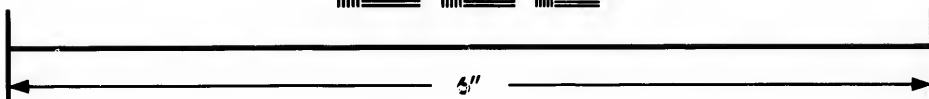
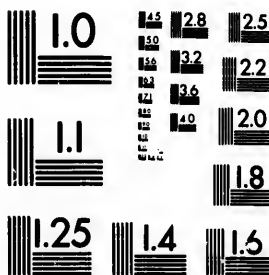


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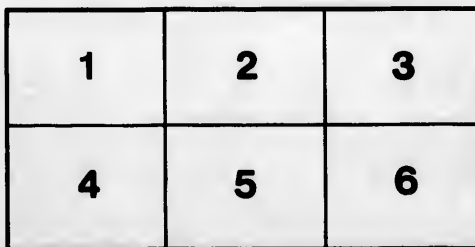
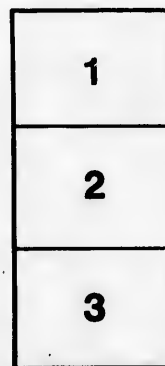
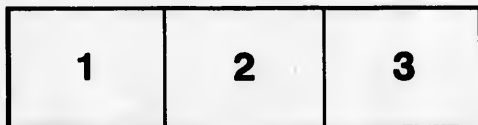
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A GUIDE
FOR
EMIGRANTS
FROM THE
BRITISH SHORES
TO THE
WOODS OF CANADA.

BY
GEORGE ARUNDEL HILL.

DUBLIN:
RICHARD MOORE TIMS, 85, GRATON STREET,

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INTRODUCTION.

THE following pages were written with a view to do service to those who may determine to leave their native country, and seek a more secure, or more comfortable home, in the Woods of Canada.

If the information they contain be considered deficient or ill-chosen, it is at least correct, as far as it goes; and I too well remember the pleasure with which I should myself have perused any work relating to Canada, not to hope that the purchaser of my little book will read it with some interest, and, I sincerely trust, with some advantage.

Newcastle District, Upper Canada.

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GUIDE FOR EMIGRANTS,

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CHAPTER I.

THE VOYAGE.

On Sunday, 1st of May, 1831, we left Limerick in the brig *Agness*, Captain D. Gorman. There were rather more than 200 souls on board, all of whom arrived in Quebec, except an "old woman of eighty" and an infant. Previous to landing, the passengers drew up an address, highly complimentary to their Captain; and though, for aught I know, such a proceeding may be usual on occasions of the kind, it was, in this instance, well and truly merited. I believe Captain G. to be a good seaman, and am confident of his being a good and kind-hearted man: one who will not only feel a warm interest in the safety and comfort of every person on board his ship, but who will take the best and surest means to secure both. I shall only add, that if I knew of any of my friends in Ireland who were coming over to Canada, I would say to them, "Endeavour to secure a passage with Dan Gorman."

It would answer little purpose, beside that of swelling this volume, to detail the incidents of our voyage. We had, I believe, the usual quantum of sea-sickness,—rough and fair weather,—with a couple of fine cod hooked on "the banks."

There is, however, one circumstance which I cannot pass over; it will afford the intemperate a useful, though an awful warning, and to every one an instructive instance of the weakness of human nature. Among our

passengers was a Mr. C——. He was a native of Ireland, but had spent many years in America, from which he had quite recently arrived, and was now returning with the intention of never again visiting his native land. I became acquainted with him in Limerick a short time before we sailed, and having dined once or twice in his company, I conceived him to be a perfectly temperate man. During the entire voyage nothing passed to remove this impression, and it was still farther confirmed by his writing an address, which he delivered to the passengers on our coming to anchor in the St. Lawrence: of which the object was, to fortify them against yielding to the many temptations which Canada afforded, of indulging in the use of spirituous liquors. This occurred in the morning: and soon after he, with others, took advantage of the ship's boat to go on shore. Towards evening I did the same myself, and had scarcely got well into Quebec when poor C—— came towards me, and accosted me, in that thick, unsteady tone, which told too plainly that his practice had been sadly at variance with his preaching! In consequence of expecting that the Richelieu Steamer would take on board in the morning such of the passengers as proposed going up to Montreal, we returned to the Agness before dark, and there I discovered that the infatuated C—— had brought with him into the vessel a supply of brandy. The consequence was, that up to the last moment of our continuing fellow-travellers, he was not one moment perfectly sober. We separated on arriving at Montreal, and, a very few days afterwards, the first paragraph which caught my eye in a *Cobourg Star*, was an account of the ill-fated C—— having been found dead in a field, with a bottle of whiskey in his pocket, and his eyes picked out by birds!

Perhaps the reader will think that I have detained him too long with an anecdote foreign to the subject on which he wishes for information; but let him bear with me a moment longer, while I assure him, that instances of persons, who had been highly respectable in their native country, but who, on coming to Canada, have sunk down in the pool of intemperance to mingle with the very dregs of mankind, are sadly numerous.

I have now brought my reader to the end of our

voyage, and in place of endeavouring to entertain him with a description of Quebec, or its grand and beautiful scenery, of which he has probably already read a better than mine would be, I shall conclude this chapter with such practical advice and observations as I conceive may possibly be of service to him.

The question which seems most important to the preparing Emigrant is, "What articles ought I take with me to America?" I would recommend a stock of ready-made clothes, sufficient for two or three years. Round jackets of strong thick cloth seem best adapted for general wear during the winter season, by those who expect to be themselves actively employed. Cloth breeches I prefer to trowsers; and in place of putting on leather boots, or strong shoes, I advise a pair of the latter made very slight, and to draw over them strong woollen stockings, either *knit* expressly for the purpose, or made of very close, stout cloth. Thus dressed, your feet may bid defiance to the snow, and will continue dry and warm. A few pair of strong Wellington boots will, however, be advisable, as the cloth hose are not the best to be used during a thaw. Plenty of warm woollen stockings will be an acquisition. If you are so fortunate as to possess a feather bed or two, bring them enclosed each in a strong canvass case, just large enough to hold one tick with its bedding. Articles of earthen ware are dear enough in this country, but, from the risk of breakage and other considerations, I would suggest that you make a present of your crockery to your friends, that they may think of you now and then, unless the quantity be very small indeed. Glass is much cheaper than in Ireland. For the rest I have only to say, that I consider the best rule you can be guided by is, to bring an ample supply of every thing really portable, such as threads, tapes, pins, and needles, &c., for I take it for granted you are a family man; hinges for doors and windows, wood-screws, carpenters' tools (for you must be a handy man also), such as plane-irons, saws, chisels, and gimblets. You will also find an adze and draw-knife very useful tools. Above all things bring with you a small medicine chest, and a good family medical work.

There are two things which a person should keep in

view when selecting those articles which he wishes to bring with him to Canada. One is, that the smaller and lighter his baggage, and the fewer the number of trunks or cases, the better; and this not so much from the expense of bringing them along, when he commences inland travelling, as from the losses he is liable to, from having, when he removes from one boat or waggon to another, too many boxes, &c. to look after, and from the increased trouble and anxiety to which he would be otherwise subjected. The other point is, that though any saving as to price on the articles he does bring may not be of much moment, yet he will secure this advantage, that when he arrives at his final destination, he has got with him many things which are immediately useful and necessary, and which the hurry of travelling, and perhaps the short stay which he made in the frontier towns, would have prevented either his thinking of, or allowed no time for their purchase.

Emigrants determined to settle in Montreal, or its vicinity, may bring with them as much baggage as they please, but such persons will always be few, compared to the vast mass who will press on to the interior of the country. I recommend the latter to bear in mind, that though they can scarcely establish themselves in a spot so distant from some shop or store, as to preclude the opportunity of being supplied with whatever they may want, still they will find the price of every thing increase in a wonderful proportion, as they get farther from the frontier towns.

On the subject of sea-store I can have little to say. Why should I interfere with people's predilections for eatables and drinkables? So bring with you whatever you judge you will like best; but remember one thing, that if your passage be not unusually quick, the ship's water will begin to change materially for the worse, before it is over, and that a glass of bottled ale, or porter, or cider, I care not which, will then prove an agreeable substitute.

Should you have young children, they will be apt to grow tired of hard biscuit, and if you procure some loaves of bread that have been carefully *double-baked*, I will answer for its remaining perfectly fit for use for at least three weeks. You might also wish to have some

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milk for the young ones, even though you cared little for it yourself. Well then, procure as many perfectly clean and sweet bottles as you please; fill them with milk warm from the cow, and after being stopped with the best description of corks, secure the latter with strong twine. Next place a little straw in the bottom of a large boiler, and put in a layer of bottles, then more straw, and then more bottles again, until you have as many in as will remain covered when the vessel is filled with water. As soon as the latter boils, remove the fire, leaving the bottles in until the water has become cool. Your milk is now ready to be packed in a hamper, and will continue sweet until you can get a fresh supply at this side of the Atlantic.

CHAPTER II.

In our last chapter we had arrived at Quebec, and as I presume you feel as little disposed as myself to waste either your time or money in that over-crowded and uninviting-looking town, we shall endeavour to get on to Montreal, 180 miles up the St. Lawrence. You will of course get into a steam-boat, of which there are several, so that if you miss one to-day you may be almost sure of one to-morrow, and will probably find it the best plan to remain until then on board your vessel. The *Richelieu*, Captain Morén, was the one we paddled in, and *en passant* I must not omit that Monsieur le Capitaine made me pay 6s. 3d. passage money for an infant not three months old, though I had conceived our agreement was quite to the contrary. We had left Quebec on Wednesday, 8th of June, at 12 o'clock at noon, and arrived at Montreal at 2 o'clock on Friday morning. I asked Morén, the evening before, what was the latest hour that he would name for my leaving the *Richelieu*, as I understood he was to start back for Quebec on Friday. He said I could remain on board with my things at all events till eleven o'clock, which would give me ample time for procuring private lodgings. I went into Montreal for that purpose as soon as I expected to find the good citizens stirring; but having met considerable difficulty in making out lodgings, from the then crowded state of the town, it was about nine

before I returned to the steamer. You may judge what was then my astonishment to find that my "dear fellow" had been for the last hour worrying and alarming Mrs. H. by pressing her to leave the vessel, telling her that otherwise she would be carried back to Quebec, as he could not possibly wait for my return. I found also that, by his orders, the greater part of my things had been put ashore, and it was fortunate that I was able to return so soon, as our loss from having our things lying on a crowded wharf, intermixed with those of hundreds of others, and almost unlooked after, in place of being, as it was, trifling, would have been probably very serious. The cabin fare was £1. 5s. for each adult.—7s. 6d. steerage. Cabin passengers get breakfast, dinner, and sometimes lunch into the bargain, beside the advantage of a pretty comfortable cubby-house to sleep in; and you are to understand that this is the routine of all the steam-boats along the line.

