

within a reasonable distance of a village or store, say any thing under ten miles, your privations need scarcely be more than what your funds would have rendered expedient, had you been living in the centre of a town.

Having left your family at the nearest town or village, you commence operations, either by hiring men or entering into a written agreement with an experienced settler, who will engage to chop, burn, and fence, in a certain number of acres, and put up your shanty or log-house.

This mode of proceeding, when practicable, I consider the best for many reasons; it will almost to a certainty be the cheapest, and the work, considering your own inexperience, and perhaps that of those whom you are obliged to employ, will be better done. Should you be able begin clearing the land in June, or even in July, there will be quite sufficient time to have a few acres prepared for sowing a crop of wheat in October; and you may, that very year, raise a little turnips, late cabbage, and other vegetables.

It may happen to you, however, as it did to myself, that you arrive too late on your land to attain these advantages; and you may also be unable to meet any competent person, who is willing to enter into such a contract with you as described. Your only alternative then is to hire men by the day or month. Men who have been for some time in the country are certainly to be preferred; as it must be plain at once, that he who never handled an axe before must be inferior, both in execution and despatch, to a practised chopper, and besides will know little or nothing of what may be called the detail of your operations. If therefore you are obliged to employ such persons, it will be absolutely necessary to procure one or two of the former description of men, and then you may get on pretty well.

CHAPTER VI.

Before we enter on the novel employment of clearing land, and putting up shanties, let us perch awhile, like the wild pigeons here, in one of the tallest trees, and take a rapid survey of the face of the country. The