

in a quiet village, with few excitements or distractions, occupied all day in housekeeping, gardening or reading. Of social amenities I had enjoyed very few excepting the occasional calls of friends who drop in to tea at long intervals and the subject of whose conversation is confined to the church bazaar and detailed accounts of the chronic ailments from which some of our fellow-parishioners unfortunately suffer. So that to turn my back on all those small happenings which had hitherto made up for me the sum total of existence, to face towards the unknown and untried in a distant country required a good deal of both mental and physical effort, and I will not deny that I wept a little to myself when I clearly saw the inevitability of my departure for the land of snow and wild Indians, even though I knew they were kept now on Government reservations and had renounced their scalping habits in favour of agriculture and beadwork.

Julia, my sister, who has enjoyed the advantages of foreign travel, while I have had to stay at home and look after other people's comforts,—Julia, who is very modern in her ideas and a little impatient of the mental standard prevailing with us, was very pleased when I unfolded to her my project, receiving it with the utmost enthusiasm. She immediately proposed to accompany me to America and help me to settle in my new surroundings before she returned to England. As I had never in my life set foot on anything sea-going, while Julia, in pursuit of her former career as governess