

thus to shed the snow and to give a roomy attic for bedchambers. The attic was lighted by numerous high-peaked dormer windows, piercing the expanse of the roof. The main building was flanked by one or more wings. Around it clustered the wash-house, coach-house, barns, stable and woodsheds. This homelike cluster of walls and roofs was sheltered from the winter storm by groves of evergreen, and girdled cheerily by orchard and kitchen-garden. On one side, and not far off, was usually a village with a church-spire gleaming over it; on the other, a circular stone mill, resembling a little fortress rather than a peaceful aid to industry.

After describing the dresses of ceremony, the three-cornered hats and wide-frocked coats, the embroidered waist-coats, knee-breeches and silk stockings, with which we are more or less familiar in pictorial representations, the writer continues :

Out of doors, and in the winter especially, the costumes of the nobility were more distinctly Canadian. Overcoats of native cloth were worn, with large, pointed hoods. Their pattern is preserved to the present day in the blanket coats of our snow-shoers. Young men might be seen going about in colors that brightened the winter landscape. Gay belts of green, blue, red or yellow, enriched the waists of their thick overcoats : their scarlet leggings were laced up with green ribbons ; their moccasins were gorgeously embroidered with dyed porcupine quills ; their caps of beaver or marten were sometimes tied down over their ears with vivid handkerchiefs of silk. The *habitans* were rougher and more sombre in their dress. A black homespun coat, gray leggings, gray woollen cap, heavy moccasins of cowhide—this grave costume was usually brightened by a belt or sash of the liveliest colors. The country women had to content themselves with the same coarse homespuns, which they wore in short, full skirts ; but they got the gay colors, which they loved, in kerchiefs for their necks and shoulders.

Of their social life and customs, he tells us :

The country houses of the seigneurs were the scene of many gaieties. Driving parties, picking up guests from each manor-house as they passed it, would gather at some hospitable abode. When tired of the stately dances then in fashion, the guests would amuse themselves with games such as now, when men seem less light-hearted and more self-conscious, are mostly left to children. " Hide the Handkerchief," " Fox and Geese," " My Lady's Toilet," and various games of forfeit, were among those that made life cheerful for the Canadians of old. Then there was riding in the summer ; and in winter sledging over the crisp, glittering snow. Baptisms, betrothals, and weddings were made occasions of feast ; on May-day the hoisting of the may-pole in front of the seigneur's house was accompanied by much merry making,—eating, drinking,