

health and spirits of the youth then by what they are to-day. Everyone "chewed," the girls were adepts at it; they had a way of making the gum snap like whip cords, how this was done I never could understand; some of them used to enjoy taunting the boys of their want of proficiency in the art; perhaps it is akin to the crackling of the finger joints as some, by merely wringing their hands, could make a wonderful sound of dry bones which others, try as they might, could not do. Just a little up the stream from where we used to tap the ice is a bridge crossing the brook,—the water there used to be several feet deep but now it is only a shoal stream of a few inches.

Singing schools were common in those days and several teachers were prepared to teach this useful art. One, I remember, used to combine courting and teaching in one. He was remarkably good-natured, and, after going over the scale and explaining the notes, we would close up with several choice pieces.

The temperance organization had a loyal society in our school, and was strongly supported by the best of our people. The movement was new at the time and elicited great enthusiasm—still there was an element prepared to disturb, and as our school was in such close proximity to the woods it gave great opportunity for annoyance. I can assure the reader that the writer of this never took part in those disgraceful performances,—the operators were generally those that were black-beaned out of the society. They would feel injured and then perhaps retaliate by—as they used to call it—*rocking* the roof. This trick consisted in some one watching, and, when a person objectionable to the one deposed was up speaking in the meeting, a shower of stones would fall upon the roof with startling effect. This would bring the members out like bees, and cause the offenders to lie low or beat a hasty retreat. If the night were dark it was impossible to capture the culprit. I