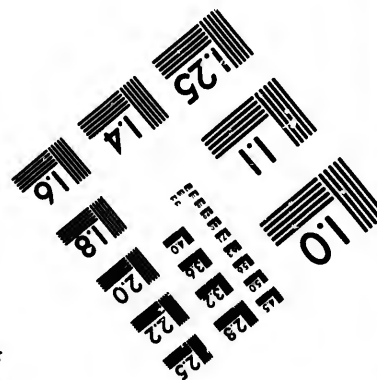
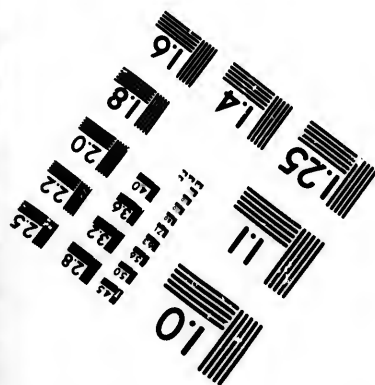
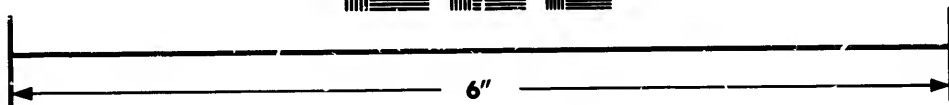
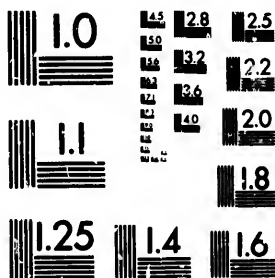


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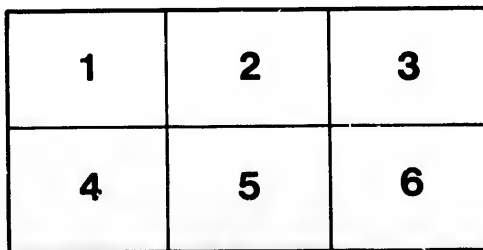
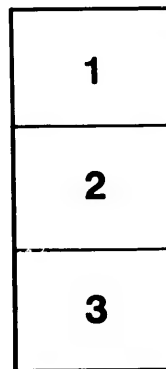
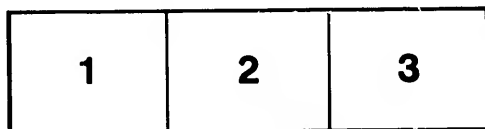
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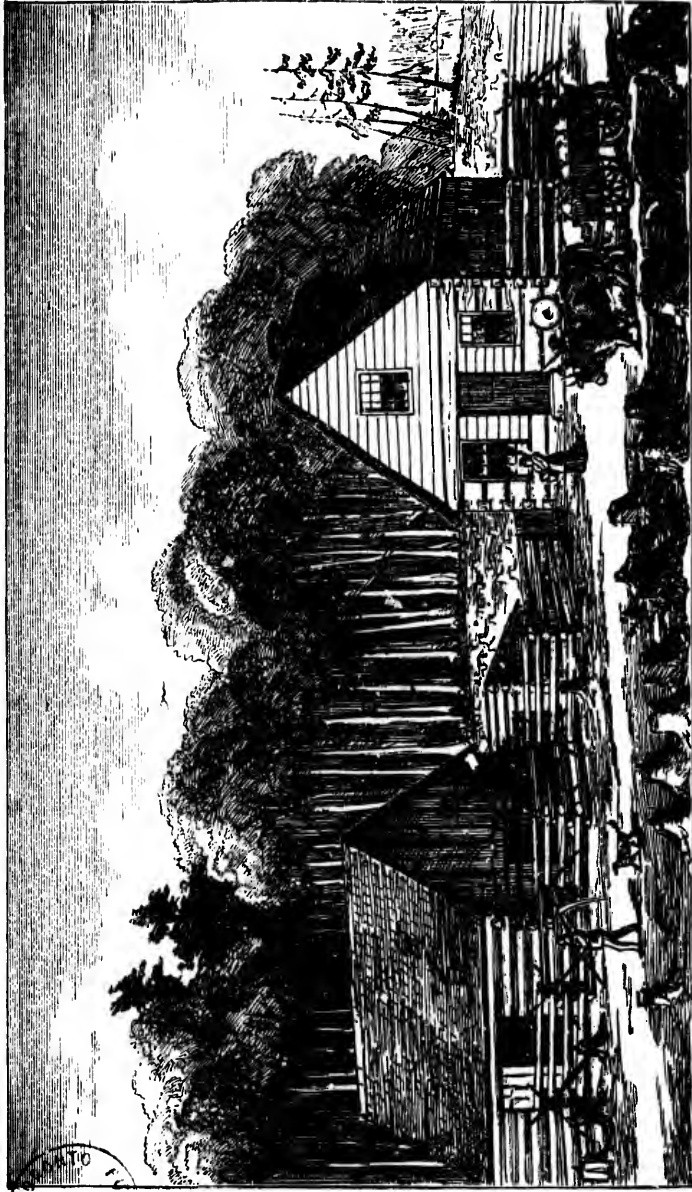
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A HOMESTEAD IN THE BACKWOODS OF CANADA.

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WHAT
EMIGRATION
REALLY IS.

BY A
RESIDENT IN CANADA AND AUSTRALIA.



WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY THE AUTHOR.

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*This Paper was read before the Deptford Emigration Society,
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WHAT EMIGRATION REALLY IS.

