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state of my health on leaving school, I soon re-
gained my usual strength on coming home, and
my strong inclination for hunting, pigeon-shoot-
ing and fishing, soon restored my old-time vigour.

In the old pioneer days a bear hunt was
a common occurrence. As the woods were
cleared, the plot of land was planted with corn,
potatoes, turnips, etc. These crops afforded a
good opportunity to the bears that inhabited
the dense and continuous forest to commit their
depredations in corn fields by night. To put
a stop to bruin's ravages, the neighbors would
organize a bear hunt. This was done in our
case by forming in the centre of the corn-plot
a small barricade of fence rails from which,
when the bear appeared, the farmers poured in
their volley upon him, which soon put Mr.
Bruin hors de combat. Then a yoke of oxen
was dispatched to the scene of action and the
bear, sometimes weighing four hundred pounds,
was hauled to the barn where he was skinned
and divided among his captors. Bear meat was
considered a delicacy by the early pioneers.

Life on the farm in the pioneer days was by
no means uneventful. Each year we cleared
from ten to twenty acres of forest land. The
cutting of the trees was peculiar. Commencing
some distance in the woods, the trees were cut
nearly through, but not far enough to fell them;
then the trees next these were cut in the same
manner, and so on to the edge of the clearing.