

eight children and more, who run about in winter with bare heads and bare feet, and a little jacket on their backs, live on nothing but bread and eels, and on that grow fat and stout." With such treatment the weaker sort died ; but the strong survived, and out of this rugged nursing sprang the hardy Canadian race of bush-rangers and bush-fighters.

CELEBRATED ORIGINAL CHARACTERS.

IN a Volume entitled "Three years in Canada" by John Mactaggart, Civil Engineer in the service of the British Government at the building of the Rideau Canal, published in 1829, we find the following interesting sketches of original characters :

The chief of these is *Philemon Wright, Esq.*, of Hull, a Bostonian, who came to Canada about thirty-six years ago with 30,000 dollars. Rummaging through the country in quest of land, he came upon the Ottawa River, and proceeded up to the *Falls of Chaudiere*, in a canoe. "There," says the *Squire*, "I clambered up a tree, and on looking round, found myself at the head of the navigation : there I saw a number of rivers, as it were, pouring into one : the country, by the appearance of the timber, seemed fit for agriculture. 'Here shall I take up my abode,' I exclaimed, 'for this will become a place of vast importance in due time, although it is now nothing but a howling wilderness.'" Being pleased thus far, he hastened back to Quebec, and took out his *deeds*, invited some of his people to follow him, came back up the river 100 miles from any neighbours, and there commenced operations in earnest, levelled down the forest, built houses, raised large crops of grain, and bred many cattle, pigs, and poultry. In a short time, he had more than a thousand acres cleared, and the township swarming with people. The Indians could not understand this : they became alarmed