THE subject of emigration is one that at the present time occupies very largely the attention of nearly every person. I suppose there are few in this country who have not some near relative or friend, who has emigrated, or who are not themselves thinking of doing so. Unhappily the state of trade is so very bad here, that many who a few years, perhaps months, ago did not even dream of leaving their native land, are now anxious to do so, longing to quit its shores for one of those countries, which they are continually told are the abodes of prosperity and plenty. I need not occupy space by saying anything at all about the ways and means adopted for the purpose of raising funds for those to emigrate with who have no means at all of their own; I leave it in wiser hands than mine to devise plans by which help can be conveyed to those who cannot help themselves. The organizing of emigration clubs, appeals to Government, or what not, I shall not touch upon, but shall confine my words to matters that must interest those who, having by some means either already obtained, or seen their way to obtaining wherewith to go, are now anxious to get information on emigration. I am not in the habit of addressing the public, and I should not think even now of doing so, did I not feel that I should be wrong to refrain from conveying to others as much as lies in my power of the knowledge I have obtained in a rather lengthened residence in two of our colonies, Canada and Australia. For I find that there is great ignorance displayed on this subject, and even those who essay to inform others, not having themselves actually gone through the experience, lead them astray to a great extent. All that I shall tell you is based upon my own actual experience, and I cannot but think that a little of such knowledge must be valuable. I have myself done nearly everything that a new settler in a new country has to do, and I should be perfectly at home to-day if I were landed in either Australia or Canada, and had to find out my way of living there. As Canada is so very much nearer to us than any of our other colonies,—is therefore the cheapest to get to, and consequently, I am sure, the place to which most of you are turning,—I shall tell most about that country; but, before I go any further, I must say a few words, which, I fear, will upset many of your already-formed ideas about emigrating, although, if you bear with me to the end of what I hope to say to you, I think I shall be able to show you there is hope for you in other lands; and as I am sure that it is far better for you to know the truth of the matter, than to be flattering yourselves, that once out of England, all your troubles end, I shall begin by telling you that neither Canada, nor the United States, nor Australia, nor anywhere that may be selected, holds out any positive release from the troubles of hard

work and hard fare, which human beings are subject to wherever they may go. It is all nonsense to suppose that there are no poor people, that there are no beggars in the countries we are speaking of; I assure you they are plentiful there, and that it is not an easy matter to get work even there. True, we hear accounts, and we read letters from those who have gone, giving the most glowing accounts of the places, where *they* are doing well; but do we hear anything of numbers of others that are there and *not* doing well? It is because I have lived there, and seen, and felt for, those of my countrymen and countrywomen who have arrived there friendless and penniless, that I speak to you as I do.

And it really is because I have so often thought how much I would like to direct and help these unfortunate people when I have seen them there, that I now think it a privilege to be able to give my word of advice to you *before* you go there. Do not go with the idea that you are not going to see trouble there, nine out of ten of you will see plenty of it; but I think if you will pay attention to what I am going to say, that it will help you out of a good bit of it. You have been often told that the moment you land on the other side of the Atlantic, there will be friendly hands held out to help you,—this is a common statement in the newspapers; it is said, too, that you will find you have stepped into a country where work and food are plentiful, and where everything is happy and prosperous. Now, this is a great mistake, if understood literally. There *are* plenty of people there who will take you by the hand, *when*, but not *before*, you have proved yourself worthy of help; there *is* plenty of work to be had in the country, but rarely when you first land; and there is plenty of food there, and very cheap too, and when you are in a way of earning it you are all right.

My own established belief is, that the great advantage of emigration to a man is, that it cuts him adrift from the old associations, throws him so very much more on his own resources, and forces him to do something desperate for himself; and, in some of the colonies, where there is undoubtedly a larger field for enterprise than there can be here, a man in sheer desperation will do things which he would not dream of doing here, and succeeds in them. A man goes to Canada,—a blacksmith,—he cannot get employment, he has no friends, he must work or he must starve, some one offers him a job to work at road-making, he does it, and gets from that to be a contractor for road-making and makes money; another man goes to Australia,—a bricklayer,—he can't get work, is very hard-up, a sheep-farmer comes across him and offers him a shepherd's berth, he takes it, goes into the bush, tends a flock of sheep, gets on by degrees at that. Now who that is *here*, a blacksmith, would not think it beneath him, however hard-up he may be, to go and work as a stonebreaker on the roads or as a navvy even? or where is the bricklayer here, who would dream of going into the country and taking work as a shepherd or drover? There are, I know, great difficulties in the way of a man doing that here, so there are there; here, though I think it is very often a man's own fault, as well as it is there. In one of our colonies if a man could not get employment at his own particular trade, and would not take any other, he would be considered a fool, and would be allowed to starve if he pleased. I know of my own experience here, men who have lost good employ-

ment because they would not do some little thing that is not their own business,—*printers*, pressmen, who rather than set a type, though they knew well how to do it, left their places. Men who tend printing-machines, when work gets slack, rather than condescend to work a hand-press, will throw away a good berth. Such men I consider worse than fools; and it is because in the colonies men cannot, dare not act thus, that I believe much of their success may be accounted for; for there are very few, I should say no such charitable organizations there for helping poor people who are able to work, but cannot obtain it, as we have here. Every man must look out for himself.

It must be explained, however, that I am not saying a word against the Canadians, who are simply just the same as we are,—indeed, our own people,—and when occasions really arise, are just as kind and generous as we are here. I heard, the other day, of a man who went to Canada; he was a watchmaker, but could not make his way at that, and so seeing an opportunity, he turned his attention to making sausages and succeeded; he only acted sensibly. I know a man myself who was a shipwright; now in Canada that trade is not of much account, so, although he was well on in life, he thought he would be a watchmaker, and now he is, I believe, a rich man. It seems to me if we had more of this kind of thing here, it would be better for all of us. Perhaps it is impossible to alter an old settled state of things in this country; but if I were thrown on my own resources, I think I should try in this way, and if I could not get *anything* to do here, then, and not till then, should I talk about emigrating.

Since the year 1847, when I first went to Canada, which has been my home nearly ever since, I have had excellent opportunities of judging of it as a place to emigrate to; and, under certain conditions, I must tell you that I consider it the best place in the whole world. These conditions are, first, that an emigrant shall be suitable for the country; next, that he be determined to settle down there permanently, and to take *at first* any kind of work that he can possibly find to do; and last, but by no means least, that he be a strictly temperate man.

The first question, and the most difficult to answer is, who is a suitable person to emigrate to Canada? Perhaps I shall help the matter by telling you who is *not* fit to go, who is not wanted there. A sickly, weakly person should not go. A clerk, or shopman, or any one who is not able to work hard at manual labour is decidedly not wanted there. A person who wants to shun hard work is most decidedly not wanted there, and people who think that they can go there and get on without much struggling and pushing, had far better not go there. But on the other hand, any able-bodied, hard-working, sober, steady man who can't get on here, should go; any such man who with his wife and large family finds it impossible to make a living here, should go; any hard-working man or woman who has tried everything here fairly and thoroughly, and finds there is no hope, should go; but any one who has any reasonably good way of doing here, who has *any* prospect before him, is very foolish if he goes. Good female servants are really much needed there, and are the only people sure to get on at once.

With regard to Canada, I must tell you that I cannot conscientiously advise *any* one to go there with the view of settling in a town. The different cities there—and I know all of them pretty

well—are about as thickly populated with mechanics, artisans of all kinds, and people looking for employment, as such towns are here. True, these Canadian towns are growing rapidly, most of them, and there are chances of employment, but I really don't think they will be found to hold out very much advantage over this country.

