

nishing an excellent market for salt pork, as well as for flour, peas and beans.

Once the press of harvest work was over and the remaining duties did not press so much for time, it was possible for the community to indulge in social gatherings. Most of these, however, were given a more or less thrifty turn. At this season of the year "bees" were appointed on all possible grounds. There were bees for corn-husking, apple-paring, logging, barn-raising and various other special purposes. The neighbors from far and near were bidden to these co-operative gatherings. Considerable preparations were made for them in the way of refreshments. The granary, the barn-yard, the orchard and the garden were duly laid under tribute. There were also fish from the river or lake, wild fowl or other game from the forest, and the inevitable cask of spirit from the still, which in the evolution of the early settlement arrived with the mill, if not preceding it. With a few supplementary supplies from the trading store, a bountiful and appetizing supply of refreshments were duly prepared in advance. Unfortunately the means at hand for adequately setting forth the repast were necessarily somewhat meagre, but where all were under much the same limitations, envy was not started or disdain feared. Even the work which preceded the entertainment was accompanied by much mirth and strenuous competition. After the specific duties of the bee were ended, the young men indulged in trials of strength, while their elders discussed the crops, prices, local politics and the prospects of the ensuing year. The elderly women extended the circulation of the personal gossip of the neighborhood, while the younger ones, after assisting in disposing of the rude accompaniments of the feast, were ready for the dance, the round of country games and the repartee of flirtation. The bees were the chief social functions of country life. At these the young people met, and acquaintance laid the foundations for more lasting friendships. Individual visits among special friends and relatives were occasional but not so frequent as one might expect. Other centres of occasional meeting were the mill, the store and the chapel or meeting-house.

As autumn passed into winter, the farmers employed their time in cutting and hauling wood, taking saw logs to the mill—