RURAL LIFE ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

New England Farm and Village Life in the 18th century presented a strange contrast to that with which we are familiar. The house of the settler was built of logs, the chinks daubed with clay, and the roof thatched with long grass. In the later and better class of dwellings, the logs were hewn square so as to need no chinking; or a frame was made of heavy oak timbers, some of them eighteen inches in diameter, and all mortised and braced together in a manner that would be bewildering enough to a carpenter of to-day. The sides were covered with split oak clapboards, and the roof with split cedar shingles, fastened with large wrought-iron nails. The windows consisted of two small lead frames, set with a few tiny, diamond-shaped panes of glass (or, sometimes, oiled paper), and hinged so as to open outward against the house. As the building stood exactly facing the south, the sun "shone square in" at noon, and gave warning of the dinner hour.

The doors were of oak plank doubled and nailed together with spikes arranged in the form of diamonds. They were often hung on wooden hinges, and were securely fastened at night by heavy wooden cross-bars. In the center of the house, or, externally in the poorer dwellings, rose a stone or brick chimney, about twelve feet square at the base,* affording a fire-place large enough for seats to be placed at the side, where the children could sit in the winter evening and look up at the stars. To "lay the fire" was no small matter; for the back, a huge "back-log", perhaps four feet long, was rolled in; then on the andirons was placed a "front log"; between these were piled enormous quantities of smaller wood.

The kitchen and the "best room" were the chief apartments. In the former, the center of attraction was the great fire-place with its roaring fire, its high-backed wooden settle, and its swinging crane with pot-hooks to hold the iron pots for cooking. The ceiling of the room was rarely seven feet high, and the sturdy farmer often brushed against it with his bear-skin cap. From the bare joists overhead, hung bunches of herbs, seed-corn, and long strings of drying apples. The walls of the room, in the better buildings, were plastered and whitewashed. The furniture was plain; a tall wooden clock; a dresser set out with the cherished pewter dishes brought over from England; a spinning-wheel; and, perhaps, a loom for weaving. (See pages 93, 94.)

The "best room" was used only on state occasions. Ordinarily, it was carefully closed and locked to keep out the flies and preserve its sacred precincts from unlawful intruders. The andirons were of brass that shone like gold, and the fire-place in summer was garnished with asparagus branches. On the mantel-shelf, stood the high brass candlesticks, and the accompanying tray-and-snuffers. There was no carpet, but the floor was sanded and marked off by the housewife in many a quaint design. Against the walls, hung the family paintings, fondly cherished not only as mementos of the departed, but, also, of the life beyond the seas. Here, too, was the library containing a few well-read books,—for books were scarce and costly, and reading was a serious matter, taken up for improvement and not

* In the better houses, a brick oven was built in the chimney. This was heated by a fire of fine "kindlings"; then swept clean, and the bread or beans set in to bake. The bricks retained the high temperature for a long time, and the "rye-and-Indian" bread, for which our New England grandmothers were noted, was left in the oven all night.

for pastime. Among those few books were sure to be found the family Bible, Young's Night Thoughts, Watts' Improvement of the Mind, Fox's Lives of the Martyrs, Addison's Spectator, and Milton's Paradise Lost.

As the tiny windows gave little light by day, so by night the home-made tallow candles, or the pine-knot on the hearth, shed but a faint or flickering illumination. In cold weather, the fire was heaped high—for wood was abundant—but through numerous chinks and crevices, the winter air poured in, so that, as an old writer remarks, "while one side of the inmate was toasting, the other was freezing." To make matters still worse, the smoke escaping into the room by no means favored study, or any employment requiring the use of the eyes.

The food was served generally on wooden platters. It was plentiful but coarse. Fresh meat was rarely seen, except when game was taken. Salt pork or beef, salt fish, vegetables, and "rye-and-Indian" bread or "bannocks"* composed the staple diet. The farmer's breakfast often consisted mainly of "bean porridge" seasoned with savory herbs. Tea and coffee were unknown during the 17th century. The minister, we are told, had white bread provided for him as a special favor.

Friction matches had not been invented, and the fire was carefully kept over night in the ashes. If it unfortunately "went out", it was relighted by sparks from the flint-and-steel, or by live coals brought from a neighbor's hearth.

Several vegetables and fruits now common were then unknown, or were unused as food. Tomatoes, or, as they were called, "love apples", were thought to be poisonous, and were cultivated only in the flower-garden for the beauty of the bright red fruit. Rhubarb, sweet corn, cantaloupes, head-lettuce, and all the newer and finer varieties of pears, grapes, peaches, etc., have enriched the diet of a later generation. The fox-grape, which we consider a sour, ill-flavored fruit, was then a luxury to be attained only by the well-to-do. Ice in summer was unheard of, and the careful housekeeper cooled her butter for use by hanging it in a pail down the well.

