

VI—LIGHT AND SHADE.

"Earth gets its price for what earth gives us"—LOWELL.

Swiftly the years came and went, each bringing its own peculiar experiences. If trials and privations were abundant, causes for gratitude were not wanting. Light and shade alternated frequently. One day the sky might be over cast, the next sunshine gladdened the heart of the faithful toiler in the Master's vineyard. The general conditions improved. Commodious frame-houses succeeded the log-shanties. Spacious barns and out-buildings became the common rule. Clearings grew and broad fields of grain attested the industry of the farmers. In short, the wilderness had begun to blossom as the rose.

Fire having consumed our large barn, in which services were sometimes held, in the heated term, logs were taken out to erect a better church. They lay unused. Finally it was agreed to put up a stone building. The advocater of a log or frame structure, which would cost less, yielded very reluctantly to the majority. Subscriptions were pledged and the work commenced. When the wails neared completion a meeting of the congregation was called. At the meeting father was requested to join the old kirk, if he expected to preach in the new edifice. Always a seceder, opposed to the union of church and state, he positively declined to give up his honest convictions, asked if they found any fault with his preaching, or conduct, all answered, "No, none whatever." Father then reminded them of his long and arduous services. He said, "I have preached in the open air, in wretched cabins and in cold school-rooms. I have taught day school for years without receiving one penny for my labor, I have spent many stormy nights and weary days visiting the sick and the dying, walking through swamps and paths no horse could travel, without any charge for my medical