

troth I've been working till I am all wet with sweat, but the wood has got so hard froze that the axe won't cut it at all." "Let me see the axe, Hugh. Man dear, the whole of the steel has broke out of it. Did you not see that?" "Troth, an' I never looked at the axe, for I thought it was the frost that was making the tree so hard to cut, and I was thinking that chopping was very slow work here in the winter." Such were the beginnings.

Yet, notwithstanding these drawbacks, in a few years some of the most thrifty of the settlers possessed a yoke of oxen and a sled, also a cow or two, and a few hogs, which fed mostly upon beechnuts. These, with a quantity of fowls, kept the larder better supplied with such varieties as beechnut-fed pork, eggs, very leaky milk and butter, maple sugar and molasses. These, with potatoes, constituted the principal food of the settlers in those days. Money was very scarce, and when we could sell eggs at three pence per dozen we thought it a good price. But these days and these pioneers have all passed from the changing scenes of this world, having served their day and generation. But to them and their successors, all honor and credit is due, for having changed a dense forest into a fruitful garden, and the haunts of the wolf and the bear into homes of peace and plenty, occupied by a refined, intelligent and educated people, both in city and country, who are also in the enjoyment of many of the modern improvements of an advanced civilization.