The great beauty of Canada, and of all new countries, is the vast extent of unoccupied land lying ready to repay the settler for all the labour he can expend on it; and it is towards these unsettled, or but partially settled parts that I advise every one to go. There are, of course, villages and towns growing up in those parts which offer a better chance for a mechanic to get employment, but on the whole I must strongly, distinctly advise you to go to the newest part of the country you can possibly reach, and then strain every nerve, and lay all your plans with the view of obtaining a lot of land of your own; and then every man, no matter what his former trade or experience may be, who has strong hands and a willing heart, will not fail in a very few years to make a good home for himself and his family, will never be any more in want of the necessaries of existence, will be able to obtain, indeed, all the comforts of life, and stand a very good chance of attaining a wealthy position.

I am well aware that in speaking to those who have hardly the means of crossing the sea, it will appear a great difficulty to get still further, for most of the unsettled or new parts of Canada are many hundreds of miles from the seacoast. I realize the difficulty well, yet I cannot but tell you that unless you have some clearly defined plan arranged by which you can reasonably hope to reach those parts, you will find very little advantage in emigrating. This is the great mistake that is made, as I am very anxious to impress upon you. To those of you who are subscribing to a club, or are in other ways endeavouring to raise sufficient to go upon, I would say, have patience, wait longer, until you are able to get together sufficient to get really into the backwoods; then, and not till then, can I advise you to go, and then can I promise you success, and from the beginning of your life in Canada a great hope of freedom from the grave cares and difficulties of making a comfortable, or any kind of a living, which you experience here. But you must not hope to escape these cares, if you are merely calculating upon reaching the shores of America, and at once finding success. It is quite true, that even in the backwoods you must expect hardships and trials, such you will get everywhere, and more there than in many places; but there will be this great sweetener of your toiling and struggling, every difficulty you surmount, every blow you strike, will, with God's blessing, be a step towards the independence you seek; and I assure you you will be well repaid by striving here your very hardest to obtain sufficient to carry you at once to the end of your journey, rather than be obliged to stop short halfway, and there strive and struggle very much as you do here for means to carry you to the end.

The young single man who arrives in Canada, it may be penniless, has a field before him which he never can have here, but for it he must go as far into the country as he possibly can, not resting content until he has got as far away back into the most distant settlements as is practicable. There he will find that he possesses a large capital in his simple ability to work; and although his pay in actual coin will be nothing much for a year or two, yet the knowledge he

will be gaining, the chances for permanently settling himself that will arise for him, will make the future sure.

To the married man, and the man with a family who gets to that country without money, there are at *first* greater difficulties; but in the end, when the chance turns up for him to settle down in his own home, he has the making of it. His wife and children, ready to hand, are, let me tell you, no small advantages in a home in the backwoods of Canada.

But some of you may be anxiously asking, what is a married man to do when he first gets into the Bush? Well, there are ways for him to proceed, and I will mention one, the surest. Labour is valuable there, and all those who are already settled are glad of help, male and female, and although the man will be, as they say, a "greenhorn," yet if he has any sense he will soon learn to be worth his and his wife's keep at least; a place to live in costs a mere nothing, and almost every one will do his best to assist a new-comer. Therefore let him hire himself out *at any price* until he has learned the ways of the country. Let him care very little, nothing, at first about the money he gets, what he wants at first is knowledge; so long as there is enough to eat and drink obtained—and that is not hard to get in the bush—let him be satisfied; and then, when he has got into the ways of things there, and has his eyes opened to the chances that will be sure to be continually occurring around him, he will see his opportunity of making his own home in Canada, by either taking up a lot of land to be paid for in small, easy instalments, or by settling on a piece of land which can be obtained from Government as a free gift. Let me advise all, whether they have money or not, to give up the idea of rushing at once into the back settlements and taking possession of land. I speak from experience when I recommend you under any circumstances to pass at any rate a few months in the part you propose to settle down in, in working for some one who is already there, and I think there are very few localities where that is impossible; the advantage of passing the first few months in gaining experience with *only* the cost of time, is immense.

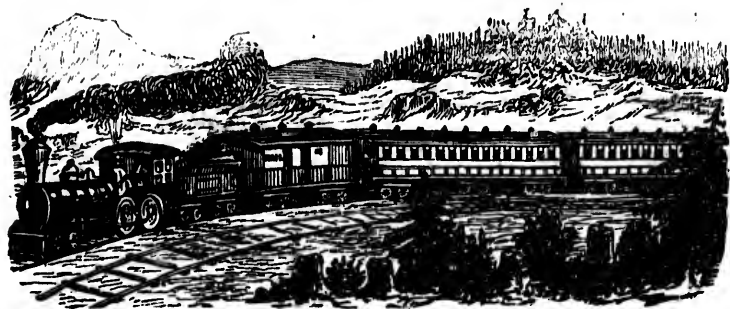
A man having once become possessed of his lot of land has his career open before him, and if he be but industrious, steady, and sober,—above all, sober,—he is bound to get on, adding every year to his clearance and to his comforts, until in a very few years he is possessed of a good substantial home,—is surrounded by plenty of everything to eat, drink, and wear, and to make himself and his as comfortable as they can reasonably desire. But, from the very beginning he must expect very hard work, and hard knocks; and if any one expects to get on in Canada, or anywhere else, without them, he is sadly mistaken. But all this applies more particularly to those of you who have *no* knowledge at all of agricultural work; he who has had some experience here of farm labour, will have *very* little difficulty in obtaining employment in the country in Canada, but when it comes to the actual settling on a lot of bush land,—a piece of untouched forest,—then all proceedings are the same, and one has very little advantage over the other.

Well I think, I hope, I have made it quite plain to you what my opinion is; it is in a few words this,—that if by hook or by crook you cannot manage to get along here, although able and willing to work hard and suffer much, and can manage to get to the *Back-*

woods of Canada, and will make up your minds to settling on your own land, and there carving out for yourself a home, by slow but sure degrees,—I can assure you it will be certain,—*then* I think you will do wisely to emigrate; but if you think of going merely to carry on the same trades you have been doing here, with the idea of prospering better in a town there than here, and do not think at all of being an actual settler on land, then I must give you my opinion that there is but little chance of your doing better there than here.

So now, assuming that you are all going to take my advice and become Backwoodsmen, and supposing you are fortunate enough to have got yourselves into the position of being able to settle on your own land, I will proceed to tell you how to get it, and then what you are to do with it, and what will be the result to you.

