

to time fully thirty persons, who have gathered a competency here, have returned to Switzerland—some having been twice and even three times; but not to exceed half a dozen have returned to remain. The large farms, grand distances, and enlarged thought of this country tend to give larger views to both sight and mind; so that, it is said, everything in the old country appears close and contracted by comparison; and, as some have expressed it, that there seemed to be hardly room to breathe there. Still the love for the "old home," as it is still affectionately termed by all, is undying; and few who were adults when they came here but cherish the wish and hope to behold their loved native mountains once more before they go hence to the undiscovered country.

How long this reverential feeling will continue, will depend upon circumstances; but it would seem, from past experience in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and New York, where many whose ancestors migrated two hundred years ago, still speak only German, that unless the iron horse finds his way to these hills and valleys, it is more than likely that a hundred years hence will make little change in the language and customs of the New Glarus people. With all this adherence to what is ancient, and aversion to mixing, and intermarrying with, those of other nationalities, those who read—and few do not—are well informed, and quick to comprehend whatever is of advantage to themselves, and of general interest. From being almost entirely ignorant of the modes of American farming, they are now considered the equals of the best farmers in the country, taking advantage of, and purchasing, the best labor-saving machinery, and in enterprise and endurance are scarcely equalled by any.

In public spirit they are not lacking. In addition to the fine district school-house, there has also been built another in which German is taught. In 1870, when a railroad was projected in the vicinity, the township promptly voted twenty thousand dollars to aid in building it, besides one hundred dollars in cash to assist in defraying the expense of surveying. As yet there is no prospect of the road being built. In 1861, news was received that the town of Glarus, Switzerland, was almost destroyed by fire. In a short time, the sum of twelve hundred and fifty dollars was con-