

CHAPTER XII

VISITING THE COUSINS

It was always a red letter day when Uncle Frank visited us. Uncle Frank had characteristic Parlin features, yet strangely enough, was considered by everyone as a very handsome man. He also was very kind in many ways after your grandfather's father died. Grandfather can remember going to Monroe and having a good time with Uncle Frank and Aunt Jennie and Cousin Frank and "Veva" (Genevieve). But before Grandfather was twelve, Uncle Frank moved to North Dakota and, except for a rare visit from Uncle Frank, we saw none of the family for a number of years.

On one occasion we went to Chicago to visit Aunt Ella Parlin Coolidge and her husband Charles Coolidge, for whom Grandfather had been named. The cousins Walter, Elizabeth, Ned and Ellen were all younger than Grandfather; in fact, Ellen was only a baby and quite a curiosity to Grandfather, who had been the youngest in his family.

Ned was just the age to run about and "get into things". One day the house was thrown into wild confusion. It seems it was the custom of Aunt Ella to give a homeopathic pill to Ned twice a day, and when Aunt Ella went to give him one of these pills - behold - the bottle was empty. Where do you suppose the pills had gone? Ned, upon being questioned, said that he did not like to be bothered to take them twice a day, so had taken them all at once. There was much scurrying for a doctor, but fortunately they were only homeopathic pills (homeopathy in that day being quite a medical vogue in which the medical portions were almost infinitesimal, and a whole bottle could not do much harm.) Yet was he not a rash youngster? How did

he know they were only homeopathic pills and not real medicine, an overdose of which might prove fatal?