First of all, about getting land in Canada. In that part of it now called "Ontario," formerly "Upper Canada," I find that last year there was wild land for disposal amounting to two millions and a half of acres. The price of this land is seventy cents cash per acre, or about 3s. of our money, so that a lot, which is usually 100 acres, can be bought out and out, yours for ever, for some £15; just fancy for that small sum you can be a *bond-fide* landowner. And if you have not got £15 to spare, you can still obtain land, for the Government sells on credit, charging then one dollar, or 4s. 2d. per acre for it, on condition that you pay one-fifth down, *i. e.* £3, and the balance in four equal yearly instalments, charging also low interest on the unpaid sums. Nothing can be asked for easier than this, one would think; and the duties a settler is called upon to perform in regard to this land, and to make his title sure, are the following. Under any circumstances, he must take possession of his land *within* six months of the time of sale, and must continue to be an actual settler for at least two years before he can get his title-deed for his land; besides this, he must have cleared during the first four years



AN AMERICAN RAILROAD TRAIN.

one-tenth (ten acres) of his land, and cultivated it of course, and he must also have built upon it a house to live in, at least 16 by 20 feet in size. This, you will observe, is to prevent people with money speculating in land, for it *very* quickly becomes valuable after the country gets a little cleared and settled.

The wise Government of Canada, not content with this liberal disposition of land, actually goes so far as to make free grants to every person of eighteen years of age or upwards, of not *more* than

200 acres of land, and they are subject to very little more duty than those who purchase; of course this is not the *best* land in Canada, nor is it in the best part, and yet there is but slight difference, as the Government is anxious to get the wilder parts of the country inhabited. There is plenty of land in Canada, you see, to be got free, or for very little; the highest price is 70 cents, or 3s. per acre, the lowest 20 cents, or about 10½d. per acre. As to the locality best to go to, I should advise Ontario, though many other parts are doubtless as good, but I think that province is the one which will become first fully occupied, and therefore sooner the most valuable; this immense tract of country lies between the great lakes, Ontario, Huron, and Erie, running some distance down the St. Lawrence to the capital of Canada, called Ottawa. The distance from Montreal to those parts of Ontario where land is to be got as I have described is two days' journey, or more, performed by railway and ordinary road, or partly by steamboat, as the case may be. From New York the distance is about the same.



A CANADIAN STEAMBOAT.

Well, assuming that you have been working for some little time, as near as you can to the part you hope to live in, and have gained some experience in the ways of doing things there, and let us hope, also, have gained some means, perhaps not money, but what is of more value to you than money, some tools, a little furniture, some poultry, some pigs, or what not, and have chosen, taken up your one hundred acres of bush land; now begins the tug of war. You are going to be an actual settler; going to live on your own land, in your own house; now, how is all this to be done?

In the first place you must have a house to live in, and so you proceed to choose some spot that pleases you, some rising ground, we'll say, that promises good drainage and a view,—when all this glorious forest, though *now* your deadliest enemy, is cleared away. The chosen spot, like every bit of your land, is covered with trees, which must all be cut down to make room for your house. You have very little idea of what the bush in Canada is; I have seen no wood in this country that gives any idea of it; words fail me or any one to describe it. *Fancy* yourselves surrounded on all sides with gigantic trees covering the land thickly,—tall bare stems, reaching high up, spreading out only towards the top, where their branches meet, forming a leafy canopy, which, in summer, makes deep shadow, and prevents grass from growing, causing the leaves to decay each season as they fall and to add to those that have fallen before for

centuries, until there is a ~~thick~~ layer of splendid leaf-manure that will grow you the finest vegetables you can desire, when once the trees are cleared away and the sun and air are let in. The finest land is covered with hard wood, that is, beech and maple and oak, this will be a good guide to you as to the quality of the land you choose; there is, of course, land very valuable for many purposes, which is covered with other trees,—pines, ash, cedars, birch, and a variety of others,—but for wheat growing, for making money on, the land that grows the beech and maple is the best. But now your work is to get a place to live in; you begin by felling the trees, not by any means an easy task, but you will soon get used to it and like it. The American axe is the most useful tool in the backwoods, as you'll soon learn; and as the first years of your life there will be principally occupied in using it, you will very soon get to be most expert with it.

The trees are cut down by making a notch first on the side towards which you wish the tree to fall; when you have got about halfway through, you go to the other side and begin there, and when nearly meeting your first notch, your tree will topple over; by skilful management you can throw a tree in almost any position you please. The stump of the felled tree will be some three or four feet high. The fallen tree has to be cut across into lengths suitable for rolling

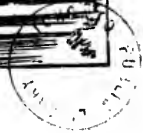
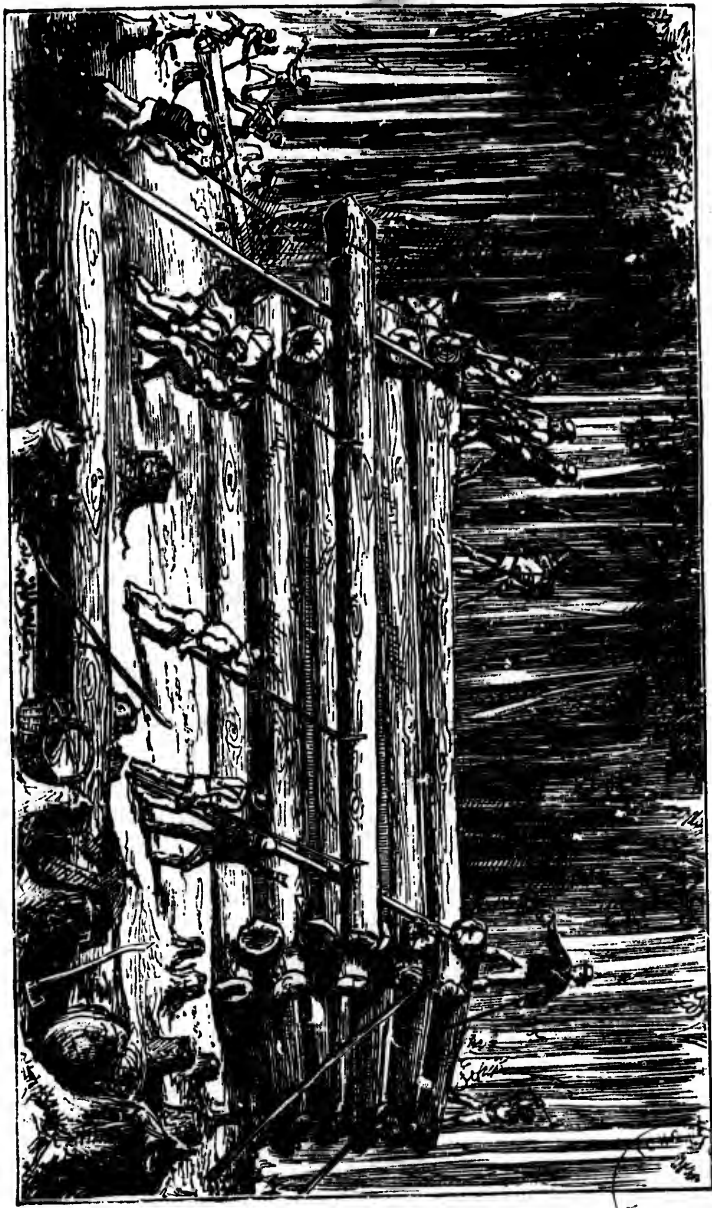


