

doubt if it will serve to teach him much mercy for his tormentors; and in the mean time let him consider them as intended to be so many spurs to his exertions and perseverance in clearing away the forest.

## CHAPTER VIII.

In selecting a site for your house, do not forget that a good fall from the front will serve to carry off the melting snow in the spring; as well as the water from the heavy thunder showers which you may expect in summer. Before you lay one log over another, I remind you to have every tree felled, which, if left uncult, could afterwards reach the intended dwelling. It would be still better, if time allowed you, to get a space of the forest of forty or fifty yards square burnt off before the shanty was commenced; and then, and then only, can it be perfectly safe. This precaution, however, seems seldom attended to by new settlers; sometimes, perhaps from impatience to see their woodland residence in progress, but still oftener from ignorance of the serious risk incurred by neglecting it. After a little dry weather the branches of the trees, if they have been cut for a few weeks, will with a very slight breeze, burn most furiously, assisted by the thick coat of leaves on the surface of the ground; and should the running fire take its course towards the newly-erected edifice, you will have something to do to save it from the devouring element. I am not myself a "burnt child," but was too near being so, not to "dread the fire." My shanty had been up some months, when the burning of the brush and timber of my clearance was commenced, and it required the utmost exertions of four persons to prevent its being destroyed. The smoke and heat were so suffocating and intolerable, that my family was obliged to take refuge for two hours in the cellar; and from the circumstance of the fire having completely surrounded the premises it would have been very difficult to have removed our things to a place of safety, had it been necessary to make the attempt. I would therefore repeat the advice to new settlers, to chop down and burn off at once at least one acre of the forest immediately about the spot where he intends to