

necessity or choice impelled them to do so. One of the most necessary accomplishments is the exercise of the axe, at which the colonists are uncommonly dexterous, and I have seen people from England, Scotland, and Ireland, who, in the course of a few months, have become very expert, not only in cutting down trees, but lopping and squaring them after, in the winter time; and, in settlements where there is timber fit for exportation, to cut it and deliver it to the proprietor, who will accept it in payment for rent or goods. It is a most beneficial employment.

Another consideration deserving the attention of an emigrant, is to settle where he can have an opportunity of cutting some grass for hay, to supply a cow or two in the beginning, or any other cattle he might have, till he can raise upland grass for their support. HOLLAND BAY is protected from the sea by a very extensive range of sand hills, and which is covered with long coarse grass, intermixed with a kind of wild pea or tare; this makes very good fodder for the winter, and the proprietor permits his tenants to cut a portion, taking half the hay for permitting them to do so. It has been too much a practice for settlers, instead of raising hay on their own farms, to depend too long on this source of supply. In fact, I have observed in this colony so general a want of emulation, that by far the greater number continue satisfied with their original log-house, and after clearing a sufficient quantity of land to supply them with food, and purchase the commonest necessities of life, with a plentiful stock of rum and tobacco, (to the use of which the majority are much addicted,) they make no more improvement, spending much of their time in fishing, fowling, and other amusements, and what they call frolicking. This latter fun is greatly practised by those settlers who are the descendants of the French, and who were the inhabitants of the island before it was occupied by the English. Great part of the inhabitants of Bedford Bay, Rustico, and Holland Bay, consist of this description of people, who, when their corn is in the ground in a quantity equal to their annual supply, visit each other at the most distant settlements, and lose more time in enjoyment than the most affluent people in this country consume in their pleasures; and it is common to see those who have been settled twenty years, still remain in their original log habitation, and without having cleared more land than they might have done in as many weeks, and on which they practise the most miserable mode of agriculture, raising crop after crop on the same spot, of the same kind of grain, without a particle of manure. Such is the force of habit, and particularly where there is a want of example to excite emulation. This is the more culpable, as there is no want of a market. *Prince Edward Island* is most fortunately situated in that respect. Newfoundland, which now consists of 40,000 resident inhabitants, (independent of the great number carried there from England