

Their table was crowded with the productions of their little spot, every attention was shewn and every tribute of respect paid. The difficulties of clearing land are not to be overcome, save by patience and long perseverance. Smith and his family possessed great assiduity, and they loved and esteemed each other. The more necessity called for their exertions, the closer were they united in intimacy and friendship. At this season he was employed planting his potatoes among the rotten stumps, whilst George was engaged watching the run of the gasperaux, with which the river abounded, and laying in a supply for the ensuing winter. They had taken but two barrels when their supply of salt failed. This was not an unusual occurrence. In the early settlement of Nova-Scotia, and indeed to this day, many of the poorer inhabitants on the shores, are frequently compelled to allow their fish to spoil, or are deterred from catching them, by the want of this necessary of life. George was dispatched in the flat to the neighbouring settlement to procure a few bushels. At evening he made his appearance, success had not crowned his endeavours, he returned without a load.

The summer passed but added little to their stock for the approaching winter, though an intended clearing in a rich soil gave a promise of future wealth and independence. To the right of the house was a small meadow, and as they removed from it the brush and young growth, it opened a more extensive view of the surface of the river, and added materially to the value of the farm.—Habit had wedded Smith to enjoyments of a simple nature, he had never mingled in the hurry and bustle of a crowded city, his greatest pleasure was to set at twilight in the front of his dwelling, and listen to the melancholy note of the Whip-poor-Will.

One evening Smith's wife talked to him of the prospects of the ensuing season. "How" said Nancy, "shall we procure food for the win-

ter? We have no money to buy, and our supply of provisions is but small." But Smith seemed to repel from his thoughts all future evils and answered, "I have gone through many troubles, to me this is but a trifle, do not allow such gloom to take possession of your mind. Depend upon it Nancy the protecting hand of Heaven will repay our exertions. Have I not hitherto sacrificed my ease and comfort for the interest of my family, and do you think industry will go unrewarded?" But a thoughtfulness still preyed on her mind, she was unsatisfied with the answer she received, and grieved that Smith would not enter more feelingly into her sentiments, and unite in the sorrow of a parent and a wife. His wife's opinions proved but too true. Stern winter set in and leaves fell from the surrounding trees. Smith's residence presented a scene far different from that of the previous season.

"Low, the woods
Bow their hoar heads; and ere the languid
sun
Faint from the west emits his evening ray
Earth's universal face, deep hid and chill
Is one wild dazzling waste that buries
wide
The works of man."

Their comfort now consisted in piling on the fire huge maple logs from the adjacent forest. They gathered round its enlivening blaze, and their faithful dog Cæsar, trained to play tricks for the amusement of the children, was permitted to take possession of his accustomed corner.—Thus did time flee on airy wings away, until the month of February, when as Nancy had predicted their fish had given out, and potatoes were their sole dependence. Smith now resolved to travel through the woods to the neighbouring settlement, to obtain a sufficient quantity of provisions to last them till spring, when the bounties of nature would again be bestowed upon them. In the early settlement of Nova Scotia it was customary to travel in the woods by what the inhabitants call a blaze.