

STILLMAN GOTT

torn by conflicting beliefs. Their faith was strong but simple. Living as they did at the feet of old Ocean, the majority of them were firm believers in the Baptist faith, although the village boasted of two other small meeting houses, the Orthodox and the Methodist. The good people differed, and yet they agreed; they had their petty differences, yet never a violent quarrel that came to blows, and rarely a law suit. The village squire lived, but never fattened off his neighbors, nor would he have desired to if he could, for they were old friends always and clients only occasionally.

So too in the giving and taking in marriage. They fell in love with each other because they had been born and had lived side by side and knew each other thoroughly, and therefore knew whom to seek and whom to avoid. An occasional man lived and died unwed because he was shiftless and every woman knew he would be a poor provider, and a few women lived the life of single blessedness, either because there were not men enough to supply the demand or because they were known to have sharp tongues and a temper of their own. It was well nigh impossible to go