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A RAISING BEE.—FLINDING A LOG HOUSE.



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together and burning. When you have got enough opening made to protect your proposed building from all the trees which have yet to fall, you may begin your house. After choosing all the straight timber necessary, and cutting it into proper lengths, you call a *raising bee*, that is, you ask every one around you to come and help to build your house, and you will find all will come. He would be considered a mean man who would refuse, indeed, you would offend all you did not ask. And so, on a given day, your neighbours assemble,—neighbours who, like you, are new settlers, and those who have been longer there, some from the next lot a quarter of a mile off, some for miles away, for a raising bee is considered a sort of holiday. And then to work, and it is just surprising how, with simply axes, in a day twelve or fifteen men will have the four walls of a good-sized shanty put up. By means of skids to roll the logs up on, they are piled one above the other, the corners, where they cross, notched together, and as strong, though perhaps not as handsome a building is got together as you can wish. The next day the roof is to be put on,—split slabs of wood or troughs dug out of logs is what bush shanties are generally roofed with; but whatever is chosen, you soon find out how to do it. Then there is a doorway to be cut out of the



A SHANTY : THE BACKWOODSMAN'S FIRST HOME.

front wall, and, if you wish to be very stylish, a window too; then all the spaces between the logs are to be filled up with pieces of wood and moss, and neatly plastered with well-tempered clay, the inside to be trimmed and smoothed with the axe, plastered properly with the clay, and, when dry, whitewashed, your door to be made and hung most likely on wooden hinges, for they use wood there for



AN AMERICAN AXE : THE MOST USEFUL TOOL IN THE BACKWOODS.

everything they possibly can, your floor of split and trimmed wood, and then all you require is a chimney and fireplace; and this is soon done with some stones and clay and a little ingenuity. Thus, in a very few days and with hardly a shilling's expenditure, you have a warm, dry, substantial house, not pretty certainly,—for beauty is the very last thing thought of in the woods,—but very comfortable. What little furniture you require is moved in, and you take possession of your wooden castle, and your real business begins. You proceed to clear your land and to get your first field rescued from the forest; if it is in the fall, as the autumn is called there, a very good time to begin, you have the whole winter before you, when very little else can be done besides chopping and clearing. Having cut away all the under branches or small bushes and saplings, and piled them up in convenient heaps to dry and burn, you begin with the big trees, felling them right and left into heaps, and then cutting off the limbs and cutting the trunks into lengths ready for operation in the spring.

The operation of chopping down trees in the most scientific and cheapest manner, is one which must necessarily occupy your attention, and you will very soon become clever at it, though at first you will find it most hard and difficult work; but the pleasure you will experience as each tree falls, as each enemy is conquered, leaving you more and more land at your service, will be great, and fully repay your toil. Sometimes when you find a row of large trees convenient for your purpose, you will notch them all but slightly, and throw the end one of the row down upon the next one to it, the extra weight will break it down, and the two falling on the next will serve it the same, and so on to the end; I have sometimes spent three or four days preparing for a great fall like this, and when the lot, sometimes ten or twelve trees, come down, I assure you it does you good to see the gap you have made.

All this being done during the winter, directly the snow is gone in spring, you call another bee—a logging bee; that is, you get as many of your neighbours to come as you can, and if two or three yokes of oxen are brought, so much the better, it is hard to do without them; and with their help you roll all the logs you have been cutting up during the winter into heaps, pile amongst them the tree tops, and, after a few days of fine dry weather, set fire to them, and you have a series of as beautiful bonfires as can be desired. These log-heaps take days to consume, and it is your task to attend to them and keep them burning, to pile them together and put on them all the loose wood and chips that are lying about the land, so that when your log-heaps are consumed nothing is left on your ground but the stumps; well, as soon as your heaps are disposed of, if it be in spring, put in your seed, if it be potatoes, planting them with a hoe wherever you find a soft bit of earth between the roots; your oats you simply sow broadcast on the ground, and drag them in with a brush-harrow, that is, a bundle of branches dragged over and over the ground. As soon as this is done, you begin to fence; it would not do to lose time by doing it before. The fences in Canada are almost universally the same,—the zigzag or snake-fences, that is, good splitting trees are cut into twelve feet lengths, and with wedges and mallets are split up into handy sizes; these rails are then placed one upon the other, in a zigzag manner, till about

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five feet high ; although, like most things there, not beautiful, they are serviceable.

In this manner the settler has managed to get five or six acres cleared, sown, and fenced ; he has now the opportunity, we'll say, of doing some work for a neighbour, who is better off than he is, earning some money perhaps, or at any rate getting some pigs around him, and some poultry ; perhaps he sees a good chance for getting a cow, and to work her price out by splitting rails, or something valuable of that sort, until his harvest time comes, but a small one this first year ; although he is pretty sure to have got a good supply of potatoes, and his oats may return him enough to give him plenty of oatmeal for the winter, with some left for seed in the spring ; then he will, no doubt, have got some pumpkins, which make delicious pies ; Indian corn, buck-wheat, and such things. Altogether he will have made a collection of eatables which, with what he is able to earn by working for others, will keep him through the coming winter, which, like the previous one, he will spend in knocking down more trees, so that the next season he will have more land to sow with potatoes and oats, and the piece he had cleared the year before will have a great many of the roots decayed, and he will be able to get more seed into it and more out of it, and so on from year to year adding to his clear-



A SNAKE FENCE.

ance and to his farm. His first aim will be to get a yoke of oxen, then to plough a little, and to get in a little wheat ; in a couple of years the stumps will begin to rot, and they will gradually be got rid of, and thus perfectly clear fields will be his,—fields that he can plough and harrow and gather his crops from, as they do in this country. He will have built himself a really good log house, a log barn, and cattle sheds and stables ; and all will be his own, and earned through his own exertions, which, although they have been great, very great, are amply repaid thus. (See Frontispiece.)

