



Reminiscent  
and  
Otherwise.





Yours Very truly,  
Geo. W. Albee.

# Reminiscent and Otherwise.

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LIFE IN THE EASTERN TOWNSHIPS

OF THE

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC, CANADA.

FIFTY YEARS-AGO.

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DR. GEORGE MCALEER,

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## REMINISCENT AND OTHERWISE.

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The century (nineteenth) now drawing to a close has been the most marvellous in the world's history. So readily do we adapt ourselves to changed and improved conditions that it is hard to realize the manifold and wonderful changes wrought during this brief space of time.

Many are now living who saw the birth of the lucifer match, that great invention which has spread to the furthest limits of the civilized world and which has now become so indispensable. Suppose this simple-looking match and all knowledge thereof blotted out of existence and the world thrown back upon primitive methods to preserve or obtain fire,—what then? Is it any wonder that the ancients regarded fire as possessing attributes of the Deity and so entitled to their homage and worship?

Others are now living who were in existence long years before stoves came into general use in the smaller hamlets and remote settlements for heating and cooking, and who well remember when the first clock, piano, organ, and carpet was brought into the neighborhood to become the nine days' wonder and its owner the envied one in the settlement.

And many more there are whose birth antedates or was contemporary with the electric telegraph, locomotive railway, power loom, sewing machine, mowing machine, harvester, cream separator, and the like, while those not now beyond mature youth recall the advent of the bicycle, trolley car, telephone, automobile and the thousand and one discoveries and inventions which have blotted out time and space, lightened the burdens of the toilers, and which so minister to the comfort and happiness of all as to add years of longevity to the span of life.

### Kaleidoscopic Changes.

These kaleidoscopic changes follow each other so fast, and they so soon become so indispensable and absorbing, that they seem to swallow up and obscure if they do not entirely obliterate the past.

However interesting and important these may be to the student and philosopher, neither time nor space will permit us to consider even the most important and valuable of them categorically, chronologically, or in the order of their importance and value as contributing factors to our high and rapidly advancing civilization.

A much less pretentious and more agreeable task is proposed, which it is hoped will not be found without interest to the reader. It is to try to furnish the youth of the present day particularly those residing in the Eastern Townships, wherein the writer was born and where his youth was passed, with a picture of the everyday life of the people before the advent of most of the wonder-working and revolutionizing agents alluded to,—when primitive, very primitive conditions very generally prevailed throughout this part of the country.

It is not claimed that there were no exceptions in individual cases or in a particular locality to what follows,—no general description will apply in every case, especially when sketched in merest outline,—but it is confidently believed that the substantial accuracy of what is herein related will be affirmed by those in nearly every neighborhood now nearing or beyond the threescore and ten years of the scriptures.

### The Original Settlers.

The population was made up of strangers from many climes. A considerable number of the descendants of the early Dutch settlers of New Amsterdam and along the shores of the Hudson river flocked into this portion of Canada, soon after the American Revolution, journeying hither by way of Lake Champlain, and settled in the country contiguous to that portion of the lake which extends into Canada and is known as Missisquoi Bay.

With this contingent came also a few of the original settlers from England who were too cowardly, or too loyal to King George III. to join with their compatriots to throw off the British yoke and win the right to govern themselves and to establish a government the most progressive and successful on earth and the marvel of the world. These latter became known as the United Empire Loyalists, many of whom lived to see, if not regret, their cowardice or mistake. It is doubtful if to-day there lives a family of their descendants in Canada the greater number of whom have not recrossed the boundary line and returned to live in the country from which their progenitors so unwittingly deserted.

Numbers of Irish and Scotch emigrants also found their way into these parts and, as very natural under the circumstances, settled where they could do so, near each other and so became known as the Irish settlement and the Scotch settlement; and others lost their individuality by taking up their abode in settlements with a mixed population.