Geraniums and verbenas were not seen in the flower-gardens of our great-grandmothers, who delighted their eyes with hollyhocks, sunflowers, lilacs, pinks, sweet-williams, peonies, etc. Narrow beds of these "posies" bordered the path leading from the front door, through the little front yard, which was carefully fenced off from the portion of the premises to which ordinary people had access. The front yard, the front door, and the best room were all considered too good for every-day use.

There were no wheeled carriages or wagons until the middle of the 18th century, and few until after the Revolution. Everybody went on foot or rode on horseback, as his means permitted; and the bridegroom, gentleman or workman alike, who sought a wife in a distant town, rode on horseback and brought home his bride on a pillion behind him. So little travel was there in those days, that a journey that now attracts no attention, then made one an object of public curiosity. So late as 1795, it is stated that a person who had been across the ocean was pointed out in the streets as a "man who had been to Europe".

* Bannocks were somewhat like the present "hoe-cake" of the South—merely flat cakes of Indian meal, or rye, wet with water and baked over the hot coals on the hearth.

CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY.

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BLACKBOARD ANALYSIS.

EPOCH III. THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

1. Causes of the American Revolution.
   - 1. Remote Causes.
     - a. English Treatment.
     - b. Navigation Acts.
     - c. Laws of Trade and Manufacture.
   - 2. Direct Causes.
     - a. Taxation.
     - b. Writs of Assistance.
     - c. Stamp Act.
     - d. Mutiny Act.
     - e. Boston Massacre.
     - f. Boston Tea Party.
     - g. Climax Reached.

2. First Continental Congress (1774).

3. Events of 1775. (1st Year of War.)
   - 1. Battle of Lexington.
     - a. Description.
     - b. Effects.
   - 2. Battle of Bunker Hill.
   - 3. Capture of Ticonderoga.
   - 4. Second Continental Congress.
   - 5. Condition of Washington's Army.
   - 6. Expedition against Can.
     - a. Montgomery.
     - b. Arnold.
     - c. Attack on Quebec.

4. Events of 1776. (2d Year of War.)
   - 1. Evacuation of Boston.
   - 2. Attack on Fort Moultrie.
   - 3. Declaration of Independence.
   - 4. Campaign near N. Y.
     - a. Battle of Long Island.
     - b. The Escape.
     - c. Washington's Retreat.
     - d. Flight through New Jersey.
   - 5. Condition of the Country.
   - 6. Battle of Trenton.
     - a. Description.
     - b. Effects.

5. Events of 1777. (3d Year of War.)
   - 1. Battle of Princeton.
   - 2. Campaign in Penn.
     - a. Howe and the "American Fabius".
     - b. Battle of Brandywine.
     - c. Battle of Germantown.
     - d. Conclusion.
   - 3. Campaign at the North.
     - a. Condition of Affairs.
     - b. Burgoyne's Invasion.
     - c. Burgoyne's Difficulties.
     - d. Battle of Saratoga.
       - a. *Description.*
       - b. *Effects.*

6. Events of 1778. (4th Year of War.)
   - 1. Winter at Valley Forge.
   - 2. Aid from France.
   - 3. Battle of Monmouth.
   - 4. Campaign in Rhode Island.
   - 5. Wyoming Massacre.

7. Events of 1779. (5th Year of War.)
   - 1. Campaign at the South.
     - a. Conquest of Georgia.
     - b. Attack on Charleston.
     - c. Death of Pulaski and Jasper.
   - 2. Campaign at the North.
     - a. In Connecticut.
     - b. Capture of Stony Point.
     - c. Sullivan's Expedition.
   - 3. Naval Exploits.
     - a. Privateers.
     - b. Paul Jones.

8. Events of 1780. (6th Year of War.)
   - 1. Campaign at the South.
     - a. Capture of Charleston.
     - b. Clinton and Cornwallis.
     - c. Battle of Camden.
     - d. Partisan Warfare—Marion, Sumter, Pickens, Lee, etc.
   - 2. Continental Money.
   - 3. Arnold's Treason.

9. Events of 1781. (7th Year of War.)
   - 1. Campaign at the South.
     - a. Battle of the Cowpens.
     - b. Greene's Retreat.
     - c. Campaign Closed.
   - 2. Campaign at the North.
     - Arnold, La Fayette, Cornwallis, and Clinton.
   - 3. Siege of Yorktown.
     - a. Description.
     - b. Surrender.
     - c. Effects.

10. Difficulties of the Army and Country.

11. Peace (1783).

12. Weakness of the Government.

13. Constitution Adopted.
   - 1. The Convention.
   - 2. Federalists and Anti-Federalists.
   - 3. Ratification.
   - 4. First Presidential Election.