

kettles for boiling suspended in order. These were filled with sap, the fire applied, and the crackling billets blazed away, and soon the kettles boiled right merrily. As the industrious man surveyed the completeness of his preparations, he anticipated ample and early reward for his toil. As yet, how sugar was made, or in what manner it came, he knew not—other than that it had to be boiled; so he boiled away. Unfortunately, he had never studied the effects of evaporation, and thought the boiling process would be helped by keeping the kettles closely covered. Day after day he boiled away, and expected the sugar to form at the bottom of the kettles. Evaporation was partially secured by the steam raising the covers of the kettles, and their contents grew gradually sweeter. Fresh sap was constantly supplied, and the sugar looked for; but no sugar appeared. It never occurred to the poor fellow that, to get sugar, he must cease putting in sap, and boil all down to a certain consistency. Business brought a member of the family some forty miles from home, where he witnessed the operation, and the mystery was solved. On his return sugar was soon produced, and the family luxuriated on the delicious product of the maple, and thanked God for planting in the wilderness a tree so useful, living or dead. Our boiling friend acquired such intense admiration for the maple that he vowed his axe should touch them not—an unprofitable decision, as will appear. A giant crop of these favorites grew where he intended to clear for crop; all other kinds of trees were removed, and the corn and potatoes planted beneath the sturdy sugar maple. Alas, the ample foliage of their wide-spread limbs so shaded and dwarfed the growing crops beneath, that the luckless settler became convinced the same ground could not yield at the same time two such crops. With feelings lacerated in a two-fold sense, his beloved maples were cut down, and in their fall so smashed the corn and potatoes that little of either was harvested, and thus his first season was in a great measure lost. Nothing daunted, he prepared to try again. He enlarged the limits of his clearing, in order to plant more extensively, as well

as to secure more abundant sunshine. The latter, he had learned by experience, was quite a necessity in crop-growing. Unflagging industry, a rich virgin soil, and favorable weather, secured the promise of an ample crop. Very beautiful did it appear as the summer advanced, and very proud was the aspiring settler of his corn and other crops. But another blunder produced another failure, tried the metal of the man, and taught him another lesson in the school of experience. As his principal clearing was some distance from his house, and surrounded by a thick bush, he trusted to the latter for protection, and built no fence. The bush will keep out the sun, but not cattle. One night in July, a large flock of neighbors' cattle invaded the unfenced clearing, and the result can be guessed. The following morning presented a scene of desolation painful to behold. The sickness of heart in hope deferred felt by the sufferer, was sufficient to extinguish the courage of a less brave man, in the loss of another season. He tried again, but not in vain, and lived to rejoice in the life of a Canadian farmer. He tasted in large measure the trials of bush life and enjoyed many of its triumphs. The blunders of early settlers may seldom be so grave as those now recited; but they are numerous, and, if written, would supply a rare chapter of instruction and caution to candidates for life in the bush.

The youthful settler loves the arduous toil of felling trees, and it is an honor for a man to have borne an active part in aiding to redeem the earth from the dominion of the forest. The necessity for tree slaughter may, however, have made us Canadians blind to the beauty and benefit of tree culture. The bush farmer must remove the forest in order to raise crops; but he should soon begin to replant. Tree-planting is easily performed, and more suitable than trying to save solitary trees among those you cut down. For shade and ornament, as well as for sugar trees, and for wood-work requiring a tough description of timber, planting should receive early and careful attention. In some countries the government takes this matter in hand, and in Canada something should be done to awake enlightened