"On the 9th of February, (1792), I set out with a party of gentlemen in two sleas for the Grand River. Put up the first night at Squire McNab's, and next day dined at the house of one Henry, who had only been here for six years, and, though he had no subject to begin with, by great attention and industry has acquired considerable property and now associates with the first people of the district. He has cleared seventy-five acres of the first quality and has stock and cattle in proportion. Put up for the night at the house of one Smith, who came from the colonies two years ago, from whence he brought a good stock of cattle, which all perished the following winter for want of provender, the general scarcity that prevailed all over America that year having affected this quarter, although one of the most fertile in it.

He told me that he regretted the loss of his team of oxen and two fine breeding mares more than all the rest of his stock and said that, poor as he was, he hoped to become richer and happier on his own property than ever he was or could be on that of another. When he resided in the colonies he possessed 200 acres, of which only twenty-five were cleared, at 11 pounds rent and 3 pounds taxes, and could only procure a lease of two years' endurance, which obliged him to remove every third year, this, joined with the heavy rent and taxes, induced him to look for lands where he knew he would meet with no such encumbrances. The lands, as we came along,