

offence, and in the enjoyment of that peace and tranquility, which was a result of the performance of their duty—no less to God than to their King; whilst the traitors to their sovereign were revelling in the possession of the small properties from which they had been driven, but which must have been ashes in the mouths, and bitterness in the throats of these unhallowed fratricides.

The traitor to his Sovereign, at all times, no doubt, makes every effort to reconcile his conduct with his duty, and must, in self-defence, seek out reasons for justification; but alas! how weak must be all reflections against the cries of a justly alarmed conscience, which can never be quieted either by flattery or false arguments.

Providence now, about the year 1791, and about seven years after their first settlement, began to smile upon the arrangements of this small band of heroes. The winters began to assume a somewhat milder aspect—the wolves in their turn became a prey to the famine which by their own devastation amongst the deer, they had caused. The Indians who, about this time began to be very troublesome—keeping the settlers in a constant state of alarm and at every opportunity carrying off their cattle, were, either through some new treaty or otherwise, so propitiated by the government, that the settlers from this time began gradually to increase, though for some years but slowly, and generally to improve in their circumstances.

The social history of the old united empire loyalists of the Bay of Quinte, from their embarkation at New York in 1783, down to about the year 1820, when their *political* history commences, and which was the death knell to the state of real happiness and enjoyment upon which they were just entering, would form a curious as well as interesting episode in the history of Canada; but as I have already perhaps somewhat exceeded my licence upon the present occasion and trespassed upon your attention, I will pass on to those matters which more immediately concerned their agriculture.

Amongst the many liberal provisions, besides their allotments of land, which were made by that paternal Monarch Geo. III. of imperishable memory, to the U. E. Loyalists, I well recollect the old English plough. It consisted of a small iron socket whose point entered by means of a dove-tailed aperture, into the heel of the coulter which formed the principal part of the plough, and was in shape similar to the letter L, the shank of which went through the wooden beam, and the foot formed the point which was sharpened for operation. One handle and a plank split from the side of a winding block of timber, which did duty for a mould-board, completed the implement. Besides provisions for a year, I think each family had issued to them a plough share and coulter, a set of drag-teeth, a log chain, an axe, a saw, a hammer, a bill-hook and a grabbing hoe, a pair of hand irons, and a cross-cut saw amongst several families, and a few other articles.

The trace ropes, leading lines, halters, bed-cords, &c., when they had arrived at that state of luxury which required bed-cords—were manufactured from the bark of the elm and basswood trees,

which was peeled off in the spring of the year and water-rotted similar to flax, in order to separate the fibre from the rind. This material when properly prepared forms a strong, useful and cheap rope, and might at this day be manufactured and used with advantage, for most domestic and farm purposes. Many a day I recollect having assisted my father in his rustic rope-walk. The clevises and clevis pins as well as the drag teeth, when the old ones were worn out or lost, were frequently made of the hickory timber which, when I was a boy, abounded about the Bay of Quinte.

About the year 1808, the "hog-plough" made its appearance. This was an importation, and about the first from the United States. This plough was considered a wonderful invention. It consisted of a full iron share forming the front or rising part of the mould-board, the residue of which was still obliged to be made of wood. About the year 1815 the farmers generally fixed their attention upon the cast-iron share and mould-board, all cast in one piece, also an invention from the United States, but which we then began to manufacture ourselves, and it was indeed the first implement of any consequence to farmers, which we did manufacture within the Province.

From that time to the present, not a single year has passed over without an "improvement" in this important implement, until we have now a host of ploughs, harrows, cultivators, drills, potato diggers, scarifiers, clod crushers, rollers, cradling and mowing machines, hay-rakes and corn shellers, threshers, and a host of inventions—vying with each other in the rapidity with which they are varied in form, shape, colour and character, to such a degree that they have almost become a nuisance to the farmer who desires to purchase a really useful article.

During all this period from 1783, with the exception of the "scarce years" the people lived happily and contentedly. Here and there a school would be started, to which the young men in winter would travel upon snow shoes for several miles. One winter's schooling was considered quite sufficient, and if a lad did not learn to write upon half a quire of paper including his pot-hooks and hangers, he was considered a dunce.

As it respected religion, the loyalists were all Protestants; of the descendants of the old Huguenot families who had originally colonised a considerable part of the Province of New Jersey, of which class were all my own immediate relations as well as a great number of the other loyalists—most of them were brought up in the faith of the Church of England. There were a few of the descendants from the Puritan stock, and a few who had been brought up under the teaching of Wesley and Whitfield. Old Dr. Stuart, the father of our venerable and much beloved Arch Deacon of Kingston, settled in this City which was then a little French village called Cataroque, and taking advantage of his missionary labours amongst the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte, he instructed the inhabitants generally in the mode of husbandry, with which he had been familiar on the Mohawk River in the Province of New York. The itinerant system of Methodism, however, very soon brought the great