

CHAPTER II.

After my father's death, my sisters, brothers and myself, with the rest of the family, returned to the Township of Artemesia, to the new home, after matters were adjusted and our dead buried. This brought me to a new world comparatively. I had been to the home once during the winter, with a cow that was needed for beef for the family use. I knew where it was, and had some curiosity in looking forward to bush life. The owls hooted very loudly during the night, while a large fire was kept burning to keep the animals from devouring the beef. The six children, without parents, chose to live together, my oldest brother continuing the family altar, and leading in a strictly consecrated life to God. When the older brother was not at home, the family altar was continued by the senior,—whoever that might be,—at home at the time,—it was not allowed to die.

My business at the old home, was to look after the cattle, for we had five cows, two yoke of oxen, some sheep, some hogs, and numerous fowl. While my brothers were chopping in the woods, it was my business to feed the stock, clean and keep in order the stables, work in the woods, and bring home sufficient firewood, and have it properly prepared, to keep the house comfortable, attend to the hogs, sheep, etc., and I found myself quite able for the task, and did it without giving delay or trouble to the brothers.

In the month of March 1850, after my father's death, we returned again to the County of Grey, taking our stock on foot, a distance of sixty miles. My oldest brother and I were deputed to remain behind, after the household goods were started for the new home, and to follow the family with our stock. It took two days to cover the distance to Artemesia Township. After many difficulties on the journey, we landed home with the full herd, in good condition. We had some unpleasant weather for the