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OUR VALLEY.

SELECTION FROM A LECTURE SO ENTITLED BY A. M. GIDNEY.

I may say that for seventy years I have been familiar with the features, varying aspects and attractions of our beautiful—I may say unrivalled—valley. I have seen the morning sun gilding its mountain tops; I have seen it when the brightness of cloudless noon-day has imparted lustre to its meadows, fields and forests; and I have many a time had my mind and imagination stirred by the glow in the west, when the evening twilight fascinated my spirit at the shadowy close of the day. For many years when the Spring has come, the verdant grass, the expanding buds, the early flowers and the songs of birds have thrilled my spirit with delight. And later in the year when the meadows were ready for the scythe, when cultivated fields exhibited a vigorous vegetation, when the grain plots were luxuriantly waving in the breeze, I have gazed upon the landscape with the warmest emotions of pleasure. As the sombre hue of Autumn has imparted a withering influence to the flowers, has gradually transformed the green into brown, and painted the fading foliage of the forest on the mountain side with variegated hues of marvellous beauty, I have exulted in the scenic loveliness of the land. When Winter's snows have been deep in the Valley, and ice and storms were in the ascendant, I have rejoiced in the security of shelter, in the glow of a warm fire-side, in the sweetness of home endearments, and in the congenial privilege of social intercourse. For me, the changing seasons increase my attachments to this favoured spot in which our lot has been cast. Each season hath a charm peculiar to itself.

Flanked as this valley is by parallel ranges of mountains extending from the Basin of Minas, a distance of seventy miles, to that of Digby, intersected by our graceful meandering river and irrigated by numerous streams, it can scarcely be surpassed for fine scenery; and the general fertility of its soil is not equalled by any tract of country to be found in the neighboring New England States. All it needs are an industrious and enterprising population, and adequate culture to make it one of the choicest agricultural regions on this Continent. I claim the privilege, however, to go back beyond my own recollections, and