

NEW ASHFORD.

THIS town began to be settled about 1762, by emigrants from the eastern part of the state, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. Among the early settlers were Nathaniel, Abel, and Gideon Kent, Uriah, Peter, and Eli Mallory, William Green, Jacob Lyon, Samuel Gridley, Jonathan Beach, Samuel P. Tyler, Abraham Kirby, William Campbell, Amariah Babbit, Evans Rice, Capt. Martin, and a Mr. Mason. This place was incorporated as a district Feb. 26, 1781, and enjoyed all the privileges of a town, except that it could not elect a representative to the legislature. A small, neat house, for public worship, was erected here in 1828, and dedicated in Jan., 1829. Most of the inhabitants are Methodists, who enjoy circuit preaching about half of the time.

This town is about 4 miles square, and is situated principally on the steep and rugged hills which make from Saddle mountain on the east, and the Taconic range on the west, and which here approach each other. In the narrow valley between these hills, along the rise of the western branch of the Housatonic and the eastern branch of Green river, are some small tracts of more feasible land. Valuable quarries of blue and white marble were opened in this town about 1822, which furnish a considerable branch of business. This town is 18 miles N. of Lenox, and 130 W. by N. of Boston. Population, 253.

NEW MARLBOROUGH.

THIS township was originally called No. 2, and was granted in 1736 to 72 proprietors, mostly belonging to Marlborough and its vicinity, in the county of Middlesex, by "The Great and General Court or Assembly of his Majesty's Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England, held at Boston." The proprietors obtained the township of the Indians and took a deed, which was confirmed by the general court. Among other divisions of land into which the township was surveyed, were house lots consisting of 60 acres each, to the number of 63, besides one for each grantee. The first improvements were made in 1739, by Mr. Benjamin Wheeler, from Marlborough. During the hard winter of 1739-40, he remained the only white inhabitant in the town. The Indians, though in most respects friendly, forbade him the use of the gun, lest he should kill the deer, and thus withheld from him part of the means of his support. His nearest white neighbors were in Sheffield, a distance of 10 miles, some of whom came on snowshoes to see him. In the following summer he visited Marlborough and returned with his family. Among the other first settlers were Noah Church, Jabez Ward, Thomas Tatlow, Elias Keyes, Joseph Blackmer, Jesse Taylor, John Taylor, William Witt, Philip Brookins and Samuel Bryan, from Marlborough or the vicinity, in