

CHAPTER III.

The winter of 1852-3 was a long and severe one and there was little of the rough work that most of the Germans were seeking, but this fact did not deter them from having a good time and their social gatherings were numerous; the result was that they got to know each other well and became better posted on the affairs of the day than many of the English-speaking people of the city.

Chicago became the stopping place for many of the Germans who were coming to the United States in large numbers at that time, and, as a result, the society soon became one of the strongest in the city, wielding a large influence in municipal affairs. Its members were radical in many of their views, and they were all opposed to the legislation that was being forced on the city, compelling a strict observance of the Sabbath.

That was one thing from which most of them were fleeing, when they left the old country, and they looked with alarm on the American movement that attempted to deprive them of the good times they were having on that day.

Another thing that annoyed them was the anti-saloon movement, which was then being agitated; and the strict laws that were being made restricting the sale of beer. They had established the beer garden which was to them an all-satisfying pleasure. They had their dance halls, which were scenes of