

which variety at times constituted our whole bread diet, we managed to get along. As I have said, it was a long time before the settlers got into the knack of procuring game, either venison or the wild fowl, in much quantity.

In this age of luxury and plenty, when scarcely any one goes hungry, or certainly need not, it would seem very strange if the father of the family should, as the members of his household came around the table, be obliged to divide up the food into so many equal parts, and say to each one, "This much you can have and no more;" but in those early times it was practiced frequently, and many times have I known it to be done by my father in his family.

The first settlers in Jefferson county were, I think, in every instance American-born. The great tide of foreign immigration, which, since that time, has set in so strongly westward, had not then begun, and it was a number of years after the first settlers came to Jefferson county before the foreign-born sought homes there. The first settlement of Germans was near Jefferson,¹ and the first German girl I ever saw was engaged in my father's family as a domestic.

She was a girl of good birth and education, who came there and was willing to work in order to learn the English language; and when she had acquired that she returned to her home near Jefferson. That was a period before "hired girls" became an institution. There were no Germans, Norwegians or Irish. There were no girls that sought employment of this character, and if there were any in the settlement who were willing to assist their neighbors in domestic matters, they were daughters of American parents and not ashamed to work out. They were all treated as members of the family, and as a matter of course ate at the first table. In this respect time has changed matters very much indeed.

Only five years before our settlement in Lake Mills had the Black Hawk war been concluded. Black Hawk and his band were pursued through this section of the Territory by regular troops, by volunteers and by friendly Indians, in

¹ Germans first arrived at Jefferson in the spring of 1842. Most of the new-comers settled in the village. Among them was John Rockdæschel, the first cobbler in the place.—ED.