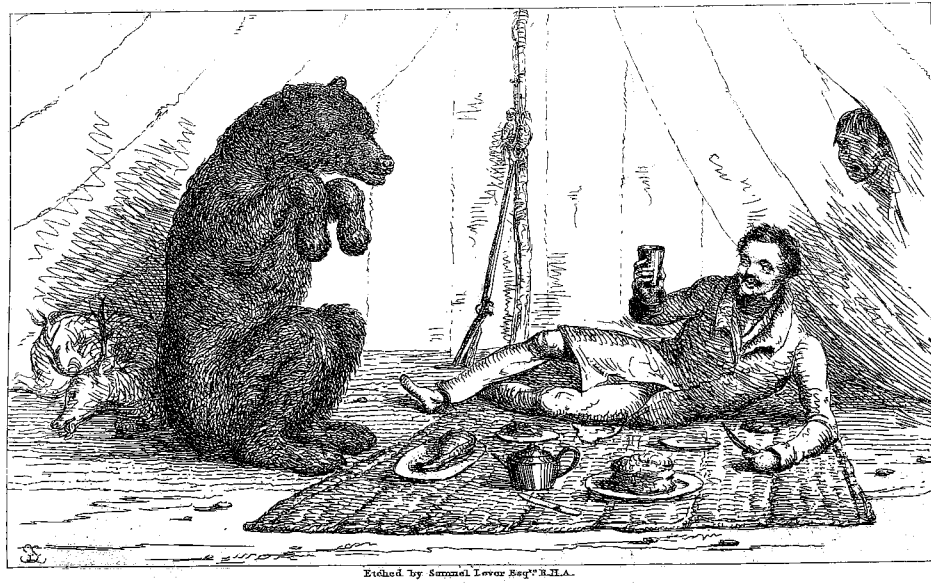
AUTHENTIC LETTERS.

THE BREAKFAST.



Etched by Samuel Lover Esqre R.H.A.

" It was amusing to observe with what gravity she took her seat "

Authentic Letters

FROM

UPPER CANADA;

WITH AN ACCOUNT OF

CANADIAN FIELD SPORTS,

BY T. W. MAGRATH, ESQ.

THE ETCHINGS BY SAMUEL LOVER, ESQ.

EDITED BY

THE REV. T. RADCLIFF.

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CONTENTS.

LETTER V.

LETTER VI.

LETTER VII.

LETTER VIII.

LETTER IX.

LETTER X.

LETTER XI.

LETTER XII.

LETTER XIII.

LETTER XIV.

LETTER XV.

LETTER XVI.

LETTER XVII.

LETTER XVIII.

LETTER XIX.

LETTER XX.

APPENDIX.

PREFACE.

THIS Book is published without any intention of biasing the public mind upon the question of Emigration.

Whether a measure of this important nature, to the extent that now prevails, may be attended with advantage or injury to Ireland, is left to the depths of Political Economy, and to the womb of time.

It is a question, which in her present state of excitement and distraction, could hardly be expected to receive impartial

discussion, to be decided on patriotic principles, or acted upon otherwise than from private interest, and personal considerations.

The most elaborate opposition would be inadequate to repel the impetus; the most favourable encouragement could scarcely increase it.—

Emigration has commenced upon a great scale, and will continue. Publications in its favor, or against it, will not avail.—Truth and facts will be sought for, as the only guides.—Let the prudent and credible settler signify that he prospers, and state, with accuracy, the means of his success; he will be followed by those who, from various causes, feel that *they are unsuccessful*, and therefore anxious to place themselves, as soon as possible in a state of independence.

An enterprize of such "pith and moment" must, in most cases, be undertaken through much tribulation.

Deep and heartfelt will be the sigh of regret—bitter the tear of affection, at leaving home, and relations and friends, perhaps for ever!!—But should that home have become irksome, unprofitable, and insecure—and should many near and dear friends be induced to swell the groupe that emigrate, or mean to follow in their steps—the gloom would disappear—the change of country be forgotten, or reconciled by the active occupations of the new settlement, and the anticipation of its eventual prosperity.

As this applies to settlers of a higher grade, well connected and well educated, it may be asked—Is there not, to persons thus circumstanced, something repulsive

in the idea of encountering the wild forest, and the society, if any, of persons whose customs, habits, manners, and education, so widely differ from all that *they* were taught to admire and approve?—The answer is—the wilder the forest the more exempt from such society, unless persons of that description become fellow settlers—which unpleasant alternative is now obviated by a late and judicious arrangement of the government to accommodate special groups of emigrants with their friends and followers, by sales of land in the same township; thus putting it within their power to exclude strangers, with whom it might not be agreeable to associate.

The settlers having formed their own party, it is reasonable to suppose, they

will be pleased with their own society, and as years roll on, will have established an extensive and united colony of attached and intimate individuals.

Whoever reflects upon what is termed society or good neighbourhood in the country parts of Ireland, must be disposed to acknowledge its fluctuation, drawbacks, and defects; and even by fair comparison, to allow some degree of attraction to that, which under the late regulation, may now be formed in Upper Canada.

With a considerable party of settlers, such as has been here alluded to, the Editor is closely connected.

Thirteen members of his family, children, grand-children, and their attendants, departed for Canada in the Spring of 1832. An affliction only to be aleviated,

at the time, by a conviction of their having acted with deliberation, and resolved with judgment, and *latterly*, by the interesting accounts received of their successful settlement. Other corresponding friends, had previously emigrated to the same American province. The communications of all are given in the following pages—and coming, as they do, from *actual settlers*, and under *real signatures*, it is hoped, that they may not be unacceptable to the public.

It has been suggested by rational men, who are anxiously seeking for information on this subject, that unadorned facts from existing settlers, are much called for, and will be highly prized.

These can be faithfully given from the foregoing sources, especially through the gentleman who has kindly permitted

his name to be inserted in the title page; Mr. Thos. Wm. Magrath, with whom the Editor had been in previous correspondence on this subject; a gentleman, whose settlement and occupations in Canada have placed much within his power, for critical observation and remark; and whose letters upon field sports, it is hoped will be interesting to a numerous class of readers. Most publications upon Canada have been dressed in the garb of fiction, with ability, with humour, and with interest;—the following, deficient in that attraction, must owe its recommendation to statements supplied from the information of those who have experienced what they represent, and who have written without exaggeration.

AUTHENTIC LETTERS,

&c. &c. &c.

LETTER I.

From Thomas William Magrath, Esq. Upper Canada, to the Rev. Thomas Radcliff, Ireland.

Erindale, Toronto, Nov. 1831.

My Dear Sir,

I am glad to hear that your sons are coming to this country.

I am sure they will be excellent settlers, and hope they will make this their head quarters until they fix on their future place of residence. My Fathers former letters will no doubt have informed you of the Governor's kindness in appointing me

an agent for superintending the settlement of emigrants; which circumstance having afforded me so many facilities of observation; I am induced the more readily to accede to your request that I should impart all the imformation I possess, on the, now, engrossing subject of emigration. I shall therefore at once proceed to furnish you with a statement of the expenses of bringing out and maintaining, for twelve months, either a family or a single person, of the upper class of settlers.

The cost attendant on the transport, from Liverpool to York by Quebec, and the subsequent location of my fathers family, (from which you may form a correct judgment of other cases differing in point of number) were as follow :---

In May, 1827, our family consisting of my father, * mother, sister, cousin, three brothers, myself and a female servant, nine in number, took our passage in the brig

* The Rev. James Magrath late Rector of Shankill, in the Diocese of Ferns, Ireland.

Donegal of Whitehaven, in which we had the accommodation of the entire state cabin, containing six births, and two state rooms, with the services of a steward, for	£50 0 0
The cost of provisions calculated for 80 days	20 0 0
Expenses in lodgings at Montreal (with our own provisions brought on shore)	2 0 0
Travelling charges of my father and mother, sister and cousin to Prescot, 130 miles by steam-boat and stages. . . .	10 0 0
Expense of conveying my brothers and myself with luggage weighing 20 cwt., at 4*s.* per cwt., and our expenditure in taverns, &c., during nine days, while on our passage up the St. Lawrence in Durham boats from Montreal to Prescot.	10 0 0
Carried forward	£92 0 0

Carried forward	£92	0	0
One days charges at Prescot where our entire family met	2	0	0
From Prescot to York (230 miles) by steam-boat in first cabin * .	20	0	0
Expenses at York in *lodgings* for ten days or a fortnight . .	13	0	0
Conveyance of luggage and family to settlement; suppose . .	8	0	0
Total cost from Liverpool to settlement in Upper Canada with every comfort and respectable accomodation . . .	£135	0	0

Or 15*l.* for each individual

I have estimated the luggage at 20 cwts. ours was 7 tons, 3 cwts. ! ! ! The largest quantity ever landed by a single family on the Wharf at York, and for transporting it

* This last charge might have been diminished three-fourths, if we had gone in a Schooner, but this passage is uncertain, sometimes occupying, if winds be contrary, three or four weeks. ! ! !

from Montreal it cost my father 28*l.* 12*s.*; but in my calculation and estimate, I have allowed the more usual and economical quantity of one ton.

