

Many can now recall the pleasant scenes and jolly companions of the sugaring-off parties in the long ago.

Household Requisites.

Soap as now in the market was then practically unknown. The prudent, thrifty and practical housewife and helpmate saved all the bones of the meat used throughout the year, and all the waste fat and grease from the table, for soap grease with which to make the year's supply of soap and so save much that is now wasted and thus add to their stock of this world's goods.

It is now distinctly remembered that the moon exercised great influence over soap-making, but whether it must be made in the full or new of the moon is now forgotten.

Washing was often done in the neighboring brook or spring, or beside a well in a trough dug out from a large tree when these were not available. As wash boards had not been invented, the hands and knuckles did all the work ;—and peeled saplings supported by convenient trees or crotched sticks did duty for clothes lines.

Brooms made of broom corn as now in use were then unknown. The tidy housewife kept her house clean with brooms of home manufacture, which were made from balsam, cedar, or hemlock boughs, firmly tied upon a sapling for a handle, while the man of the house, or some of his grown boys who were blessed with a little mechanical skill, would make a more pretentious one during winter evenings by shredding white or yellow birch from a sapling of suitable size.

The blazing fire in the fireplace gave the needed heat for comfort, and many times it was the only available light for the household. As matches had not come into general use, it was important to keep a continuous fire, and so be spared the slow and trying process of producing it with the flint and steel. To this end hemlock and pine knots were gathered in the woods and pastures and one or more of them buried in the coals in the fire place every night and covered with a mound of ashes, where they would usually be found as a huge coal of fire in the morning. Should the work of covering up the knot and coals be