

settlers accommodated themselves to new climates and modes of life, would be replete with interest, because it would gratify that common and strong propensity, that causes us to take delight in hearing how men like ourselves have become masters over difficulties that appal us, and that appalled them at the outset.

We say of this period, that it does not abound in names that would adorn a catalogue of intellectual notorieties. To some minute chronicler who would attempt to allege those local celebrities that he had been taught to consider famous—to him when he adduced divines and lawyers of whom we had never heard, we would say, you are under the illusion of the spot, you are caught in the meshes of association, you are taken captive by adventitious matters. It is because the idea was instilled into you when young that these were renowned persons, that you believe in their celebrity now. Their powers cannot have been what you deem them, because they have not been able to float them across to other lands. The fame that will not bear carriage, that refuses to become cosmopolite, may interest the feelings of partial patriots, but will not be accepted by the candid critic. To one who invited us to partake in admiration of the *intellect* of this period, we would reply that we could not sympathise with him, for that we considered that it contained nothing of much eminence, but was all absorbed in local duties and employments. But if he asked us to feel concern in the general history of the colony, shewed us new modes arising congenial to the circumstances, pointed out the methods that the British race borrowed from the red aborigines, let us see how the awkward tools of the old country gradually assumed the fit shape of the present chopping and broad axe, how the tasty succatash and hominy came into use, how Johnie cakes obtained among the settlers, how maple sugar sweetened their repast, how the wilderness and the solitary place turned into the village, how the village enlarged into the town; if he entered minutely into the rural history of the people, and exhibited—

"How jocundly they drove the team afield,
How bowed the woods beneath their sturdy stroke."

If such were the materials of his narrative, we would give it our regards; because we would feel that it took cognisance of one of the most remarkable situations in which a part of the human family has stood in modern times.

The account that relates how a tract of forest land has become a place of farms, hamlets, and cities, is not a narrative of high feats of scholarship and genius. The men who play the part in this rural drama are not of the class that pass their lives over books, and that display prodigious learning and talent. If the society be interspersed with a few professional persons, their avocations are so miscellaneous as to prevent them from giving that exclusive attention to one branch, that is a condition of the progress of science. A doctor who occasionally must walk some miles over fallen trees and through snow two feet deep, in order to reach a patient, is content to take his ideas from others. He