

HOW I SPENT MY VACATION.

To spend an exceedingly pleasant and enjoyable vacation, is one thing, but to be able to interest one's readers in telling how it was spent, is another. I only began to realize when I sat down to collect my thoughts, how very much of the satisfaction which I experienced in all that I saw and heard, was really a reflection of my own exuberance. The glamour thrown around scenes and persons, and events, by my own ardent enthusiasm, contributed not a little to the pleasure which they afforded me. We carry within us so many of the conditions as well as the inspirations of our delights, that when we come to think calmly of the objects that occasioned them they appear almost too childish to relate. A very ordinary beverage is flavorful when the thirst is keen. I have been out in the woods after vigorous exercise in the open air, when I could eat with marvellous zest what would be anything but relishable with a dulled appetite at home. You can get exquisite enjoyment out of very trivial incidents and associations, when the mind is active, and the cares and responsibilities of life are for the time being forgotten. The youth that goes out for a holiday after having been kept at close tension for weeks together, is so full of buoyancy that he finds pleasure in every object that he beholds. Nature seems to enter into sympathy with him. The trees clap their hands and the flowers smile, and the very air is filled with music, all, as it would seem, for his delectation. There never was such a glorious day. He bounds forth in such a blithesome mood, that everything seems gay. He has a secret alchemy in his young heart that turns gloom into gladness, and discord into melody, and all the world into a paradise. If you were to ask him, when the day was over, to tell you all about it, he would do no credit to his holiday, I am quite sure; for such experiences cannot be reproduced. I am that youth. After a good deal of hard work; after undergoing the strain of continuous mental activity for many weeks, the holiday-time came, and I bounded forth into the free air. The sky seemed curtained with a glory that was unusual: the air appeared to be impregnated with exhilarating qualities that I had not ex-