

laborious, as teams and plows had not yet been obtained. Most of the first breaking was done with spades and shovels.

Some time during the spring of 1846, drovers from Ohio brought a lot of cows to Exeter, a mining town eight miles east of New Glarus. The colonists hearing of it, at once set out to purchase some; and, being excellent judges, soon selected the best animals of the herd in sufficient numbers to give each family one. These cost twelve dollars apiece, and were paid for out of the unexpended balance of the \$1,000 aid, before mentioned. Additional log huts were now erected in sufficient numbers, so that each family had one for its occupation. These were built close together, apart from the twenty acre apportionments, so as to form a small village. In after years, when the several lots had been increased, houses were built upon the farms, while mechanics and tradesmen occupied those in the village.

Progress toward the hoped-for independence was for some years very slow, owing in part to poverty, and yet more to ignorance in tilling the soil, and handling the crops after the fashion of this country. Generally in their old Switzer homes, no horses nor plows were used in agriculture; all spading, sowing, mowing, etc., being done by hand. The hay and other crops are carried on the backs of men and women; even manure was, and is, still carried there, in tubs made for the purpose, up to the steep mountain slopes where it was used. In fact, they were ignorant of all modes of farming, except the care of cattle, in which they excelled.

This beginning certainly looked discouraging to the people. Without money, without skill, in a strange land, and among those whose language was different from their own, it required firm determination, courage and faith to hold out. With some, it is likely that it was only the want of means to return that prevented their leaving. Most of the men, however, made up their minds to win success by unceasing efforts. They, as well as the women, sought and found work elsewhere, the men at the lead mines at Exeter, and Mineral Point, and on the farms of older settlers; the women as domestic servants, washer-women, in fact anything by which they could honestly earn something. Their earnings were scanty—about fifty cents a day being a man's wages and