With respect to our sea store, one third only was consumed, as we made the voyage to Quebec in twenty-seven days. The surplus quantity, however, was of essential service to us, afterwards, in our lodgings at York, and some of it we brought forward to Erindale.

My father had made a written contract with the Captain at Liverpool, by which the latter was bound to land us at Montreal, and also, to allow us the privilege of remaining on board there, while arranging for our passage to York; and this prudent arrangement obviated the incurring any serious expenses until our arrival at the last mentioned place.

The Captains frequently land their passengers at *Quebec*, although they have been paid for their passage to *Montreal.* I am informed, however, that an act exists, by which they

may be fined £20, if convicted before a Magistrate, of compelling passengers to land any where but at the place agreed on.

The contract ought to be entered into in writing, to prevent misunderstanding.

My father compelled our captain to defray the charges of our passage to Montreal from Quebec, as he did not proceed with his vessel farther than that port.

You may think with captain Dalgetty on the subject of *provant*, and wish to know what sea stock we brought with us :

Two hundred weight of corned beef, packed in a pickling tub, well hooped, and with a bar of iron across the lid with a hinge and staple to it, as every thing you bring, must be securely locked, or the more hungry emigrants on board, will share with you.

On putting to sea, the captain emptying this vessel of the brine, filled it with sea-water, it was then lashed to the foot of the main mast on deck, for the convenience of getting at it daily.

One hundred weight of biscuit,
Do. do. flour,
do. do. oatmeal.

The last, excellent for burgoo * which will remain on the stomach during sea sickness, better than anything else. If we had taken out a great deal more, it would have proved an advantageous *spec.* as the Canadian oat-meal is scarce, and of inferior quality.

We had ten shillings worth of bread; fresh beef and mutton; half a dozen of hams; half a dozen of tongues; live fowls; two dozen of wine; two gallons of rum, potatoes, and some other vegetables.

But to resume the calculation of expenses, it will require for a family, such as we have under consideration, at least £100 for provisions in the *bush* during the first year, besides the subjoined outlay, for the purchase of land, building of house and offices and providing furniture, implements and seed.

---

* Hibernice, Stirabout.

Two hundred acres of land, at 10s.	£100	*0	0
Log house, 30 feet by 20 feet . .	35	0	0
Barn, ox house, stable and cow house, all under one roof, ...	50	0	0
Clearing ten acres at £3 10s. ℔	35	0	0
Bedsteads, chairs, presses, &c.† .	12	0	0
13 Bushels of seed wheat	3	5	0
2 Cows	6	0	0
Horse	13	0	0
A pair of oxen	10	0	0
Waggon	15	0	0
Yoke and chains for oxen	2	0	0
2 Axes	1	0	0
3 Iron wedges	0	10	0
2 Harrows with teeth	1	0	0
2 Spades	0	5	0
2 Pitch forks	0	2	0

* Only one-fifth of this is required from government in hand; the remainder is paid by instalments of £15 6s. 8d. ℔ ann. for six years.

† The more portable articles of indispensable furniture are supposed to be taken from England.

2 Two-inch screw augers, with all other sizes down to half inch . .	0	15	0
Pick axe	0	3	0
Tack, smoothing and trying planes	0	6	0
Hammer and hatchet	0	3	0
Brace and set of bits	0	10	0
1 Handsaw	0	7	0
* 1 Brush hook	0	5	0
A set of chisels, four sizes . . .	0	6	0

The above tools should be purchased at Liverpool, where they are considerably cheaper than here; or in Dublin, if the emigrant sails from thence, at the house of the Messrs. Perry, Pill-lane, who are of the Society of Friends; and for whose moderate charges, and highly honourable conduct on several occasions, to *ignorant* customers, I can vouch. This establishment contains such a variety of articles, that the emigrant should read this list over in their shop, and he will find it save him both time and trouble.

---

* For cutting down the lighter brush wood.

By the above calculation, which as well as I have been able to note *it, is critically correct.* A gentleman with a family, may fix himself on his new estate in any part of Upper Canada for £421 17*s.* viz.

Total cost from Liverpool, to Settlement	£135	0	0
Purchase of land	100	0	0
Building house and offices . . .	85	0	0
Clearing 10 acres	35	0	0
Articles of furniture	12	0	0
Seed wheat	3	5	0
2 Cows	6	0	0
1 Horse	13	0	0
Oxen and waggon, yoke and chains	27	0	0
Tools	5	12	0
	£421	17	0

And supposing him to have altogether, a capital of £1000, he may lodge the remainder at York, in bank stock, at 12 per cent; and if he takes out this capital in gold, (which he ought to do) he will be allowed from 3 to 4 shillings according to the rate of exchange at the time, on every sovereign.

Leaving the married folks and their children on their farm, I shall proceed to give my bachelor friends (having a sympathetic feeling with those unfortunate fellows) all the information in my power.

But I must first admit that I do not recommend single gentlemen to come here, where, (I speak of the retirements in the bush) the only comforts they can expect, are cigars, sour cider, the eternal annoyance of an ugly old housekeeper (one of the greatest plagues on earth,) and the glorious irregularity of a bachelor's house.

Seriously, I would suggest long and earnest hesitation before they decide on fixing themselves here, as agriculturists; and I would more strongly advise them (having a shrewd guess at the comforts and advantages of such connexion) to marry before they come out, if they can meet with cheerful, accomodating, and economizing lasses with a little of the *needful*; indeed whether possessing this last qualification or not, such girls would be in themselves a *treasure* here.

If a smart and pretty widow, under thirty five, with a snug jointure or disposable fortune, with three or four ready made sons and daughters (the riches of the Canadian colonist) be inclined to migrate hither, I pledge myself to provide a mate for her, either in the person of my cousin Charles Alley, who measures six feet without his shoes; or of my second brother, who exceeds him in height by 3 inches.

This hint may not be amiss in its results to *us*, though confidentially conveyed to you.

I will suppose a young man to have the usual clothes, &c. of a gentleman; in addition to these, let him bring:

A moleskin jacket, price . . .	£1	10	0
One doz striped cotton shirts . .	2	0	0
One doz. of thick, country knit, worsted stockings	1	0	0
4 very warm night caps . . .	0	4	0
4 Guernsey shirts	0	12	0
4 pair flannel drawers	0	14	0
4 Blankets	1	10	0
Carried forward	£7	10	0

Carried forward	£7	10	0
Sailor's jacket, waistcot and trowsers	2	10	0
2 pair of very strong shoes, high enough to protect the ankle,	1	4	0
4 Pillow cases	0	6	0
1 curled hair mattrass . . .	1	4	0
6 Towels	0	5	0
Canteen, with all necessary cooking apparatus	3	10	0
One of Butler's medicine chests with his medicine directory .	2	0	0
1 Fur cap and gloves	0	15	0
4 pair of thick Russia duck trowsers	1	10	0
1 pocket compass . . .	0	3	0
Total	£20	17	0
with the implements and tools mentioned (p. 22, 23) amounting to	5	12	0
Total	26	9	0

Boots and shoes are bad and dear in Canada, and tailors' work is higher than in London;

but the less money that an emigrant expends on any article which he *may* not want for several months, the better for his purse and other comforts here.

No single man should think of supplying his own provisions for the voyage; he cannot inspect the dressing of them; should he club with a family of strangers providing theirs, he will find, when about to land, a much greater diminution of his stock than he had anticipated, and experience in the end that he has been humbugged. What is called, and considered a *cheap* passage, should be avoided by those who are not greatly straightened in means, as it usually proves the dearest in the end. It is bad management to make one's self miserable for the sake of a few pounds, during perhaps a long and boisterous voyage; shut up, it may be, during six or eight weeks, with all the inconveniencies of breakfasting, dining, sleeping, and *getting sick* in the same wretched apartment of a crazy merchant vessel.

