

saved from the immense pressure of the present. There was a sort of rural, Eden-like simplicity among the people, contrasting with the business sharpness and keenness of the present. The people had fewer wants, and few people were overwhelmed with debt. But there are no Elysian fields any more, and the halcyon days are past.

In a life of thirty years in a new country one is called on to pass through times of trial and distress. In the life of Dr. Black such periods are not wanting.

The first year after his arrival the Red River broke forth from its limits and for miles the Red River Valley became one vast lake. The site of the city of Winnipeg was entirely submerged, a thing that has not happened since. The subject of our sketch then occupied the manse erected by the Selkirk settlers, and which still stands, though somewhat out of repair. Dr. Black used to point out the water line of the flood about the base of the windows of the manse. The people were in consternation. It did them little good to be told that the floods of 1826 were a great deal worse. The settlers saw the river gradually rise till it surrounded their homes; by and by houses and barns that could not withstand the force of the water, especially in Point Douglas, across which a swift current ran, were seen floating down the stream. Almost all the settlers, among whom was their minister, went back from the river several miles and were encamped on the rising ground of Little Stony Mountain. Last year Ex-Judge Thom related to me his experience during the flood. He then dwelt in the building now occupied by the Bishop of Rupert's Land. The occupants of the house were driven to the second story, and dwelt there till the flood, which arose from the jamming of the ice, allowed the waters to escape. The people were to be congratulated that very few lives were lost. A contrast to the floods we are constantly hearing of, such as that on the Missouri two years ago, or on the Mississippi, or during this very