

18 household and other purposes, obtainable by sinking a well to the depth of about nine feet. The first well was sunk in close proximity to the house, but the roots of this willow found their way to the water, and the sides of the well not being in any way protected either with bricks or slabs, it ultimately caved in at the bottom, & evidently it was an easier method to ~~make~~^{sink} a new well than to clean out the old one.

A second one was sunk, & I think even a third, until it became a habit (almost of sinking them, so ultimately, a pipe was driven down and a pump attached. So this is a bare description of the surroundings with which I was brought up, & was my home for nearly twenty seven years. My childhood days before, I could retain in my memory any particular happening, were I dare say like a good many other, settled and made much of until the arrival of others, one brother and three sisters, one of whom

19 died early, & there were therefore nine of us to be provided for, the older ones as they grew to usefulness, had to assist in the general work of the farm. In a later chapter I will give further descriptions of the place & the various things engaged in; & also the district in general, its people, institutions and other matters.

Chapter 3

Now I come to the incidents of early life and the dawn of recollection, as far as possible I will divide this into two parts, the first dealing with incidents at home & ^{then} reminiscences of school life. I have a very hazy recollection, of having crawled out of the house, & making my way to the gate that was not far from the back door of the house, I seem to remember climbing up this gate, but this may be a myth, it may have been fostered by being told that I could climb before