

in which boys and girls were educated and boarded for a nominal consideration.

The bishop of the diocese, while still not recognizing the authenticity of the apparition, has virtually sanctioned the erection of the ecclesiastical buildings on the spot, and allows the faithful to congregate there for the purpose of worship according to the Roman Catholic faith. August 15 of each year is the time set for the gathering of the faithful to this shrine, and thousands come from far and near, even from other States, to here offer up their devotions to the Virgin.

We have now arrived with our historical sketch at the year 1860. We find the Belgian settlers, with the patient industry characteristic of the people of that nation, fast transforming a wilderness into beautiful farms. Nearly all of the settlements have their school-houses and teachers, quite a number have churches, and more of these latter are in the course of construction. These schools and churches are built of hewed logs, and roofed with hand-made shingles; the lumber and other material are sawed in the settlements with whip-saws, there being no saw-mills except at a long distance.

The attendance at the schools is large, although some of the scholars have to walk three and four miles to reach them. The churches are also well attended on Sundays and on holy-days, and when the people have no priests they select one of their number to read mass and the gospel of the day. In nearly every settlement there is a country store; this building is generally large enough to comprise the store, dwelling-house, tavern, and dancing-hall. Old-country feasts are being revived, and we find on these feast-days that old-time Belgian games and amusements are practiced, such as the swinging of the flags in public places, surrounded by young men and young girls waiting for the first dance. The young men indulge in a tournament of their own, called "carrousel;" on horseback they ride at full speed in a circle, catching rings for prizes, which generally consist of fine saddles, bridles, &c. After