CHAPTER III.

Well, now that we are at Montreal, the important question is—Where next? For surely you will not stop here or in its neighbourhood. In the first place, they say it is much colder here in winter than in the Upper Province; and in the second place, you can have little business here, or at least, little satisfaction unless you can speak bad French. Besides, if you happen not to be a Roman Catholic, there arises another most serious objection. Popery is the dominant creed, and Spain herself does not, I believe, contain a more numerous or bigoted priesthood—a more formidable machinery of monks and friars, or a more ignorant and priest-ridden population. Processions of the Host are frequent, and the person who, from a just contempt for such juggleries, will refuse to make obeisance as they pass, stands a good chance of becoming entitled to a page in "the Book of Martyrs." Still I would recommend you to halt for a few days, and consider whether this would not be a good opportunity to procure any little article you may have neglected to bring with you.

I presume you are as utterly unacquainted with this

fine city as I was myself; and as it happened to me, so it may to you, that some one of your family, from the fatigue of travelling—from the sudden change of climate, or from any other cause, has become seriously unwell, and that you wish to procure medical advice. Now, I have entirely forgotten the names of the M. D.'s of Montreal, with the exception of one, and I believe as I can send you to Dr. Martin, you will have no cause to regret my short memory. It is pleasant to meet kindness from a total stranger, but it is still more grateful to have an opportunity of shewing that such kindness is not forgotten; and my regret is, that the tablet on which I must inscribe Dr. Martin's should be of so humble a character.

All this time the question we commenced our chapter with remains unanswered—Where next? If you have not already made up your mind on that point, you will take every occasion of asking those you come in contact with, what direction of the country *they* judge it best for a settler to go to. Now perhaps not two of them will agree as to the favoured spot; though each will be sure to have sound reasons for his particular selection. And what does this prove? Only that it is almost impossible to take any direction in this boundless and improving country, where you will not have opportunities of attaining the object you have in view. You have read or heard of the hungry ass placed exactly between two equal bundles of hay. While he was gloating on one with his right eye, the left was fixed on the other; and the consequence was, that the poor fellow not only passed the night supperless in the very midst of plenty, but got an incurable squint into the bargain. For the world I would not insinuate that there is any danger of your making an ass of yourself, but if you are looking for information to enable you to decide the question of locality, I do not see why I may not place my wisp before you as well as another. My advice, then, is, to go straight on to Cobourg, and thence to Peterborough, in the neighbourhood of which you will meet fine land, and have the double advantage of being in a rapidly improving settlement, and among a great number of highly respectable settlers.

This city (it is only a village yet, but I have just got

a fit of the Highlander's second sight)—was named after the Hon. Peter Robinson. It is pleasantly and most advantageously situated on the Otonabee, which running out of Clear, or Salmon-trout Lake, about fifteen miles north-east of Peterborough enters Rice Lake after a further course of twenty miles. As we have at present a pretty long way to travel, I shall postpone any further notice of Peterborough until we shall have arrived there, and have only said this much about it to put you in good humour with the resting-place which I have selected for you.

CHAPTER IV.

We have now to set out for Prescott; but it may be prudent, before starting, to enquire what modes of performing the journey can be found.

There is a regular stage which for £2 will set you down there with a small allowance of luggage, the day after you leave Montreal. If expedition is an object, you can coach it; and should your luggage, as will probably happen, be more than the stage allowance, get it taken to one of the forwarding offices, of which there are several: you will there get a receipt for the articles delivered, and they will be sent on by a bateau, or Durham boat at a charge of 2s. 6d. per cwt. In these said stages I have never travelled; but even on a good road I should not judge them to be the pleasantest vehicles in the world, and believe me the roads they do jog over are very far from good.

Water travelling is the next resource; and here you have a choice between a bateau, an entirely open boat, or a Durham boat, which has a kind of half-deck, under which luggage and merchandize are stowed, and where you may yourself find a welcome shelter in bad weather. The fare in these to Prescott is from four to five shillings, and you must reckon on being about a week on board.

Should the weather prove fine, you will by this route see a profusion of delightful scenery, and perhaps form the most correct idea of what Canada is, and what man's industry can make her—you will be borne along a magnificent river—you will see for miles together "a

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boundless contiguity of shade"—trees of various kinds growing thick and luxuriant down to the water's edge, and stretching back until they mingle with the clouds; then as you pass some promontory, a whitewashed wooden cottage, with its orchard and its garden, and its many smiling accompaniments, calls you back from your musings to the enjoyments and activity of real life; and while an involuntary wish escapes you that you had such a sweet resting-place, you feel a chill on thinking how much was to be endured, how much was to be done, when the owner laid his axe to the first tree. Well, what then?—he did endure, he did do, and behold the happy fruits of his industry and perseverance. He was in straitened, or at best, unpromising circumstances in his native land, which probably did not afford one acre which he could properly call his own, and now, with every appearance of comfort and independence, he has at least an hundred. What he has achieved, has been achieved by tens of thousands, and shall you despair? Oh, no; your industry and your perseverance will soon place you on a level, and the same God whose blessing gave his land its increase, will not forget yours, unless it be your own fault.

At different intervals, you pass pretty villages, where you are occasionally able to get on shore, while the boat is being drawn by oxen or horses up some of the many rapids that obstruct the navigation of the St. Lawrence. (*Note a.*) Your Durham boat has got sails and a mast, which, when not in use, lies flat along the deck, but it sometimes happens that the wind will not allow these to be of any further use during the passage than to serve as an awning to keep off rain, or screen you from the sun. Should the mast, however, happen to be raised, and should you occupy that part of the vessel under the half-deck, where the lower end of it should be secured below, I advise you to look sharp, lest the fellow who went down to make it fast had not done so in a proper manner.

During our coasting voyage in the *Orion*, very early in the morning of the day we expected to reach Prescott, a pretty smart breeze sprang up, the only one which had blown from a favourable point from the time we left Montreal. The Captain (for the man in autho-

rity with a crew of four men and a boy is thus dignified,) gave orders to raise the mast, and one of our tars came down where I and my family were lying, to make the lower end of it fast. It so happened that he could not in a moment lay his hands on the proper piece of timber which was prepared for the purpose, and he substituted the first bit of wood that came in his way. For a short time all went on cheerily: our clumsy and heavy-laden bark stemming the current of the St. Lawrence at the rate of five knots an hour; when as we ran too close into shore, the top of our mast caught in the branches of a lofty tree, which bent far over the river. The bit of wood which had been so carelessly made use of, gave way, and in the twinkling of an eye down came mast and sails with a most alarming crash. Through the mercy of Providence no person was injured, though Mrs. H. escaped being killed or miserably mangled, only by having a moment before changed her seat, and a woman and child were lying on deck immediately under where the mast fell.

During the greater part of the passage our boat was drawn by oxen or horses, of which we sometimes had as many as eight; and when these, from the nature of the shore, could not be employed, the crew shoved us on with long poles tipped with iron. Their manner of using these was to us both new and amusing. They stood, one behind the other, at the fore part of the boat, with their faces to the stern, then plunging the poles into the bottom of the river, each man bent forward till his face nearly touched the deck, and then while the other end of the pole was fixed firmly against his shoulder, he moved forwards as if on all fours, sometimes using one hand as an additional leg, and sometimes supporting himself altogether merely by the assistance of the pole. When the first man reached the limits of his march, they all stood erect, and after withdrawing the poles, wheeled about to post themselves again at the stern, and go through the same fatiguing manœuvre.

Once or twice our boat, with several others, was taken in tow by a steamer, and drawn along for short distances. When you come to the rendezvous, and are lying to for the arrival of the steamer, you will be glad

to take the opportunity of stepping on shore; but pray remember that I now forewarn you not to ramble too far, as the gentry who rule and govern on these voyages, will care very little, when once ready for starting, whether you are on board or not, unless, indeed, you have endeared yourself to them by the size and flavour of your brandy bottle.

There was a poor emigrant named Walsh, who, with a large family, was going up in one of the Durham boats that was lashed with ours to a steamer. We lay to at a kind of quay, and while expecting every moment to see the paddles go round, a boy from a neighbouring house brought down some milk to dispose of to the people on board the boats. Walsh, among others, stepped out to buy some; and paying for it in silver, the milk merchant wanted one copper of the change. While they were debating the point how this mighty difference was to be arranged, round went the paddles, and a cry of "step on board" settled the question. Every one had got in except poor Walsh. He, too, might easily have done so, but the fear of being left behind so bewildered him that he lost the momentary opportunity, and it was not until his boat had receded too far from the quay to leave him any chance of reaching her, that he seemed disposed to make a desperate spring, when he must inevitable have been plunged into the water. We could see him in some time after, running like one distracted along the water's edge, probably in the vain hope that the steamer would be stopped in order to take him in. Fortunately he had only about thirty miles to travel to reach Prescott, and he re-united to his anxious and terrified family.

Each of the Durham boats is furnished with a metal stove, in which you can boil a kettle, &c. but you will have to forage for firewood as you go along, which you can easily do, as there will occur many opportunities of stepping on shore; but it will be the better plan to bring provisions ready dressed, so that you may have as little occasion for their stove as possible.

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CHAPTER V.