The Habitants, whose ancestors had settled along the valley of the St. Lawrence more than two hundred years previously, still clung to the home of their childhood and were less in evidence in the townships fifty years ago than they are to-day. It is true many of them found temporary employment in the lumbering operations and about the saw mills of the settlers of that time; and their long processions to the land of Uncle Sam in their two-wheeled carts "to mek it de hay on de Stait, me!" in the summer-time, are well remembered, but their abiding place—their home—was in the "French country" away off towards *la belle Riviere*.

These different elements from widely different countries and conditions, met upon a neutral ground for a common purpose; and while cherishing the memories of the land from which they sprung, they sank all mooted questions of religion, nationality and politics in the greater one of mutual toleration, mutual interdependence and mutual helpfulness.

Recalling this serves to awaken old associations and old memories, and when we take a retrospective glance we see in the past only that which is useful, good and ennobling, if circumscribed and humble.

### A Retrospect.

Changed conditions may open up new opportunities, new ambitions, new responsibilities; but the memories that cluster around the old homestead and the home life of our youth are the most sacred, the most tender, the most distinct, the most pleasurable and enduring of all. How satisfying it is and how pardonable the pride to which they give birth, to recall after the lapse of fifty years these laudable traits in the early settlers, and the sense of thankfulness with which we embrace this opportunity to bear testimony to their truthfulness.

We turn our gaze backward a half century, but we see none who were then active on life's stage and whom we well knew; we journey for days along the highways, but we meet no familiar face; we call at their old homes and only the stranger greets us. One after another have the pioneers passed away until all, all are gone.

We inquire about them and the niche they filled only to be told for the most part that no one now knows anything about them; we ask for a copy of the local history that its pages may refresh our fading recollections and give some answer to our questionings and learn,—oh! unwelcome revelation!—that through culpable indifference and neglect no record of the early settlers who founded and aided in developing the Eastern Townships, of their enterprise and daring, of their privations and hardships, of their toils and triumphs, has ever been made to embalm their good deeds in the pages of history by "the art preservative of arts,"—to be at once their monument and the pride and stimulus of their descendants and successors.

With uncomplimentary thoughts uppermost in our mind and with a saddened heart we turn from the unpleasant contemplation and strive to recall and record some of the conditions under which they lived, and what would be some of the most striking changes that would confront them did they now re-visit the familiar scenes of their active life.

Doubtless what would impress them most forcibly is the disappearance of the vast forests which then abounded and stretched away in every direction, and the extensive fertile farms and tidy homes of comfort which have taken their place,



## Hardships and Trials of the Pioneers.

Villages and habitations that are now in an open country and discernible as far as the range of vision can reach were then mostly but a few little log cabins hidden by a dense forest growth of mighty pines, hemlocks, cedars, tamarack, beech, birch, maple, and other indigenous trees. The few acres comparatively of arable land reclaimed from the wilderness in their day could only by courtesy or a stretch of language be dignified by the name of farms, while to-day they would see teeming acres limited only by the extent of country, and the extensive and forbidding forests of their time entirely blotted out.

The hum of agricultural machinery and the thundering locomotive, neither of which they ever heard or saw, might cause them to doubt if they were in the world they left or whether they were not sojourning in a more favored sphere;—confronted with modern conditions of living and travel, with the marvellous mechanism now common in every walk of life, and the varied applications of steam and electricity, they might be expected to be certain of it.

But to return to the routine of every day life.

The new-comer, often accompanied by his trusting, hopeful, helpful wife, and a few small children, with little or no money, and all their worldly belongings in a crude box, carpet bag, or tied in a bundle,—strangers among strangers,—alighted from a rude stage at the post office, or possibly having made the journey on foot from the place of disembarkation, carrying all their belongings, and sought for a shelter for the night.

They were usually given a warm welcome at the first log cabin large enough to accommodate them, as its occupants, prompted by a fellow feeling, recall a similar favor extended to themselves not long since, and the best the cabin affords is cheerfully shared with the latest accession to the neighborhood. Land is taken up and the toil begins of carving out a home from untoward surroundings. An axe is bought at the only store for miles around, and which also serves as a post office;—trees are felled and soon a log cabin takes their place above a hole dug in the ground which becomes an apology for a cellar.

