

The Field.

Life in the Backwoods.

THE accompanying illustration gives a view of the rough beginnings of a home in the backwoods of Canada. It will recall to many of our readers their first experiences in the bush; show to others how their ancestors battled with primitive difficulties, and changed the wooded wilderness into a fruitful field; give a picture of present scenes and surroundings to settlers in our newer townships; and show to city

close at hand. He need not haul the logs that form its massive frame-work, many yards from where they grew, unless indeed, there be a cedar, tamarack, or black ash swamp not far distant, and he prefers to build his house, of lighter, straighter, and more uniform logs than are already on the spot. A well-built log house is by no means to be despised. There is a fitness about it that cannot fail to impress every observant mind. Our wonder is that with the architectural capabilities possessed by the new settler, better and more permanent log-houses are not erected. In our second number, Vol. I, we gave an illustration showing how a little skilful exercise of taste will

the biggest logs are chosen for the bottom course, and they are hastily bedded somewhat, and the work proceeds. More pains ought to be taken with the bottom tier. It would be unreasonable, perhaps, to expect the laying of a stone foundation, though it would be the wisest policy imaginable; but surely good solid blocks, on end, might be let into the ground, in order to prevent that chronic evil in log houses—*settling*.

In travelling through the newer sections of this country, one observes a great difference in the log structures. Some are contracted in size; composed of rough, crooked, gnarled logs; the ends wretchedly



residents here, and people in the old country, the prosaic reality of Canadian pioneering. Here are shown the first clearing, and the rude, yet not uncomfortable log-house.

Having inspected his estate, and selected the most advantageous site for his future residence, our settler plies his axe, and by felling a few of the trees on the chosen spot, lets in the long-excluded day light. His dwelling is to be constructed of materials that are

make a log-building attractive and ornamental. Other styles might be adopted, equally if not even more tasteful. Surprise has been expressed by good judges, that logs have been so little, if ever used for gardener's cottages, porter's lodges, and farm houses on pretentious estates.

One evil committed usually in putting up the settler's first habitation, is neglecting the foundation. A moderately level spot of ground is pitched upon;

hacked, and projecting irregularly; the ceilings low; windows very small; roofs made of bark; and if you enter them, you will find they have earth—or, as they are more appropriately called sometimes, "dirt" floors. Others are spacious; made of straight logs, gradually decreasing in size toward the eaves; the ends cut smoothly and the corners finished true and square; the ceilings high, windows of good size; roofs neatly shingled with either short or long shingles; and in-