

will not be a good lot in the Territory at Congress prices, and then I see no good reason why land will not be worth \$10 per acre."

In another letter, written the following winter, Mr. Hinsdill says:

"We have two schools in our house; one instructed by my sister who came out here last fall, the other by Mr. Smith of your village (Cazenovia, N. Y.). We have had from eight to ten boarders all winter, on the temperance plan in full, and have most of the good custom. Property has advanced one-third or more since you were here, so much I think people are crazy. Society has improved very much. A Presbyterian church was formed last October with twenty-two members, and ten added since, and we have as talented a society of young men as can be found in your state. Provision is very high; Flour \$15 per barrel, oats \$1, potatoes \$1.25, pork \$14 per hundred, butter 37½ cents, and other things in proportion; board \$4.50; cash plenty, most of it paid out for land. I have had more silver and gold in my house this winter than a pair of horses could draw."

The church spoken of by Mr. Hinsdill, afterward became the First Congregational church of Grand Rapids. Mrs. Withey relates:

"In February, 1838, great anxiety was felt on account of the ice in the river. One evening, just in the midst of a spirited debate in the Lyceum, came a cry of alarm. Every one started to the scene of trouble. It was an anxious night, followed by an exciting day. At midday the ice in a vast body began to move, and piled up in a solid mass twenty to thirty feet high, forcing the water suddenly back on the little town, so that many barely escaped with their lives. The Almy and Page families were taken from their houses in boats. Mrs. Almy was brought to our house very much excited after her narrow escape. The whole scene, accompanied as it was with a heavy rumbling sound and the rushing of the water, is spoken of by witnesses as grand and awe-inspiring beyond description."

Mrs. John Almy, in a journal kept by her in 1835, gives some account of their journey in here. Here is an extract:

"Night brought us to the Thornapple, and it being late, and very dark, we dared not go on for fear we should fall into the