

money, four sheets, two table-cloths, six napkins of linen and hemp, a mattress, a blanket, two dishes, six spoons, and six tin plates, a pot and a kettle, a table and two benches, a kneading trough, a chest with lock and key, a cow and a pair of hogs. But the Bocharts were a family of distinction, and the bride's dowry answered to her station. By another marriage contract at about the same time, the parents of the bride being of humble degree, bind themselves to present the bridegroom with a barrel of bacon deliverable on the arrival of the ships from France."

One historian gives us this picture of town and country life: "August, September, and October, were the busy months at Quebec. Then the ships from France discharged their lading, the shops and warehouses of the lower town were filled with goods, and the habitants came to town to make their purchases. When the frosts began, the vessels sailed away, the harbor was deserted, the streets were silent again, and, like ants or squirrels, the people set to work to lay in their winter stores. Fathers of families packed their cellars with beets, carrots, potatoes and cabbages; and, at the end of autumn, with meat, fowls, game, fish and eels, all frozen to stony hardness. Most of the shops closed, and the long season of leisure and amusement began. . . . In the country parishes there was the same autumnal storing away of frozen vegetables, meat, fish and eels, and unfortunately the same surfeit of leisure through five months of the year. During the seventeenth century many of the people were so poor that women were forced to keep at home from sheer want of winter clothing. Nothing, however, could prevent their running from house to house to exchange gossip with the neighbors, who all knew each other, and, having nothing else to do, discussed each other's affairs with an industry which often bred bitter quarrels. At a later period a more general introduction of family weaving and spinning served at once to furnish clothing and to promote domestic peace."

In Upper Canada as in Lower Canada, the pioneer's life was one of labor and privation. Trees had to be felled and the ground cleared, first for the cabin, then for seeding. All the buildings were of logs. "The cabins were commonly one-roomed, with roofs of bark stuffed with moss and clay. Chimneys were at first made of sticks and clay, later of stone and brick. In strange contrast to the crude surroundings were the few pieces of old furniture, the tall clock, the chairs, and "secretaries" which some of the Loyalists had brought with them from their former homes. Too often the furniture was limited to a bed made of four poles with strips of basswood bark woven between.