

Some forty years ago, a farmer by the name of S—— purchased a lot in the vicinity of P——, and proceeded in the erection of a house. He married a girl of the village, and while he stocked his farm with flocks and implements of husbandry by dint of exertions and labour, he filled his house with a number of sturdy boys and girls, who grew apace, and held out the promise of giving much assistance to their parents, ere many years had passed away.

The land in this neighbourhood is not well adapted to agriculture, and S—— had much difficulty in providing for his increasing family, from the produce of his farm. But it was a well wooded country in those days, and vegetable fuel being more in demand in the Halifax market than at present, he was enabled by transporting a quantity of this commodity to town during the winter season, to increase his funds, a thing much to be desired during that inclement period. He was also distinguished for his mechanical ability, and the various implements necessary to husbandry in Nova Scotia, were manufactured by him, during the winter evenings, and disposed of to his neighbours for fitting remuneration. His wife was competent to assist him in the management of his farm, and did so, but if rumour be not as false in this case as in many others, she who by right should have been the weaker vessel, asserted her privilege as the stronger, and usually came off victorious. His domestic life could not have been a happy one, if Tradition gives us a correct account, and we fear in this case her pen was not dipped in falsehood.

Doubtless all difficulties might have been overcome, and industry left but little time for despondency on his part, had not his wife been possessed of a most unconquerable temper, sufficient to fetter his best exertions, and materially affect his prospects of comfort or independence. She had brought him some small property at her marriage, and this was a fruitful source of provocation on her part, as she magnified the inheritance beyond its fullest extent, and perpetually taunted him with the good he had derived from his marriage with her—a very questionable benefit, as the poor man's inmost convictions would freely have allowed.

The property, whose possession coming through a channel of peace and good will, might have been of great assistance to him in his efforts for maintenance, was a continual source of discomfort. His home consequently was made very unhappy by these incessant bickerings; but still he pursued his course of honest industry, and toiled hard enough for the support of his family, to have satisfied the wishes of any woman less domineering and ill-tempered than herself.

His labour was unremitting. In field and forest might be seen the form of the hardy farmer as he cheerily whistled to the accompaniment of his spade or his axe, forgetting his cares, in the diligence wherewith he pursued his toil; and whatever may have been his temptations on other grounds, 'idle hands' gave Satan no inducement to furnish him with employment.