

the cooking stove. The old log house, having served its day, was replaced by the commodious and elegant farm residence. These were perfectly legitimate and substantial wants; but they called for considerable expenditures of money. There came, however, with increased prosperity, a multitude of other wants, unknown to the past generation. The homespun coat was no longer felt to be altogether a suitable turn-out for the farmer or the farmer's son—particularly the son,—and the dress material for wife and daughter had to submit to a corresponding revision. The personal attire of the family having been brought up to the modern standard, it was in keeping with the eternal fitness of things that the old fly or gig should give place to a first-class family waggon, with harness to match, and it was not long until it was found necessary to supplement the waggon with a top buggy. The point was now reached when the farmer's family presented a really respectable appearance on public occasions. But what about the home. It would never do that one thing should laugh at another. So the home-made carpet gave way to scotch or brussels. Violins and concertinas might do well enough to cheer the hearts of the unsophisticated groups around the old-fashioned chimneys, but nothing short of an organ or a piano could gratify the fastidious requirements of a generation which had tasted something more ample or more refined.

It is not at all a matter of surprise that the farmer of this period should, notwithstanding enlarged crops and good prices, find it harder, at the end of the year, to keep square with the world than his father did in the good old days of flails and reaping hooks; of blazing chimneys and homespun clothes.

I do not recall these changes for the purpose of condemning them. The law of change is irresistible. Our children do not, from year to year, change more in their size, appearance and inclinations than do the communities of which we and they form parts. Nor is it desirable that the people of to-day should not live more expensively than their fathers and mothers did. Nothing will dwarf the mind or wilt the heart more than parsimoniousness. It is essential to the well-being of a community that the earnings of one man should be fairly exchanged for the earnings of another. This is simply one way of saying that