The spaces between the logs are filled with mud or moss or a combination of both, logs are hewn for a floor and cedar is rifted for a covering for the roof.

An apology for a door is provided, which swings upon wooden hinges, and its hard wood latch is operated from without by a latch-string which is withdrawn at night so the door cannot be opened from the outside. A crude fireplace is fashioned of rough stones in one end of the cabin, the family moves in, and life is begun in the new home.

### Cooking Utensils.

In many cases, and sometimes for years a single iron kettle having three legs, an iron cover, and a large bail, known as a baking kettle, and in many places as a Dutch oven, was the only cooking utensil on the premises, and many a savory wholesome meal was cooked therein while buried in and covered with burning coals. A little later came the old-fashioned glazed earthen teapot, which became its associate and companion upon the hearth. Corn bread and oaten cakes were baked before a "bread-board," set up edgeways and a little aslant before the open fire.

Baking pans, kettles and other hollow iron ware were soon after introduced and came into general use.

Ovens made of brick, the manufacture of which was undertaken by some of the more enterprising, added greatly to the culinary department of the household, but many an elegant roast of beef and mutton and well browned turkey were still cooked for company or the Christmas dinner upon the spit in the tin baker, or tin kitchen, before the open fire in the fireplace.

The holiday season, extending from Christmas until after New Year's, was largely given up to visiting relatives, family reunions and innocent mirth. Holly and mistletoe may not have graced the walls of the humble habitations, but loyal friendships, hearty welcomes, good cheer, and generous hospitality were no indifferent substitutes.

As families were usually large and cabins small, economy of space was very essential. Under many of the beds in the

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dwelling, and all beds were then of the old high post style held together by a bed cord made tense by a lever or bed wrench, were trundle beds which were drawn out upon the floor for use at night. These were often supplemented by bunks which were folded up and used as seats during the day and evening.

### Difficulties of Travel.

There was then in all Canada not a single mile of railway, and turnpike roads were well nigh impassable, especially during the spring and fall when nearly all travel was practically at a standstill, and when distant journeys would be more readily undertaken on horseback or on foot than with a team. At such times when it became necessary to go to the grist mill the grain was bound upon the horse's back and the owner trudged alongside leading the animal.

In many cases the roads were but the sinuous ways improvised through the forests by lumbermen for hauling out timber, logs, and wood, and which, by continued use and improvement, have become the public highways of the country.

The territory being substantially a forest it was perfectly natural that lumbering operations, peeling hemlock bark, shaving shingles, and the like, would be the principal occupation of the people for many years succeeding the earliest settlements. While large quantities of lumber was cut and exported to the United States the price paid therefor was so low that only the most valuable and easily obtained was thus utilized.

There being then no railways for transportation or rivers available for this purpose the expense for hauling logs from a distance to the saw mills, and the lumber over very poor roads to Lake Champlain, was so great, that little or no margin of profit was left to stimulate the industry or reward the efforts of the more enterprising who engaged in such business. Nevertheless, it was a sight fifty years ago to see the procession of teams,—twenty, thirty, forty in line,—all heavily laden with lumber going to Missisquoi bay, and later to the mouth of Pike river, from the different saw mills to the north and east, whence

the lumber was shipped to Whitehall, Troy, Albany and other places to the south which were accessible by way of the Hudson river.

Receiving such poor returns for their labor seemed to beget a mania for the destruction of the forests so that the land might be reduced to a state of cultivation and a better compensation be obtained for their labor.

Few men can appreciate and fewer still will ever know with what toil and hardships this task was accomplished.

### Destroying Valuable Timber Lands.

During the dryest portion of the year fires were started in the choppings of the previous winter and they were encouraged to extend into and devour the uncut forest and consume what to-day would be most valuable timber. These extensive fires raged in all directions, filling the air with clouds of smoke by day and their seething flames lighting up and making lurid, fantastic, and thrilling pictures by night as they seized upon and devoured their prey as a roaring wild beast might seize upon and devour an innocent victim.