We have now, fellow-traveller, arrived at Prescott, where there can be little to detain us. If you are determined to push on until you reach York or Niagara, you will here find steam-boats to take you direct to one or the other. They will also land you at intermediate places, such as Kingston, Cobourg, Port Hope, &c. There is also a small steamer, the Dalhousie, Captain Mills, which leaves Prescott every day for Kingston; and if you propose to stop a while at the latter town, I recommend you to travel with Captain M. Cabin fare, 12s. 6d.; steerage, 5s.

Should you happen to be a half-pay officer, or otherwise entitled to a grant of land from government, it will be indispensable that you go to York, where you will see the Lieutenant Governor's Secretary, and, if you choose, can wait on his excellency. The former, after you have presented your papers in reference to your claim, will give you full information about the routine that you must go through, before you get an official order to the government agent of the township in which you propose taking your grant. This latter functionary will supply you with the numbers of several vacant lots, each containing 200 acres, in order that, after personal inspection, you may select as many from these which you prefer, as will make up the quantity of land to which you are entitled. He will then give you a location ticket, which becomes the first title to your estate. This title, however, is not such as would legally entitle you to dispose of your land, or assign it over to another, though such bargains are made every day, and, I believe, are never interfered with by government.

Before you can demand the patent, or title deeds of your land, there are certain things to be performed, called settlement duties (*b*), and a few words will give you a clear idea of their nature and extent.

If you, or any one, has resided for two years on the land, you are only required further to have made a road thirty feet wide, along the front of your lot or lots, and have sown it with grass seed; but if you, or some

one, have not so resided, then your road must have been made of double that breadth: that is, thirty feet on each side of the line which has become your front boundary.

I now proceed to suggest how you ought to act in case you have come over to purchase land. To effect this purpose there are three modes open to you:—To buy from a private proprietor, from the Canada Company, or from Government. On each of these we shall say a few words. If you knew any friend who had been settled in a favourable part of the country for some time before you came over, and was aware of your intention to emigrate and purchase a farm, which would have a house and cleared land on it, he would most probably be able to make one out that would exactly suit you. In this case, such a purchase would be in my opinion the best, but if you are come over to Canada, an isolated stranger, or at least that you do not know any one on whose zeal and judgment you could sufficiently rely to select your farm, then I would say, have nothing to do with cleared land or private proprietors. There are, to be sure, plenty of persons to be found who would wish to give you a *great bargain*, but depend upon it, their first wish is to get some of the sovereigns that you have brought out from the old country; and though particular farms may be really desirable, the greater part of those which your attention will be called to, have been found by their owners to labour under some disadvantage of soil or situation, or else the cleared land, which to a new comer sounds so temptingly, has been cropped and cropped until it has become of small value.

I can see little difference between purchasing lands from the Canada Company or from Government, as I believe those of the latter are equally good. The former advertise over two millions of acres for sale, and have land to dispose of in almost every part of Upper Canada. The purchaser is allowed five years to pay for his land, and when he pays the first instalment, one-fifth, he has power to begin making a clearance, &c. J. G. Bethune, Esq. of Cobourg, is an agent for this company, as well as a government agent, and will afford every information in the most gentlemanly and

satisfactory manner. There are constant advertisements in the papers, on the part of government, respecting the disposal of crown lands, both in the way of private sale, through the medium of its several agents dispersed through the province, and also by public auction. The usual condition is to pay with interest by four yearly instalments. Mr. McDonnell is the government agent at Peterborough.

If you get land through either of these channels, you will remember, that it is what we call bush land: that is, in a perfect state of nature, and covered altogether with full-grown trees; so that before an acre of it becomes productive, there must be serious labour and expense incurred. When we commence any new undertaking, of whose nature and difficulties we have had no previous experience, and therefore can form concerning it only vague and imperfect ideas, we naturally ask the opinion of persons who have themselves trod the same road. We derive, however, if we stop there, little benefit from our inquiries, for the more we multiply them, the more various and contradictory will be the opinions we receive. What seemed a trifle to one was a load to another; what one considered an amusement another hated. We should not, therefore, be satisfied with a bare opinion: we should ask a detail of the labours, and the difficulties, and the advantages, and then there will be some probability of our deciding whether we are fitted to enter on the proposed undertaking.

A person who removes into the bush has certainly a great deal to do, or get done; and the females and younger branches of his family are likely to endure many privations, and perhaps suffer what, when compared with their previous experience, may be justly considered hardships. Still there is a limit to all this. The sun which had before cheered them with the comforts and conveniencies of life may remain for a time beneath the horizon, but it *will* rise; and industry and perseverance, if united to prudence and correct conduct, will not, cannot fail in Canada, of their proper reward.

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within a reasonable distance of a village or store, say any thing under ten miles, your privations need scarcely be more than what your funds would have rendered expedient, had you been living in the centre of a town.

Having left your family at the nearest town or village, you commence operations, either by hiring men or entering into a written agreement with an experienced settler, who will engage to chop, burn, and fence, in a certain number of acres, and put up your shanty or log-house.

This mode of proceeding, when practicable, I consider the best for many reasons; it will almost to a certainty be the cheapest, and the work, considering your own inexperience, and perhaps that of those whom you are obliged to employ, will be better done. Should you be able begin clearing the land in June, or even in July, there will be quite sufficient time to have a few acres prepared for sowing a crop of wheat in October; and you may, that very year, raise a little turnips, late cabbage, and other vegetables.

It may happen to you, however, as it did to myself, that you arrive too late on your land to attain these advantages; and you may also be unable to meet any competent person, who is willing to enter into such a contract with you as described. Your only alternative then is to hire men by the day or month. Men who have been for some time in the country are certainly to be preferred; as it must be plain at once, that he who never handled an axe before must be inferior, both in execution and despatch, to a practised chopper, and besides will know little or nothing of what may be called the detail of your operations. If therefore you are obliged to employ such persons, it will be absolutely necessary to procure one or two of the former description of men, and then you may get on pretty well.

CHAPTER VI.

Before we enter on the novel employment of clearing land, and putting up shanties, let us perch awhile, like the wild pigeons here, in one of the tallest trees, and take a rapid survey of the face of the country. The

cleared spots are comparatively so small, so few, and in general so far asunder, that it may look like one boundless and unbroken forest; where man and man's labour are wanting; and the deer and its destroyer are its noblest inhabitants. All this forest, however, which you behold, has been measured and divided into townships, by surveyors employed on the part of government. These townships are again divided into what are called concessions, and these latter into lots, each lot containing two hundred acres; both are numbered, first, second, &c. and the boundary or divisional lines of the concessions, which are run perfectly straight, without diverging for either swamps, hills, or valleys, are formed by taking off with an axe a piece of bark on each side of the trees that stand where the line should be, and by cutting down an occasional small one. This mark is called "the blaze," and where recently done is generally sufficiently plain, but in townships that were surveyed some years ago, there is both risk and difficulty in endeavouring to follow it.

When a person has had the misfortune to get off the line or *blaze*, and fails, after a few trials, to recover it, his best and only rational resource is to endeavour, by the aid of a compass, the sun, or any other mode, to keep one straight course either to the east or west. As the concession lines run north or south, or nearly so, he will thus be pretty certain of coming on some one or another of them, and so may extricate himself out of a very alarming dilemma. I have been obliged myself to have had recourse to this plan on more than one occasion; and here I would strongly recommend the practice of carrying about with you a pocket compass, as it will show you the way when perhaps the sun may be taking a nap behind a thick curtain of clouds.

The prevailing trees here are maples, beech, hemlocks, cedars, basswood, and elms; pines and oaks are numerous in particular districts, but in general are only found scattered among the others. The maple, or Canadian sugar cane, is a tall and handsome tree: excellent firewood: but except when found bird-eyed, or with a curled grain, not in request for other purposes. The beech resembles that of the old country, and seems of a good quality; it also is fine firewood. Hemlocks

are very like pines; their bark is used by tanners, and this seems the only use they answer. The cedars are of the white kind, and rank among the most incorruptible trees in building log-houses. The bass is usually selected for roofing shanties, as it splits easily, and commonly very fair, besides the wood is soft, and takes less labour to hollow out the troughs. There is a variety of the elm, called white or rock elm, which seems superior to all other trees for general furniture and frame-work; it is close-grained, hard, heavy, and extremely tough; it makes capital axe-handles. Ash is also found here; one variety, called the black ash, is approved of for log-houses; but for other purposes the wood is, I believe, worth little. Besides these we have the iron-wood, hickory, balsam, and perhaps a few others. Plumb and cherry-trees are scattered through our forests, as are also gooseberry and currant bushes, and even the vine and hop plant are not wanting.

The number of full-grown trees on an acre varies much in different townships. The best description of lands appear to have the fewest, and these, as might be expected, are of a larger size than when found more numerous. In the Newcastle district, the average number on an acre may be stated at seventy; and spaces of twenty or thirty yards square, free from large trees, are to be met with frequently. The surface of the ground is constantly covered with a thick coat of leaves, through which, very thinly scattered, a grass of a coarse kind will make its way; and in the months of May and June is seen a tolerable variety of wild and very pretty flowers.

Besides those rivers, which are considered of consequence enough to be marked on the maps, we have numerous streams, generally called creeks: some of them do not become entirely frozen during the winter, but there are many that only run in the spring and fall of the year.

I shall conclude this chapter with a few observations on the subject of choosing land. It appears evident to me that the season of the year, when this is being done, is of much importance. In summer you are prevented by the foliage of the trees, from seeing many yards in any direction, and you then find the mosquitoes and

other flies so very troublesome, that you will be anxious to make your stay among them as short as possible. There is yet another disadvantage: spots, sometimes of no trifling extent, which, if seen in spring or autumn, would be so wet and impassable, as to deter you from settling in their neighbourhood, will then be as dry as if a drop of water could never be found there.

Winter, perhaps, is a still more objectionable time; to be sure, you can then easily distinguish swampy spots by the hemlocks and cedars which invariably occupy them, and whose dark green contrasts strongly with the leafless branches of the trees growing on dry land; but you are totally prevented from discovering whether the ground is not so full of stones as to be worth little. Perhaps you will think it strange that there should be stones on the surface of the ground here at all; supposing that the leaves which were annually shed for four thousand years, must have formed in their decomposition a mass of mould which must have long since placed the stones far beneath the surface. The fact, however, is, that there is plenty of stony land to be met with in Canada; and where surface stones are most numerous, they are generally found in nests or heaps. This is plainly caused by those trees which have been overturned by the wind; their roots bringing up on such occasions a mass of the sub-soil, with all the stones that were among it.