I must not forget to tell you that in the backwoods of Canada it is wonderful the way every one produces almost everything he requires by his own exertions simply, and without money.

I have told you how a man with an axe, and perhaps an auger, will get together nearly all the furniture he requires, after he has got his house built with those tools ; from the maple-trees he procures in the spring his sugar and molasses for the year. I dare say you have heard of this wonderful matter, and desire to know how it is done ; as it is, perhaps, one of the most interesting incidents of bush life in America, I will tell you a little about it. In the spring, just when the weather is getting a little warmer and the snow is

beginning to melt, the sap of all the trees begins to rise upwards from the roots to the branches, ready to form the leaves; the maples, which produce the sugar, are then tapped, that is, a slanting notch is cut in through the bark and about an inch into the solid wood; at the lowest corner of this notch a little piece of wood, with a groove in it, is stuck, and at once the sap of the tree begins to run out; this fluid you catch in a trough, dug out of wood, of course; in a day you will catch, perhaps, two pailfuls of sap from one good-sized tree. To the taste the fluid is just a little sweet. In a central part of what is called the sugar-bush,—for of course you have a number of the trees tapped thus, forty or fifty or more,—you erect a boiling-place, just a pole slung between two trees, on which all the iron pots and kettles you can muster are hung; underneath you light your fires, and begin boiling away at the sap; as it boils down you add more sap, and the contents of your kettles get sweeter and sweeter; after two or three days' boiling down you will have a lot of it quite thick, as thick as treacle. Collecting all this into one kettle, you very carefully boil away at it, stirring it and skimming it until it gets quite thick; you pour a few drops of it out from time to time on a cold plate, and when it sets quite hard, you stop the boiling and pour it into basins and pans, and when cold it will turn out solid lumps of pure sugar which is very pleasant to the taste, an excellent sugar in fact. By this means, in ordinary years, enough can be obtained to last all the year; the sap flows thus for several weeks, but towards the end it will not make sugar, although it will make most excellent, delicious molasses, one of the most delightful productions of Canada, to my taste.

You may be sure that the sugar-making season is one of the most active and interesting to all members of the family, old and young betaking themselves to the sugar-bush, and lending a willing hand to the production of that very useful and necessary article; and even after the sap is too poor to make either sugar or molasses, it will make excellent vinegar, as good as you can get anywhere. So, you see, from these maple-trees you make sugar, molasses, and vinegar. Now there is, more or less plentiful all through the woods there, a species of fir-tree, called the hemlock; the bark of this tree is used for tanning leather almost exclusively in Canada. Well, in spring, when this bark strips off very easily, you peel a lot of it, and at your leisure, with your ox sleigh in winter, you convey it to the nearest tanner's, and he will exchange boots and shoes with you for it. If you are fortunate to possess some pine-trees on your land, these you can cut down and haul to market in the winter on your ox sleigh, and sell, or have converted into boards which will sell; at any rate they are valuable, and you can turn them to valuable account. You will not be long before you have plenty of poultry about you, the eggs you can exchange at the nearest store or shop for what groceries you require; and if you have got on to own a few sheep, the wool can be worked up in your own house into yarn, and there is sure to be a weaver near who will convert it into homespun cloth, a most durable article, on shares for you, that is, he will weave all your wool into cloth, and give you, say two-thirds, and keep the rest for his trouble. All your dyes for your cloth are made from some of the woods or barks growing on your own land. You make your own soap and candles there. All these things you



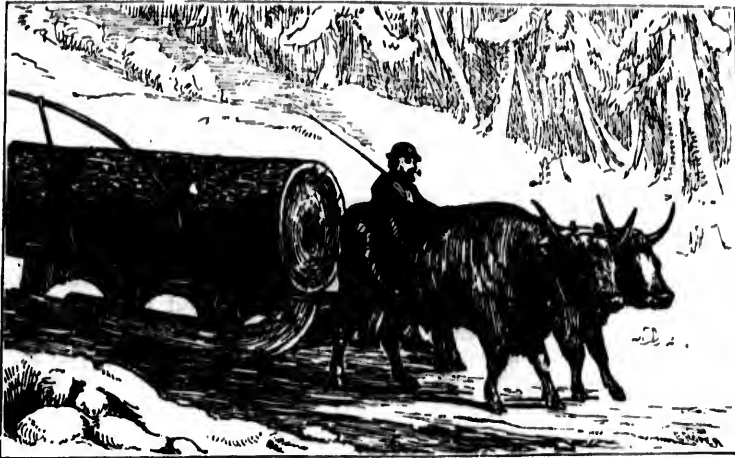
THE SUGAR BUSH.

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will very quickly learn how to do, though you may not think it now. Wild fruit is so very plentiful and good in Canada, that with the maple sugar, no one need be without plenty of good jams and preserves. Raspberries, as good as any you get here, are wonderfully plen-



HAULING A SAW LOG IN WINTER.



PIGEON SHOOTING.

tiful; I have frequently picked a pailful in a couple of hours. Wild plums, strawberries, gooseberries, black currants, are met with everywhere; and cranberries in some localities are very numerous. Then usually there are any quantities of nuts in the woods,—beech-nuts, walnuts, butternuts, hickory-nuts,—all extremely nice.

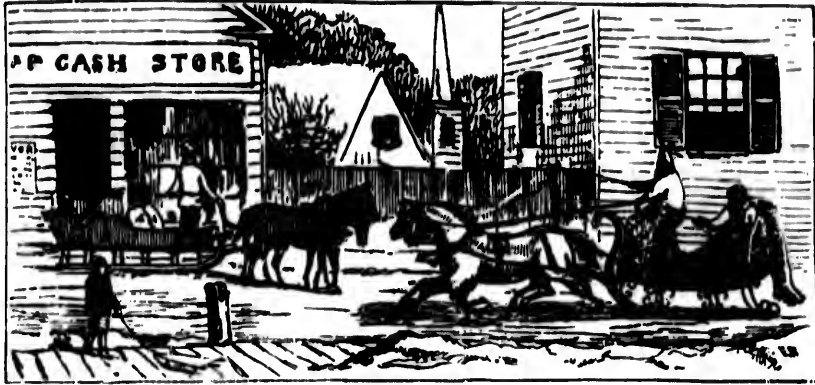
Game is plentiful, too, especially in the unsettled parts. Of course, the settler will find it generally to his advantage to mind his work rather than looking after sporting matters, still there are times when he can spare a day, or an hour or two of an evening or morning, and it is rare if he does not procure something which will add a change to the ordinary fare of the family. In spring there are immense flocks of pigeons passing

over the country, flocks miles long, innumerable quantities; for days together the sky is never clear of them; I have frequently seen the earth darkened by the shoals of them passing over. They don't often alight, except in certain localities, but if they do see a field of peas newly sown, and they settle on it, you will have to sow that field again *sure*, for if every pigeon took but one pea, it would make but a poor crop; this is the worst of them, otherwise they are a capital thing, for you are sure to get a lot of them if you have any sort of a gun. I remember once I killed twenty-four fine birds with two discharges of my gun.