Stretching away from west to east along the northern boundaries of New York, Vermont and New Hampshire to the state of Maine for a southern boundary, and with the St. Lawrence river for a northern boundary, nothing now remains in the included territory of the extensive forests of valuable timber that then covered the land as with a protecting mantle.

It is now a bootless task to ask if a clearer insight and forecast would not have prompted the exercise of a wiser discretion and spared at least a portion of the wealth of the forests so wantonly destroyed to meet the wants of a later time.

In many places the hard wood ashes were gathered up by the more enterprising, the lye extracted by very crude appliances and boiled into potash in great iron kettles and an honest dollar well earned thereby. In other places and especially along the highway leading from the village of Bedford to Missisquoi Bay many lime kilns were built and large quantities of lime was burned and sold to the settlers in other parts where no

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limestone was available. With limestone and wood then in abundance in this locality and competition sharp, many a bushel of lime was sold for five cents; and not infrequently dinner for purchaser and team was included.

With the scarcity of wood which now exists and better transportation facilities, so that supply may be more easily and cheaply obtained elsewhere, but a faint remnant of the industry now remains.

### Clearing Land.

Old and young of the households found abundant work, when other labors permitted, in clearing up the land, piling up and burning the logs and odds and ends which escaped the first burning, repiling and firing the embers, chinking up and around and urging on the devouring element to consume the huge pine and other stumps. With the aid of the light of the fires this work was frequently extended long into the night.

From such work all returned so covered with smoke and grime as to more nearly resemble ebony Negroes from the banks of the river Congo than any of the Caucasian race.

A coarse but substantial and satisfying meal was then disposed of, then to humble and restful beds of straw or corn husks, and up and at it again with the earliest dawn for days and weeks together. Few there are who now can realize, and fewer will ever know by experience, the extent and severity of the exhausting labor, approximating that usually performed by the ox and the horse, which was necessary, and which was uncomplainingly and ungrudgingly given to subdue the forests, to gather the great boulders and stones into walls and huge piles, and to give to the Eastern Townships the fertile and attractive farms of to-day.

Crops of potatoes, corn, wheat, rye, oats, buckwheat, beans and the like were worked in at first between the stumps and stones and cultivated and harvested by hand. The spade, hoe and grub-hoe did duty for the plough and harrow of later years, and the scythe, sickle, and hand rake for the mowing machines and horse rakes of to-day.

After a lapse of a few years, when the stumps became somewhat decayed and so more easy of removal, a "bee" would be made, when, to their credit be it recorded, all the neighbors for miles around would cheerfully gather with their ox-teams and again prove the truth of the old saying, "many hands make light work," and so accomplish what would otherwise be well nigh impossible, and add several acres of well cleared land to the farm.

#### Earliest Farming Implements.

Mowing machines, harvesters, and horseshoes had not then been invented; but had they been in existence they would have been as useless as a smokestack upon a wheelbarrow, as the land was too rough to permit of their use, and the people for the most part were too poor to buy them. All hay and grain was cut with the scythe and sickle—a large part of the grain and the timothy grass for hayseed with the latter implement.

No threshing machines were then in existence and many weary days were spent wielding the hand flail to thresh the grain and hay seed.

Fanning mills of a crude type were coming into use, but only those in better circumstances could afford to buy them. The old hand fan, which many of the present day never saw, was then in common use—although even then some made use of the still more ancient method of a gale of wind for winnowing their grain.

Any farmer possessed of a modicum of mechanical genius could make a hand fan, but when this was beyond his ability he could get one made for him by a more ingenious neighbor in exchange for labor, some product of the farm, or other compensation.

It was made of thin hard wood, semicircular in shape and from five to six feet across the straight part, or what would be the diameter of the circle. Around the periphery was a rim some ten or twelve inches high provided with two handles much like handles on a basket, and which were located at convenient distances apart. Into this was put as much of the threshed grain and chaff as could be conveniently handled and an up

and down and partial rotary motion was imparted to it by the operator, when the chaff being lighter would work up to the top and outer edge and be blown off from the fan, leaving the cleaned grain behind.

