

bracing atmosphere. Although I admit that it is very cold indeed at times, the inhabitants are always well prepared for it, having double doors and windows to their houses; these are taken off in the summer, but the windows are replaced by Venetian shutters. The length of the winter, is no doubt a very great drawback, as labour is then little in demand, and those that have not made provision for themselves, must inevitably suffer. At the same time I may say that it is the tradesman's own fault if himself and family have to run short, as his earnings in the summer if he has been industrious are quite sufficient to support them through the winter. The severity of the winter is very much exaggerated in England; throughout the greater part of the season, the cold in the open air is generally very pleasant, it is only for a few days that the degree of cold is uncomfortable; being there the whole of the most severe winter that has been known by the inhabitants for some years; I am thus able to write from experience. The first snow falls in Lower Canada, at the latter end of the month of November, or the beginning of December; in Upper Canada, it falls a few weeks later. I have certainly experienced more disagreeable feelings from the easterly winds in spring or autumn in England, than I ever did in Canada during the winter; the fact of open sleighs or sledges being generally used, proves at once that the cold is anything but disagreeable. There is very soon a good beaten snow path on the principal roads of the country, and a good sleigh drive is really delightful; however it is necessary to be well wrapt up. January and February is decidedly the best months for good steady sleighing; the season lasts about a month longer in the lower, than in the Upper Province.