

impressed with this conviction. It was this that led them to exchange the city, the village and the cultivated farm, for the rude forest; to surrender the comforts of civilization, for the sadness of the wilderness; the pleasures of refinement, for the hardships of the early settler. The dreary prospect before them, when fully realized, appalled, for a moment, the stoutest hearts; but they remembered *why* they had come, and principle triumphed.

And when they came, what were their *acts*? In *temporal* matters, they may be summed up in a few words. *They earned their living by honest industry*; and, in doing so, encountered privations, which those who have been nurtured in the lap of ease, can form little or no conception of. To enter into the details of these, would require a volume instead of a single sermon. Suffice it to say, they were those privations which cold and hunger, and solitude, are usually attended with.

Do not, however, suppose, that they were, on this account, unhappy. The purest happiness that man can enjoy on earth, is, in a great measure, independent of external circumstances. It depends not upon the locality, the dwelling, or the income, but upon principle within. The servant of God may be happy in the wilderness, as well as in the city. If he has in his soul the principle of living faith, it will make the desert rejoice and blossom. No hour in Jacob's life was more peaceful and happy, than when he slept alone in the wilderness, with the earth for his bed, and the stone for his pillow. It seemed, no doubt, at first, to be a lonely place; but he found it to be "the house of God and the gate of heaven."*

In worldly affairs, the Loyalists had, no doubt, abundant occupation; but did this interfere with their attention to *Spiritual* things? Far from it. They attended, I believe, very generally, to the duties of personal and family religion. They prayed to God, read their Bibles, and instructed their children, rigidly complying with the precept, "bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."† They did more. They manifested their *zeal* for the public worship of God. Very shortly after their landing a building was set apart and occupied as a Church. Preparations were subsequently made for erecting a more suitable edifice, but the frame, when prepared for it, was consumed by a disastrous fire. This did not, however, prevent the accomplishment of their design, for we find that on Christmas day, 1791, a little more than seven years after their lan-

* Genesis xxviii. 10-22.

† Ephesians vi. 4.