

corner of the car, and upon closely looking I could see the glimmer of light under little dim windows in it, which I took to be made by fire. I had noticed that the car was very warm and comfortable, but had no idea we carried fire in every car, and I felt as though I would rather be cold than run the risk of being burned; but life is all a risk when you come to think of it, thousands of things might happen any day which would endanger it, and the only proper plan is to avoid all risk you can, and by leading a good life, be prepared to meet bravely all the rest.

After a few hours' ride we stopped, and were told to change cars; we were also informed that we had now arrived at Montreal, the largest city in Canada, and that there was time to get our supper comfortably at the hotel close by, before we "went west". I did not know whether I was going west or east, but seeing four or five people who I knew were going to Toronto as I was, I followed them. The dining room to which we were directed opened off the railway platform, and here long tables were covered with everything ready for a meal, in as nice a manner as I had seen at the squire's; to me it was new and awkward, but I resolved to behave as well as I could, and though there was a great crowd always going in and out, and though the waiters, who were gayly dressed girls, seemed to watch us a great deal, no one was displeased at me. I need not tell all that appeared so new and strange at the hotel table, but I must mention the money; instead of shillings and pence, I heard of nothing but dollars and cents, and when I was asked fifty cents for my tea, dinner, or supper as they called it, I didn't know how to pay. Others were in the same case as myself, and there was much doubt and confusion. Some of the men had to change sovereigns, and took the waiter's, or rather the clerk's word, as to the correctness of the change very unwillingly; one man wrapped his money up in a bit of paper by itself, resolved to take the opinion of competent authority as to its correctness, and to haul somebody over the coals if he had been cheated; another who had paid in shillings, and knew their English value, complained very much at having to give seven of them for himself, his wife, and three little children, even though he was told the children were half-price only, and they had shared the convenience of wash-basins, finding their own soap and towels; for myself, I gave two English shillings and ought to have given two half-pennies more, but the clerk said it would do. Before we had quite settled all our difficulties, a man came into the room and shouted "all aboard for the west!" a train came steaming and hissing alongside the platform, and we all had to rush into the cars in a hurry. Once on the cars, a very warm discussion began as to the relative value of English and Canadian money. Some gentlemen very kindly helped the passengers to understand their money, and several exchanged Canadian for English coins, to prevent any further loss or trouble on the journey. I didn't like the look of dirty bits of paper in the place of silver and gold, and I thought the Canadian quarter didn't look a bit better than my English shillings, though I was told they were worth a cent more each, and that with each English shilling I should have to give a half-penny, and with each sixpence too, as there are no farthings used in Canada, so I should be the loser; but I didn't care, I would not part with my own country money, so long as I could help it; besides what did I know about dollars and cents? The money was a trouble to me a long time, for I found the Canadians used pounds and shillings and pence, as well as dollars and cents, that there was Yankee silver and gold, and Yankee paper too in circulation, and that the value of all differed. Discount with this, no discount with that, a shilling worth twenty-four

cents, another worth twelve and a half, while another was worth twenty. I did my best to make the Canadian money square with my own in value, until I got so vexed many a time that my head ached, and I thought I was constantly being cheated. And so I was cheated; many people here are too 'smart' as they call it, and think by taking advantage of another's ignorance, they are shewing their cleverness, when instead they are acting dishonestly. At last a kind gentleman who saw me in difficulty with my money, told me to dismiss all ideas of relative value, that is how much of an English shilling is represented by a Canadian shilling of twenty cents, and how much of a Canadian shilling, a York shilling, which is the name here for an English sixpenny piece meant, and attend only to the real value, that is how many cents each piece is worth; by taking this advice I found matters greatly simplified, and in a short time I could reckon my money correctly. This state of things, which was as unsatisfactory to native Canadians as to strangers, is altered now, our new finance minister having withdrawn all the foreign and old currency, and issued instead nothing but the dollar in bills, worth one hundred cents, and its elements, the quarter or twenty-five cent piece, the twenty, ten, and five cent pieces in silver, and the bronze cent.* English money is the same as before and is always welcome.

*The fifty cent piece or half dollar silver, has since been put in circulation.
(To be Continued.)

From Current Periodicals.

AT HUSKING TIME.

BY E. PAULINE JOHNSON.

AT husking time the tassel fades
To brown above the yellow blades,
Whose rustling sheath enswathes the corn
That bursts its chrysalis in scorn
Languer to lie in prison shades.

Among the merry lads and maids
The creaking ox-cart slowly wades
'Twixt stalks and stubble, sacked, and torn
At husking time.

The prying pilot crow persuades
The flock to join in thieving raids;
The sly racoon with craft inborn
His portico steals—from plenty's horn
His pouch the saucy chipmunk lades
At husking time.

Brantford, Ontario.

FRANCIS BLAKE CROFTON.

FRANCIS BLAKE CROFTON is a son of the Rev. William Crofton, rector of Skreene, Sligo, Ireland, and is about forty-nine years of age. He has two surviving brothers; one, Morgan W. Crofton, F. R. S., was formerly professor of Mathematics and Mechanics in the Royal Military College, Woolwich, and is now Fellow and Professor of the Royal University of Ireland; he is the author of two scientific text books for cadets, published by Her Majesty's Government. Another brother is the Rev. H. W. Crofton, rector of Wolverton, Bath, England. The subject of our sketch was educated at the Royal School, Dungannon, and Trinity College, Dublin, where he obtained honours in the English language and literature and in classics.