### Vegetable Growing and Sugar Making.

Surplus cabbages, potatoes and other vegetables that could not be contained in the hole under the cabin, and which did duty as a cellar, were buried in pits dug in the ground and covered with earth to a sufficient depth to be beyond the reach of the frost, where they usually remained until the following spring.

In early spring time sap troughs were made of bass-wood, poplar, ash, and similar wood and scorched over an open brush fire to prevent checking later by the sun when put into use. The maple trees were tapped with a gouge chisel, the spouts were rifted from cedar with the same gouge so as to fit, and a great score or notch cut into the tree with an axe above the spout to increase the flow of sap.

In the most level and open sugar woods the sap was gathered in barrels and puncheons securely fastened to sleds and drawn by oxen, but more frequently it was carried in buckets and pails suspended from the shoulders by neck yokes. The potash kettles were scoured out and again pressed into service to boil the sap.

These were usually suspended over the butt end of a sapling tree and upheld and supported by a convenient stump or boulder. This gave good control of the boiling sap and syrup, as they could easily be removed from over the roaring fire when necessary by swinging around the upper and counterbalancing end of the tree top.

Many tons of sugar were so made and families of several generations supplied therewith before the refined white sugar of the cane was ever seen in these parts; and while it usually was very dark from the charred sap troughs and from the smoke, smut, and cinders from the open fire, it was not less appreciated and useful.

Many can now recall the pleasant scenes and jolly companions of the sugaring-off parties in the long ago.

### Household Requisites.

Soap as now in the market was then practically unknown. The prudent, thrifty and practical housewife and helpmate saved all the bones of the meat used throughout the year, and all the waste fat and grease from the table, for soap grease with which to make the year's supply of soap and so save much that is now wasted and thus add to their stock of this world's goods.

It is now distinctly remembered that the moon exercised great influence over soap-making, but whether it must be made in the full or new of the moon is now forgotten.

Washing was often done in the neighboring brook or spring, or beside a well in a trough dug out from a large tree when these were not available. As wash boards had not been invented, the hands and knuckles did all the work ;—and peeled saplings supported by convenient trees or crotched sticks did duty for clothes lines.

Brooms made of broom corn as now in use were then unknown. The tidy housewife kept her house clean with brooms of home manufacture, which were made from balsam, cedar, or hemlock boughs, firmly tied upon a sapling for a handle, while the man of the house, or some of his grown boys who were blessed with a little mechanical skill, would make a more pretentious one during winter evenings by shredding white or yellow birch from a sapling of suitable size.

The blazing fire in the fireplace gave the needed heat for comfort, and many times it was the only available light for the household. As matches had not come into general use, it was important to keep a continuous fire, and so be spared the slow and trying process of producing it with the flint and steel. To this end hemlock and pine knots were gathered in the woods and pastures and one or more of them buried in the coals in the fire place every night and covered with a mound of ashes, where they would usually be found as a huge coal of fire in the morning. Should the work of covering up the knot and coals be



indifferently done so as to permit the accession of air all would be consumed and only ashes remain.

Should the nearest neighbor be not too far away some member of the family would be despatched with the fire shovel to secure some live coals with which to start a new fire; but a watchful prudence rendered this an infrequent occurrence.

Tallow dips and later molded tallow candles were used for artificial light. Later the petticoat lamp, a small lamp made of tin and which burned sperm oil, was introduced and was in use many years before the more cleanly and brilliant camphene, a preparation of alcohol and spirits of turpentine, was introduced, and which was later displaced by the kerosene oil of the present time.

Lanterns were something of a rarity, and only the older settlers could afford to own one. They were made of tin punched full of various sized and shaped holes forming simple designs, cylindrical in form, in which a candle was used for light,—and they served at best only to render the darkness more visible. Next came square lanterns made from small panes of glass, then circular ones of blown glass as now in use.

### Wife and Mother.

Of the wife and mother it could be truthfully said, as it is said in the scriptures: "She hath done what she could,"—and she did it in full scriptural measure,—“pressed down and overflowing.”