Our passage was short and favourable, else

we should have been heartily sorry for having chosen the Quebec course, which is longer than that to New York, and always more tedious; the vessels being of an inferior class, and slower in their rate of sailing. Add to this the danger of the Newfoundland Banks, the navigation of the mouth at the St. Lawrence, and the number of leagues to be traversed between Quebec and York, occupying nine or ten days, while the other line of inland navigation from New York to the same point by the delightful Hudson, and the canal to Oswego, occupies but four or five days, with the advantage of seeing the most interesting parts of the States. In short the election, when practicable, is decidedly in favour of the passage to *New York* from Liverpool, where merchant ships, (or packets of the first class,) with every accommodation that the most luxurious person could desire, are always to be met with. The passage in the best merchantmen can be engaged for twenty guineas, with every delicacy of the table, and spirits of all kinds, ad libitum.

In the noble packets, called Liners, the total charge, including wines of the best description, is thirty-five guineas.

If the emigrant have money to spare, he can pass a few days agreeably at New York if not, he has the power of immediately removing his *kit* to the first steamer that starts for Albany, a distance of 150 miles, to which place he will be conveyed for nine shillings. His passage thence to Oswego, on the lake Ontario, by Canal boat, all expenses included, will be 3*l.* 10*s.*; and from Oswego to York 1*l.* 15*s.*; making a total cost, from New York to York, the grand point of his destination, in either case, of 5*l.* 4*s.*

In my next I shall give you a comparative view of the cost of settling in the Bush, and on a farm partially cleared.

I remain, very dear Sir,

Your's faithfully,

T. W. MAGRATH.

LETTER II.

From Thomas William Magrath, Esq. Upper Canada, to the Rev. Thomas Radcliff, Ireland.

Erindale, Toronto, December, 1831.

My dear Sir,

I mentioned in my last the necessary expenditure in settling a family of nine, and also that, for an individual.

The next consideration appears to me to be, whether it would be most advisable for the emigrant boldly to encounter the difficulties and privations of *the Bush*,* or at once to establish

* The wild forest, previous to being cleared of any trees.

himself on a farm partially cleared, and ready for the immediate reception of his family?

This must, in a great measure, depend on the extent of capital, as well as on the number, age, and internal resources of the family.

It should, however, be a chief object of inquiry, and I will furnish you with information on this important point, by specifying the expenditure and respective circumstances of each method of location, so as to give a fair comparative view of both cases, and the course the settler should pursue in either.

In order to this comparison, the farms may be considered equal in extent, and at equal distance from the town of York.

Number of acres 200; distance from York 30 miles.

I shall begin with the uncleared lands, and will suppose the settler landed on the wharf of York, the capital of this province, whose first visit is to the office of the Commissioner of Crown Lands, to inquire what lots are to be disposed of.

Being there informed that he can purchase certain lots of wild land in an unsettled part of the country, at from five to ten shilling an acre, he next proceeds to inspect their situation and quality. And with this view he travels in a public conveyance as far as is practicable, say 15 miles, and hires a waggon to carry him from thence to the settlement nearest the land he wishes to inspect, say 5 miles, and there procures an intelligent person acquainted with the township, lots, &c. to act as his guide, with whom he sets forward for the land on foot; and finding, that instead of performing the remaining ten miles, and of reaching it, as he may have expected, in a few hours walk, he will, perhaps for the first time in his life, be obliged to dispense with the luxury of a good bed, and dispose himself to rest as he best may, upon one composed of the boughs of the hemlock* in the small shanty† of a new settler.

* A tree of the fir kind.

† The first and most contracted habitation a settler forms.

On getting up next morning, not perfectly refreshed; after drinking his tea without the agreeable accompaniment of cream, or even milk, he proceeds with his guide, who, instructed by the index posts of the surveyor of the township, at length exclaims "*this* is the lot;"—when, the weary emigrant, seating himself upon a log, and looking round him, ponders upon the impracticability of bringing his family so far into the Bush, and to a lot perhaps badly supplied with water, and covered with pines, (an invariable indication of inferior land,) he decides upon further inspection, and at length fixes on a lot, under more favourable circumstances, upon which to found his future habitation and his home.

He retraces his steps with altered feelings; his thoughts occupied by pleasing anticipations of the future improvement of his *Estate*, and is received at the shanty he had left, with all that hospitality which characterises the new

settler, who will share his last loaf with his expected neighbour.

The emigrant returns to York, concludes the purchase of his land, and hires, or purchases horses and waggon to convey his family and baggage to the farm of another comfortable settler in his vicinity, with whom he has bargained for their accommodation, at a moderate rate, and for a supply of excellent provisions for as many weeks as he shall be employed in the formation of his own residence.

With this interesting object at heart, he hires as many men as circumstances will permit; a yoke of oxen and a sleigh, which is the only vehicle that should be brought into the woods until a road be regularly formed. The *master* and his men start before the oxen, to prepare what is termed a Bush-road, which is done by felling and drawing aside all trees under five inches diameter, from the line of march, and by cutting a pass through any fallen timber of larger dimensions; thus leaving the great trees standing, round which, the

others being cleared away, the oxen and sleigh can ply without difficulty.

About an hour before nightfall preparation is made for sleeping, and, what is termed, a camp is formed for this purpose, in a summary way, by placing a ridge pole of ten feet upon two forked sticks six feet in length, and stuck firmly in the ground. Against this ridge pole are laid, at one side, a set of poles, obliquely; leaving the other side which forms the front, entirely open, not only to admit the heat of a large fire, which is lighted up before it, but the smoke, also, to banish the musquetos. A thick coat of hemlock boughs, or of bark stripped quickly from the standing trees, and covering the poles, keeps off the rain or dew.

By this time the oxen have arrived with the bed-cloaths, provisions, &c. and then comes on the interesting scene of cooking. The frying-pan ("contrived a double debt to pay") not only supplies successions of savoury pork, but also of bread or paste cakes, not less enticing from the oily drippings of the meat with which they are fried. After

a hard day's work in the Bush, this is no unwelcome supper. Your *epicures* sometimes bring biscuits.

The oxen are tied to a tree, having hay, or maple branches as their provender; and each of the party having composed himself, with his feet to the blazing fire, sinks into repose, upon the floor of this temporary shelter, strewn thickly with the small boughs or tops of the hemlock tree.

Breakfast being over by dawn of day, the party move on as before for FIVE MILES farther, and having, at length arrived at the selected settlement, a substantial camp or wigmam is erected, to accommodate all who are to be engaged in the building of the house.

The oxen are sent back, to return on a certain day to draw the logs together, and the "Lord of this silent domain," commences active operations; not so very silent, however, as the axe resounds through the wood, and the expert choppers, have speedily made a sufficient clearance, furnishing, at the same

time, the necessary timber for the building. A wise settler will take care not to leave any trees standing close to the site of his intended mansion; a friend of mine Lieut. —— who neglected this precaution, having just completed his roof, was sitting under it, with the utmost complacency, when a tremendous crash, from a falling tree of great dimensions, laid the entire edifice level with the ground; he himself, by a miraculous escape, was taken out uninjured.

To return to our new settler. Having determined on the plan, and proper scantlings, he has the logs cut, accordingly, to the right lengths, and drawn together where the formation of the house is to take place.

The walls are contrived in the same manner as a schoolboy makes a crib, except that they must be upright; but, like that, they have corresponding notches, cut out of the ends of the respective logs that their adjoining surfaces may close, with as little space as possible between them, and that the coins or angles may be thus strongly braced.

The elevation must depend on the room required within; where upper apartments are intended, it must rise accordingly, and, proportionably higher in a *log* house, which is generally finished with a shed, or pent-house, roof.

In the formation of this roof, however simple, much accuracy is to be observed.

Black ash and bass wood are considered best adapted to this purpose—the stems should be about fourteen inches in diameter, straight, clean, and easily split. Having cut them into lengths, corresponding with the pitch of the roof, they are then to be cleft assunder and hollowed out by the axe like rude troughs.

