

clothed in as good material as they can afford, as it is to build houses and barns well and tasteful. Maidens have found out that a dress up with the times enhances their natural charms; and where ten years ago every woman made her own gowns in the plainest manner, and with the utmost saving of material in quality and quantity, now several fashionable dressmakers have steady and paying employment. The elders, however, still avoid the fashions, and dress in the simple styles of yore.

As a matter of course, after an absence from their old home for so many years, the attachment to the fatherland has diminished. Yet intercourse with the friends and relatives among the mountains across the water is quite generally kept up; newspapers and letters are regularly exchanged, and some of the old-timers read the little Swiss newspapers with more interest than they would the great American journals. It is more than a surmise that in the hearts of most of the early emigrants the idea long existed that they would only remain in this country long enough to amass a modest competence, and then return to their old home to enjoy it. Indeed, the people of some other nationalities who come to this country at the present time are known to entertain and carry out this idea. Many Swiss who have gained means have revisited the old home,—some of them a number of times,—but very few have remained there. The halo which memory had cast over the scenes of childhood and youth was found to have vanished, and there remained only the reality of the old, terrible struggle with poverty which had driven them forth. They returned to America more American than ever. To the Swiss-American, the grand distances, the great opportunities, the liberal thought, and the public institutions of this country, seem by comparison to make the conditions of life in the old home appear narrow, mean, and unbearable. As some have expressed it, there seems to be hardly room there to breathe. Yet the love for the old home, and its heroic history, cannot be extinguished, and next to being Americans the pride of a Swiss is to be a Swiss. While apparently he quietly submits to being called a German by those who judge of his