

But the people at an early period betook themselves to dairy farming and the raising of cattle. To this branch of industry they were well adapted, and thoroughly understood it, that being of necessity the only branch of agriculture possible among the mountains of their old home. This vicinity is also well suited for the purpose; for the hill pastures produce sweet, nutritious, if scant, grasses, while the natural meadows in the bottoms yield an abundance of good hay, and springs and streams of pure, cool water abound, almost every farm being supplied with running water. All these are requisites in order to produce excellence in the product, and health in the stock.

The people, as a rule, are hard-working, believing that honest, old-fashioned, sturdy strokes and blows are required to secure a livelihood and competence. They are economical also, to the verge of penuriousness; spending less than they earn, the mystery is easily explained why they get on in the world better than many of their neighbors of American or other nationalities, who are often heard to express wonder how people with so many obstacles, natural and artificial, to contend with, should have done so well. Industry and economy will bring about the same good result in any nation or country. The people are generally less involved in debt, and less complaint of hard times is heard here than in other sections of the country.

But it will now, perhaps, be of more interest to speak of this settlement and people more in detail; and, to begin at the beginning, first in order will be an account of the origin of the colony of New Glarus.

Prior to the year 1845, for about fifteen years, the times in Europe were prosperous. A long reign of peace had given an impetus to trade, and manufactures had greatly increased, so that the large surplus population of Switzerland, that had formerly found vent by enlisting in foreign armies, now found employment in the factories; and, as long as trade was good, every one prospered. About this period, a general stagnation in business occurred, which threw largenumbersof the poor out of employment; and added to this, a partial failure in crops caused a rise in the price of the necessities of life, so that distress was great among