

I mention these circumstances and the reception I met in this place, as it does honour to human nature, and shews how difficult to foresee, when, how, or in what remote place or period, one may meet the reward of a humane or generous action; I little expected when I befriended a poor widow woman, with a family of children, in the north west of Scotland, I should meet with any returns for it in Upper Canada. She was but a young girl when I had seen her, and emigrated to America with a brother of her's, who, she said, was glad to hear of my being in this country, and would go some hundreds of miles to see me. She was but a short time in America when she turned out a tall well looked woman, and her present husband became acquainted with and married her, of which I am convinced he has had no reason to repent. They have a fine family of children, and I have been told there is not a better mother, or more prudent house wife in the province.

After bidding adieu to Mrs. Fraser and family, Captain Fraser and I mounted his Horses. This was the first time I had crossed a horse since I came to Canada, and the second or third time since I landed in America;—Called at a tavern, drank more wine, for which he would not allow me to pay one farthing. Arrived two hours after night fall at his brother's house, Captain William Fraser.¹³ These two gentlemen, whose father was but poor, and they young, when he emigrated from Stratherrick in Scotland, and unable to give them the necessary education, after they landed in America entered into the Royal Cause, and that of their country, when the rebellion broke out; and by their own activity, alertness, and merit, they raised themselves to the rank of Captains, got money and education by it, and are now in very high esteem among all their acquaintances. Captain Thomas Fraser said he had six score acres of cleared land. The soil a clay loam, with three or four inches of rich mold, black as jet on the top; that his average return of grain was twenty fold at least; but said, when the clay underneath and the black mold were incorporated together, and the stumps out of the ground, he would have a still greater increase. Captain William said that his farm was much of the same quality and extent. These two brothers were, for some years prior to the rebellion, Indian interpreters to the great Sir William Johnson, and had fine farms in his neighbourhood on the Mohauke river.

Next morning I set out before it was clear, and got a-head of the boats,—travelled nine or ten miles before breakfast,—came to a point of land where I was to go aboard, but before the boats had come I went into a little cottage, and enquired if I could get breakfast; they told me I should, if bread and milk would serve me. The owner of this house happened to be one Fraser, a Highlander, who had been a long time a private in the forty-second regiment,—married to a young American woman,—had come from Albany but the fall preceding,—had brought a couple of Cows with him, and put up a little cabin and barn in this place, where he got a lot of land. In the course of our conversation I asked him what he had done since he came here. He said he had cleared nine or ten acres of land, but that the wood was not thick upon it; and that he had raised, (to be within the mark as he expressed it,) ninety bushels of wheat, between sixty and seventy of Indian corn, besides potatoes, and other things on which he did not count. "And what assistance had you to all that?" said I; "None (answered he) but an hoe and axe, and what that woman could give me," meaning his wife; but added as he had not a boat to send it to market he could get no sale for it. On my asking him what I had to pay for my breakfast, he said nothing for the bread; that he had more of it than would serve him for three years; and that I might settle with the wife for the milk, as she and I pleased. I gave her half a dollar, and but for the scarcity of money in the place, I am convinced none would have been accepted.

The boats arriving, I stepped on board, and the water now becoming smooth, and more like a lake than a running stream, the wind favourable, we put up sails, and made great way, till late at night, when we put up at a poor lame ragged man's house with a numerous family of small children; but the wife buxom and well dressed. I and my Canadian crew threw ourselves down upon the floor opposite to the fire, and slept soundly till four o'clock next morning, when we got up and set off in the usual way. The wind still favoured us, and we soon entered the thousand islands, which never were, nor do I suppose ever can be counted, by reason of their numbers, and for which reason they were formerly called by the French, and now by the British the *Mille isles*. They are of very little value, and produce but scraggy wood of useless pine. Here are innumerable flocks of water Fowl, mostly of the Teal kind. Such a diversity of creeks, bays, channels, and harbours, I suppose are to be rarely met with in the world; and if a crew be not well acquainted with the direct course, and if they once miss it, they may chance to be bewildered, and for days may not find it again.

After passing these islands we entered upon the lower end of Lake Ontario, and about night fall arrived at Frontenac, or Catarauquey, now called *Kingston* and put up at the coffee house. On hearing that an Indian of considerable consequence lodged then in the house, whose name was Captain Thomas,¹⁴ I sent him my compliments, and if agreeable made offer to join him; his answer was that he would be happy at it. After I joined him, he asked me very politely what I would choose to drink; I answered whatever was agreeable to him. He then called for a small bowl of punch, of which he took but very little, excused himself by saying he had dined