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THE OAKS, NEAR PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE, MANITOBA, November 15. --.

My DEAR MOTHER,

We have finished the last of the threshing, and are settling down to winter conditions, which season is now upon us. The 'harvest help' I have dismissed save one man, whom I shall retain through the winter, so Sarah and I are practically alone in our happiness. She insists that she does not find the work of the house too much, and refuses a servant for herself. Domestics, I may say, are here hard to obtain and harder to hold. They are quickly picked up as wives by the settlers.

My operations for the summer have shown a good profit, and so I feel myself a successful Canadian farmer; and now, as I look back