

CHAPTER IV.

THE VILLAGE OF GRAND RAPIDS.

THE village of Grand Rapids was incorporated April 5, 1838. Its boundaries included the territory on the east side of Grand River bounded by a line beginning at the river; thence east on Fulton street to the southeast corner of Hatch's addition; north to the line of Hastings street; west to the west line of Canal street; south along the west line of Canal street to a point where said line struck the river, which at that time was at the foot of Pearl street; thence down the shore of the river to the place of beginning. By an amendment to the village charter, January 16, 1843, the west line of Hatch's addition was substituted for the east line, thus by so much narrowing the village area. Hatch's addition was where since is Kendall's addition. Another amendment, March 23, 1848, enlarged the limits, making the boundary begin on the east bank of Grand River between sections 25 and 36 of town 7 north, range 12 west; thence east on the section line, which is now Wealthy avenue, to the middle of the southern boundary of the west half of the southeast quarter of section 30 in town 7 north, of range 11 west; thence north to Coldbrook; thence along the north bank of Coldbrook to the river; thence along the east bank of the river at low water mark to the place of beginning. A third amendment, March 31, 1849, vacated all that part of the village lying east of the Bostwick addition and south of Fulton street, and also all east of the Dexter Fraction. Thus it stood till the change from village to city in 1850.

The village for three or four years after the first settlement in 1833 grew rapidly. From 1837 to 1850 the progress was slow, but most of the time it was constant. Many branches of manufacturing were started to meet the simplest wants of the population in Grand Rapids and the towns up and down the Grand River Valley.

The incorporation of the village gave it a civil as well as municipal autonomy, but the regular township jurisdiction for