In the woods there are plenty of squirrels, black, grey, and red; they are all most delicious to eat; I know of nothing nicer. There are also racoons—animals about twice the size of a hare—woodchucks, rabbits, and porcupines, and several other kinds, all good to eat, and very good too; then there are varieties of deer, which you may be fortunate enough to kill sometimes; but they are very shy, and require a good rifle skilfully used. I must not forget that there are many kinds of wild ducks, geese, swans, etc., wherever there is water; and that there are quails and partridges, or grouse. Fish too is plentiful. Of wild animals, savago ones, there are a few in Canada; wild cats and lynxes, these are very rarely seen; there *are* wolves too; but although I have lived for years in the wildest parts of Canada, I have only seen one or two, and I expect they were far more frightened at me than I was at them. I have often, in very hard winters, heard them howling at night, but nothing more. Much more frequently seen are bears, and you will wish they were still more frequent; for although undoubtedly they *are* ferocious if you make them angry by wounding them or otherwise, yet my experience is that they will run away from a man much as any other wild beast will. I have seen as many as eight bears in one party, rolling themselves in shallow water on a hot day; they are not good for much then, but in the autumn, just before the cold weather comes, they are very valuable; I don't know a more welcome addition to one's winter store of meat than a good fat bear, every inch of him is valuable. Pure bear's-grease for the hair is plentiful for long enough after you have slain Bruin; bear hams, bear steaks, bear's-paw soup, salt bear, fresh bear, all is good; and though it may seem a queer sort of dish to you *now*, I can tell you, if you once get a chance to taste it, you will tell a different story. The last bear I shot in Canada weighed 480lb. as he fell, and I was offered a fat ox for him on the spot. We ate every part of him; I have his jaw-bone left now as a trophy. They are of course mischievous animals if they get into a field of Indian corn, and they have been known to carry off a pig, but on the whole they don't do much harm. A bear's principal weakness seems to me to be maple molasses and whisky; I believe one would follow you for miles with that about you, so please remember and leave whisky alone in Canada, for fear of the bears, and for fear of other things too.

Of fur animals, there are large numbers in Canada, and during your first few years in the woods, before the place gets thickly inhabited and cleared, you will be sure to come across them; they are all valuable, a skilful trapper can make a good bit of money out of them. Minks, martens, beavers, otters, sables, ermines, grey squirrels, and musk-rats, especially the latter, are quite numerous; I

know of one man who paid for his farm by the musk-rats he caught ; but that was an exceptional case, and you must not depend upon any of these things to get on, but simply on the work you are able to do with your own hands ; then little bits of game and a little fish sometimes, and a skin or two come in very nicely, and help things on, but they are valuable for no more than that as a general rule.



SLEIGHING IN TOWN.

The subject of climate will interest you. Is Canada a healthy place? Well, my experience of it is, that it is just as healthy as this country, more so, of course, than the towns are here ; there is a little fever and ague in some parts where it is swampy, but that disappears as the country is cleared.

Canada is very hot in summer, very cold in winter. There is very little spring, but a very beautiful autumn. Some days in summer are as hot as they are in India, but it is only some of the days ; there



SLEIGHING IN THE COUNTRY.

is cool weather in summer there as well as here. The autumn is very delightful, from the end of August till the middle of November is the time, called there the fall. During the autumn, or fall, there are usually weeks of lovely weather, frosty nights and sunny days ; this is called the Indian summer. Then all the trees change colour, —the maples change to the most brilliant crimson and scarlet, the beeches to bright yellow and orange, the oaks and elms to a sombre

brown ; but, if any painter were to make a picture of the trees in Canada in autumn, in their real colours, no one would believe it could be true. I assure you that to go into the woods in autumn and gaze up at the tree tops where the sun is shining through them, is perfectly dazzling, so brilliant are the colours.

About the end of November or beginning of December come in the frost and snow ; this lasts till March or April. I suppose people who go to North America have more dread of the winter there than anything, and yet it is far from the worst season ; indeed, many, especially people from the old country, like it best. It is cold, of course, fearfully cold, but you don't feel it there as here ; the air is dryer and clearer. I have frequently known it to be so cold there that if you attempted to open your street-door with a wet hand ; you would be frozen fast to the door-handle, or if you threw a glass of water up into the air, it would come down ice ; at such a time your breath would freeze in your nostrils and round your mouth, and yet all the time the sun would be shining in all his splendor, and you would not care a bit for the cold. Meat killed in the beginning of winter will keep fresh till spring, milk, butter, *everything* can be kept then ; true, you have to chop everything up with an axe, it is frozen so hard, but ice is a capital preserver for all that. The snow falls there to a depth of several feet ; sometimes it thaws a little, and then freezes again, making a crust on the snow, upon which you can walk comfortably. As soon as the snow is down, wheels are quite given up all over Canada,—nothing but sledges or sleighs,—everything is lively then ; all roads are good ; it is the time for every one to do all his travelling and all his marketing for the year, the most backward part of the country wakes up then ; the merry sleigh bells are heard everywhere, for business and for pleasure. In the towns sleighing parties are made up, and some very beautiful vehicles turn out ; in the country as much pleasure, though perhaps not so much show, is enjoyed. It is considered a very bad thing if there be not plenty of snow and ice ; indeed there are generally very bad complaints of business on all sides if there be but poor sleighing. Now is the time when you feel the blessing of having plenty of firewood free, only for the labour of cutting it ; in your log-house you have got a fireplace that will take in large logs that will burn for days, and you will want it and enjoy it.