In the spring, say from the 1st of April to the 4th or 5th of May, or in the months of October and November, are found, as I conceive, the best opportunities for judging of, and selecting land. You will then see at one time a much larger extent of the face of the country, you will not be in danger of your losing your temper and your self-possession together by the rascally mosquitoes: you will have double evidence of every swampy spot in the contrast of which I have already spoken, and in the water, through which you are obliged to splash; and you will be able to determine about the stones, both by observing the surface, and better still, by examining the mass of earth which adheres to the roots of any tree that may happen to have been upset by wind. After all, I would not be understood to join in the outcry raised by new settlers against

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

invaluable breed, until such time as the country shall have become sufficiently cleared to enable Nimrods, yet unborn, to break their necks in pursuit of them.

Notwithstanding the number of animals and birds which have been noticed,—and there are many more omitted—it is sufficiently wonderful what a long walk you will sometimes take through the woods here, and scarcely meet with a living object beside the mosquitoes. These, during the summer months, will be sure to attend you, and believe me, except you are one of those callous fellows who are so devoid of all feeling as to defy mosquitoes, midges, and black flies, you will often be forced to wish the three tribes at the bottom of the sea—at least you would beg they would go somewhere else, and let *you* alone.

When you were speaking of coming over to Canada, every one had pity for you about the piercing cold of the winter, the intolerable heat of the summer, or the bears, or the wolves, or some other equally fanciful bullaboo; but my life on it, not one told you the real truth, that the only things to be dreaded in Upper Canada are the ague and the flies. For the former, if you should get it, the sulphate of quinine is almost a specific; and for the latter, it is pleasant to know that these tormentors diminish as your clearance becomes extended. Indeed, in a clearance of almost the smallest size, you will be little troubled with mosquitoes, as they seldom leave the immediate shade of the trees. It is otherwise with the black flies and midges. These congregate about you in the mornings and evenings, and are so numberless, so persevering, and so blood-thirsty, that you will be frequently compelled to retreat to your house at the very time when it would be most pleasant, and when perhaps you would be most anxious to continue at work. In settled weather flies are not so troublesome, and when a breeze is stirring, which frequently occurs, you are sure of being quite free from them; so that when once a settler has become sufficiently independent to have part of his time at his own disposal, he can avoid the annoyance of them almost altogether, by remaining within at such times as he finds them troublesome. Until that happy period shall have arrived, he must bear persecution as well as he can—though I

doubt if it will serve to teach him much mercy for his tormentors; and in the mean time let him consider them as intended to be so many spurs to his exertions and perseverance in clearing away the forest.

CHAPTER VIII.

In selecting a site for your house, do not forget that a good fall from the front will serve to carry off the melting snow in the spring; as well as the water from the heavy thunder showers which you may expect in summer. Before you lay one log over another, I remind you to have every tree felled, which, if left uncut, could afterwards reach the intended dwelling. It would be still better, if time allowed you, to get a space of the forest of forty or fifty yards square burnt off before the shanty was commenced; and then, and then only, can it be perfectly safe. This precaution, however, seems seldom attended to by new settlers; sometimes, perhaps from impatience to see their woodland residence in progress, but still oftener from ignorance of the serious risk incurred by neglecting it. After a little dry weather the branches of the trees, if they have been cut for a few weeks, will with a very slight breeze, burn most furiously, assisted by the thick coat of leaves on the surface of the ground; and should the running fire take its course towards the newly-erected edifice, you will have something to do to save it from the devouring element. I am not myself a "burnt child," but was too near being so, not to "dread the fire." My shanty had been up some months, when the burning of the brush and timber of my clearance was commenced, and it required the utmost exertions of four persons to prevent its being destroyed. The smoke and heat were so suffocating and intolerable, that my family was obliged to take refuge for two hours in the cellar; and from the circumstance of the fire having completely surrounded the premises it would have been very difficult to have removed our things to a place of safety, had it been necessary to make the attempt. I would therefore repeat the advice to new settlers, to chop down and burn off at once at least one acre of the forest immediately about the spot where he intends to

put up his house; but should he have neglected doing so, and that he comes afterwards to enter into a contract with some person for clearing a certain quantity of his land, let him take the consequence, if he does not make it a condition in their written agreement, that he is to be indemnified for the loss he may sustain, should his house (or shanty) be consumed, when the clearance is being burnt off.

Personal observation will give you a clearer idea of the manner in which shanties are put together, than could be obtained from any detail of mine; still, I conceive, you may derive advantage from a sketch of such an operation. Your inexperience will very naturally lead you to leave a great deal to the men you have employed, and more largely so if you have got men who are used to such kind of work; but if you shut your own eyes altogether, and totally decline the suggestions of your own judgment, I will prophesy you will regret having done so.

Having decided on the extent and plan of the edifice, your men proceed to hew down such trees, convenient to the intended site, as are of a proper thickness. The straighter these are, the better; and if cedars can be procured without much difficulty, they should be chosen. Maples are said to decay very soon—in some cases after five or six years; but though it might be impossible to make them last for a great length of time, I suspect the true cause of the so rapid decay of the shanties alluded to, was their having been constantly soaking water, whenever rain fell, from the gross laziness or neglect of the persons who occupied them.

The trees are now cut into the proper lengths, and collected together. Digging for a foundation is of course never thought of. Having placed two end logs in the places where they are to remain, a man with an axe, within a few inches of the extreme ends of each, puts a kind of cut, whose breadth is the diameter of the log which is to be next put up, and its shape, like the letter V, turned upside down; the under sides of a front and rear log are then cut, like the said letter V, so as to lie close on the end logs, and thus they become, as it were, locked together. A similar operation is repeated,—two end and two side logs,—until the wooden

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walls have attained the acquired height, when the door and window spaces are cut away. If the trees have been carefully selected, so as to be as nearly of one size, and as straight as possible, there will be little trouble or difficulty in laying the logs so as almost to touch each other in every part; and though some of your men will endeavour to persuade you that this is a matter of no consequence, and that it is the easiest thing in the world to ram in a piece of basswood into the chinks, mind them not. You have now to get up the roof, which for a shanty is made by splitting the straightest basswood trees in two, and after they have been hollowed out with axes, placing them, the hollow part up, side by side, and as closely together as you can, so that the ends will rest on the upper back and front logs. To prevent rain getting through, other troughs, similarly prepared, are placed one over every joint, with the concave side under, and the roof is finished.

I strongly recommend you to have the sides of these under troughs made quite straight, which can easily be done by the assistance of a black-line. This will spare you much trouble afterwards, and render it an easy matter to make the joints impervious to the cool air of winter. Here again the workmen will exclaim against your unusual nicety; but remember that it is your own wife and your own children who are to spend the approaching winter under that roof, and be resolved to make them as comfortable as you can.

If you are anxious to have your family in their new habitation as soon as possible, they may now come into it. The weather, until probably the middle of November, will render a slight curtain tacked up at night, a sufficient substitute for glazed sashes; and the good behaviour of your neighbours, should you happen to have any, will cause any stronger door to be quite unnecessary.

You will then have leisure to make, or get made, by degrees, any articles of household furniture you require, and whatever you judge proper for finishing your shanty.

Under this last head, your fire-places and chimneys claim the first attention. For a short time you may

perhaps find it expedient to imitate a very general plan among new settlers—just to place a few large stones loosely against that part where a fire is to be made, in order to prevent the logs of the shanty from igniting; and let a square hole in the roof serve as a chimney. If, however, time and circumstances allow it, it will be better to do at once what must otherwise be shortly done, and get a stone chimney put up.

It may happen that you will be advised, as I was, to put up a wooden chimney, well plastered within and without. Such are in pretty general use, and may answer very well where a constant or strong fire is not required. Still I cannot recommend them, as, let their construction be ever so perfect, they are certainly exposed to the danger of catching fire sooner or later; and the consciousness of this danger will often come upon you, while enjoying a roaring fire of a cold night, like a bitter breeze from the north.

If you can at once burn some limestone, well and good; but you are not without an excellent substitute for lime mortar, by mixing together two parts of wood-ashes with one of red earth, which is found by removing the surface stratum of black vegetable mould. Lime is burned here in kilns, pretty similar to those of the old country; but it is also made in a still simpler manner. The stones, well broken, are placed on the top of a large log heap, which is then set on fire, and if the logs are gross enough, and piled very close together, you will have plenty of excellent lime in a few hours.

Should there be no saw-mill within a reasonable distance, you will find that boards can be procured by splitting basswood, cedar, or pine; they will at least make a tolerable floor, doors, &c. An adze here will be a very useful tool, as by means of it you can make such boards nearly as fair as if they had been sawn, and smooth enough to require no planing.

CHAPTER IX.

In our last chapter, fellow-traveller, I left you in an unrented house—what perhaps, with strict propriety, you never had to say before. Believe me, sincerely

though it may be, there is a pleasant excitement felt on the first night when you occupy your own shanty, and sit you down, "the monarch of a shed." If it want several conveniences, and some comforts, look forward to the time when you shall be able to erect a better; and in the mean time, a little handy-work, now and then, will supply many of its deficiencies. A cellar under some part of it will prove very useful—indeed, it is almost indispensable; and a couple of handy men, in two or three days, will make a sufficiently good one.

Before we turn our attention to the process of clearing the land, we must endeavour to supply you with a cow. You are startled, perhaps, at the idea of buying hay sufficient to keep up a cow during the long approaching winter; but, though I spoke of a cow, I have not hinted at the necessity of feeding her with hay. The cows in Canada are satisfied to live on cheaper terms. Let them only have plenty of browse, and a little salt twice a week, and they will not only live, but give you milk besides.

By browse is meant the young shoots; and a good topped bass or maple will supply enough of these during one day. You must endeavour to procure a cow that has got a calf at her side; and by confining the latter, there will be a better prospect of the mother returning regularly to be milked, at which times the calf may be allowed to draw part of the milk.

