

daughters remained in the room where we were sitting and took a lively part in the conversation. They were very social and agreeable in their manner though living secluded and exhibited a mind cultivated with great care and well instructed on the general topics of the day. This was more remarkable for being acquired at home school being almost out of the question. The polite attention and easy grace with which they met us convinced me that Mr. B. was no careless man in regard to the education of his family for the youngest understood what good manners. Having some candies in my pocket for a better acquaintance I distributed them among them and the youngest one a little lad about two years and myself soon became in particular very good friends. He was a rosy checked engaging little fellow and would sit with me and talk a long time just as I required.

After we were well rested our host proposed a short stroll over his grounds where he was going to yard shop for market. Having provided us with large walking sticks to aid us over the hills we started promising to return at the hour for dinner. The Capt. of the Benedos chose to remain and enjoy the society of the secluded dell as he said he was not quite rested so he was commissioned to keep the peace in the family till we returned.

Passed many garden spots chosen on the most favorable ground found he had

an excellent soil for cultivation for nearly all kinds of vegetables were growing in abundance destined for market. He informed us that rats were sometimes very mischievous and besides vegetables fruit also in some seasons was destroyed in large quantities notwithstanding repeated attempts to ~~destroy~~ exterminate them. During our walk we came across one a large fellow in a trap which had been set near a large cabbage which doubtless he intended to have stormed had he not been enticed by "a more dainty aliment".

At the foot of a hill we found the flock feeding. Had some difficulty in surrounding them in such a diversified country for they seemed wary of strangers. We had quite a sharp run after them stretching our legs to some purpose before we got them together. We succeeded however in penning them and those sentenced to die were left in the fold while the others were turned out to roam "on hill and dale".

A different path led us back to the house where we arrived just in time and found the dinner. Smoking on the table the fact was Mrs. B. having seen us at some distance calculated with considerable precision the time of our arrival and prepared the meal accordingly.

Host having led the way we took our places at the table. One of the daughters imploring a blessing and we fell too having good appetites there's no disputing that we did ample justice.