

St. Francis, its eastern extremity, and continues in that neighbourhood till the middle of April, it rarely commences on the shores of Lake Erie before Christmas, when it usually disappears between the 25th of March and 1st of April. The greatest depth of snow around Lake St. Francis is about three feet, which gradually diminishes to eighteen inches on the borders of Lake Erie. From York on Lake Ontario upwards, neither black cattle nor sheep require housing during the winter; and the new settler, with the addition of a small quantity of straw, can keep his stock on the tender branches of the trees felled by him in clearing his land, until the return of spring. On a comparison with the climate of Great Britain, the heat in the summer months is somewhat greater, but never oppressive, as it is always accompanied with light breezes. There is less rain than in England, but it falls at more regular periods, generally in the spring and autumn. The winter cold, though it exceeds that of the British Isles, is the less sensibly felt, in consequence of its dryness, and seldom continues intense for more than three days together, owing to the regular fluctuation of the wind between the north-west and south-west points. It may be observed that the winter season is the most favourable to land carriage, as the roads then admit of sledging in all directions, which is a very expeditious mode of conveyance, and attended with but little draft; so that one horse or ox can in this manner easily draw double what he can upon wheels. It is hardly necessary to state that in a country so overspread with timber there can never be a deficiency of fuel. As the forests disappear the climate improves.

“*Soil*:—Upper Canada is blessed with as productive a soil as any in the world, and it is easily brought into cultivation, as will appear when the agricultural system there pursued is noticed; the nature of the soil may be invariably discovered by the description of timber it bears. Thus, on what is called hard timbered land, where the maple beech, black birch, ash, cherry, lime, elm, oak, black walnut, butter-nut, hickory, plane, and tulip tree, &c. are found: the soil consists of a deep black loam. Where the fir and hemlock pine are intermixed in any considerable proportion, with other trees, clay predominates; but where they grow alone, which is generally on elevated situations, sand prevails. This also happens where the oak and chesnut are the only trees. These sandy soils, though naturally unfavourable to meadow and pasture, are found to produce the brightest and heaviest wheats, and can, with the assistance of gypsum, which abounds in many parts of the province, be made to bear the finest possible crops of clover and India corn. In moist seasons the clays furnish the greatest burthen of grass. Perhaps there does not exist in any quarter of the globe, a country of the extent of Upper Canada, containing so small a quantity of waste land either of marsh or mountain, yet there is not any deficiency of water; for independently of the numerous rivers and streams which flow through the country on every side, good springs are universally found either on the surface or by digging for them.

“*Natural Productions*:—The forests abound in excellent timber, adapted to