As a further precaution, you will attach a bell to the cow's neck, so that a person may discover by its sound in what direction she is, should it be necessary to go into the bush in search of her. Amidst the stillness and loneliness of the forest, "those evening bells" have to the stranger a pleasing effect; but when they have led you along once or twice, until you have become lost in the woods, and have to spend a long, dreary night, in the centre of some dismal swamp, you will not in future find so much music in their tinklings.

I had been but a few weeks settled in the bush, when one fine evening, in the midst of October, I walked down our avenue along with my little boy, and we

soon heard our cow's bell among the trees, as if not many hundred yards from where we stood. Knowing by experience that it was not very certain she would come home of herself, I desired the child to return, and said I would be back with the cow in a few minutes. I believe that, as the cow heard me approach, she moved farther into the bush, for I was much longer in coming up with her than I expected. It was now become a complete guess-work affair to make our way back to the shanty; and I did not choose to take the cow as a guide, because I knew she would prefer remaining out all night. She wished to go one way, and I told her she should go another; and we spent so much time in the altercation, that at length the increasing indistinctness with which I saw, reminded me that I had better take chance for her coming home, and endeavour to find my own way back without further delay.

This would certainly have been a wise resolution, if made in time; as it was, it was like that of some old bachelor, when he determines, but too late, to marry, and get heirs. The cow and I had taken so many doubles and short turnings, that I could not possibly determine, with any certainty, what direction I ought to choose; but it was now no time for pausing, and pausing could be of little use; so off I walked, with a feeling rather of hope than belief that I was advancing towards home. Night and starry darkness drew on apace. It was such a night as I could have admired, had I been just standing at the threshold of my own door, and knew that when I had looked long enough at the stars, and hummed over "The Young May Moon," I had only to turn about and enter a comfortable room, where there was a blazing fire and a good feather bed to receive me. As it was, however, I felt little excitement from a clear blue sky and a whole firmament of glittering stars, and would gladly have exchanged "heaven's thousand eyes" for one glimpse of a candle through my own casement.

I soon knew that I had walked far more than would have been sufficient, if I was in the right direction; and the hope of reaching home that night became

fainter and fainter. At length, when I was on the point of sitting down on a fallen tree, and resigning myself to my fate with all due philosophy, the sound of running water caught my ear; and as I knew of no contiguous stream, but one which at that time passed close under my shanty, I started up with rekindled hope, and endeavoured to make my way through a thick swamp, into which I now found I had entered, that I might, if possible, follow the course of the water, and thus reach the wished-for haven.

Most of what are called swamps in this part of Canada are low tracts of the forest, which are, in general, perfectly dry land in summer, but in the spring and autumn contain more or less water. Cedars and hemlocks, both evergreens, and with a close and heavy mass of foliage, are their prevailing trees; and in such situations these, young and old, usually grow so close together, that, even with all the advantage of daylight, it is often no easy matter to penetrate them. The difficulty too is increased by the numerous fallen trees, which oppose a barrier to you in every direction, and are found in far greater numbers in the swamps than in the upland parts of the forest.

After much of scrambling and exertion, I reached the stream; but there was no possibility of following its course for any distance, chiefly in consequence of the many plashes of water, among which it was continually lost. In the attempt to get over a decaying tree, my foot slipped, and I came souse up to the middle in water. I now determined to continue moving as long as I could, as I dreaded the consequences of sitting down in wet clothes; but after having repeatedly changed my direction, and finding myself still as much in the swamp as ever, I took post on a huge cedar, which lay at full length across my line of march, without a single weapon to defend myself with, should a hungry bear, or a pack of savage wolves, make their appearance.

I do not wish to live long enough to forget that night. My bodily uneasinesses were bad enough, for it froze rather hard, and I found it necessary to keep my hands and feet in constant motion, to prevent their becoming chilled; but what I suffered in my rumina-

tions was far worse. I knew there were both bears and wolves in the country, and that I was then in what might be called their very camp; and I did not know, what I found afterwards to be fact, that my danger, so far as they were concerned, was next to none: as I believe there is not one authenticated instance where a single individual has been injured by them, although not a season passes, that some persons do not become lost in the woods. Indeed, instances of this kind are not wanting, where even children had been out for more than a week, and yet were afterwards restored uninjured to their despairing parents.

Well, I did not know this, and perhaps it was better I did not. I considered myself in most extreme peril. I pictured what would become of my wife and little ones, if I should never return to them. I thought of others who would lament me as deeply—my mother, and my brothers and sisters—and I looked up to the sky. Oh! I then felt that it is good to know there is a God! I offered up a prayer to Him for my safety; and if my faith and confidence in his mercy will be as strong at the awful hour of death, as at that moment, I think I shall die happy.

By attending to the motion of the stars, I made out pretty exactly the cardinal points; and then kept my eyes fixed, with the most intense and anxious impatience, on the quarter of the sky where I expected to see the first faint tinge of daylight. When I could clearly distinguish surrounding objects, it seemed like a miracle how I had been able, with whole bones, to make my way in the dark to the spot I occupied. It was a very deep hollow, crowded with fallen trees, which were piled one over the other, and surrounded with a dense, and as if impenetrable, mass of standing hemlocks and cedars. With all the advantages of clear daylight, it proved no easy matter to get out of it: but first came the question, what direction was I to take? My opinion, and it fortunately turned out a correct one, was, that I was at the west side of the concession line, which runs nearly north and south; so that, if I could only keep a due east course, I must come on it sooner or later. This I accordingly endeavoured to do, and less than twenty minutes brought me on the welcome

line,—when I know at once where I was, and found that I had spent that sleepless and dismal night within half a mile of my shanty.

CHAPTER X.

Having put up a shanty for you, or rather shown you how to get one put up, I proceed to give you some hints about making a clearance. The first object here is to get, if possible, men who are expert choppers,—that is, who can cut down trees in the best and quickest manner. The next point is, to see that they have got good axes in good order. The under brush, by which is generally meant all young trees that do not exceed four inches in diameter, is first to be cut down, and as close as possible to the ground. In this operation, a bill-hook, for the small trees, will be found extremely useful.

These trees, succeeding as they are cut, are made into heaps at convenient distances; and placed, one over the other, with a degree of exactness sufficient to secure their lying close together. The stems of the large ones, when separated from the heads, and thrown up occasionally, will contribute very much to effect this. If your brush heaps are not judiciously piled, but just thrown loosely together, you cannot have what is called “a good burn.” A part of each only will be consumed, particularly if the timber is fresh cut, and much time and trouble will be lost in burning the remainder; but the greatest evil which will attend it is, the surface of your land, except where the brush or log heaps stood, will not be well burned; and you may depend upon it, that, if the coat of leaves and rotten timber has not been pretty well removed by the fire, your crops for that year, excepting perhaps potatoes, will be indifferent. On the other hand, if your brush heaps are well made, and that you take advantage of a good breeze to set them on fire, they will flame and crackle away at such a rate, that all will be right without further trouble.

When their fury abates, you will find that the fire had swept like a lava torrent over the ground, and left it uniformly of a black colour, without either leaves or

seedlings—this is “a good burn.” The progress of these burnings, and their appearance, particularly at night, are sometimes very interesting: If the weather had been dry and warm for some time previous, the fire, when assisted by a little wind, will run for some miles into the surrounding forest; and many standing trees, which had become more or less decayed, will be wrapped in a sheet of flame to their very summit. Through the still hours of night, these will be heard thundering at intervals, according as they become sufficiently consumed at the base to come down; and it will frequently be many days before the last of them has fallen.

One who has not himself witnessed the fact will not easily conceive the astonishing difference which is generally seen in the same description of crop, growing on the very same land, and caused solely by the irregular manner in which the surface of the ground was affected by the fire. In one spot you will see hills of Indian corn of the most flourishing and luxuriant appearance, and close on every side will be other hills, stunted in their growth, and of a sickly yellow hue.

Little examination will be required to convince you of the cause, particularly when you have observed several similar instances. You will invariably perceive that the healthy corn is on a spot which was well burned, while the places where the others grow were unaltered by the fire. Here I would remark, that a very small quantity of the wood-ashes is better for almost any description of crop on new land, than a greater proportion.

It seems generally considered as the best plan to remove the ashes altogether; but, if left on the land, too much care cannot be used in distributing it equally. If the ashes which remain where a log-heap stood be not carefully scraped together, and as much removed as can well be done, the mud, or pannes, which may occupy that spot, will either not grow at all, or come up with the appearance of having been blasted.

In cutting down the logs, great care should be taken that they be not scattered all over the land, but that they be

into heaps for burning, and you will soon find that most trees can be thrown in almost any direction you please. After the branches are cut off, and collected on the brush-heaps, the trunk is to be parted into lengths,—generally from twelve to fifteen feet,—which is done with the axe, by standing on the tree, and making a deep cut on each side. Having thus got down the timber of as much land as you propose clearing, you set fire to your brush-heaps; and, after these are consumed, the next step is to collect the large logs into heaps, for which purpose a pair of oxen are generally employed. One end of a strong iron chain is attached to the yoke, and, the other being fastened round a log (in the same way as the chain is when sacks of corn are being hoisted up into a merchant's upper lofts), the bullocks pull away until it is brought to the proper place.

Few new settlers think of buying oxen for the first year or two; and it may happen that no person, sufficiently convenient to you to hire them, has got any. Three or four men, however, will do this part of your work nearly as quick; and particularly so, if the clearance be on the side of a hill, and that the trees have been judiciously felled; but, if the trees be very great, it will be better to endeavour to make out oxen.

The log-heaps are next to be burned; and you may proceed to fence in your land. In passing through the country you will have observed numbers of trees, and nearly the entire of timber, and one or two of them, or invent what may please you. The new settlers, not aware of the probable consequences, are anxious to enclose their first clearing, and conceive the quickest and easiest method to be a bush-fence, formed of branches, and with their tops on. This is bad, for many a fence affords a hiding-place to snakes, and it checks the growth of the soil, and this, in consequence, is a very bad fence; and this, in consequence, is a very bad fence.

plenty of stones on the surface of your farm, it would seem a good plan to collect them by degrees round the bounds of the clearance; and, at some future period, you might perhaps enclose it with an Irish stone wall, which will bid defiance alike to your own fires and those of your neighbours.

