

formidable impediments to the free use of the scythe and the plough. The houses, whether built of boards and timber or of unhewn logs, were rough structures. In most cases the best room in the house, was uncarpeted and was used in common for a parlor, a kitchen, and a sleeping department. The furniture was in perfect harmony with the house. A pine-table, a few flag-bottomed chairs, perhaps three or four three-legged wooden stools and a long bench near the huge fire-place, with coarse crockery to match ranged upon shelves, constituted the most valuable part of the furniture in a farm house in those primitive times. Perhaps some who hear me may be ready to say the people of that day led uncomfortable lives and were little better than barbarians. Not so! they were as cheerful, as healthy, as moral, and happy, perhaps more so, than their descendants of to-day. I am strongly of opinion that personal peace of mind, home enjoyments, and the amenities of social intercourse were more prevalent among the people then than they are now. If there were no fashionable festivals at the time referred to, the Winter evening visitings tended to sweeten the blessedness of neighborly intercourse. No cards were then issued to invite a select party. Without the stiff formality of a *special* invitation, neighbor visited neighbor, scarcely knocking at the door for admittance. Not a half-hypocritical greeting, but a *genuine* smile, indicated a hearty welcome to the visitor. Heart-feeling and friendship that was not counterfeit, instead of frothy wishy-washy compliments, characterized the neighborly and social intercourse in that day. The conversation, when *women* (I like that word better than *ladies*, to me it sounds dearer and sweeter), I say when *women* met, their talk was not of styles, and fashions—not of parties and piano-fortes, and silk dresses—not of Mrs. Wheelock's new supply of attractive lustres, laces and muslins, but of their dairies, their dye-pots, their spinning-wheels, their home-spun cloth, and their household duties, (principally performed in the kitchen).

While the women were thus cheerfully chatting on one side of the big fire-place, the men on the other discoursed of their farms, their stocks, and the markets; or skilled in traditional legends received from their forefathers, indulged in tales of woodland adventures, of hunting, and historical incidents of interest. The evening repast, though not made up of delicacies and luxuries, was *substantial* and delightfully palatable. The visitors relished and enjoyed the food placed before them, and sweetened by genuine hospitality, it was more to them than is the richest banquet of the present day. Farmers, at the time referred to, were a simple unsophisticated class of people. They were contented with their calling and condition. They were not ambitious, and had no feverish aspirations for distinction. They did not repine or murmur because they believed their merits and