

was the harvest to the Indians, the trapper, and the fur trader. The streams at that time were running full of fine fish which supplied them with abundance of food. It would not be easy in the present condition of the country to form a full conception of the abundance of the fur-bearing animals, and especially in the Nottawasaga Valley, before the settlement or even in the early years of the settlement. I will give two facts to illustrate this condition, and they will at the same time serve to shew the importance of the fur trade at that period. A young man named Clark, the son of a military gentleman, settled on Yonge-street. He was commonly called "Nat Clark." He had come under fascination of the fur traders and Indian life, so as to become very unsteady in his habits and to live a not very good life. But Nat was a good trapper and a good trader. Meeting me one day he invited me (I was also a trapper) to join him in a marten hunt in the month of November, 1828, in the country between what is now Orillia and Barrie. He said, "The country has not been hunted over for years, and is full of marten. I intend doing it myself, but would like you for a partner." He went alone, and in three weeks came out with eighty marten skins, a fisher or two, and a fox—furs worth at that time \$100. The second case I give was in the fall of 1834. An Indian friend of mine called on us as he was going alone to his fall hunt and shewed me his equipment. His gun, an old-fashioned single-barrelled shot-gun, called a Chief-Piece, two small rather lively steel traps, his ammunition, powder, shot, bullets, caps, &c., about twenty-five pounds of flour, a piece of bacon, a small dish of butter (for Jonas had cultivated civilised habits and tastes) with a stock of tea and sugar, a load with his blankets of about fifty pounds. When he would reach the region of his operations he would construct a comfortable camp to which he would return after his work, from miles around, and in it pass his time when the weather was disagreeable or stormy, and his Sundays. He was a good Christian and strict Sabbatarian. In less than four weeks he came back carrying to us, in addition to his other load, the hindquarters of the last deer he had killed. He said he only killed deer when he needed meat, and for two skins to make his moccasins. He carried his furs to Toronto and sold them to Joseph Rogers for over \$150. I mention these two cases that your readers may form some true notion of the excitement and money in the fur trade in early times. These cases occurred just before the country began to be filled with settlers. What must have been the abundance of these animals in these forests and along these rivers and streams in the still earlier days, before the greed of the fur trader had urged the Indian to wage upon the beautiful animals an exterminating warfare? In the last days of the fur