



Yours truly, age sixteen  
Note the high collar

## CHAPTER FIVE

### ADOLESCENCE

Toward the end of the year of 1900 all was astir at our house. We were leaving old Birdston to move back to the county of my birth, but not to the same community. We were moving into the "Harmony" community. Never was life so buoyant to the writer as the first two or three years at Harmony. I was entering the adolescent stage. Life seemed so pleasant, so beautiful. Various ambitions sprang up in my breast.

### SCHOOL LIFE

Immediately after we had settled down in our new home we children entered school. And what a school it was! A small box house about 20 by 25 feet with scarcely more than a dozen pupils. I had been used to a large school of some sixty to eighty pupils and two teachers.

This stately school building was located in the dense woods. There were so few pupils enrolled that we were allowed more privileges than we were allowed at Birdston. I refer especially to the privilege of boys and girls playing together. This was especially gratifying to me because I was now entering my teens. In just a year or two I would be qualified to "wear long pants," which was something every boy looked forward to in those days. When a boy became old enough to put on long pants he naturally became interested in the girls.

But in the school here as at Birdston, the girls were required to sit on one side of the room with the boys on the other, an aisle separating them. As I now recall, this first term of school at Harmony was somewhat uneventful. I formed the acquaintance of all the kids and among these I found my chief play-fellows and "pals" in the Huffman family. This was a large family of about sixteen children, mostly boys. Among these were two boys just about my age. One of these, "Dickie" was a year older than I while the next, "Eddie" was a year younger. These two became my fast friends and play-mates. We played together all the time. I liked to visit them for several reasons. First, their daddy was a sort of "well-to-do" farmer and they always had more to eat than we did, so I made it convenient to take meals with them often. Sometimes I would "stay all night" with