

essary. Certainly I was in no condition to proceed any farther. I felt stiff and my clothes had frozen so that I was scarcely able to walk. This time however, we were made welcome, and a good fire was started. Jón loaned me clothes until I had dried my own.

During my experience I had not felt fear, but at this point a strong reaction set in. I began to shiver, as if at death's door, and I did not sleep a wink that night. On the following day we continued on our way to Winnipeg.

The work which I was able to get was mainly at sawing wood. Employment was scarce, and wages low. We returned home before Christmas.

It was then that I commenced fishing at the mouth of the river, a practice which I continued during my years in the colony. I did not leave my nets to lie in the water without frequent inspection, for this practice caused nets to deteriorate quickly.

We had to make every effort to economize, but how patiently we endured our difficulties, toil, and privations. There was no expectation of comfort.

In the following spring, my Guðmundur, along with other children, was confirmed by the Reverend H. Briem.

During the last two summers I earned a considerable amount in Winnipeg. I worked at unloading boats, employment not deemed very genteel, and at building houses. At that time was begun the construction of the railway bridge and the erection of the large Hudson's Bay Company building, the Bank of Montreal, and many other fine buildings.

In March, 1881, we left New Iceland. We obtained an ox from Albert Thiðrikson, and also a rickety sleigh, on which we stowed all our belongings. There was a general shortage of hay that year, due to floods, and my small supply was spoiled by the wet. Consequently, I had a cow and a heifer in tow, in addition to my own cows, including Búbót, who had become lean. A beautiful red heifer calf I had been compelled to sell to Guðmundur Nord-

mann to obtain two dollars towards expenses on the way in. Actually, the price agreed on was four dollars, but Guðmundur was able to pay only half that sum.

In our group were Arni Sveinsson, Thordur, and myself. The journey to Winnipeg took two days.

We had no assured employment awaiting us in Winnipeg. Besides, I had to return the ox. Thus I found myself once again on the road to the settlement. In order to help to defray expenses, I transported goods for Friðjón. The round trip took five days, and all this time I was able to secure only snatches of sleep.

I left Skógar for my return journey late in the day. On the sleigh were loaded the chickens, cooped up in a cupboard, and odds and ends which I had previously left behind.

This time, also, I had to leave behind all my lumber, together with fifty to sixty well-squared logs which had cost me many an hour of work. There was a considerably large stock of the lumber, for it was my intention to build a large and well-constructed house. I had to leave, too, the house, with the attached shed and all the windows, as well as a number of implements. All this would be subject to depredations. It did not take long for abandoned houses to be cleared of all worthwhile articles left in them. Albert promised to bring me some of the things which I was compelled to leave behind, but this he failed to do. It was with a keen sense of poignancy that I left, close to night-fall, pulling a sled, and travelling past many vacant and deserted houses.

It hastened my journey not a little that all my best friends had left, and also the fact that when I left my family in Winnipeg they had as yet not obtained accommodation.

West of Selkirk, what with fatigue from travel and lack of sleep, I threw myself on the frozen ground for a rest. My circumstances were reminiscent of the time when I left the Old Country. Then I had gone without sleep for three