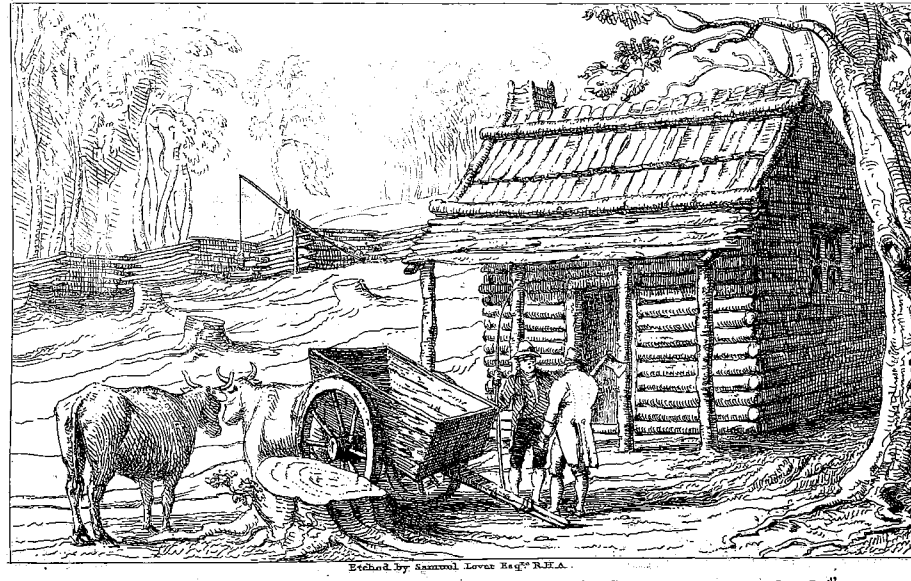
These are ranged in sufficient number from front to rere, in the line of the roof with the hollow side uppermost; and over them are ranged alternately, an equal number, with the *round* side uppermost; so that the adjoining edges of each two of the upper logs meet in the hollow of that beneath them, whilst the

adjoining edges of each two of the lower logs, are covered by the hollow of that which is above them; thus forming a compact roof perfectly water tight, as the hollows of the under logs effectually carry off all rain that may fall through the joints of the upper surface; and the roof continues staunch as long as the timbers remain undecayed.

This being completed—means must be taken to admit both the *family* and the *light*. The openings for the doors and windows (which are generally procured, ready made, from the nearest settlement) are then formed in the walls by a cross cut saw or an axe.

The chimney is then built with mud, if stones be scarce. The *stubbing* afterwards takes place, which means, the filling up the vacancies between the logs with slips of wood, mud and moss; the floor is then formed of cleft planks pinned to logs sunk in the ground, and smoothed or rather levelled with an adze, the interior partitions &c. may be got forward by

THE LOG HOUSE.



Etched by Samuel Lover Esq.re R.H.A.

"Thus at the expiration of three or four weeks the Preparations are completed."

degrees; but, the oven, which is an essential, must be completed before the arrival of the family.

Stones or brick must be procured for this, at any inconvenience, for security against fire; but mud will serve as mortar; it is always built outside the house, and stands alone. It is heated with pine, or very dry hard wood split into small pieces, and burnt in the oven to ashes, which being swept out, the bread is baked as in the common brick ovens at home, where dried furze are used to heat them. Thus at the expiration of three or four weeks the preparations are completed.

Having now brought our settler into his own log house, with all the privation of former comforts that must of course attend his enterprize; I shall close this settlement in the Bush, with an estimate of the expense he must be supposed to have incurred, from the day he set off from York, to that of his first family dinner under his own roof.

Items of expenditure in taking possession of a farm of 200 *acres in the Bush; distant from York* 30 *miles—open road for* 20 *miles.*

Coach hire 15 miles, *(public road)* ... ... £.	0	5	0
Waggon hire to farm house, nearest to the lot, 5 miles half a days hire	0	12	6
Guide from thence to the inspection of lots, 3 days	0	15	0
Coach and waggon hire returning	0	17	6
Removing family to farm house	3	0	0
Transport of luggage and provisions to farm house ...	4	10	0
Lodging for family of six at farm house during twenty days	2	0	0
Carried forward £	12	0	0

Carried forward	£12	0	0
Provisions for do. do. ...	5	0	0
Hire of five men at half a dollar each, per day, for building log house &c. and making a road—twenty days ...	12	10	0
Provisions for do. do. ...	6	5	0
Hire of Oxen—two days ...	0	10	0
Iron work, frames, doors and window shutters	8	0	0
Clearing and fencing ten acres at 3*l.* 5*s.* per acre	32	10	0
Taking family from farm house to log house	1	5	0
Purchase of 200 acres at 10*s.* per	100	0	0
Total expenditure	£178	0	0

We are now to give a comparative view, of the trouble and expense of settling on a farm of similar extent partially cleared—say ten

acres, (being the same number as in the former case,) with house and offices prepared.

In this case as in the other we must suppose our emigrant arrived at York, where, upon inquiry, he finds that many farms of the foregoing description, are advertised for sale, in different parts of the country, and he determines upon viewing some of those within his reach, as speedily as possible. That, of which we are to suppose him to become the purchaser, being, of the same extent and distance from York, with the farm in the Bush, is to be approached with expedition and facility by means of good roads and public conveyances. Having found ten, of the two hundred acres cleared and in good heart to yield the necessary crops—with the house and offices ready built—he returns at once to close his purchase and convey his family to their new home. A few years previous occupation has produced a dairy, wash-house, fowl-house, garden, and many convenient appendages,

which promote the good humour of the lady of the house, as to her domestic arrangements, whilst the gentleman cultivates his ten acres, (with judgment it is to be hoped) so as to produce nearly enough of the necessary articles of vegetation for the consumption of the house and farm-yard; thus enjoying in his *first* year, and of his own production, many necessaries and comforts, that could not be grown, till the *second* in the Bush—and being enabled to purchase others at a moderate rate in an *established* settlement, which in a *new* one must be procured at an advanced price.

The attention bestowed on the cleared ground, is not to prohibit his industrious efforts to clear more, or to make such improvements as his capital may enable him to do; but that does not come within the limit of our present object in either case; which is, to compare the circumstances and expenditure in both. Here then is the estimate of the latter, to be com-compared with that in the former case.

Items of expenditure in taking possession of a Farm of 200 *acres, with ten acres cleared,* 30 *miles from York, in a Township already settled.*

Coach hire, 30 miles, to view the farm and back ...	£ 0	15	0
Removing family by coach to the farm	1	15	0
Transport of luggage by waggon	4	10	0
Purchase of 200, at 20s. ℔	200	0	0
Total expenditure ...	£207	0	0
Purchase and expenditure in taking possession of the above farm	£207	0	0
Do. do. of farm in the Bush	178	0	0
Difference ...	£ 29	0	0*

* There is here no valuation of stock, implements, &c. &c. which is given in the former letter, and applies equally to both the foregoing cases.

This would tempt many to determine in favour of the cleared farm, which appears to be the most economical.

The comparison, however, is also to extend to *circumstances* as well as to cost.

Those of *the Bush* which are favourable, are these—

Cheaper land—a choice of district—a clear title—and the power of forming a neighbourhood of select friends.

Those of the *cleared land* which are favourable, are these :—

The immediate accommodation of house and offices.

The prepared state of the cleared portion for the reception of different crops.

The presumed facility of intercourse with mill and market, with readier access to the physician, and place of worship.

The *unfavourable* circumstances of the *Bush* are these —

Difficulty of access—the various privations to be encountered in the solitude of the wil-

derness—the possible want of society—the absolute want of roads—the great difficulty, of intercourse with mill, market, physician or clergyman.

The *unfavourable* circumstances of the *cleared land* are these :—

A dangerous title—liability to the debts of a predecessor—an undesirable neighbourhood, fully settled, to the exclusion of relatives and friends.

The settler has now an opportunity of deciding for himself.

As I shall state nothing but what is strictly fact, as far as my judgment enables me, I request you to make use of what I write in any way that you think proper, for your sons ,or any other emigrants. My *name* also is perfectly at your service in any manner you may please to use it.

I remain, my dear Sir,

Yours, faithfully,

THOS. WM. MAGRATH.

Of the foregoing kind permission repeated in subsequent letters, and latterly confirmed by Mr. Magrath in person, the Editor will thankfully avail himself. His sons, for whose sake the inquiry was first made, influenced by the information contained in the preceding letters, and in others which will appear in the sequel, and captivated by the prosperous settlement of the writer's family,* emigrated in May last, 1832, and are already established with their families, upon property of their own purchasing, and in houses of their own building, if not, in all the comfort to which they had been accustomed, yet in the enjoyment of productive industry, with the prospect of unceasing independence. With the comparative view of both descriptions of settlement before their eyes, as furnished by an experienced friend, and with the opportunity of personal inquiry, on their arrival in the country, they resolved

* Vide Letter, 4.

on, what would appear, the least agreeable alternative, and preferred a remote, uncleared, and uninhabited forest, in which, their wives were the two *first* European females, that ever set their feet; and their houses, (with that of their physician and friend,) the *first* that were erected in the new township of Adelaide, in the London district.

They purchased late in July, 800 acres, as a first venture—commenced their operations in August—and in October, their families arrived to occupy their rustic habitations.—In a letter of the 16th of December, they mention that the township is settling so fast, they fear there may not be lots remaining for relatives and friends, whom they expect, and who are anxious to fix themselves, this year, in their vicinity. They have already a neighbourhood of nearly twenty families, married, and unmarried, amiable and respectable people, many of them, their own intimates, and all embarking with zeal, in the improvements of the township, to which an

excellent clergyman has been appointed, and in which a newly built school-house is used as a temporary place of worship, till the ensuing summer, when a permanent and commodious church is to be erected.

