

other flies so very troublesome, that you will be anxious to make your stay among them as short as possible. There is yet another disadvantage: spots, sometimes of no trifling extent, which, if seen in spring or autumn, would be so wet and impassable, as to deter you from settling in their neighbourhood, will then be as dry as if a drop of water could never be found there.

Winter, perhaps, is a still more objectionable time; to be sure, you can then easily distinguish swampy spots by the hemlocks and cedars which invariably occupy them, and whose dark green contrasts strongly with the leafless branches of the trees growing on dry land; but you are totally prevented from discovering whether the ground is not so full of stones as to be worth little. Perhaps you will think it strange that there should be stones on the surface of the ground here at all; supposing that the leaves which were annually shed for four thousand years, must have formed in their decomposition a mass of mould which must have long since placed the stones far beneath the surface. The fact, however, is, that there is plenty of stony land to be met with in Canada; and where surface stones are most numerous, they are generally found in nests or heaps. This is plainly caused by those trees which have been overturned by the wind; their roots bringing up on such occasions a mass of the sub-soil, with all the stones that were among it.

In the spring, say from the 1st of April to the 4th or 5th of May, or in the months of October and November, are found, as I conceive, the best opportunities for judging of, and selecting land. You will then see at one time a much larger extent of the face of the country, you will not be in danger of your losing your temper and your self-possession together by the rascally mosquitoes: you will have double evidence of every swampy spot in the contrast of which I have already spoken, and in the water, through which you are obliged to splash; and you will be able to determine about the stones, both by observing the surface, and better still, by examining the mass of earth which adheres to the roots of any tree that may happen to have been upset by wind. After all, I would not be understood to join in the outcry raised by new settlers against