

cultivation about eight acres, which was largely sown with vegetable produce. We thought it prudent to camp near the "shack" so that these men could have an eye over our effects while we wandered far up the river in search of information upon the botany and geology of the place. We never regretted this conclusion, and will not forget for some time the kind attentions of Messrs. Laurie and McAuley, during our stay in this beautiful valley of the Bow River.

At several places along the Bow the valley widens, forming a sort of oval-shaped area. This is known as a "bottom," and such places are marked by great fertility; consequently, our friends of the first "bottom," west of Calgary were well repaid by handsome yields in their crops. During our stay they were getting six cents per pound for potatoes. The "shack" was rather an interesting spot; its inmates had been extensive travellers and were well able to record many an incident in their wide experience suited to rivet the attention of their hearers. Though much was seen in the little log house to render it comfortable and the general appearance reflected credit upon its inmates, still it lacked many of the attractive features that are seen in a house that is graced by the presence of woman.

Having settled on our future rendezvous we returned to the village, packed up, and luckily got our things on board a train going west with workmen to repair portions of damaged track.

The tent was put up. One of our party would not venture upon camp life under such damp conditions, but determined to remain at Calgary and enjoy the attractive luxuries of the hotel until the weather became more settled. Everything being thoroughly settled, we made a short trip during the afternoon up the bank and returned in the evening—prepared a primitive tea and enjoyed it well. The dishes being washed, if that term can be applied under the conditions of tent life, and all things put in order, we repaired to the "shack" for the purpose of being regaled by the rich experiences of our bachelor neighbors.

EXCITEMENT.

One of our party did not at first come in, being engaged in making some changes in his garments. While doing this it was thought that it would be a good joke to step out and fire a shot near the tent, so as to alarm the inmate. No sooner was it suggested than one stepped out—in a moment both barrels of the shot gun were emptied, and, the sportsman dropping, hid behind a bush. It was well he concealed himself so quickly, for scarcely had the echoes of his gun ceased when our companion was firing as rapidly as he could from his revolver in the direction from which the shot came, for, as he afterwards said, he thought it might have been Indians that had disturbed his peace. The concealed friend shouted out that it was he, and all alarm ended.

We talked far into the night, and many a thrilling adventure was described, which, repeated in England, will command more attention than in a country like the Northwest, where such events are of more common occurrence. The next morning found some of us earlier about than we desired, for scarcely had dawn appeared before the writer was astir, and running along the track striving to prevent a chill which had begun to crawl upon him and disturb his repose. As he ran along working up heat he failed to see much that was attractive in camp life. The huntsman rose at an early hour, as he said, to seek game for breakfast, but we afterwards learned he also had experienced a chill. Our bachelor friend seemed to possess more animal heat, and was permitted to doze on. Having restored comfort and attained a sufficient temperature to rest I returned to the tent, laid down and enjoyed a pleasant nap. I may here say that none of us experienced a want of comfort again. We made some changes in our method of sleeping, which enabled us to rest each night and enjoy a most delightful sleep, seldom awakening until the sun had well entered upon his course.