

storekeeper (now in London) from which it appears, that between the 1st of Nov. 1812, and the 17th of March following, buffaloe beef, and venison of the moose and red deer, was served out to the settlers, to the amount of 29,217lb.; and as the number of people of all ages did not quite amount to one hundred, this makes an average of more than 2lb. per day of fresh meat; besides which several other articles were issued, particularly 4,967lb. of pemican, a preparation made by the Indians from the most nutritious parts of the meat. During the summer months, the settlers had always a superabundance of fish; but as it was distributed immediately from the hooks and nets, without being taken into store, no exact account was kept of the quantity. During the second winter, many of the settlers had a considerable supply of potatoes raised by themselves: besides which there was also a distribution of 24,000lb. of fresh meat, and 7,800lb. of pemican, the number of people being nearly the same as during the first winter.

These distributions were not made in daily rations, but from time to time, as the supplies came in, leaving to every family to manage it for themselves. A few thoughtless individuals, having wasted their allowance, while supplies were coming-in in superabundance, had but a scanty portion, during some of the intervals of comparative scarcity, to which a supply, dependent on the chace, must necessarily be subject. But the utmost hardship that arose from it was, that they had to part with some superfluities of dress to purchase meat from their more provident neighbours. This is the whole foundation of the tale of famine; and during the second winter, there was not even one day of scarcity to build a story upon.