If it be inquired why they went into such distant retirement—one hundred and thirty miles from the capital of the province? The answer is—that they did so on good advice from a friend, whose kindness they will ever gratefully remember, and whose representation of the land is fully borne out already, by their own experience of its peculiar richness.

Thus availing themselves of the *favourable* circumstances of the *Bush*, already mentioned —they resolved to submit to the *unfavourable*, the chief of which are bad roads and bad potatoes—the latter admits of remedy, and the former it may be expected will gradually improve.

However, as this party, which is a considerable one, had their own views and objects in settling themselves as they have done,

it is strongly recommended to others, who are on the eve of emigrating, to give both descriptions of settlement, an unbiassed consideration—to weigh the respective circumstances with caution, and to determine with deliberation—for though it is obviously of great importance, to derive immediately from the Government, or the Canada company, as the case may be, rather than from individuals, who may have mortgages and other liens affecting their lots, which settlers, may be unable to discover till too late; and though it must be borne in mind, that the sheriff has the power of selling the *land* for any debts the previous possessor may have contracted, with the same facility as he could dispose of goods and chattels, yet those contingencies may be obviated by a prudent caution; and for the advantages of a cleared farm, there are many advocates and none more convincing than a settler of last year, Mr. James T. Sommerville, of Mayfield, township of Whitby, Upper Canada.

His excellent and rational remarks have appeared in the March number of that most useful publication, "Blackwood's Quarterly Journal of Agriculture"—and with respect to the farm he has chosen, the following is his own account:

"In regard to my own situation and prospects, I am truly happy to say they are cheering; and it is allowed on all hands that the purchase I have made is a good one.

It is of one hundred acres of good land, fifty cleared, with an excellent new barn upon it, built this season, which cost seventy Pounds, with a frame house, and offices.

The soil is a deep rich loam, and adapted to every kind of crop. Its local situation is also excellent, being within one mile of the main road between York and Kingston; where coaches pass daily, and about three miles from Windsor bay, where there is plenty of shipping to all parts.

A fine stream of water runs through part of it, on which is erected a saw mill, and

presents one of the finest situations for a grist mill, which is much wanted in this part of the country.

The price I paid for my land was, two hundred and fifty-six pounds, but after deducting the improvements on it, the land itself cost only 22s. 6d. per acre, a small price when it is considered that uncleared land in its neighbourhood, is selling at from two pounds, to two pounds ten shillings per acre; my prospects of a crop next season, are not of the most flattering description, owing entirely to the extreme indolence of the person, from whom I purchased it. I shall have five acres of wheat in good condition, and other crops in proportion. I intend to keep ten milch cows next summer, which will pay well, as dairy produce sells very high; by next fall of the year, if I live so long, I shall have fifty acres ready for wheat, which calculating the produce per acre so low as from twenty five to thirty bushels, will bring me, from three hundred and fifty to four hundred bolls of

wheat, of four bushels each, which at five shillings per bushel, will be four hundred pounds—this along with the produce of the cows, and of the other crops, will bring me a sum nearly equal to pay all expenses, and the whole of the money I paid for the land.

I do not mean to say that I shall have fifty acres of wheat annually, but I do mean to say, that by prudent management, and persevering industry, I shall be fully enabled to realize between three and four hundred pounds a year, for the payment of expenses, and the adequate maintenance of myself and family. This circumstance coupled with the fact, that I have no rent to pay, and almost no taxes, certainly presents, in a worldly point of view, a cheering and animating prospect. This, I believe, is no exaggerated statement; but as I have no opportunity of realizing it in my own *experience*, I only offer it as my own opinion. Being on the spot, however, and

judging from the state of the markets, and other circumstances, I not only offer it simply as my own opinion, but as my decided conviction.

If the above statement be at all correct, and I believe I am rather below the mark than above it, then it must appear perfectly plain to every unprejudiced mind, that, in so far at least, as worldly circumstances are concerned, the ends of emigration are completely fulfilled."

Mr. Somerville in another part of his communication, states :—

"I have purchased fifty acres more land, adjoining the hundred acres I purchased formerly. I paid a rather high price for it, three pounds ten shillings per acre. It however makes my farm a complete one; and which is not surpassed for quality of soil, and local situation by any farm in the township of Whitby. There are about thirty acres of cleared land, upon the fifty; so that upon the whole farm there are seventy acres cleared,

fifty of them with stumps, and twenty, free of stumps. I have let about thirty acres of wood land to be chopped, logged, burnt, fenced, and ready for receiving the seed by the first of September next, * at three pounds per acre.

If the land is sown down with grass seed, immediately after the first crop of wheat, and remains so, it will require ten or twelve years to rot out the stumps; but if it is continued under the operation of the plough, the stumps will come out in six or eight years, and in some situations a good deal sooner."

This is all much in favour of the cleared land; but as Mr. Somerville declines giving *advice*, but merely a candid opinion, so will the Editor abstain from engaging his readers on one side or the other, and like the gentleman he has quoted, will "leave those who

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* The date of these remarks is November 14, 1832—EDITOR.

read, to judge and determine for themselves." They will find in other passages of Mr. Somerville's remarks, instances adduced by him, of countrymen of his (now neighbours at Whitby,) settlers from Scotland, who on *uncleared* farms have been very prosperous.

He speaks of a Mr. A——, of twelve years standing, who came out without original capital; purchased two hundred acres; began to clear it with great spirit; lost his whole property by fire; began again with unabated perseverance; and is now possessed of three hundred acres of the best land, and is worth nearly three thousand pounds; also of Mr. T——, from Lanarkshire, but three years at Whitby, who brought out five hundred pounds, and is now worth twelve hundred; with many others, lately arrived, and all likely to prosper on their farms.

This testimony of a prudent Caledonian is quoted to assist the decision of the settler, as to the comparative question in Mr. Magrath's second letter.

Others from that gentleman, which followed in succession, are for the present postponed, to some received from members of the Editors family after their departure.

LETTER III.

From Mrs. Wm. Radcliff, to the Rev. Thomas Radcliff, Dublin.

Atlantic Ocean, on board the Duncan Gibb,

June 14, 1832.

My dearest Mr. R.

Until this day I have been unable to hold a pen. It was unfortunate that the chief cabin of this ship had been previously engaged, and that we could find no other vessel sailing at the time that suited us. From the miserable accommodation to which we have been obliged to submit, our sufferings have

been great; and mine, as I had reason to expect, beyond the rest.

Yet, thanks be to God, I am now well enough to write to you, with a tolerably steady hand; holding down my paper on the binnacle, while a freshening breeze wafts us along.

You will sympathize with us at what we have undergone, and will read with interest, if not with amusement, my desultory journal to which I pledged myself before we parted.

In the cabin (if it can be so called,) to which we are doomed, are thirty-one souls, enduring, in general, the crowd, and heat, and various difficulties, with tolerable patience and good humour. Some of the passengers are respectable and well informed, whose society, under other circumstances, would have been very agreeable; but alas! after the first day of our sailing, all satisfaction was at an end.

As we still traced the dim outline of the coast from which we were gradually receding.

How many associations crowded on my mind. The tender recollections of early youth, the ties and friendships of maturer years, rose on the memory with fonder and more vivid impressions as the distance increased that bore me from the scene of their enjoyment. Yet the prospect of happiness, and independence, in the country of our adoption, qualified every sentiment of regret, and reconciled me to the painful alternative we had chosen. The following day a strong gale sprung up, and from that to the present, nearly four weeks, we suffered (with short intervals of relief) the most torturing sickness, that squally weather and a rough sea ever inflicted. Wonderful to be told, my little Mary, was ill but a few hours, when she fell into a profound sleep, and has never been a moment indisposed, from that hour to this.

But here my dear Mr. R. for the benefit of all future emigrants with sufficient means, whom you may have an opportunity of warning, I must particularly remark the

error of those who bring out, as we did, their own provisions—we thought it prudent to do so—but are now convinced that we were wrong; by so doing you are excluded from the attention of the Captain or his steward, the only persons capable of affording any.

Your own servants are a burden to you, your stores useless, while you are sick; and before you are well, either spoiled or *stolen*—we have been nearly a month at sea; and during that time have been able to enjoy but one comfortable dinner, which was on the first day of our embarkation.

