

a community of this size. The people of the village, and also of the surrounding country, among themselves speak the German-Swiss dialect almost exclusively, just as it is spoken in Switzerland. All school and town meetings, and all legal and other business, unless transacted in writing, are of necessity conducted in this language. Many of those who were born here require an interpreter when called upon to testify as witnesses in the courts. A stranger stopping here unawares could easily imagine that he had dropped upon a district in Switzerland. The sounds and sights in the village, and the bold character of the surrounding hills, would strengthen the impression.

The Swiss occupy in addition to the village, almost the whole township,—three or four families of Norwegians living on the northern border. Fully two-thirds of the adjoining town of Washington, and large portions of many other towns in Green and Dane counties, are also thus occupied. The number of Swiss and their immediate descendants in Green county alone, exceeds eight thousand, comprising about one-third of the entire population. Other centres of business and trade have risen among this people, but New Glarus is the point from which the Swiss element radiates, and where it is chiefly concentrated. These Swiss-Americans are noted for their industry, frugality, and economy,—qualities which have been bred in their bone and blood for ages. Centuries of hard struggle to obtain a bare subsistence from the sterile mountains of the fatherland have formed the principles which on this more generous soil, and with place to grow, have led to competence. Toilsome struggles with poverty and adverse nature, far from being disadvantageous, are important factors in the building of that strong form of character which can adapt itself to circumstances, and ultimately bring to its possessor the best of life. In America, the sterile hills of New England are a notable example of this. What similar extent of territory in the United States has produced an equal number of successful men and women? One cannot help observing, on entering the section occupied by these Swiss-Americans, the material results of their inherited qualities. The houses