

was an important item in the purchases, as shoemakers went about in winter, staying at each house to make a year's footwear for the whole family. In the absence of the men at mill or market, the women fed the cattle and hogs, provided wood and did much extra work. Yes, times were hard, not in stinted measure, but "pressed dov. 1, heaped up and running over."

Harvesting finished, the people turned out in force to cut down logs and build us a large shanty. They roofed it with troughs, laid a big flat stone against the wall for a chimney, left a space at the ridge for smoke to escape, smoothed one side of split logs for a floor, and put in a door and two windows. Having no lumber for partitions, we divided the apartment with curtains. One half served for a kitchen, dining-room, study and sitting-room; the other for bed-rooms. We lived a year in this abode. A well dug through the clay and blasted a few feet into the rock supplied abundance of water, clear and wholesome to-day as at the beginning. Foxes, owls and wolverines helped the wolves make night hideous. Hunger sometimes drove the wolves to extremes. People could not venture far from their homes without the risk of meeting a band of them. At noon one day fifteen walked past our yard, heading for the sheep. Rattling tin-pans and blowing a horn frightened them off. Another time, going four miles with my sister Ann to see a sick woman, a fierce wolf assailed us on the way back. He followed us some distance, grew bolder, ran up and took a bite out of my dress almost pulling me down. My loud exclamation—"Begone, you brute!"—and clapping our hands put the impudent fellow to flight. We skipped home in short metre, regardless of sticks, stones and mudholes.

In the winter father hired men to clear several acres of ground and take out timber for a new house. They worked hard until spring, hewing logs for a two-story building, and sawing lumber for floors and partitions with a cross-cut saw. The seed sown in the rich soil yielded a bountiful crop, and we had a large garden. Two cows were bought in April, the good woman sent a fowl