

with our letters in his bag, and then good-bye for another week to the outside world.

The population of the village was distinctly French-Canadian ; and, in the winter, decidedly feminine. The men were in the lumber woods, and only those who were in the nearest camps came home upon occasions. Then was it that merrymaking was rife among the aborigines, and joy and hilarity reigned supreme among the young men and maidens. If the stalwart lumberman demonstrated his manliness with a bumper of raw whiskey, so much better for the fun ; and verily it might be said that there were many sounds of revelry by night. The morning revealed, perhaps, the other side of the story ; but the only moral which was borne in upon the minds of the revellers was illustrated by the repeated cry of " Fill high the bowl."

There was a most remarkable absence of the " young lady " feature in the village of the backwoods. The fact that I heard a girl of seventeen spoken of most scornfully as an old maid will perhaps illustrate the truth of my statement when I say that the swains and maidens in their aspirations after love and wedded bliss rivalled the precocious love-making of Romeo and Juliet. We, in this civilized land, have at least the hope that so long as we can keep within our teens—and most of us stay there as long as possible—we shall escape the awful stigma of old maidenhood.

The social event of the season was the Sunday school concert. It was the only affair of the kind which the villagers had ever witnessed, and the audience was not critical. The children were intensely excited ; and it was with difficulty that the little girls were restrained from exhibiting their new dresses after the performance had begun. To prevent any extraordinary catastrophe befalling the entertainment, owing to the rawness of the performers, a curtain was strung in front of the platform, and manipulated by a youth who grabbed hold of one side and then marched across carrying it with him. The quality of the concert would, perhaps, not charm a Toronto audience, but our aborigines applauded to the echo. Proud fathers and mothers were there to see their children appear in public for the first time ; and, perchance, to dream of future histrionic glory : stout lumbermen were there with their best girls, for the village did not often afford this opportunity. Everybody was there. The room was crowded to the door. Several numbers occurred which were not on the program. The chairman, who was no more used to concerts than the others, announced that the first thing on the program would be a prayer by Mr. K — ; and, after waiting for a moment continued, " But as Mr. K — is not present, we shall go on to the next *piece* ! " An obstreperous boy on the platform announced quite audibly from behind the curtain,