CHAPTER XI.

In our last chapter I left you the master of a piece of cleared land. You will point it out hereafter to your children, as the first achievement of your exertions—as having been the first circle of the stone which hope and enterprise led you to cast into this ocean of trees.

It will now depend upon the season of the year what description of crops you are to prepare for. Potatoes will sometimes not be too late, if planted the beginning of July; and even down to the middle of it, you might try a few; if not killed by an early frost, they will at least supply you with plenty of seed for the ensuing spring. From the middle of July to the first week in August is considered the very best time for sowing turnips; and as these grow to great perfection in new land, you should not forget them. They will prove highly acceptable both to two-legged and four-legged animals during a long winter, even though the farmer should not have many legs of mutton to accompany them. Wheat will of course be your principal crop. It is sown from the middle of September until the ground has become covered with snow. The practice on this point seems to vary; but I believe the most experienced farmers would wish to have it in the ground by the middle of October. The seed is sown broad cast about a stone to the acre, and generally with a kind of light harrow drawn by oxen. If these little oxen occasionally be procured, a horse, though a tedious plan, is to be preferred; and I have seen good crops, where nothing more was done than just raking the surface with a bush or straw rake.

The mode of planting potatoes is somewhat different from that of the other crops. It is generally done in rows, and the distance between the rows is from four to six feet. The plants are set in the ground in the following manner:—

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through roots and stones, until you draw together a sufficient quantity of earth to form a small hill; then proceed to another spot, and repeat the same operation. The prevailing practice is to make these hills the full size at once; but probably old country notions will lead you to think with me, that it might be better to make them only half the size at first, and add fresh earth after the sets had come up.

You will have hardly any thing to do with Indian corn this year; as it should be planted, at the latest, by the first week in June. Of any seed put into new land, this requires least time and trouble. Four quarts are sufficient for an acre, and the produce may be thirty-six or forty bushels.

The mode of planting it is to strike the corner of your hoe about two inches into the ground, deep in from three to five grains, press down the earth with your foot, and so on at equal distances of about three feet. In new land nothing more is required to be done until the corn is ripe; but when planted in other ground it is earthed up after it has attained a certain height. If the ground has been well burned, no plant can have a richer or more luxuriant appearance. Still it will not thrive where the log heaps stood. There the intensity of the heat seems to alter the properties of the soil, and renders it, for the first season, perfectly unfit for Indian corn, potatoes, or turneps. When I speak of the ground being well burned, I merely mean that the fire shall have swept over it, and burned off, in its progress, the seedling trees, and all the dry leaves, so as to leave the surface of a blackish colour. When this has been effected, and that no trees are near to shade it, your care will be sure to flourish. It still reminds you of the flags of your native land, that you made boats of many a long year ago.

CHAPTER III.

You do not see any more of the Indians.

years' standing; some appear to have got on well. In the township of Douro, which bounds that of Dummer on the west, are a number of Irish, who came out in 1825 under the special protection of Government, from which they received very great assistance and encouragement. Unfortunately this would seem to have been thrown away on many of them. They have tenaciously preserved the objectionable traits of our national character—our love of idleness, when necessity does not compel us to labour—our improvidence and disregard of the future—our indifference to neatness, cleanliness, and domestic comforts; and worst of all, our fondness for whiskey. Many of the shanties, which they have now been content to exist in for eight years, are to this day without any better fire-place than a few loose stones placed against the back logs; and the smoke, unconfined by any kind of chimney, finds a difficult escape through a square opening in the roof.

The only praise the habitations I speak of seem to admit of, is, that you perceive a painful correspondence in every thing within and without. Little furniture, and that of the rudest construction; few kitchen or cooking utensils beside a pot and frying-pan; and nothing in its right place, except some crockery, which stands for show on a shelf, because too much broken to be made use of. Outside, you look in vain for a young orchard, or even a vegetable enclosure; and if you ask them why they do not get these things, the answer is ready—"they have no time"—"they would not be bothered losing their time about such things."

I am, perhaps, not long enough in the country to speak positively on the subject, but it does appear to me, that the custom of having "bees," which seems to prevail very much in this quarter of Canada, is a source of great injury to numbers of my countrymen. If one of them has a few acres of bush land to be chopped, or some felled timber to be made into log heaps, or in fact has any other pretty weighty job of work on hands, he gives notice to those living near him that he will have a bee on such a day. He then procures a supply of bread and pork, and as much whiskey as will allow a quart or two to each man, and this is called "having a bee."

The advocates for such a system offer many reasons to prove it necessary in a new country. I will not stop to dispute the point with them—though I consider their arguments, as far as I understand them, unsound—but I will say, that if it has, as I am sure it has, a direct tendency to encourage both idleness and drunkenness among us, the sooner our bees were smothered the better.

Upper Canada presents, however, many a happier picture than what we have been looking at; and it is with much pleasure I call your attention to the township of Dummer, as showing in a striking manner, what can be accomplished by persevering industry. In the spring of 1831 it did not contain one solitary shanty, and last year, 1832, it was thickly settled. A road which strikes out of Douro and runs up between the first and second concessions of Dummer, nearly to Clear Lake, passes through the clearances of a number of Englishmen. These, with one or two exceptions, had, last year, a supply of wheat, potatoes, Indian corn, and turnips, raised by themselves, which, in most cases, will be sufficient for the support of their families till the crop of this year comes round; beside cabbages and other garden vegetables.

Several, indeed most, have already procured cows, and many made, last spring, a large quantity of excellent maple sugar; one man had nearly 200lbs. to dispose of, for which he got 6d. per lb.

There is one of them I must particularly mention, as he possesses a kind of hereditary claim to be so distinguished, being no less than a grandson of the celebrated "Shepherd of Salisbury plain." This little man—he measures scarcely more than four feet—buried a wife on the passage from England; but having lost no time in procuring another helpmate, he set to work chopping and burning away until he made a clearance of more than two acres. He reaped, last year, the finest crop of wheat in the township, and sold a large quantity of early potatoes and turnips.

During a great part of the time, when he was employed in the laborious work of clearing his land, his supply of provisions was so scanty, that he used frequently to be compelled, from complete exhaustion, to

desist for an hour or two; still when the weakness was over, Jemmy Saunders was out again; and if you passed by, you were accosted by as light-hearted and sanguine a settler as ever chopped a tree in Upper Canada.

Before we take leave of Dummer, I would beg leave to suggest, that a trifle of the money, appropriated annually by Government for roads, canals, &c., could scarcely be disposed of better than in improving the road of which I have just been speaking, and continuing it to Clear, or Salmon-trout Lake. From the rocky nature of the line through which it runs, and the numerous swamps that come in the way, it must, for many years, remain a bad road, if left entirely to the improvement of individuals and to statute labour. (*d*). Were the navigation of the Otonabee between Peterborough and the beautiful and extensive chain of lakes to the north of Dummer once opened—and I am informed that engineers have already reported most favourably on the practicability and comparatively small expense of this improvement—the road of which I speak would be invaluable to the English settlers, as affording them the means of conveying their produce to market by water. It would even at the present do them infinite service; for those lakes abound so in fine fish, particularly in Maskanongé and salmon-trout, that by a very small sacrifice of time, they would procure for their families a large supply of excellent food.

CHAPTER XIII.

I proceed to fulfil my promise of talking a little more about Peterborough, as you may remember I invited you to settle in its neighbourhood.

So lately as eight or nine years ago, I am told there was but one house in it; there are now, perhaps, two hundred, and every week seems to be adding to the number. A person, a few years ago, purchased a quantity of bush land in its immediate vicinity, for which he paid one dollar an acre; he is at present selling that same land, in building lots of half an acre, for fifty dollars!

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and within a mile or two of the town, has been lately sold in quantities of two or three hundred acres, at the enormous price of fifteen dollars an acre; and Lieut.-Colonel Browne, who has lately put up an extremely pretty frame cottage, delightfully situated on the brink of the Otonabee, paid the former proprietor of the land it occupies, 300 dollars for ten acres. This price, at the time, was considered very high, but has been far exceeded by later purchases. In one instance—a purchase of four acres—£100 was given for one acre fronting the river Otonabee, and 300 dollars for the remainder! Large quantities of bush land, and without any peculiar local advantages, have been readily sold for two dollars per acre, eighteen miles from Peterborough. Indeed it would be difficult, within that distance, to buy good land on cheaper terms.

Within a few miles of Peterborough are many of the most respectable class of settlers; and in the town itself may be found very genteel and agreeable society.

During the last winter an amateur company performed plays occasionally; an example of civilisation which was soon imitated by the young folk of Cobourg. Peterborough has several resident medical men, a tanning concern, mills, distillery, post-office, &c.; and there is every prospect of its soon having efficient and flourishing schools, male and female, under the management of the Rev. Mr. Taylor, A. B., late of Trinity College, Dublin, and Mrs. T.

Stores are already numerous, and though their general prices may still be considered too high, there is little doubt but that rapidly-increasing competition will bring them down by and by.

Our shops here are called stores, and the reason seems to be this—A great part of their business seems to be done in the way of barter. They receive from the settler wheat, pork, or any country produce, and supply him in exchange with groceries, cloths, hardware, &c.; so that the proprietor is at once a merchant and retailer. He will buy a hundred bushels of wheat from you, and sell you a pennyworth of eggs.

As I have already mentioned, the river Otonabee

runs out of the lakes to the north of Dummer and Smith town; and having formed the boundary between the townships of Douro and Smith, it flows on through Peterborough, and after a further course of about twenty miles, enters Rice Lake, which is distant about twelve miles from the towns of Cobourg and Port-Hope, each of them delightfully situated on the northern shore of Lake Ontario.

Last season a small steam-bout, of which Mr. Bethune, of Cobourg, is proprietor, commenced running on Rice Lake and up the Otonabee. It seems to have been intended that she should land her goods and passengers at Peterborough; but owing to an obstruction of one kind or another, she has not succeeded in coming quite up to the town. I understand no doubt is entertained of the obstruction being soon removed, and it is also confidently expected that there will be very shortly either a rail road or canal between Rice Lake and Port Hope or Cobourg.

