

great scarcity of provisions prevailed for two or three years consecutively, in consequence of failures in the crops, and what brought on the famine, or "scarce year," (about the year 1790, if I am not mistaken) was the almost entire destruction of the deer by the wolves for two consecutive years. The snow lay upon the ground from December until April, at the depth of four to five feet. In the month of February of the last of these years, a near relative of mine sent all the way to Albany in the State of New York, a distance of more than 200 miles, for four bushels of Indian corn! And this was brought all that distance by two men on snow shoes! It took them about eight weeks to accomplish this journey, and during this time about one-third of the quantity was necessarily consumed by the men; the residue of this precious cargo—pounded up in a mortar made of a maple stump, with the winter-green berry and mucilaginous roots, latterly boiled with a little milk—constituted the principle food for two families, consisting of seven souls, for the space of four or five months! It was remarked, I have heard some of the oldest of the settlers assert, that the usual supply of fish even had failed. The few cattle and horses which the settlers, at great cost and trouble, had collected, were killed for food. The faithful dog was, in several instances, sacrificed to supply that food which he had so often been the means of furnishing to his then kind, but now starving master. The famine this year was general throughout the Bay of Quinte; and such was the distress that, during this winter, several persons died from starvation. In the Hay-Bay settlement, one of the most heart-rending occurrences took place. Some time during the month of April, the husband and father was found buried in the snow, which lay upon the ground at an average depth of five feet, whilst within the shanty was exhibited the awful spectacle of the dying mother pressing to her bosom her dead infant, still in the position of attempting to gain that sustenance which its