

Quebec. The greater degree of dryness qualifies the increased cold of winter. People accustomed to the country, find no inconvenience in this; and, the cold easily endured, leaves a mighty balance of enjoyment in the clear, the healthy, and the bracing air. The summer is long enough, in these parts, for the purposes of vegetation, especially on the Red River, where melons come to perfection without forcing; but spring and autumn afford too little time for the labours of the husbandman; and the weight of snow is apt to rot out wheat sown in the fall, which are serious disadvantages. While the climate of Illinois is severe to the feeling in winter, even below lat. 38°, it yields no snow for the pleasure and profit of sleighing: neither is it so healthy as the north. The plough may be employed in every month of the year; but during the winter half, the surface of the earth is too often plashy and comfortless. Taking all things into consideration, I should doubt which was to be preferred—the climate of the Red River, or that of the Wabash.

In the centre, between the three points now spoken of, lies Upper Canada, the *pink* of America. Ten weeks of sleighing is just sufficient for the conveyance of produce to market; for the interchange of visits; for “*dassen and de-ray\**.” March is the most unpleasant month in Upper Canada. The plough cannot yet move: sleighing is over: wheels sink in the mud; and the eye is out of humour with a piebald world; yet, even in this month, the industrious can find profitable employment. They can betake themselves to the maple bush†, and secure an abundance of sugar for the consumption of the year, while the cattle rest a little from their labour, to gain strength for the push

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\* King James's Poem of Leslie on the Green.

† The *bush* in America is a term often used to express the wood, the forest, or the grove.