In fact so much has already been done in facilitating the intercourse between Peterborough and the front, that her inhabitants may anticipate an early period, when she will possess all the advantages of a frontier town; and see towns and villages springing up far behind her. From her situation, she is as if surrounded by a vast number of townships, which are, or promise to be, among the most flourishing and best settled of any in the Upper Province; and when the Otonabee is rendered navigable from the lakes to Peterborough—an improvement which must take place—there will be a direct water communication (interrupted only by the distance between Rice Lake and Cobourg) open to the ports of England and Ireland, from a vast tract, including some of the finest land in Upper Canada. I shall conclude this brief sketch, by observing, that as my own land and homestead are nearly twenty miles from Peterborough, there can be little of self-interest to induce me to press you to settle in her neighbourhood; I shall therefore be satisfied to stop abruptly, when otherwise it might be my business to add a few business-like puffs.

CHAPTER XIV.

It occurs to me, that it may do service to a few, if, before I drop my pen, I offer a few hasty and general observations on the subject of emigration to Canada. Certainly I have come over too recently myself, to speak with much confidence as to who is, or is not suited for such a serious enterprise; but as I believe that far the greater number of those who leave the shores of Great Britain and Ireland, every year for this country, are impelled by motives which are too strong to be much affected one way or another by the opinion of an unknown individual, I will proceed with my lecture, and will be content to be considered rather as a prophet on the subject than a guide.

For the reader's sake, as well as my own, I shall distribute the great mass of emigrants, or those who intend to become such, into three classes; and the humblest, if not the most numerous, shall take precedence. It comprehends all who possess little more of this world's wealth than is sufficient to pay their passage over, and provide a little sea-store. I consider that a man of this class, who is under forty years of age, and has been heretofore considered as a good tradesman or day-labourer, will find a far better prospect open to him in Canada, to the attainment of comfort and independence than could possibly present itself in the old country, even if lotteries had not been done away with. The price of country labour varies a good deal; but as far as my knowledge extends, it has not been less at any season of the year, in this part of the country, than half a dollar and his board, when a man is hired by the day, or three shillings a day and let him find himself.

I know no reason for supposing that the present demand for labour will not continue for many years longer; so that the class I am speaking of may easily amass, in the course of three or four years, as much money as would be sufficient to purchase fifty or a hundred acres of land, and thus become in a hop, step, and jump, "estated gentlemen." I do not see that such a man having a wife need leave her after him, indeed if he

should purchase the estate I spoke of, she will be as necessary to him as his axe; and she must be good for little, if she cannot make out her own subsistence, should it become expedient for them to separate for a short time after coming over. But if he has children into the bargain—let him pause. There have been, I believe, several poor men so circumstanced, who, through the mercy of Providence, got over the appalling difficulties which surrounded them, when they first stepped out of the passage vessel on the wooden wharf at Quebec; and while they saw that every passer-by was a stranger, and that the wide ocean was now rolling between them and “the neighbours at home,”—knew not what direction to advance in, nor how and where to dispose of their clamorous little ones, and find something for them to eat. If such persons will come over, let them remember they come without any invitation from me; and the only service I can render them is, to advise that they inquire at once for some member of the “Emigration Society,” from whom they will be sure of getting the best information as to their further proceedings, and perhaps employment for themselves or some of their children.

The second class consists of persons of the same grade as the former; but with this very natural difference, that each of them possesses a little capital—50, 60, or 100 sovereigns. These I would recommend not to lose one unnecessary moment in pushing on to the Upper Province. Whether it be their object to get employment in the first instance, in order to have time to look about, and learn the modes of farming operations practised in Canada, or to embark in some line of business, or to purchase land at once; whatever it be, as they have got a little money, let them come up among us here, and not stop short until they get at least as far as Cobourg. When they arrive there, though it is, for its standing and extent, one of the prettiest towns they ever saw, and a thriving and improving one to boot, they will hear so much of its baby sister, Peterborough, that I do not fear but St. Peter will get the better of the Prince, and that we shall have them adding to the numbers, the industry, and the wealth of the last mentioned town, or some of its neighbouring townships.

I come now to the remaining class. It comprises most of those who will bring money enough, not only to purchase land, but to pay for the labour which it will require. To these I have already addressed myself, when I spoke about choosing and clearing land, &c., so that my observations now shall be brief. If you can live in the bosom of your family without constant general society—if you can enjoy the simple comforts of life, and leave the hope of its elegancies to your children—if you are rather of an active, than a literary disposition; rather mechanical than poetical—if you can delight in seeing the bountiful productions of the earth growing up about you in all the beauty and luxuriance of a new world, and will take pleasure in assisting with your own hands to sow, and plant, and gather them in—if you are determined in purpose, and will adopt the motto “ne tentes aut perice,”—and above all, if you can have patience with the midges and black flies, there will be hundreds to bid you welcome. If you possess only some of these qualifications, decide for yourself: but if not one of them belongs to you—stay at home.

CHAPTER XV.

There are few subjects connected with Upper Canada, on which more incorrect ideas seem generally to prevail, than its climate. The experience which I have had with regard to it is, to be sure, trifling—only of two summers and two winters. Still, judging from these, in connexion with the statements of several who have spent many years in the country, I do not hesitate to say, that the weather—one season with another—is preferable to that of either England or Ireland.

I am writing this chapter the 3d of May, and from this day—as glorious a one as ever the earth delighted in—back to about the 17th of March, the time when the snow began to leave us, we have had uninterruptedly glorious weather. I have been all that time confined to my house, and the greater part of it to my bed, from a severe cut which I gave myself in the foot with an axe, an accident usual enough with young droppers. This tedious incapacity for more active employment has given me leisure to write the present pages, and many

an hour, that would otherwise have been a heavy one, has glided by while I was thus occupied.

That the thermometer will occasionally indicate a greater degree of heat in summer, and of cold in winter, than in the climates of the old country, I perfectly believe; but while you derive peculiar advantages from this, there are other differences which mitigate, if they do not entirely prevent, the inconveniences it would produce.

In summer, the transitions from July weather to that of March, are much less frequent than in the old country; and though there is seldom a deficiency of rain at this season, it is rarely accompanied with wind. Thunder usually precedes it, and it then falls, warm and reviving, as if it came to nourish, not to injure vegetation.

In winter, high wind is equally rare, and rain never falls except during a very occasional and temporary thaw. Snow falls frequently, and you may calculate on its approach, when the air becomes milder than before—the reverse of the rule by which we used to expect it in Ireland.

Insects were made for summer, but I think it is only on a fine winter's day, that man treads in the full vigour of existence; and of such weather as I now allude to, there seems to be a large proportion in the long winters of Canada. Nothing could possibly be more delightful than the fall of 1831 and the spring months of 1832.

Owing perhaps in some measure to a higher degree of heat, but I should think still more to a greater equality of temperature, you can grow many things here to a high perfection, which will not succeed in the open air in either of the old countries.

In winter, as soon as the snow is sufficiently deep, wheeled carriages of all kinds are laid aside, and replaced by sleighs. So that during that very season when the best Macadamised roads in England become sloppy and cut up, we have here the comfort of a smooth and dry highway, over which you may travel with a good horse and a light sleigh, called a cutter, with a velocity and ease only inferior to the flying along a rail-road; or if an humbler traveller, you may walk in slippers, without danger of getting your stockings wet.

This is not the only advantage derived from a Canadian winter. You can usually preserve meat fresh and good as when first killed, for any length of time from November to March, without the assistance of salt, by letting it hang where it will become frozen; and to speak the truth, there will be little difficulty in finding a suitable situation. When you have a piece of beef thus petrified, and take a fancy to a steak at breakfast, you may, if you choose, set about cutting one with a knife, but depend upon it, "cut ever so boldly," you will soon exchange it for a saw.

To conclude the subject: there is not, after all, a great deal of difference between the climates of Upper Canada and Great Britain; and that difference seems to consist chiefly in these three points.—There is less wind here at all seasons of the year; the weather, both in winter and summer, is more settled; and fine weather in the spring and fall may be expected with more confidence. Perhaps I should also notice the pleasant manner in which the winters leave us; at least the way in which they left us since I came to the country. There was little rain, and none of that cold, raw weather, which generally ushers in the spring in England and Ireland.

On the frost ceasing, (about the middle of March) the snow yielded gradually to the warm beams of the sun, and the softness of a south wind.

Spring with us is the returning playfulness of a child, that asks few moments to get rid of its tears and anger; while in the former countries it comes on slowly and sullenly, like an old body's good-humour, and must often retire before the scowl of winter.

CHAPTER XVI.

To such as possess limited means, it may be interesting to get some idea of the expenses which will probably be incurred before they can begin to enjoy the produce of their own land. All this, however, depends so much upon contingent circumstances, that nothing more than a probable estimate can be offered. I have already mentioned that you can hire men from 8s. to 3s. 6d. a day. Eight or ten men, in one day, can us-

der-brush and cut down the trees of an acre of land; and about the same number will make them into log-heaps, burn, and fence in the land, in two days more. This is to be considered as the greatest number that can be necessary; some land will not require so many.

When the land is once burned and fenced in, the labour or expense of putting in seed is very trifling,—excepting potatoes alone, which, in perfectly new land, are difficult enough to be planted, unless it is very free indeed from stones. There is little trouble, however, in hoeing them out afterwards; and when a second crop is put into the same ground, nothing can be quicker or easier than the operation of tilling them. Indian corn is perhaps of all description of crop planted most expeditiously, and with least trouble; and even wheat or oats seem to require nothing more, than to give the ground a slight scratching with a bush or harrow.

When the land is naturally good—for, as in the old country, you will find bad and good in the same townships—and has been well burned and cleaned off, it seems to possess a fertility which laughs at the skill of a scientific farmer; at least, for the first couple of years.

After that period, however, there is no doubt but that a man who possesses a previous experience in farming will have a considerable advantage over others,—unless the charm of example will lead him, too, to take down his barn or cow-house, and put them up somewhere else, rather than go to the trouble of removing and making use of the heap of dung and rotten straw, which had grown up about them.

