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PREPARE YOUR FIRE-WOOD IN WINTER.

Winter is not yet over, and it may prove useful to some of our readers to turn their attention for a few minutes, to the subject of fire-wood,—one peculiarly interesting at this season of the year. The cost of fire-wood to those who are obliged to buy, in our towns and cities, and in many of our villages, is a most serious item. Unlike some other household expenses, it cannot be dispensed with. Fire-wood is as much a necessary of life in Canada, as water. If it is becoming scarce, and dear, thus early in the settlement of the country, what will it be twenty years hence? Many of those living in cities have flattered themselves with the hope that Railroads would cheapen fire-wood; but they have thus far had a contrary effect. The quantity that these roads consume is enormous, and the cost of carriage for any distance is such that it makes the price to city consumers as great as it was before.

Farmers too are beginning to appreciate the value of their wood, and as their "bush" melts away rapidly under the wasteful system heretofore pursued, they cannot but feel uneasy for the future. Economy is therefore a question of general, as well as individual interest. As we write for the agricultural class, we shall not stop to consider the case of city consumers. They, we fear, must continue to pay a high price for wood. Their only means of relief will be found in warm houses, and an economical heating and cooking apparatus. To those who are not obliged to buy their wood from others we shall offer a few suggestions.

I. If you have cleared up your farm and reserved as much timber land as you think you will need, *let none go to waste*. Use the fallen timber before you attack the standing. Cut down the dead and decaying trees before you touch those that are sound. Thin out your bush gradually; sow grass seed with a large mixture of white clover to keep out weeds, and furnish pasture to your cattle, and you will find your wood-land as profitable as any other. To those who have not yet cleared all they intend to, we would say,—*stay your hand!* Leave *ten* acres more wood-land than you intended, if your lot be 100 acres; and *twenty* more if it be 200. Many farmers in