She not only reared a large family, which she always kept neat, comfortable and tidy, and attended to all other household duties, but also often lent a helping hand in haying and harvesting time and other work upon the farm. Fifty years ago it was no infrequent sight to see the mother of the household in the field with her sickle reaping, with her fork and rake in the hay field, or husking corn in the autumn time.

The work of the household at that time was far more onerous than now, and it was performed without many of the conveniences now available to expedite the work and lighten the toil.

For days and weeks together in the busy summer time she and the daughters of the household milked the cows of a very considerable dairy, cared for the milk, churned the cream in the old fashioned, upright dasher churn, made and packed the butter in addition to the care of the home,—the bread making, cooking, washing, and mending for her large family.

Hand looms for weaving were then found in many homes and these added another burden to their many cares.

No settler was content without the golden-footed sheep upon his farm to supply him with cash from the sale of the lambs, wholesome meat for his table, and wool for clothing for the family, blankets, stockings, mittens and the like. Much of the wool was carded by hand, spun upon the old-fashioned spinning wheel, wove upon the hand loom, and made up into the various garments and articles by hand.

Ample scope might here be given to a vivid imagination and a facile pen without risk of exaggerating the difficulties of the task and the labor required to perform it.

It was no uncommon thing at autumn time for travelling tailors, tailoresses, and shoe-makers to come in to the homes of those who could afford to employ them and remain weeks at a time helping to make up the outfit of garments and boots for winter use.

#### Law and Medicine.

Professional men were then but few, and largely a superfluity. As might be expected, those who located in such new and sparsely settled communities were generally of the most ordinary attainments and qualifications.

For the most part litigants stated their own case and pleaded the cause before local magistrates in the most informal manner. Dignity and decorum were then not in evidence, and not infrequently the most ludicrous scenes were enacted. These magistrates often received their appointment for effective political work in behalf of some budding son, or ambitious individual with plenty of money, who usually came from Montreal, and who desired to add the prefix Hon. or the suffix M. P. P. to his family name by capturing a rural constituency

of much praised "loyal yeomanry," whom perhaps he had never previously seen or heard of, to represent in the provincial parliament, and not because of any knowledge of the law or fitness for the office, and so results were what might be expected under such circumstances.

Domestic medicine was then much more practiced than it is now. During the summer season nearly every family gathered a supply of roots, barks and herbs for use throughout the year,—gold thread, Canada snake root, slippery elm bark, prickly ash bark, chamomile, sage, thoroughwort, wormwood, catnip, tansy, and the like.

In parturient cases there was in nearly every neighborhood a mid-wife, who officiated very successfully and very often gratuitously.

Should she be given a dollar for her services she would think herself very generously rewarded and even handsomely compensated.

Here and there, scattered many miles apart, were to be found pretentious disciples of Esculapius whose superficial knowledge of surgery and the healing art was wrapped up in an ample covering of lofty pretence and an assumed life-and-death air of wisdom. With these unenviable qualities there not infrequently co-existed a very rough and ungentlemanly exterior, and sometimes habits of intemperance, profanity, indifference and other lowering and unbecoming qualities.

This may be the more readily impressed upon the reader and appreciated by a recital of a couple among many cases well remembered of a physician not long since deceased, who practised medicine more than fifty years over an extent of country approximating four hundred square miles, and for many, very many years without a coadjutor or rival.

### Ye Old Time Doctors.

Being sent for on a time to reduce a fracture of the femur in a man beyond mid-life, who resided some six or eight miles away, and who fell upon the ice while fishing for pickerel, it was found that the doctor had gone a dozen miles away in an

opposite direction, and that he would not return until the next day. Some twenty-four or more hours after the accident occurred and tumefaction had set in, causing the man to groan in agony with pain, the doctor arrived upon the scene. His first inquiry was for some brandy. Being told that there was none in the house he ordered a messenger despatched to the tavern in the village for a supply. When this was procured he called for some morning's milk, from which the cream was not to be removed, and half filling a tumbler with this he filled the remainder with brandy and drank all with evident gusto.

He then went to the bedside and stripped off the covering so roughly as to cause the patient to howl with pain, and cry out for mercy—

"Oh! doctor, doctor! for God's sake be easy!"

