

as regards soil, at least, in the location chosen by many, we were miserably deceived. However, with some thousands of loyalists, we committed ourselves to the guidance of Providence, and arrived safely in the early part of the year 1783, and soon began, though with fearful hearts and trembling hands (so cheerless and barren was the prospect which then spread itself before the observation of all) in clearing the surrounding forest, in hopes with the Divine blessing, to obtain in time a competency; nor were we altogether disappointed. Through many discouragements and difficulties, which it were needless to recapitulate, we persevered; and though wealth never crowned our efforts, we had the satisfaction of experiencing the smile of heaven on our labours; and every succeeding day, though it brought with it fresh toils, without the luxuries of life, found our hopes brightening; and what added to our comfort was, that our family, consisting of one son and two daughters, had attained to that time of life, when their assistance became of essential consequence to our growing happiness and prosperity.

‘Thus for a time every thing smiled around us; our frugal fare was received with humble gratitude; religion had taught us contentment in our lowly sphere; nor did one envious thought arise at the happiness of those who were elevated above our condition in life. We had hoped that the evening of our days might have been calm; that our sun might have gone down unclouded under a serene sky; and that those who should survive us and inherit the fruit of our labours, when our earthly remains were mixed with the soil we inhabited, might now and then visit the green hillocks to mark the spot where those remains lay deposited; and while dropping a tear of filial affection, might if there were anything in our lives worthy of imitation, allow it to influence them in their intercourse with *this* world, and to cherish in their hearts any good advice that had proceeded from us in regard to a *better*. But alas! in the enjoyment of present pleasures, and the dreams of future prosperity, a circumstance arose that at once darkened all my hopes, and that has left me the poor, aged, and lonely being you now see before you.

‘One fine day in the winter of — my husband and son had ventured on the ice in quest of eels, with which our river abounded. It was in vain that I urged, by every persuasion, the danger to be apprehended from a long spell of mild weather, which I was quite certain had rendered the solidity of the ice doubtful and precarious, and its apparent firmness quite treacherous. They had not been long employed in this way, when all at once my husband’s footing gave way and he immediately went down! My son, then at a little distance, urged by the cry of his perishing father, ran, with more speed perhaps than prudence to the treacherous spot; the ice almost in a moment gave way, and he too was in the same imminent peril. It being directly opposite our house, which stood nearly on the same ground where my present abode is placed, the