

ordinarily a porch, or *tambour*, with a double door for defense against the heavy snowstorms and bitter winds, one window on each side, with two more in the back part of the house.

On entering the visitor finds himself in a square room used as bed-chamber, kitchen, and parlor. In the dormitory portion of the apartment is a high wooden bedstead of simplest make, and another arranged in tiers, bunk-fashion, for the accommodation of the large families for which the race is noted. Some of the younger children sleep in cribs or trundle-beds, kept in the daytime under the large parental bed and drawn out at night near the cooking-stove, which is of the long, two-storied style, standing in the centre of the room, surrounded by a pile of logs or small firewood. In summer the children sleep in the attic, and at that season the fire is kept on a large hearth at one end of the house.

In one corner, reaching from a few feet above the floor to a point near the ceiling, are wooden shelves painted green or blue, and upon them are massed some of the household treasures, such as pewter plates, mugs, delft and earthen vessels. Hanging from one of the cross-beams is the old flint-gun, known as *le vieux fusil français*, with the powder-horn and bullet-mold, which rendered good service in many a contest with the Indians and English, as well as in innumerable hunting exploits. This weapon is an heirloom prized and guarded with zealous care. They often possess a more modern gun of the long-barreled sort, such as is used for duck-shooting.

In another corner may be seen the snow-shoes (*raquettes*) with which the *habitant* in winter travels over his fields, and the beef moccasins (*bottes sauvages*) for summer use. A few plain three-legged stools, some wooden chairs with wicker bottoms, one or two rocking-chairs (*berceuses*) of rustic make, one heavy, spacious wooden trunk serving as both wardrobe and seat of honor, a settle-bed, and of course the kneading trough, generally sum up the furniture. Most households have a spinning-wheel and a loom. The floor is sometimes covered with a rag carpet (*catalogue*), and the walls are covered with old newspapers.

Above the bed is a wooden cross painted black, below which is the sprig of blessed palm in a small bottle or vase (*benitier*) containing holy water, and close by the religious calendar of the diocese. This twig of palm plays an important part in the religious ceremonies of the household, around it clustering beliefs of impressive character. It is credited with the power of exorcising the evil one and preventing a stroke of lightning to the house. It is renewed each Palm Sunday, the old twig being carefully burned. Some houses will have a miniature chapel with