

Gentlemen use to walk about all the morning in greasy night-caps and dirty night-gowns (dressing-gowns), or threadbare coats. The elder ladies wore large linen caps called *toys*, encroaching on the face, and tied under the chin, with worsted shortgowns and aprons. The word *toy* is probably derived from the French *toque*, the hood worn by women of mean condition in France.

"The clergy, in my early life, were not less slovenly than their neighbours. Many of them wore coloured clothes of very coarse materials. Blue was the common colour for full dress among persons of my own profession in Scotland at that time.

"Most families, both in the higher and in the middle ranks, used tea at breakfast; but among the latter it was only recently introduced, or beginning to be introduced in the afternoon, and then exclusively on the occasion of receiving company. The tea 'equippage' at breakfast was placed on the uncovered table, small linen napkins being handed to all the guests. The wheaten bread was partly used, yet cakes, or 'bannocks' of barley and pease meal, and oat cakes, formed the principal household bread in gentlemen's families; and in those of the middle class, on ordinary occasions, no other bread was ever thought of.

"Household furniture was simple and inexpensive—wooden platters, for instance, being more or less in use in almost every house, and exclusively in those of the farmers, and of many of the clergy. The ordinary hour of dinner was twelve or one o'clock, and never later than three o'clock in most fashionable houses. A punch-bowl, and teacups and saucers of china were, however, always considered as indispensable and were ostentatiously arranged in what was called *the cupboard*—a small press with open or glazed door, which was fixed in a conspicuous part of the dining room. Mahogany tables, except for tea, were rarely seen even in houses richly furnished. The dinner tables were usually oak, and, by constant rubbing, shone like a mirror. Carpets were found only in the principal rooms—the drawing room and dining room; indeed, except in houses of some pretension, they were altogether unknown. I have been told that, sixty or seventy years ago, no more than two carpets existed in the house of Provost Lockup. Household clocks were confined to large houses, and the possession of a watch was a distinction which did not descend below the middle classes of society.

"I could add many other particulars of this kind, as that the drawing-room often contained a bed—of course the most showy in the house; that in many gentleman's houses there were no grates in the bed-rooms, the fire, when a fire there was, being kindled on the hearth; or that turf and peat were the fuel then chiefly burned, even in the public rooms. But this applies chiefly to large mansions. In the houses

of middle rank, the walls were generally neither painted nor draped.

"English blankets were almost unknown; and one of the burdens unrepiningly submitted to by the last generation was the pressure of from five to ten pairs of blankets during the hours devoted to rest. Box-beds, still to be seen in cottages, from which the air was almost entirely excluded during the night by means of sliding doors, were in general use, in spite of all experience of the pernicious effects of this arrangement. Such, however, as the beds were, in entertaining visitors, it was not reckoned any deviation from respect to assign one bed to two guests, even although the two gentlemen, or the two ladies, as the case might be, thus assorted might be before-unacquainted with each other, or of different age or rank.

"The wages of servants since the period of my becoming a householder in 1770, have advanced at least fourfold. I then paid one of my maid-servants £1, 5s., another £1, 10s. for the half-year; and my man-servant £1 yearly. The annual wages of a man-servant of the same kind may now be stated at £16. or £18, besides board; and the wages of the maid-servant at £7 or £8 per annum. Mr. Scott, who resides at Monkland in my parish, at an advanced age, has informed me that his father, 50 years ago, hired his female servants for 10s., with a pair of shoes, for the half-year; and his ploughmen for £1, 5s., with the like gift, or *downtill*, as it was then called.

"With regard to health and comfort, the advantages of the present generation are so obvious as to supersede discussion. Greater attention is now paid to cleanliness and ventilation by more frequent house-cleansings and open windows; nor can it be doubted that the improvements which have taken place in these respects, and also in medical science, have, in an incalculable degree, conduced to the preservation of life and health."

"As far as happiness depends upon external accommodation and appliances, all classes of the community ought to be happier now than they were in my early life. The poor especially are better fed, better clothed, and better lodged. Their diet is more ample, of more wholesome quality, and better dressed; their houses cleaner and more commodious; their clothes neater, and, by the general use of flannel, better adapted to the inclemency of a northern latitude."

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THE CHURCH IN NOVA SCOTIA.

OUR PROSPECTS AT RIVER JOHN.

The backbone of our Church in this Province, it has been justly said, is in the Presbytery of Pictou. Within its bounds we have eight vacant Gaelic congregations. Our four Gaelic missionaries will, we understand, soon be settled over these, two congregations