Should your land be near a man who has a yoke of oxen, and who is willing to undertake a job of the kind, you may get it chopped, burned, and fenced in, for about twelve dollars an acre—the price varies from that up to seventeen. The price at which you can purchase provisions will depend much on your distance from old settlers, and also on the road you may have to your land. Should this be in your favour, potatoes, flour, pork, &c., will cost you about the same as in the old country, or perhaps rather more; but otherwise you may reckon on their standing you in double that money.

It should be your great object to lay in such a stock of provisions during sleighing time, as you judge will last until your own crops come round: for there are many roads which are capital for travelling on during that period, but almost impassable the remainder of the year.

Sleighing usually commences about Christmas, and may go into April.

About the second year, you will probably think of making your own soap and sugar. Of the mode of making the former article I shall just give you a sketch, to satisfy your curiosity: but you must see it made by some of the old settlers, before there will be much chance of succeeding in the operation yourself. You are first to set a cask standing on one end, and so placed, that there will be room for a pail underneath to draw off its contents, by means of a hole and plug at the bottom. On the bottom of the cask, which is to be open at top, you place a few small pieces of sticks, and on these a light layer of straw; and then, filling up the cask with ashes, you pour in as much water as it will contain. The following day, the water, strongly impregnated with the salts of the ashes, is drawn off, and boiled along with a little grease of any description, until it acquires a certain consistence, when there is some plain water added, and it becomes what is called soft soap. This soap is in very general use in Canada, for all the purposes in which soap is useful.

We will now talk of the sugar. About the middle of March, the maple sap may be expected to begin to run. The first step is to procure a number of wooden troughs, each of which should contain six or eight quarts. Pine is the timber preferred; and a handy person, with no other tool but his axe, will make from fifteen to twenty in the day. With an axe, or broad chisel, a cut several inches long, and half-an-inch deep, is made in the maple tree, and with such a slope, that the sap which issues from any part will flow out at the lowest extremity. A small piece of wood, slightly grooved, is fastened in at this part, and conducts the sap into the trough. As these fill, their contents are collected, and boiled with as little delay as possible in large iron sugar-kettles. When these have boiled some

hours, the sap requires the consistence of honey, and becomes molasses. A little more slow boiling will bring it to sugar; and the exact time when this last change is perfected may be known by occasionally dropping a little on a plate, the blade of a knife, &c.; and when in a few moments, if boiled sufficiently, it will give way to your thumb nail, and fly clean off. This is a point that requires attention; for, if boiled even for a short time too much, it suffers both in taste and colour. The general practice is, to pour the contents of the kettle into a vessel which will allow of the sugar being turned out after it becomes cold. If however you prefer soft sugar, it is only necessary to keep the fluid mass in motion, while being cooled, by occasionally stirring, and you will then have sugar resembling that made from the cane. Besides straining the sap when first put into the kettle, it is well to strain it through a piece of flannel, after it has been boiled to near the state of molasses; and if, a little after, you add a small quantity of new milk, and skim it well, you will much improve its colour and brightness. In the season, which commonly ends about the middle of April, you may obtain from three to four pounds of sugar from each tree; but, as both the quantity and richness of the sap depend entirely on the nature of the weather, it will be better to tap too many trees than too few. Sugar is made from the same trees for three or four years in succession, but after that time it is usual to tap fresh trees.

CHAPTER XVII.

Fellow-traveller! we are on the point of parting; and, as we have journeyed so long together, I trust we shall part good friends. If you are so unreasonable as to be dissatisfied with the information I have supplied you with, do not, I pray you, get angry; but resolve that, after you shall have spent a sufficient time in Canada, you will yourself write a book for the benefit of Emigrants, that will make mine and Morgan's be forgotten.

Common candour must make you admit, that I have digressed little from the object I professed to have in

view,—that of affording useful information to those who intend emigrating to this country. How far I have attained that object is another question entirely, which the public alone must decide.

In our former chapters, I endeavoured to preserve some unity of subject; but this shall be one in which we will talk of odds and ends, and hop from one thing to another in a familiar, gossiping style.

It strikes me that you might wish to get some idea of our inns here, as you may possibly have some road travelling. The greater number are kept by persons from the States, and I *guess* that you will not much like their Yankee tricks. These inns might with more propriety be called boarding-houses; most of them are frequented by so great a number of tradesmen, clerks, waggon-drivers, &c., who sit down at the ringing of a bell, to breakfast, dinner, and supper, that the owners care little to entertain a passing traveller, unless he chooses to make one among the above motley group; and if they do take the trouble to accommodate him with a separate room and table, he will be made to pay dear for the distinction.

The folk who congregate on these occasions have, in general, no time for "table talk;" and this circumstance is taken advantage of, both by setting before them a quantity of eatables just sufficient for half the persons present to devour,—with a promise of more, for which the host knows they cannot wait,—and also by taking care to give them knives that would require forty minutes to distinguish the edge from the back.

You have probably heard a great deal of the kindly disposition of the old settlers towards the new ones, and particularly, how they will be delighted at your coming among them—that they will assemble on a maze, put up a house for you, and clear a few acres of your land in a twinkling. I believe they will do all this—provided they expect you are well supplied with whiskey, and bread, and pork, and will be ready to go to them in return, whenever they choose to call on you.

Indeed, in my opinion, the person who would expect more than this, must be a poor judge of human nature. The oldest settlers whom you can well get among, are only beginning to emerge from the difficulties they had

to struggle with, and most of them are still below that happy point. Now, who would expect such persons to be very generous? They may be charitable enough; that is, if a person really destitute solicits their aid, they will not perhaps refuse it; but they will not lessen their children's comforts to serve a stranger, who, for aught they know, may be more independent than themselves. Let that humbugging fellow, Sterne, say what he pleases, hardships and privations will chill the fountain of liberality in the human breast—it is religion or prosperity that must thaw it.

Do you ask why I have not said any thing of the manners of the people here? But, pray, who are these people? Are they not English and Irish, with a few Scotch, and still fewer Yankees? Well, then, you know the manners of those already; and a few years, more or less, can have altered them little. Still, there is one particular, in which it is interesting enough to observe the effect generally produced on the lower class of my countrymen, even by a very short residence in Canada; and then to contrast them with the English settlers.

When Paddy has got a bee in his brain from a few glasses of whiskey, he looks down on every one who has a claim to be called a gentleman, with the utmost contempt. Should he have a quarrel with such a person, he will express himself respecting him something in this way—"He to the——! who the—— cares about him? Haven't I land, as well as he? For-yogh! I don't care that for him"—snapping his fingers. "Oh! by my soul, 'tis not the same with him here as 'twas in Ireland—I'll show him I'm as good as ever he was!" I have heard this, or language perfectly similar, on several occasions, from fellows who, before they came over here, were in the very lowest class of society; I have never heard any thing of the kind from Englishmen. The same seems too obvious to require explanation, and, in my opinion, brings more discredit upon Paddy's manners in the old country than upon any other of his qualities.

It is not only in the case of the Irish that this is the case, but also in the case of the Scotch and the Yankees. I have seen a number of the latter who, before they came over here, were in the very lowest class of society, and who, after a short residence in Canada, have become as proud and as contemptuous of every one who has a claim to be called a gentleman, as the Irish themselves.

of the press, with more zeal or bitterness. One party called themselves Reformers, and the other, True Government Men; but the names they gave each other were far from being so complimentary. The result was, that, having but one newspaper in Cobourg, and that one playing all on one side, the other party established a second; and these two enlighteners of the Newcastle District continue abusing each other to the present day, in true Billingsgate style.

THE END.

RECEIPT FOR MAKING BARM.

The settlers here make barm from almost every thing, but generally it is of an inferior kind. The bread will be light enough, but acquire some peculiar taste, or soon turn sour.

The following method of procuring yeast will be found superior to any other; and I know many in the old country who would be glad to avail themselves of it. In no property, that I am aware of, does it yield to the best brewery barm.

Boil one handful of good hops in four quarts of water, till the former sink to the bottom. Strain the liquor, and, when blood-warm, add four table-spoonfuls of brown sugar, and eight of fine flour,—stirring the ingredients well together. Let the vessel containing them stand covered, sufficiently near the fire to be preserved milk-warm. The following day, the barm can be used; and, at every time of using, let it be first well stirred.

R.M.

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NOTES.

(a) I perceive by a late paper, that a canal is going to be made between Prescott and Montreal, which is intended to remedy the risk and delay occasioned at present by the numerous rapids of the St. Lawrence. The paragraph stated, that commissioners had already proceeded to the States to engage a civil engineer of the highest character for talents and experience, and that the work was to proceed without delay.

(b) Such were the regulations in force, on the subject of settlement duties, when I drew my land in 1831. Perhaps, however, before this reaches the reader's eye, some change will have occurred, as these said duties appear to be generally considered vexatious and expensive to the *bona fide* settler, without producing a corresponding benefit to the country.

(c) Making a road in Canada signifies little more than just to cut down a few trees, so as to open a passage through the forest for a cart or waggon, drawn by a pair of oxen, to move along. Where no swamps come in the way, the operation is easy enough, but otherwise quite the reverse. In this latter case, great large trees must be laid side by side, and close together, along the intended highway; and should the swamp contain much water, it will be necessary, in the first instance, to place large trees along the sides of the road, on which the ends of the chains will rest, the remaining of a waggon over a swamp.

in the old country. There are some of these bridges so very long and uneven, that a barrel of new milk would be completely churned, if drawn over them from one end to the other.

(d) On the first Monday in January, the inhabitants of a township assemble together. This is called the Town Meeting, when they elect from among themselves a town-clerk, two assessors, a collector, two town-wards, or church-wardens, a pound-keeper, and as many path-masters as they judge necessary. These latter call out the settlers, and superintend them while engaged in repairing the roads and bridges. The quantity of "statute labour," as it is called, which each settler has to perform, is regulated by the amount for which he is assessed. The meeting has also the power of passing such laws and regulations as it judges advantageous for the general interest, and which do not clash with any legislative enactments.

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