assumed in part its management.