This is to be remedied by a little sacrifice of economy, to comfort, in paying to the Captain a bulk sum for accommodation, attendance and provisions—which furnished by him will perhaps not amount to so much, as the useless quantity usually brought out.—

We lost one of our boats a few evenings since—and as the name, Duncan Gibb, is on her stern, we are in a great panic lest she should be picked up by some vessel, that supposing

our ship to have been lost, might report it, and alarm the friends of the numerous passengers. When the weather is fine we remain on deck to a late hour; and for the last three nights have been gratified by the luminous appearance of the sea. Every wave and ripple, to an unlimited extent, presents the appearance of liquid fire, which, in flashes of momentary succession, gives to the entire surface, an exquisite brilliancy and beauty. On the 17th June we had indication of nearing the banks (as the sailors term it,) by a heavy mist. On the 21st, we suffered a degree of cold equal to that of a sharp November day in our own climate, apparently the forerunner of frost and snow.

On the 22nd at dawn, a magnificient Iceberg appeared in the distance—to my eye, fully as large as the hill of Howth. At a later hour another appeared to be drifting towards us, and though very remote, resembled a cathedral with a spire of exquisite white-

ness—two more of those floating masses, but of lesser dimensions, remained in view till three o'clock that day.

I cannot omit to mention here, as it was at this time I suffered most from it, the disgusting water, to which we were obliged to resort, in our extreme thirst—there is no disguising its abominable taste by any mixture whatsoever, it baffles all the efforts of wine, spirits, raspberry, vinegar, tea, or coffee, to render it at all palatable. We should have brought with us a filtering machine, and this may be a useful hint to others.

It is in this way only that we, who have had bitter experience of sufferings that might be remedied, can keep others out of the scrape by practical suggestions, and here through you, my dear Sir, I would encourage all emigrants who can possibly afford it, to be profuse in their store of bottled ale and porter, as the only wholesome and agreeable beverage to rely on—temperate advice you will say from a delicate lady ! !—but the

more delicate the ladies, who may have occasion to avail themselves of it, the more applicable the recommendation.

There is no degree of feverish thirst on shore to be compared to the parching thirst of sea sickness. In tea, almond milk is the best substitute for cream. It has, to be sure, a peculiar flavour resembling that of herbs; but in a months residence on board, you get rid of many particularities. Our numerous bottles of prepared milk, are now good for nothing though palatable at first.

June 25—The cold weather continues, we have reached the much wished for banks of Newfoundland. The shallowest water we have had is 30 fathoms.

The fishing is now going forward—some of the boats are within a few miles of us.

This morning early, a whale made its appearance and spouted water, I am told, as high, as our tallest mast.

The Captain has just succeeded in catching an immense cod-fish—our people are putting out their lines.

2 o'Clock—we have had the amusement of seeing nine large fish taken—four of them by your own sons and our servant, whose success was transcendant. The fish he hooked weighed 40 ℔s. and measured in length four feet. The others were about 10℔s. each. We dressed two of them which gave 18 people, great and small, a plentiful dinner. Whether it proceeded from the relish of returning appetite, or from the intrinsic excellence of the fish, I cannot determine, (perhaps from both) but I can safely say, that I never tasted any thing so delicious. On this bank I am told the fish are considered small, but of the best quality and flavour.

We all wished we could send you a specimen of them.

June 27—The weather continues bitterly cold, but we are singularly free from fog. When on the outer, or false bank, we had three or four days of heavy fog and wetting mist, and one day of incessant rain—here we are clear and cold, but are still liable to return-

ing darkness and humidity, till we get into the gulph of St. Laurence.

Our fishing goes on with great success, amongst the captures of this day is an immense Hollybut, 70 lbs. weight; we are to have it for dinner.

I was much amused by learning that it brought with it, *(most considerately,)* its *own sauce.* In preparing to dress it, the cook found large crabs pouched in the interior, of a light scarlet, the body smaller than that of our crab, shaped more like a frog, or toad, and with very long legs. We paid our addresses to the fish, which was not bad, but declined *the sauce.* Nine more cod-fish taken by our party!

We fished, (observe how I identify myself with the sport,) in fifty fathom water, which is considered the best; and William desires me to mention to you, for the information of those friends who mean to follow us, that the line should be sixty fathoms long, to allow for the drifting of the vessel; so tell

this to all whom it may concern; for in Dublin, it was considered that a forty fathom line would be sufficient, and it is not. Each of your son's lines was of that length, and they have been obliged to join them, by which means they have had better fishing than any others on board except the captain. Fortunately, their lines and hooks were of a strength that was laughed at, leaving home, but it proved to be right; the true description of line is called log-line. They are very anxious you should know this, for the sake of any young fishermen coming out; and thus ends their communication.

June 30th.—From the brightest weather, we have suddenly been enveloped in tremendous fog—horns blowing to warn any approaching vessel of our vicinity—so heavy has been this wetting mist, that the large drops from the cordage, fall like heavy rain upon the deck, and have sent me, much against my will, for an entire day to bed. Previous to this we had good weather and

smooth water, which tempted many to the usual exercise of a dance, the mate being a capital fiddler. I was, of course, a spectator; and it was not a little ludicrous to see so curious a mixture of religions prancing together upon deck—Church of England, Methodists, Walkerites, and Quakers!!

July, 2.—We are now clear of the banks, thank God; but the wind is unfavorable. The fog has also dispersed, having left traces of its unwholesomeness upon *us* and many other passengers, by a heavy and feverish illness, which has called forth the attention of our excellent doctors, public and private.

We expect to see land to-day—but it is Newfoundland; which I don't care for.

July 4th.—We have had dreadful weather—a day of tossing, and a night of heavy wind and rain—the lurching of the vessel, such, as to baffle all calculation with me as to my being at the *lee*, or *weather side* of the ship. (You see I am picking up the terms.) In one of her tremendous plunges, all

articles not lashed down, appearing to assert their freedom, commenced a ludicrous and motley dance on the cabin floor, in imitation, as it were, of the incongruous mixture of dancers upon deck some days before. I could not help laughing at the comic scene.

A mind easily amused, and abstracted from gloomy thoughts, is a great enjoyment, and lightens many inflictions, by the counterpoise of gratitude for blessings which are always sure to preponderate. The sudden alternations of a sea voyage bear me out in this.

Within a few hours, this most unpleasant motion of the vessel ceased—the heavy fog cleared—a brisk and favourable breeze sprung up, and brought us forward rapidly for the entire day. We were in the higest spirits—at night the wind fell—the ship had little motion—and we enjoyed the most delicious and uninterrupted repose. Fortunate! it continued so long, to recruit us for the coming change. Who would not join in the pious

aspiration of the Hermit of Engaddi, from the pen of the great and lamented author of all that was pure, and interesting, and instructive in romance.

At retiring to rest—

"Blessed be *His* name who hath appointed the quiet night to follow the busy day, and the calm sleep to refresh the weary limbs, and to compose the troubled spirit."

And again at morning—

"Blessed be His name, who having granted us a tranquil night of refreshing sleep, has given us another day to implore his pardon for our sins, through the merits of a Merciful Redeemer."

Refreshed by the only perfect night's rest I had had during the voyage, I dressed, as soon as I awoke, to go upon deck, when I was suddenly surprised at the increased rocking of the ship; and, within a short half-hour, we had experienced a transition, from calm repose, and an unruffled sea, to what even the sailors admitted to be a furious storm; the sea dread-

ful, beyond any thing I had ever seen, or could have imagined—the wind roaring with a violence that prevented any voice from being heard, when suddenly, a tremendous crash, as if the main-mast had come down, with the accompanying sound of ropes breaking, and sails flapping, burst upon our ears. In sad alarm, we sat in a state not to be conceived, for a considerable time, when we were at length assured that we were safe, and every thing nearly put to rights.

I was truly thankful to the Almighty for my escape. There is one curious fact which I cannot pass over. I was told that nothing could equal the joy of the children during the storm; and my little Mary, after I came down, continued to laugh immoderately.

The gale lasted 12 hours, and then began gradually to subside before night. The sun set gloriously, the moon rose high and clear, the night was serene; an Aurora Borealis diffused its brilliancy, and the sea became

like glass;—no wind whatever;—and, as Pat Mee observed, "*that same against us.*"

How appropriate are those magnificent words of Webb's, you used to admire so much. You recollect the vivid representation of the storm, when "the foaming surges roar and lash the mast;" and who that ever heard it, can forget what follows:—

"When, in an instant, He who rules the waves
"Earth, Air, and Fire—Jehovah, God of gods,
"In gracious accents speaks his sovereign will,
"And bids the waters and the winds be still.
"Hushed are the winds—the waters cease to roar,
"Safe are the seas, and silent, as the shore.
"Now, say what joy elates the sailors's breast,
"With prosperous gales, so unexpected, bless'd!
"What ease, what transport in each face is seen,
"The Heav'ns look bright, the air and sea serene;
"For every *plaint*, we hear a joyful strain
"To Him, whose power unbounded rules the main."

