

indifferently done so as to permit the accession of air all would be consumed and only ashes remain.

Should the nearest neighbor be not too far away some member of the family would be despatched with the fire shovel to secure some live coals with which to start a new fire; but a watchful prudence rendered this an infrequent occurrence.

Tallow dips and later molded tallow candles were used for artificial light. Later the petticoat lamp, a small lamp made of tin and which burned sperm oil, was introduced and was in use many years before the more cleanly and brilliant camphene, a preparation of alcohol and spirits of turpentine, was introduced, and which was later displaced by the kerosene oil of the present time.

Lanterns were something of a rarity, and only the older settlers could afford to own one. They were made of tin punched full of various sized and shaped holes forming simple designs, cylindrical in form, in which a candle was used for light,—and they served at best only to render the darkness more visible. Next came square lanterns made from small panes of glass, then circular ones of blown glass as now in use.

Wife and Mother.

Of the wife and mother it could be truthfully said, as it is said in the scriptures: "She hath done what she could,"—and she did it in full scriptural measure,—"pressed down and overflowing."

She not only reared a large family, which she always kept neat, comfortable and tidy, and attended to all other household duties, but also often lent a helping hand in haying and harvesting time and other work upon the farm. Fifty years ago it was no infrequent sight to see the mother of the household in the field with her sickle reaping, with her fork and rake in the hay field, or husking corn in the autumn time.

The work of the household at that time was far more onerous than now, and it was performed without many of the conveniences now available to expedite the work and lighten the toil.