

large pine tree, to while away the time till our host should appear.

Our books proved very interesting and we were deeply absorbed in them, when the sound of horses' feet aroused us and we saw two riders coming in at the gate, but they neither of them proved to be the one we were expecting: they were two neighbors, who lived only about thirty miles off, and had come to ask Mr. Atherton's assistance in hunting up some cattle, that had gone astray. They were much surprised to find two ladies and no one to introduce them; but on telling us their names, and finding that we like themselves were English, we at once felt mutually acquainted. It transpired that they expected to stay all night at the ranch and as our inspection of the premises had made us acquainted with the fact that its accommodations were limited, we began to wonder how we all were going to be provided for, but decided it was of no use to make any arrangement till our host should appear, which he soon did, and gave us all a hearty welcome. Mrs. Gray being as I have before stated, equal to any emergency, began to consult with Mr. Atherton as to getting supper, and the rest of the evening was spent in talking over the "land we had left behind us." And then we two ladies took possession of our host's apartment, while he and the two visitors made themselves comfortable on the floor of the dining room, saying that they were quite accustomed to sleeping on the ground with their saddles for pillows, when on frequent "round ups" for cattle.

The next day they all departed in quest of the missing cows, and as it was Sunday we spent the day quietly, reading the psalms and lessons from our Prayer books, and walking about among the trees. The gentlemen returned at dark, without the errant kine however, and they decided that it was not worth while to look for them any further, as they would probably return of their own sweet will with all