

vation. The stumps remain, and with a small plough the surface is stirred; it is then cropped with potatoes or corn, or both.

The top soil, from the falling and rotting of the leaves on the surface, consists of very good vegetable mould, and the burning has the same effect as a long exposure to the sun, and it will by this means produce excellent crops.

At first it will appear singular to an European farmer to begin ploughing and harrowing between stumps of trees, but when he finds how easily this is performed (the trees growing some distance asunder), and when he has had a view of the crops so produced, he will be well satisfied with this rough commencement.

After a few years the roots rot sufficiently to be easily removed, and in the mean time the industrious settler goes on to clear more land, that is to say, cut down trees and burn for a further extension. I consider that five acres so cleared will produce plenty of corn and potatoes to feed a tolerable family, and with the quantity of fish which is at hand, and taken with little trouble, if they can in the beginning put up with this kind of food, they will at once be secured from want. A portion of the settler's time, who has no capital, must necessarily, as before-mentioned, be applied to working for others, in order to provide himself with tea, sugar, rum, and other articles he cannot possibly have by him; but this must depend on his fixing on a situation where fish is to be taken in the vicinity, and where there is a store kept belonging to a proprietor likely to give him encouragement, which he cannot fail of receiving if he is patient and industrious.

Before his rents become payable, he may, by industry, not only realize a sum to pay, but acquire the comforts of good living; he will moreover enjoy the satisfaction of seeing the value of his lands yearly increasing, as he cuts down the trees and extends his clearance; and he will be secure from want when by increase of years his strength fails. These operations, to men bred to farming in England, where he has been accustomed to a clear tilth and level surface, will appear awkward at first sight, perhaps more so to one brought up in the business of agriculture alone, and who knows little of the use of the hatchet; but a short practice, animated by the cheering consideration that they are working for their own benefit, and securing for themselves and families a future independence, soon reconciles them to every difficulty attendant on the practice of American cultivation. In fact, this is not only the case with husbandmen, but with labourers and mechanics, who never knew any means of raising meat but by paying for it at the butcher's stall, or of bread than from the weekly demands of the baker; but the majority of those who are now settled in *Prince Edward Island* upon cultivated lands, never handled a spade, or held a plough, till