

A CHEPATCHET FAMILY WEIGHING 3,000 POUNDS.



THE HARVEY PLACE FAMILY OF CHEPATCHET.

The accompanying picture represents the well-known family of Harley Place, a prosperous farmer who resides upon a large farm situated about two miles north of the village of Chepachet. The picture was taken when the members were brought together at a family reunion recently.

The family group represents Mr. Place together with his wife and thirteen children, all of whom are alive at present and in prosperous circumstances. The combined weight of the family is said to be over 3,000 pounds. The father, who is well known throughout Gloucester, is one of the most powerful men in the state, and, it is claimed, has chopped more wood a day for years than any man now living.

Many of the children of this remarkable family are now married and reside in Chepachet, Pawtucket, Cumberland and other parts of the state.

The old mansion in which the children

first saw the light of day is built after the architectural designs of former days and its rooms are filled with relics of an interesting nature.

When the photograph of the group was obtained the family had just finished an onslaught on one of Mrs. Place's famous dinners, and seats were placed in front of the large barn, which stands but a few rods to the east of the old homestead.

The scenery near the Place estate is decidedly picturesque. Running brooks sparkle in the sunshine, and huge boulders and gigantic trees attract tourists from all parts of New England. Many years ago the Indians inhabited the tract of land now owned by Harley Place, and his forefathers had many a skirmish with the red men of the forest. Many old relics have been unearthed, and Indian bones, arrow heads and wampum have been found upon the land adjoining the estate.

A remarkable cave, which has never been thoroughly explored, is situated but a short distance away. Numerous snakes and lizards have been observed basking in the sunshine of a warm day near the entrance, and a person must be of an adventurous disposition who would dare to enter and penetrate it.

A number of the boys of the family are expert marksmen and have bagged large quantities of game in the woods adjacent to the old homestead. It is not often that a family reunion is held at the old mansion, but when they are assembled together under one roof, the floor boards fairly bend to hold the combined weight of this immense family. The water in the old well, at which may be seen one of the old oaken buckets of former days, has never been known to fail during dry weather, and for many generations the Place family have quenched their thirst at that delightful spot.