

offshores of Huron or Nipissing, in less time than it then took between Quebec and Montreal, or between Brockville and Perth, surely we may say that their lines have fallen in pleasant places. Could those who now complain of their hardships only realize those of the emigrant of half a century ago, they would surely show a less discontented spirit.

The Ramsay settlers, from their former mode of life, being necessarily unacquainted with agriculture, and not having been accustomed to severe labor, had, as might be expected, many privations to endure for the first few years; they were in the undesirable situation of the African traveller; "no cows had they to give them milk, no mills to grind their corn," but alas! this was not all, for during the first and second years the great difficulty was to *procure* corn or indeed provisions of any kind. In 1822 there was but one ox in Ramsay, owned by Mr. James Metcalf, ninth line, and one horse, Mr. Robert Mansell's; cows were plentier, for there were two, Mr. Mansell and Mr. John Gemmill having one each. The clearings were small, all the *logging*, &c., having to be done by hand, and the woods shaded a great part of the small crops; what grain was sowed had to be covered with the hoe; the returns were therefore small, and many families were reduced to great distress, and were obliged to live on the most unsavory and often unwholesome viands, but with the plentiful crop of 1823 all their hardships were forgotten, and no serious difficulties of the kind ever afterwards occurred.

During the fall of 1823 a new trouble came upon a portion of them; the Government brought out a large portion of Irish emigrants, chiefly from the Counties of Limerick and Cork, under the charge of Hon. Peter Robinson, brother of the late Chief Justice; they were established for the winter in a camp, which they called "Ballygiblin," about the place where McGuire's furniture establishment now stands, in the present Village of Almonte, where they received military rations, and were fed upon the fat of the land. As the landlords in Ireland, who had the selection, naturally wished to rid themselves of the most improvident and unruly, it was no wonder that, with a few notable exceptions, they were disposed to follow their old system in Canada; leading idle and dissolute lives. For want of other amusement they took to fighting among themselves, and, as a variety, to beating and maltreating others; for any and for no cause, unoffending men were beaten nearly to death; some dared not to sleep in their own houses, and to such a pitch had they got that on the morning of the first Sunday in May, 1824, the militia of Perth and vicinity, under command of the authorities, made an attack upon the camp, killing one and wounding and capturing many of the most turbulent, which put an effectual stay to their out-

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