There are, of course, many other things which I could tell you about a settler's experience in Canada and about the country, but time fails me. I dare say what I have told you, seems, on the whole, rather a pleasing sort of life to lead, and so it is for many things, but there are some terrible hardships,—you will suffer a great deal from loneliness at first, especially you who have always lived in towns ; there will be some terrible deprivations there, which you will not miss till you get there. There is no work here anything like the work you will have to do there, and you will suffer no little from your ignorance of the way to do things, but, for all this, I must repeat what I said before,—go to the bush and get land of your own as soon as you can ; no matter what your trade is here, give it up there and settle on land ; that all this is to be done successfully and without *too much* hard work, I am myself a witness. Until fifteen years of age I had led a town-life, was unused to work in the slightest degree ; circumstances arose which caused my father, who had lived without working till then, to go to Canada. No one could be more unfit,

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THE GOLD DIGGINGS OF VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA.



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one would say, than we were, and yet we went right into the backwoods and settled on land, and my first knowledge of earning my living was there. I have done everything myself that I have told you about, and more; and I am quite sure any man, able and willing, need not suffer *very long* there, and I should, for my own part, think very many worse things might happen to me than to be obliged to go into the bush in Canada, and there carve out for myself and mine such a home as I helped to carve out before. If you are able, and have made up your minds to work hard, very hard, to suffer for the first year or two great privations, have fully determined to lead sober, steady, industrious lives,—then I say go by all means to the backwoods of Canada, you are sure, sooner or later, to prosper.

I have said nothing about the United States, which is a glorious country,—but it is not British, it is not *our* country,—there are plenty of chances to get on there, but no better than you will find in Canada, where, at least, you have a right to be, and where I'm sure you'll feel more at home than in the States; at any rate that is my experience of it.

I have promised to say something to you about Australia; it must be very little, as I have occupied so much time about that magnificent country, Canada.

I think Australia is a better country for a mechanic to go to with a view of following his trade, than either the United States or Canada is. You see there are the gold-fields which employ large numbers of people, and a great deal of manufacturing is going on there. To my mind Australia is the most wonderful country that ever was, and I believe ever can be again; the way it has progressed during the last fifteen years is something tremendous. Thirty years ago I believe there was one bark-hut where Melbourne now stands, at the present day you will find as much finish and stability and splendour in Melbourne as in London, and the people just as crowded and as busy as here. The gold-fields have had a great deal to do with this, in that they have attracted so many people to the country; and as it is such an expensive journey there, owing to the distance, most people who go, settle. That is of course the great consideration for you, expense; and really I think Canada is just as good a country to go to; indeed, if you were to hear Canadians who are in Australia talk, you would be sure it was. The climate of Australia is very different from that of Canada; it is very hot and dry there in summer, and no winter; merely a wet season, which I very much prefer to the dry; I have known six months to pass in Australia without rain, water gets terribly scarce then. The country itself is very peculiar, not at all like any other place I know; it is very pleasant in some parts, but land is very dear, owing to the *nd-laws*—not less than £1 per acre, I believe.

The gold-fields are not paying very well now for individual labour; indeed there is not much chance for a man to make anything at gold-digging nowadays, working alone, or without machinery, as it used to be in the early days of the gold discovery,—it requires plenty of capital.

A large number of people are employed by the different companies who are now working the mines, and they pay very good wages, but that is for skilled labour, for men who understand what gold-

mining is. A collier, or a Cornish miner, or indeed any one who understands that work, would do well there of course.

The sheep-farmers employ a good many people, as shepherds, hut-keepers, stockmen, and such-like, but there, as in Canada, *the land*, farming, is the great thing to depend upon; and so, all I can say to you is, that if you have made up your mind to go to Australia, go to either Queensland or Swan River, where land is to be had: and if you are determined to work at some trade, go to Victoria.

I might spend a long time in details about this country, telling you about the peculiar trees there, of the cherries that grow with their stones outside, of the wooden pears, of the very peculiar animals that are found there, the kangaroos, wombats, flying opossums, and a host of others, but my time will not admit of it. I must come to a conclusion. I have said nothing to you about the voyage either to Canada or Australia, and there is really very little to be said more than I am sure you know already. To Canada it is any-



A SHEPHERD'S HUT IN AUSTRALIA.

thing but a pleasant passage for an emigrant, but by steam it is *very* short, ten or twelve days at most. To Australia, which by sailing-ship takes some eighty to one hundred and twenty days, it is very much pleasanter, for you have time then to get settled down to as much comfort as *can* be got on board an emigrant ship. I have crossed the Atlantic to America and back some ten times, four times in emigrant ships, so I know pretty well what it is, and it certainly is not the most pleasant twelve days one can spend, still it is got over somehow. Take as little with you as possible, except clothing, which is cheaper there than here, and bedding of course. For the passage you have to provide yourself with certain articles, which the people you engage your passage from will tell you all about.

One word before I close. I have alluded once or twice to sobriety as being an essential for an emigrant. There is a very great deal too

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much drinking done here, I know, for the good of all. People seem to think it is quite impossible to do without beer a number of times a day; there is not so much downright drunkenness here, as there is a continual drinking of beer, which costs a great deal of money and does not a bit of good. I am not a teetotaller, and yet I have worked as hard as any man has done, under the burning sun of Australia, and in the freezing cold of Canada, sometimes for days together up to my middle in water, night and day, and I have never thought of taking anything stronger than tea and coffee on that account; it is not the custom in those countries to drink as people do here, and I have *proved* it is not necessary; but for all that there is plenty of drinking done, plenty of drunkenness. Whisky in America is very cheap; it used to be only 25 cents (1s.) a gallon, and there was a lot of it drunk; it is now dearer, and there is more of it drunk, but it is only at taverns and such places; *a man need not* drink there unless he likes, so there is no excuse; therefore I do beg of you to be careful, and keep from drinking. Give it up here entirely, and you will find the benefit of it; use the money instead in helping you on your way to Canada; and from the moment you quit these shores, at any rate, give it up altogether; you'll never regret it, but rejoice for ever afterwards. A drunkard is a failure everywhere; a man who drinks only moderately is sure to be regarded with suspicion in Canada; a teetotaller is almost bound to succeed.

I have done. I trust I have been able to give you an idea of what emigrating means, what you may expect of good and bad; and if what I have said helps you to overcome the difficulties before you, and to succeed in the new land to which you are thinking of going, I shall have my reward. Keep a brave heart, let no hardships beat you; don't be disheartened at first, and, with God's blessing, you will surely ultimately do well.



AUSTRALIAN CHERRIES, WHICH GROW WITH THEIR STONES OUTSIDE.

