

we had gone to bed, we would amuse ourselves acting as the machine had with its hum-ma-mung and chugg chugging and noises, and even afterwards we had lots of fun, sliding down from the straw stacks, and playing "hide and seek in the straw."

Christmas time was one of rejoicing, but it was without the presents that are so much the order of the present time. There was no hanging up of our stockings, in anticipating a visit from Santa Claus or Father Christmas. In fact I cannot remember even the mention of his name. It was the custom with us of which I do not know the origin, the being the one who would first open the door on Christmas morning. I could never see much in it, perhaps because I was not always up first by any means, and there was a condition attached that when once the door was opened and "letting Christmas in", there was to be no going back to bed, so it was scarcely worth while getting up too early. The same

applied very much the same, applied to letting in the New Year. Only the one who had opened the door had to have five little sticks, & to take each one separately, & make some wish. I forget what the names were, only the last one which was a Happy New Year. Suddenly if the thing were properly done, a bright flower of some sort, would suddenly be seen. I must confess that whilst I had opened the door and gone through the proper formula, yet I never saw any flower. Later on I had my doubts. But Christmas day was altogether different. There was a gathering of a few neighbours, & various games played in the afternoon. A couple of geese were generally cooked for dinner, and boiled ham, together with the big plum pudding, but without coins of any sort being included in it. Afterwards there was a big mince pie, the mince about two inches thick. It was a great day altogether and the after thought was; what a long time until Christmas comes again. I cannot remember anything out standing