

this size, thus rendering this settlement quite independent of the surrounding villages—in fact, it is a community within itself.

The people of the village, as well as of the surrounding country, speak among themselves almost exclusively the German-Swiss dialect, peculiar to their native country. It is spoken on the streets and at home. All school and town meetings and elections, and even proceedings in justices' courts, are of necessity conducted in this language. A stranger stopping here for the first time could easily imagine that he had dropped down upon a portion of Switzerland; and he would not be far wrong, for the village and adjacent country for many miles around are peopled almost wholly by Swiss or their descendants. They occupy, with the exception of a small portion on the northern and eastern boundaries, the whole of the township; the only persons of other nationalities in the town being three or four families of Norwegians and Irish. In fully one-half of the town of Washington, and large portions of half a dozen other towns in Green County, and also in the southern part of Dane, a number of Swiss have gained a foothold. The number of Swiss and their descendants in Green County alone exceeds three thousand—comprising about one-seventh of the entire population of the county. The village of New Glarus is the central point of gathering on all holidays and festivals; and is also the place where religious services are held for most of the Swiss in the county.

The people of this settlement are noted for their industry, frugality and economy—qualities which with them are inherited—their ancestors having from necessity been obliged to practice them for many centuries, owing to the sterile and mountainous character of their father-land, where nature yields her bounties grudgingly, and with scanty measure. One cannot help observing, on entering the settlement, the effect of these good qualities; good, comfortable houses, spacious and substantial barns, and other out-buildings are seen everywhere; and nowhere in Green County is so much money expended in permanent improvements as here, and that, too, in the face of the fact that the country is very broken and rough, the soil on the uplands thin, liable to wash away at every heavy rain, and in many places stony.