

of the town; and chairs, with rush-bottomed seats, were manufactured in an old establishment in Hollis Street, conducted by one of the early settlers. It was necessary, however, to speak some months before the chairs were actually needed; and if the good man happened to be out of rushes, the intending purchaser was obliged to wait until the rushes grew, were cut down, and dried.

The kitchen department, in those early times, was of the greatest importance. The day's labor began at early morning with the often unsuccessful attempt to produce fire from flint and steel; baking and brewing, as well as ordinary cooking, were, for the most part, attended to at home, and all was done, for many years, at the open hearth, on which hard wood was burned as fuel. For twenty years the purchase of wood took place without any special measurement; but as it then began to grow more scarce, cord-wood surveyors were appointed by the Government, to protect alike the buyer and seller. The coal brought to market from the Sydney Mines, after this period, brought the same price as now (1865), before the end of the century, being advertised for thirty shillings per chaldron. Those who did not wish to consume fuel in baking, or were not skilful in the art, bought their bread at the bake-houses kept in Grafton and Pleasant Streets.

It was the habit to dine at an early hour, and take supper between eight and nine o'clock. The fashionable dinner hour was three o'clock, and on some state occasions it was made as late as four. As a consequence of this custom, business ceased to be transacted, at least by the public offices, soon after mid-day. It was too late to return, when the somewhat lengthened meal was over. In the ordinary course, a custom prevailed of walking on a fine day, after dinner, sometimes towards the Point, sometimes to the North, and, in less favorable weather, to the Market, for a promenade beneath the balcony. On returning home, those whose resources in themselves were small, usually played cards until supper was laid; while among the more intellectual it was the admirable custom that the gentlemen should read aloud while the ladies worked at embroidery. The standard English authors were their text-books on these occasions; they had but few, but these were the works of the ablest historians and the most distinguished poets.