"Shut up your mouth you d——d old fool! It will learn you to stand up next time," came the brutal rejoinder.

He was called to another house where the fair sex predominated, and among whom were some practical jokers. His patient was a spinster of doubtful age, whom dame rumor said had at an earlier time been wounded by an arrow from Cupid's quiver. Be this as it may, she was nervous, whimsical, hypochondriacal, and the butt and jest of her more youthful sisters who probably knew or at least suspected the cause of her indisposition.

The doctor being an old bachelor, put on great dignity and assumed the role of a cavalier.

"Ah, yes, you are a very sick girl. It is very fortunate that you called me in so soon. Disease has already made a serious inroad upon your system, which would soon terminate in a decline and a general breaking down, but I shall leave you some powerful medicine which your sisters will give you, and which with good care and careful nursing will bring you back to good health," etc., etc. and with an assurance that he would call again in a week or ten days, he took his departure.

The medicine left was in the form of pills and they so nearly resembled the seeds growing upon a bass-wood tree beside the road that the jolly sisters decided it would be a good joke on physician and patient to substitute them for the doctor's medi-

tine, which they accordingly did, and which they administered regularly at the prescribed times.

In due season the doctor called again and was so surprised and delighted with his patient's great improvement that he threw bouquets at himself without stint or limit, and boastingly told of his great medical attainments and wonderful skill in the treatment of disease!

### From Labor to Refreshment.

Nor was it all toil and gloom with the early settlers. Amidst the cares and burdens of their daily life aspirations for the higher and more refined were not wholly wanting. In addition to the dahlias and rose-bushes seen in nearly every restricted front yard and garden, hollyhocks and morning glories that covered the windows and sometimes whole sides and roofs of cabins, were assiduously cultivated and highly appreciated.

They had their leisure hours and they made the most of them. The older people of to-day can well recall the jolly husking bees of autumn time and the reward bestowed upon the lucky ones who found the red ears of corn. Apple paring bees extended throughout the different neighborhoods and frequently terminated with "all salute your partners," "first two forward and back," "balance four," and other similar movements of Terpsichore to the strains of Money Musk, Fisher's Hornpipe, Virginia Reel, and other well known tunes extorted from a violin not made by Stradivarius nor fingered by Paganini, but which answered every purpose.

The older people whiled away many a pleasant evening when they called upon each other by telling the tales of other days, their own adventures, the folklore of the country from whence they came, in "old sledge," "forty five," and other games of cards. Those within the years of childhood were interested listeners and maintained a respectful silence, longing for the day to come when they would be grown up and able to take part in and share the evening's pleasures.

### Funeral Customs.

When the Death angel made his visit and bore hence some loved one, the entire neighborhood was wrapped in gloom. Relatives, friends and neighbors for miles around came with words of sympathy as sincere as touching, and they were ever ready to render every aid within their power to the afflicted ones.

There were then no professional paid undertakers to mechanically and perfunctorily perform the last sad act of burial.

When a death occurred the village carpenter came and measured the remains and made a coffin of pine boards, wide at the shoulders and tapering to the ends. This was painted black and lined with white cloth. There were no silver plated, oxidized, or other showy handles or tinsel adornments.

The remains were escorted to the place of sepulture by a large concourse of people who seemed touched by the bereavement and sadness of the occasion. The funeral of many a distinguished person has taken place with less sincere sorrow and appropriate ceremony. Roman Catholics were always buried with church services in the grave-yard attached to the parish church, and others in the many little burial places in the different neighborhoods throughout the country.

The grave is closed, the last sad act performed, and all return to their homes;— night comes, the dew falls, and the moon shines out resplendent over the quiet earth. The sun rises on the morrow and the wonted duties begin over again as if nothing outside the daily routine had happened.

### L'Envoie.

Changes have come. The old has passed away. The new has been ushered in. Nevertheless it is a disconsolate thing to forever part company with the old settlers,— men and women of honorable lives and sterling worth,— with old conditions and old customs which were the every-day life of the people of a few generations ago. Green be their memory and peace to their ashes.