I little thought, my dear Mr. R. that I should ever, in *reality*, have to take a part in the scene these lines so forcibly represent. But it has fallen to me, within a space of little more than four and twenty hours, to witness the

raging storm, the sudden calm, and to bless for his mercy, and his goodness, that Power unbounded, who rules the waves and wind.

We are now passing the numerous islands in the Gulf, before we enter the river; of course considerable anxiety prevails, as, with adverse winds, much danger would ensue. We, of course, keep a respectful distance.

Our Captain's father lost a fine ship there, a few years back, when nearly the entire crew perished. His son is, of course, particucularly cautious, and, thank God, (Sunday the 8th,) we have passed in safety.

The northern lights are now frequently seen, and the air is milder, though still cold. The nights are lovely, and the sky quite beautiful. We are now within 360 miles of Quebec, with a fair wind;—God grant it may continue.

July 11. Well, my dear Mr. R. here we are, at Goose Island, but 24 miles from Quebec, performing quarantine; and I am most thank-

ful that our perilous and disagreeable voyage is over, which it may now be said to be.

We are doomed by the board of health to but three days quarantine, as we are all well.

We were inspected to day by two physicians, and are to be so every day. This delay will give me an opportunity of finishing my long letter, and perhaps of dismissing it from Quebec.

Coming upon deck in the evening, I was amazed at the exquisite beauty and luxuriance of the scene, like a gigantic and brilliant picture. The colouring so rich, the foliage so varied; and the pasture, (on which a flock of black and white sheep were feeding,) of a colour not to be rivalled, even by the Emerald Isle of my nativity.

Clusters of small wooded islands, and groups of neat straw-coloured houses, formed the fore ground of the landscape. In the distance, improvements, and habitations on a greater scale: and churches resplendent with their spires of tin.

The weather is now becoming close, and what is very strange, we find the water of the St. Lawrence quite warm.

We *drink it nevertheless*, though warned against it, and enjoy it greatly after the odious water on the voyage. We have been told that it disagrees sadly with strangers, so we have taken the precaution to boil it, and it has not as yet had a bad effect upon any on board.

Our quarantine will be over to-morrow evening; but we are not to go to Quebec till Sunday morning the 15th. The cholera is quite abated there; but is taking its course through the other great towns, and now prevails at Montreal and York.

The agent, to whom our gentlemen had letters at Quebec, died of this dreadful epidemic, which, from the 4th of June to the 14th of July instant, carried off 3,500 persons, as I am informed, in that town.

Some of the gentlemen have taken the boat to a small uninhabited island, and to row

about the ships in harbour. It is altogether a scene of uncommon gaiety. In the next ship, (from the Clyde,) a Scotch piper has the whole crew prancing in a Scotch reel.

From the island, our party brought us a branch of cherry tree, laden with small fruit, some wild strawberries, currants, and gooseberries. They also brought the smallest, but highest scented rose imaginable; and yet we heard that Canadian flowers were without perfume. Also, a miniature silver fir tree, not exceeding three feet in height. I wished it transplanted into your shrubbery at home.

July 15.—We have at length got leave to proceed. The scenery along the banks is the most imposing that can be conceived.

From Goose Island till we reached Quebec the eye was charmed with a continued succession of lovely villages and innumerable churches, with tin spires glittering in the sun. You can't think how odd and picturesque some of the cottages are, with very steep

roofs to throw off the winter snow; many of them painted crimson, and exhibiting two rows of windows in their declivity.

We observed a variety of vehicles at the church doors; some drawn by excellent horses, and some by bullocks; many of them like our old fashioned gigs, and some very like our tax carts. We saw also abundance of sheep and cows in the fields, which were all divided by palings.

The gentlemen, on board, agreed that the cattle were, many of them, of a good description, though not of any definite breed; but that the sheep were very small, and not very shapely.

To me they appeared quite beautiful, as forming a striking feature in the landscape; and if it were not treason against the picturesque, I would tell you all I heard about their excellence as *mutton*. I am sure they ought to be very fat, if the most verdant pasture, I ever beheld, could make them so—I could only judge of it by the colour, which was very

agreeable and soothing to the eye that had so long rested on a waste of water.

Altogether I never supposed I should have beheld a scene so attractive and interesting, terminating, too, in the magnificent falls of Montmorency, which we passed close by, whose white and foaming waters resembled an immense and continuous avalanche of snow tumbling over the lofty and projecting rocks. Below the falls appeared a very large and handsome mansion.

God forbid I was to inhabit it;—I think the roaring of the waters would set me mad before the ear could get accustomed to the sound.

It was nearly six o'clock in the afternoon when we arrived at Quebec, that is, in the river opposite the town.

The officers of health came on board, and passed us without scruple, allowing those who wished it, to go on shore. They told us of a vessel to sail which would take our letters; this shall be closed forthwith;—I am sure it is time it should.

I fear I have gone too much into trifling detail; but you know, my dear Mr. R. you made it a point that I should be minute; and I am well aware of the interest you and my other dear friends, under your roof, will take in any thing that interests me, however dull and prolix I may have been in the recital.

William, who is gone into Quebec, promises to write to you soon; and if he does not, I will.

Adieu, my dear Mr. R. accept our most grateful regards, ; and let all my kind relalatives and friends be told that I do not forget them.

Your affectionate daughter,

R. RADCLIFF.

In the River, opposite Quebec,
July 16, 1832.

P. S.—I do not mean to go on shore, but to wait the steam packet for Montreal, which will come along-side to-morrow.

LETTER IV.

From Thomas W. Magrath, Esq. Upper Canada, to the Rev. Thomas Radcliff, Dublin.

Erindale, Toronto, Jan. 1832.

My dear Sir,

It may be interesting to you, and useful to your friends, to have some information relative to our first agricultural attempts, and subsequent operations on our new land. My last letter, being confined to one object, omitted some details on these subjects, which I now hasten to furnish.

After having purchased our lot of seven hundred acres* from Government, for fifteen hundred and seventy dollars, (about £325 British,) my father, during the period of his residence in York, sent my brothers and myself to erect a log-house on our farm, of which we all took possession immediately after its completion; and when fairly lodged in that, we undertook the building of our present residence, which is a frame-house.

This dwelling is 44 feet by 33, containing three stories; *that* under ground is 12 feet high, and built with stone and lime.

The mode of forming such a house is as follows:—

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* From its local advantages, being within 18 miles of York, by the river Credit, Mr. Magrath preferred the *purchase* of this farm to the occupation of 2,000 acres *granted* to him by Government, in a wilder district. He found that the lands contiguous to roads, markets, and rivers, had been long settled; and he did not wish to go into the remote Bush. Besides, the fees on patent and settlement duties, would have amounted to *three-fourths* of the purchase money of the property he preferred.—EDITOR.

A framer, on receiving the dimensions and plan, cuts out the mortices and prepares the frame. A *Bee*, which means an assemblage of the neighbours, is then called; and a person well skilled in the business, and termed a *Boss*, takes the leadership of the active party, who, with the mere mechanical aid of a *following*, or *raising*, pole, gradually elevates the mighty bents,* until the tenants (connected with each other by tie beams,†) drop into their mortices in the sill, to which, as well as to each other, they are immediately afterwards secured by pins, and in a few hours the skeleton of the house, with its rafters, &c. is ready for shingles and clap boards.‡

It will appear strange to you that a house could be covered in before the sides are finished; and still more so, that the cellar, or basement story, should not be excavated, nor

* Bents.—Perpendicular parts of the frame.

† Tie Beams are those that connect the Bents.

‡ Clap Boards are those that over-lap, and form the outer covering of the frame-work.

Scantling of Frame, 15 inches by 12.—Editor.

the foundation-walls built up to the sill until the upper works were completed; but such was our course of proceeding.

At the raising of my father's house, seventy kind neighbours assisted, and worked extremely hard for an entire day, without any recompense whatever, except a plentiful dinner *al fresco*.

In a few months my brothers and I, who are tolerably handy, with the aid of two carpenters, had the *inside* finished; and we have now been nearly three years inhabiting a truly comfortable house, quite in the home fashion, except that it has the advantage of a verandah, (not very common in Ireland,) on three sides, (supported by pillars and secured by railling,) into which we can walk from our bed-rooms, and enjoy the delightful air of the summer and autumn mornings.

