

so that even in the best houses, it was of the simplest and barest description, usually made of pine or cherry—but its poverty was hidden by coverings which generally matched the hangings on the walls.

The great bed was the principal object, and on it and its fittings and furnishings, much money was expended: silken hangings with colored fringes draped its ample proportions and the folding seats about the room were covered with like material.

Although the ordinary tableware was pewter, plain or carved, on state occasions the unpolished dining table would be covered by the finest of worked linen and glittering with silver and china, of which every well-appointed house had its store; and the fare would embrace the luxuries of a country abounding in game, flanked by good store of wine, brandy and liquors.

We find in the old inventories mention of pictures, not only of religious subjects, but also of portraits, some of which were evidently painted in Canada, very probably by Pierre Le Ber, our first native artist. Books were not confined to the clergy or the learned professions, for in some houses we find fair collections of volumes, which if somewhat solid as to quality, were by no means so restricted in their scope as we might imagine.

As a man's social or official rank was then invariably marked by rich or distinctive clothing—in a new country where men of energy had opportunities of gaining position denied them at home, where the difference of class could not be so strongly insisted upon—there was a peculiar