

Through this home woods I passed each morning and evening during the time that I was teaching twenty terms of school. Just beyond the southern limit stood the little schoolhouse (now rebuilt) whither the precious mother sent her whole nest of overgrown broodlings during the winter of 1879-80.⁶ It was our last winter all together and was perhaps the happiest of our lives.

It is a startling thing when death first enters the home circle, especially one so extended as ours, whose members have all been sheltered by the same roof, until the youngest has passed twenty. When three years later our brother Stephen went away from us to dwell in the endless springtime of God's greater country, he took so much of our sunshine with him that the old place never seemed quite the same again. But so fast are we gathering homeward, that the real home is there, not here; and so the changes come and the years pass by as a tale that is told.

HOPES TO BE REALIZED

The fall emigration is now at its height, every few minutes one of the white covered wagons with its miscellaneous load of human beings and household furniture, drawn by a yoke of patient oxen, may be seen on each of the great highways leading west from the Mississippi. A great field for thought is opened by the sight of the hardy pioneers to the philosophical observer. How many painful partings, how many griefs and tears, have attended this mighty exodus; and intermingled with griefs and tears, are bright hopes and visions of the future home, and peaceful farm house, all dimly seen in the dreams of the wayworn wanderers. May all their hopes be realized, and in their new home, may they find that content which failed them in the east.—*Cedar Falls (Iowa) Banner*, Oct. 27, 1854.

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