

to state a few things that are necessary to be understood in order to throw light upon what I have to say.

Not many years after the French were driven from Nova Scotia, quite a number of families emigrated from New England and became residents of this Valley. They brought with them the evangelical creed and frugal habits of the old Puritans who were the original civilized settlers of Massachusetts. At the close of the American Revolution in 1783, a number of Loyalists or Refugees (as they were called) also sought homes in our Valley. The manners, customs, and moral tendencies of the two classes were in a marked degree dissimilar. The distinction between them were quite observable within my memory; but as the years have glided away these divergencies of character, owing to social intercourse, inter-marriages, and family alliances, have entirely disappeared. Within my recollection, the old orchards that were planted by the expatriated French were in a good fruit-bearing condition; and remains of their fallen habitations were seen in many places along the river both in Annapolis and Granville. There were evidences that the expelled Acadians had dyked the marshes, and cleared many a tract of land, and fitted it for the plough. By far the greater portion of the soil, however, even in the most settled places of the Valley, was still in an utterly waste and wild state. Agricultural implements were then heavy, clumsily constructed, and would excite derision at the present day. The inhabitants, when I was a boy, were sparse and, generally speaking, were far apart. What we now call near neighbors were comparatively unknown in that day. The population, however, gradually increased from year to year; the wants of the people necessitated toil and frugality, and the aspects of the Valley were changing for the better as the decades rolled away; and the march of improvement is pleasingly perceptible even at the present time. At that period the farmer's dwellings were rudely and roughly built structures, and in not many of them were plastered walls or cased windows found. Huge chimneys and capacious, cavern-like fire-places were the fashion of the day; and the blazing winter fires high piled upon the hearth were the principal means of repelling the cold. In the newer settlements the people lived mostly in rude log-houses. I remember when, in what is now called Clarence, there were only one or two framed houses, and these were by no means stately or attractive mansions. The use of paint was then at a discount, and the log-house were little inferior to those which were constructed with timber and boards. Clarence was then appropriately called the Back Settlement, and the condition of the roads, or rather rugged pathways, that led to and passed through it, were wholly unfit for slightly built carriages, or rapid driving. In places where the "forests primæval" were cut down, the fields were then studded with fire-blackened stumps, which were