

these said swamps. Where they are not of too great extent, and where the timber in them is large and healthy, I believe they will be found hereafter of great advantage to a farm, as producing, when cleared, the best pasture and meadow land.

CHAPTER VII.

Let us now turn for a moment, from the woods to some of their inhabitants. You are already aware that bears and wolves prowl among them. I have heard the howl of a wolf now and then, but have not yet got a sight of either. This, however, is not to be wondered at; as you will meet hundreds who have been several years in the country, whose curiosity remains equally ungratified. Deer are very numerous, and persons living in a town or village find little more difficulty in procuring plenty of fine venison, than just to pay for it; but a bush ranger must catch it for himself, and new settlers usually have for a few years other matters to attend to. The red partridge, a large and much finer bird than that of the old country, is here in great numbers, and so tame, that you might frequently shoot at them with a pocket-pistol. Wild pigeons swarm in the woods during the summer; they too, are easily shot, and are generally found very fat. Wild ducks are also in abundance on most of the inland lakes; and I am told woodcocks are to be found in plenty in some places; but snipes appear to be very scarce, at least in this part of Canada. Woodpeckers of several kinds and sizes, are tapping the decayed trees in every direction, and until you become very well used to them, the sound they produce will sometimes startle you; it comes as suddenly on the ear, and almost as loud as the rap of a fashionable footman.

I had nearly forgot that active and amusing little animal, the squirrel. They abound in the woods, and if you stretch on the ground, or sit down on a fallen tree, they will frequently pass nearly over you. I have seen a few black ones, but those of a reddish brown are every where. We have foxes among us too; but I should think they are neither very numerous nor very daring; they are probably just enough to keep up the