

play they played at home, and their simple idea of happiness, no doubt in this way, was realized to their hearts' content. We often met the old man, while berry-picking, digging up spruce roots and withroods, of which he used to make baskets for the neighbors, which helped him to procure tea and tobacco. As my father used to keep a small store the old man's visits for those articles were so often I used to think the family lived on tea and tobacco.

In the winter if the ice was clear we played upon the pond which was near by the school. The track was through a thick spruce woods, very dark. We used to go Indian file, and going so many and so often we had worn a road through the wood; and it is distinct in my mind yet—the windings and turnings—the several old pine logs—and the trees we had marked on the way. At last when we could see the ice glistening before us those that had skates would gird them on, while the others would enjoy themselves sliding, or by holding on to the skaters' coat tails. Before putting on their skates the big boys would sometimes go up as far as possible toward the source, selecting a thick part of the ice, if possible. Others coming out of the woods, and seeing them there, would ask "is it safe." The answer would be "yes," and the new arrivals would come, unsuspecting, over the bank with a rush which precipitated them into the water that was only recently caught over. Of course, this trick could not be played very often, but I remember it being worked successfully once or twice. As this track to the pond through the thick woods was tramped so often, none ever lost their way in the winter; but in the summer, while picking gum, some got bewildered; although, as there was a road all around this woods they would turn up in time to be laughed at.

I understand it is conceded by medical men of to-day that chewing gum is injurious to the health. I do not think this can be borne out by facts, if we compare the