

men attempted to till the land, and afterwards to gather the fruit of their tilth.' Again, 1098 'was a very troublesome year, through manifold impositions; and from the abundant rains that ceased not all the year, nearly all the tilth in the marsh-lands perished.' Five years afterwards [A.D. 1103] was 'a very calamitous year.' There was a murrain among the cattle, and a deficiency of the crops of every kind; but the latter misfortune seems to have been occasioned by a violent storm of wind on St. Lawrence's day, which 'did so much harm to all fruits, as no man remembered that ever any did before.' In 1105 the product of the soil was also injured by the weather. In 1110 the weather was again unfavourable, 'by which the fruits of the earth were very much marred, and the produce of the trees over all this land entirely perished.' In 1111 'was the winter very long, and the season heavy and severe; and through that were the fruits of the earth sorely marred, and there was the greatest murrain of cattle that any man could remember.' The next year was fortunately 'a very good year,' and very fruitful in wood and field.' It was, however, accompanied by a severe mortality amongst men. In 1116 occurred a 'very heavy-timed winter, long and strong, for cattle and for all things.' The chronicler adds, that 'this was a very vexatious and destructive year with respect to the fruits of the earth, through the immoderate rains that fell soon after the beginning of August, harassing and perplexing men till Candlemas day.' It was also noted for a deficiency of the woods in mast, to such an extent, 'that there was never known such in this land or in Wales.' The next year was a 'very blighted year in corn, through the rains, that scarcely ceased for nearly all the year.' In 1124 'the seasons were very unfavourable in England for corn and all fruits.' A famine ensued in the following year. In 1131 'was so great a murrain of cattle as never was before in the memory of man over all England—that was in neat cattle and swine; so that in a town where there were ten ploughs going, or twelve, there was not one left; and the man that had two or three hundred swine had not one left. Afterwards perished the hen-fowls; then shortened the flesh-meat and the cheese.'—*Pictorial History of England.*

The present purpose in bringing before you the concise chronology of the remarkable events of a period of forty-six years of England's beginnings, is to point out the adversities with which our English ancestors had to contend when first struggling into life, in a wooded country, something of the wilderness cast, assimilating to that of Upper Canada, in the time of its first settlers, fifty years ago. Men of sense and reflection will draw a moral from every historical fact presented to their view, else might the pages of history as well be to them a sealed book. For what is the use of the mere knowledge of facts, if those facts teach nothing? would they not be as well unknown. It is certainly good philosophy to estimate our share of benefits by comparing it with that of others below, rather than with that of those richer than ourselves; and if, by this rule, the present condition of Upper Canada is compared with that of our English ancestors eight centuries ago, it must be manifest how striking the advantages in favour of the former. Our ancestors then, like their grumbling progeny since, had to subdue

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