

poetic gems, the study of some Bible character ; music, games or songs, filled up the evening hours. Often the young people from the neighboring farms were called in to share the pleasures of their winter evenings, and they, too, caught the spirit of the home, and learnt to collect a rich revenue from what had before been idle hours.

Then round the family altar with hearts attuned and sacred joy they sing their praise to Him who has perfected praise out of the mouths of babes." They read the Holy Word and are taught to take its precepts "as a lamp unto their feet," and to hide its counsels in their hearts that they may not transgress the laws of God. Then kneeling to their Heavenly Father, in simple earnest childlike trust they confess the failings of the day, thank him for his bounties, and seek his grace and guidance.

Winter and summer bring their outdoor pleasures for all. The snow-covered hills attract happy coasting parties ; a merry sleigh-ride in the keen winter air, over the crisp creaking snow, is a delight unmeasured.

The Canadian frosts throw their icy mantle over the winding river, and away upon its glistening surface, the skaters shod with their ringing steel glide like the flitting swallows, above its summer waters. Away they speed, down the valley and into the forest depths, where the pendent boughs with their sparkling winter jewels make a dim arcade through the echoing solitudes.

In the summer, boating and fishing were among the many pleasures. But the chief outdoor delights of both parents and children were gardening, and rambling in the forests and up the mountain slopes, making friends of shrubs and flowers, trees and ferns, studying the habits of birds and animals, making natural history collections and revelling in nature's numberless unfoldings of the handiwork of God. No modest flower could hide its blush in twilight dell, but they would know its opening hour. There was no bird of so retiring habit, but its nesting time and place were known. The fox's den, the beaver's dome, the squirrel's retreat were known not as the haunts of enemies but as the homes of nature's children who "divide her care."

From homes like this comes the full vigorous manhood of our land ; a manhood not simply of bodily vigor but of mental,