

Hearing of our arrival, many of the people came to Franktown to consult about a proper location for their minister. At that time the Government granted each actual settler two hundred acres of land. Father selected his allowance near the centre of the township, on the sensible principle of "putting the kirk in the middle of the parish." Not a tree was cut, and no abode awaited us. It required a good stock of saving grace to refrain from murmuring, after the fashion of the Israelites in the wilderness, whose distressing plight we could appreciate. James Wall, a big-souled Irishman, not a Presbyterian, offered us the use of a small log-house he had just put up. His kind offer was accepted gratefully, and we moved into the humble tenement, occupying it six weeks. What a contrast was this one-roomed cabin, with neither door nor window, to the pleasant home we had left three months before!

God had cast our lot amid strange scenes, and we resolved to make the best of the situation. The cheerfulness of father and mother surprised us. No word of complaint escaped their lips. Their confidence remained unshaken, under the most trying circumstances. The self-sacrificing Moravians in Greenland did not exhibit more admirable submission to the Divine Will. Somehow our stuff was brought from Franktown and soon set to rights in the little shanty. We were not burdened with household effects, having sold the bulk of the furniture in Scotland. "Necessity is the mother of invention." Quilts and blankets, hung over the openings and across the apartment, served as doors and windows and a partition. We cooked on the flat stone, at one end of the building, which did duty as a hearth in the chimneyless fire-place. More smoke stayed inside than found the way out. Millions of mosquitos and black flies added to our discomfort, obliging us frequently to exclude nearly every breath of air to shut out the pests. The plague of flies in Egypt could hardly have been more tormenting. No one dared venture far at night, for wolves prowled around the house in the darkness, uttering most dismal howls. Like