

year, bears a distinct recollection of the event. It was at Adolphustown. A few settlers had imported oxen to use in clearing the land. One of a yoke was killed by the falling of a tree. The remaining animal, now useless, was purchased by a farmer upon the front, who converted it into beef. With the hospitality characteristic of the times, the neighbors were invited to a grand entertainment, and the neighborhood, be it remembered, extended for thirty or forty miles. A treat it was this taste of an article of diet, long unknown.

The same person tells of the occasion when the first log barn was raised in Adolphustown, it was during the scarce period. The "bee" which was called had to be entertained in some way. But there was no provisions. The old lady, then a girl, saw her mother for weeks previous carefully putting away the eggs, which a few hens had contributed to their comfort; upon the morning of the barn raising, they were brought forth and found to amount to a painful, well heaped. The most of the better-to-do settlers always had rum, which was a far different article from that sold now-a-days. With rum and eggs well beaten, and mixed with all the milk that could be kept sweet from the last few milkings: this, which was both food and drink, was distributed to the members of the bee, during the time of raising the barn.

Tea, now considered an indispensable luxury by every family, was quite beyond the reach of all, for a long time; because of its scarcity and high price. Persons are yet living who remember when tea was first brought into family use. Various substitutes for tea was used—among these were hemlock and sassafras; there was also a plant gathered called by them the tea plant.

Sheriff Sherwood, in his most valuable memoirs, specially prepared for the writer, remarks: "Many incidents and occurrences took place during the early settlements which would, perhaps, at a future day, be thought incredible. I remember seeing pigeons flying in such numbers that they almost darkened the sky, and so low often as to be knocked down with poles; I saw where a near neighbor killed thirty at one shot, I almost saw the shot, and saw the pigeons after they were shot." Ducks were so thick that when raising from a marsh "they made a noise like the roar of heavy thunder." "While many difficulties were encountered, yet we realized many advantages, we were always supplied with venison, partridge, and pigeon, and fish in abundance, no taxes to pay and plenty of wood at our doors. Although deprived of many kinds of fruit, we had the natural production of the country strawberries, raspberries, gooseberries, blackberries, and lots of red plumbs, and cranberries in the various marshes all about the country, and I can assure you that pumpkin and cranberries make an excellent substitute for apple pie." Mr. Sherwood refers to their dog "Tipler," which was invaluable, in various ways, in assisting to procure the food. He also speaks of "Providential" assistance. "After the first year we raised wheat and Indian corn sufficient for one year's supply for the family; but then we had no grist mill to grind it; we made out to get on with the Indian corn very well by pounding it in the mortar, and made what we called samp, which made coarse bread, and what the Dutch called sup-pawn; but let me tell you how we made our mortar. We cut a log off a large tree, say two and a half feet through and about six feet long;

which we planted firm in the ground, about four feet deep, then carefully burnt the center of the top and scraped it out clean, which gave us a large mortar. We generally selected an iron wood tree, from six to eight inches through, took the bark off clean, made a handle to it of suitable length, this was our pestle: and many a time I have pounded with it till the sweat ran down merrily. But this pounding would not do for the wheat, and the Government seeing the difficulty, built a mill back of Kingston, where the inhabitants, for fifteen miles below Brockville had to get their grinding done. In our neighborhood they got on very well in summer, by joining two wooden canoes together. Three persons would unite, to carry each a grist in their canoes, and would preform the journey in about a week. But in winter this could not be done. After a few years, however, when some had obtained horses, then a kind Providence furnished a road on the ice for some years until a road was made passable for sleighs by land. And it has not been practicable, indeed I may say possible, for horses with loaded sleighs to go on the ice from Brockville to Kingston, fifty years past."

Roger Bates says that "the woods were filled with deer, bears, wolves, martins, squirrels, and rabbits." No doubt, at first, before fire-arms were feared by them, they were plentiful and tame. Even wild geese, it would seem were very often easily shot. But powder and shot were expensive, and unless good execution could be made, the charge was reserved. Mr. Sherwood gives a trustworthy account of the shooting of thirty pigeons at one shot; and another account is furnished, of Jacob Parliament, of Sophiasburgh, who killed and wounded at a single shot, four wild geese and five ducks. These wild fowl not only afforded luxurious and nutritious diet, but their feathers were saved, and in time pillows and even beds were thus made. Mr. John Parrot says, "there were bears, wolves, and deer in great abundance, and there were lynx, wild cats, beavers and foxes in every direction; also martins, minks and weasels beyond calculation. In this connection we may record a fact related by Col. Clark, respecting the migration of squirrels in the early part of the present century across the Niagara river, from the States. He says, "an immense immigration of squirrels took place and so numerous were they that the people stood with stick to destroy them, as they landed on the British shore, which by many was considered a breach of good faith on the part of John Bull, who is always ready to grant an asylum to fugitives of whatever nation they may belong to.

In the great wilderness were to be had a few comforts and luxuries. Sugar is not only a luxury, but is really a necessary article of food. The properties of the sap of the maple was understood by the Indians, and the French soon availed themselves of the means of making sugar. To the present day the French Canadians make it in considerable quantities. At first the settlers of Upper Canada did not generally engage in making it; but after a time a larger number did. The maple, the monarch of the Canadian forest, whose leaf is the emblem of our country was a kind benefactor. In the spring in the first days of genial sunshine, active operations for sugar making were commenced. Through the deep snow, the farmer and his sons would trudge, from tree to tree, to tap them upon their sunny side. The "spile" would be inserted to conduct the pre-