

tions, but we keep on roaring fires, so that we don't feel cold. We have no chimney built, but just a hole cut in the roof, and the place about it boarded up as you see in the Farm Houses at home, where the Fire is on the hearth as with us. We burn principally Maple and Beech Logs, cut into lengths of about two and a half feet, and split. The house is 28 feet by 20, with a door and two windows in front, and two windows behind ; and is situated almost close to the river, which is seen from the windows ; and of which the bank the house is on is quite low. Our well is on the brink of the river, and is most excellent water. I have only once heard the wolves since I came up, and that was a few nights ago, when they certainly did hold a pretty loud concert ; and as David Smith says, "It's very pleasant music, whan there is a guid thick door atween you and them."

Janet may well ask about the darning of my stockings. It's lucky that Elizabeth or she are not here, for they would be rather inclined to grumble, I am afraid, if I were to ask them to mend all the holes in them. There's hardly an evening that I haven't to sit down and work at the largest holes you ever saw, mostly all burnt ; for on these cold nights, when a large fire is on, it acts much quicker than you would suppose on the stockings ; but I'm an excellent darning now ; and it puts me in mind of the first lesson I got on the Science from Elizabeth.

15th December.—Since my last letter the snow has scarcely been off the ground, and now I suppose it won't be for four or five months. It is better than a foot deep, and there is very good sleighing. The Irvine is frozen across and the Grand River partly. The Grist Mill was prevented from working some days, but they now keep fire near the wheels, and I believe are intending to keep it constantly going, even on Sundays. It is a work of necessity, for if that is not done, she won't go on Monday ; and I don't suppose they will grind any wheat on Sunday. The weather is not settled yet, but we have had two or three most beautiful washing days. It has been very cold sometimes. On the 2nd of this month, about 9 o'clock in the morning, my Thermometer outside the window here stood at 12° below zero. Last year the severest cold they had here was 16° below zero ; so that we have almost felt as cold as we [ever do.] It was really desperately cold that morning ; and I was obliged to take a pretty stiff horn to prevent my getting sick upon it. Our bread, beef, cheese, Ink, &c., all got frozen ; also our shoes and stockings, and Axes, and we are obliged to thaw them before they are any use. If Axes are not thawed they will split, or chips of the steel will come out. If we leave any water in pails in the house, (although the Fire is never out all night) it is one lump of Ice in the morning. But notwithstanding all this, never except on the morning before alluded to, have I felt very uncomfortably cold.

I was sorry to hear of John Clark's accident, but trust he has now recovered from it.