

to make him the best return in crops; and this may account for their commencing at some distance from the river where the soil is best in preference to expending their first labour on the banks where it is inferior.

Arrived at the edge of this extensive opening (called in the language of the country a settlement or clearance,) we observed, though still at some distance a head of us a line of Cottages stretching along the plain, and situated at about the distance of a quarter of a mile asunder. We immediately directed our course to the nearest of them, and on arrival found it stood on the bank of a beautiful meandering stream called the Rivier de Grace, from whence the place took its name. This little brook, for in comparison with the other extensive rivers of the country it deserves no higher designation, is about 20 yards broad;—The banks high and of a clayey soil, exceedingly well adapted for grain farms. The stream runs here nearly parallel to the Ottawa; but in an opposite direction, and (as we were informed,) it joins that river about five miles above the place where we then were, and beyond the point we had struggled so hard to circumnavigate when over taken by the storm.

But a brief space was spent in contemplating the beauties of the surrounding scene; for which I hope my reader will extend his indulgence. A severe storm of wind and rain is a sad enemy to the inspection of rural beauties; and more particularly when the beholder is shivering with cold and dripping with wet from head to foot. The same thing operated against the Itinerant, taking any particular notice of the outside of the habitation he was about to seek for shelter in; but glad of any covering, in our present pitiful plight we all entered the cottage, in one promiscuous mass without respect to age, rank or sex. The interior of this habitation was one of the most miserable you can well imagine, in its furniture, appearance, and occupants. It was disposed in one apartment the whole size of the building. In one corner stood a wretched looking truckle bedstead with the bedding of a dark mahogany colour; which it had acquired from the united influence of age and smoke. A table minus one leg, stood against the wall for a support; and if we might judge from the accumulation of dirt below it, appeared to have long maintained that position, undisturbed by the broom of the industrious house-wife. A few chairs, all except one, without bottoms, made up the remainder of the furnishing of the hut. The light was admitted partly from a chimney, formed of twigs and small branches of trees entwined together like a species of wicker work placed on a hole in the roof and afterwards bedaubed with clay, to lessen the danger of its catching fire; and partly from what had been "in times of yore," a window, but was now hardly entitled to the name. It barely contained as much glass as was sufficient to show its origin had been posterior to the discovery of glassmaking; while the numerous crevices, accident and time had made in it, were filled up with dirty rags, old caps, and "a variety of articles too tedious to mention." I have mentioned the chimney as being here appropriated for the ad-