

invaluable breed, until such time as the country shall have become sufficiently cleared to enable Nimrods, yet unborn, to break their necks in pursuit of them.

Notwithstanding the number of animals and birds which have been noticed,—and there are many more omitted—it is sufficiently wonderful what a long walk you will sometimes take through the woods here, and scarcely meet with a living object beside the mosquitoes. These, during the summer months, will be sure to attend you, and believe me, except you are one of those callous fellows who are so devoid of all feeling as to defy mosquitoes, midges, and black flies, you will often be forced to wish the three tribes at the bottom of the sea—at least you would beg they would go somewhere else, and let you alone.

When you were speaking of coming over to Canada, every one had pity for you about the piercing cold of the winter, the intolerable heat of the summer, or the bears, or the wolves, or some other equally fanciful bullaboo; but my life on it, not one told you the real truth, that the only things to be dreaded in Upper Canada are the ague and the flies. For the former, if you should get it, the sulphate of quinine is almost a specific; and for the latter, it is pleasant to know that these tormentors diminish as your clearance becomes extended. Indeed, in a clearance of almost the smallest size, you will be little troubled with mosquitoes, as they seldom leave the immediate shade of the trees. It is otherwise with the black flies and midges. These congregate about you in the mornings and evenings, and are so numberless, so persevering, and so blood-thirsty, that you will be frequently compelled to retreat to your house at the very time when it would be most pleasant, and when perhaps you would be most anxious to continue at work. In settled weather flies are not so troublesome, and when a breeze is stirring, which frequently occurs, you are sure of being quite free from them; so that when once a settler has become sufficiently independent to have part of his time at his own disposal, he can avoid the annoyance of them almost altogether, by remaining within at such times as he finds them troublesome. Until that happy period shall have arrived, he must bear persecution as well as he can—though I