This verandah is 12 feet in breadth. We pass our leisure hours in it during the fine weather, choosing the shady, and sheltered side, according to the sun, or wind; and

frequently sitting there with candles until bed time; with the occasional annoyance, however, of the troublesome moskitoes;—but where can we expect to find perfect enjoyment?

When we had completed the house, we raised a barn, sixty feet by thirty-six, and eighteen feet in height, with an ice-house, root house, and summer dairy beneath it, which cost us, in cash for hired labour, only twelve dollars to a framer, and the price of some nails, worth about 2s. 10d.

We had a second *Bee* for the raising of this, which was effected in five hours, and on this occasion were able to supply our obliging neighbours, who again volunteered their valuable services, with an abundant dinner and supper in the dwelling house; and to gratify them with a little music.

The floor of this barn would surprize you, it is supported by twenty-three beams of wood, eighteen inches square—with two courses of three-inch plank over them. There is in fact

as much timber in the floor alone, as would cost *you* more than a hundred pounds.

With us it is a *cheap* commodity, and it is less expensive to draw and use it in great bulk, than to send it to the saw mill to be reduced to smaller scantlings. The cause of the double flooring of thick plank is that (the timber being fresh) the grain, which would be lost through the opening joints of a single floor may be saved, by having those joints covered by a second tier of boards.

My two brothers, James and Charles unassisted, cut eighteen thousand shingles for the roof and laid them on, besides siding and flooring the barn—no idle hours here!

Before the house was ready for our reception, we had cleared twenty * acres of the land for wheat, and during the successive operations of brushing, chopping, logging, burning and fencing—my father was obliged to hire workmen.

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* They have subsequently cleared about 20 acres every year, and now have for cropping 150 acres.—EDITOR.

The land has a miserable appearance when first cleared, the surface and stumps being as black as fire can render them, and these latter standing three feet high, to facilitate their being drawn out by two yoke of oxen when their roots decay, which does not take effect for seven or eight years, (according to the kind of timber) and is more tedious if the land be laid down for grass.

Our first agricultural proceedings are as rude and simple as can well be imagined. A triangular harrow, the teeth of which weigh 7 lbs. each, is dragged over the newly prepared ground; its irregular and jumping passage over the roots and loose vegetable earth, scatters the ashes of the burned timber over the entire surface ; the wheat is then sown, about one bushel to the acre, and another scrape of the harrow completes the process.

On some portion of his land thus cleared, the new settler plants potatoes, turnips, pumpkins and Indian corn, merely laying the seed upon the ground, and, with a hoe, scratching

a sufficient portion of earth and ashes to cover it—a luxuriant crop generally succeeds; (in this district) from twenty to thirty bushels of wheat per acre—the land is sown with Timothy grass and clover in the following spring, while the snow is on the ground, that it may be easily ascertained whether the seed is sown correctly.

After wheat, no other crop is taken (generally speaking) except hay, until after the removal of the roots, when the ploughs can work.

The weight of hay seldom exceeds two tons per acre, because mowing on such land, is a work of difficulty; with all our care we leave much of it uncut, and frequently break our scythes.

To reduce the expense in harvest time, we use cradle scythes to cut *all* the grain, although they do not make quite as clean work as the sickles.

A good cradler will take down from two to three acres of wheat in a day. Gleaning is

not worth the attention of even a child; the scattered grains go to the sustenance of the wild pigeons of which the flocks are sometimes *miles* in length.

By the way, I must ask you to account for a curious circumstance which results from sowing wheat on a swamp, or wherever wet lodges.

The purest seed wheat that can be procured in such soil, becomes a kind of grain called *chesse.* Some dry land of ours produces fine *wheat;* but where there is a tendency to swamp, the chesse grows, and in one spot, with us there was last year half an acre of it with very little wheat among it. Some farmers maintain that it does not proceed from wheat, but from a dormant seed; others, of whom my father is one, are of opinion that the wheat degenerates from the constant moisture and becomes what we term *chesse,* and, what tends to confirm this very natural hypothesis is that chesse did not grow in any part of the field where wheat is not sown, and the adjoining

patches which were purposely left unsown, produced only rank grass and weeds.

This chesse looks exactly like wheat, whilst growing, but when beginning to shoot or spindle—the head opens

I will send you a specimen of it cut in harvest time.

It is an advantageous circumstance for the clearing of this country, that the settler finds it his advantage to bring in, fresh land every year. Some emigrants, who are without capital or assistance, exhaust their first clearance; and others prepare their land by * *girdling* the trees, which though it kills them, and allows vegetation under and around them, is an injudicious mode, as they frequently fall either on the fences or on the crops, or, what is worse, on the cattle, and occasion annual and often very inconvenient labour to remove them.

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* This is done by cutting through the bark in rings, by which the communication of the sap being interrupted—the trunk perishes.—EDITOR.

We had a very spirited manager for the Canada company in this neighbourhood—Mr. Galt—whose various publications bear strong evidence of his literary powers, and whose foresight and perseverance, acting upon a great scale, would eventually have produced a wonderful improvement, in advancing the most important interests of this country.

The London merchants, however, composing the Canada company, did not approve of the expenditure of too much of their cash on general improvements, without an *immediate* return, and recalled him, placing in his room the Hon. William Allen and Messrs. Thomas Mercer Jones, and Dunlop, better known by the name of Tiger Dunlop—the last, though not least, of whom, is Warden of the woods and forests—all excellent and honourable men, who will conscientiously do their duty, and may, perhaps, eventually reap the advantage of Mr. Galt's wisdom and exertions.

An *individual* emigrant must expend capital and toil before he can have an overplus for

market, why then should immediate profit be expected by the company from a *number* of colonists, within a shorter period.

I believe you will not be sorry that I close my letter here.

My next shall treat of various unconnected matters that may be interesting and useful to settlers.

Your's, my dear Sir,

Faithfully,

T. W. MAGRATH.

LETTER V.

From Mrs. Wm. Radcliff, Upper Canada, to the Rev. Thomas Radcliff, Dublin.

York, July 27th, 1832.

My dear Mr. R.

I have not been able to continue my diary since I closed my letter at Quebec.—I was fortunate in being able to send it by a gentleman sailing for Ireland the following day.

On the 17th of July, we embarked in the St. Lawrence steam boat for Montreal; Captain Armstrong commanding—a Canadian gentleman, exceedingly polite and accommodating. The transition was almost miraculous from the intense cold we suffered at Goose Island, to regular West Indian heat, on board the St. Lawrence.

The charge for the passage to Montreal, 184 miles, (performed from 24 to 30 hours,) every thing found except drinkables:—

For each grown person . . .	£1	0	0
For children	0	10	0
For servants	0	18	9

Deck Passengers.

Grown persons	0	7	6
Children from 7 to 12 years . .	0	3	9
Ditto under 7 years	0	2	6

We were two nights on board; the attendance was admirable, and the fare excellent.

The men servants, French Canadians. The ladies' maid, a remarkably nice person, was from the north of Ireland; she recollected your son Stephen and his family there, and paid us, in consequence, the greatest attention.

The passengers, it might be said, *dined* four times a day: for they had fish, meat, and sweet-meats, at every meal.

The tea and coffee peculiarly good—the latter better made than any we have yet had.

The French always excelled in the art, and the French Canadians inherit it.

We arrived at Montreal at a very early hour in the morning. From my fatigue, and William's having been very ill in the night, we were obliged to make use of the only carriage in waiting to bring us to the hotel. This was termed a calash; and resembles an old gig, with a cushion for the driver, in the place usually occupied by the knee boot. It would have been luxury to us, but for the miserable road we had to traverse.

How surprising, that, where comfort, convenience, and accommodation are carefully attended to in the chief towns, a suitable approach, the most obvious feature of civilization, should be altogether neglected.

So dreadful is that from the wharf to the hotel in Montreal, that I really thought I should go distracted before we arrived; but I thank God we did arrive, without having broken down or been upset; I was, however, sadly shaken, and poor William very ill—

whether from the water of the St. Lawrence, the fogs of Newfoundland, or the general change of climate, I cannot say; his immediate recovery is anticipated by Dr. Philips, who is now our regular family physician—the kindest of the kind, quite like a brother to our gentlemen, and determined to settle wherever they do. This will be of great advantage to us, and to the neighbourhood around us, as his professional skill is equal to his goodness of heart.

The proprietor of the hotel at Montreal, is an Italian, my sister recollected him at Lord Lorton's, as butler. His wife is an Irish woman, whom Dr. Phillips had known.

From both we received more than common civility.

We are fortunate in meeting so many that know who we are, and are the more disposed to show us attention.

It is very agreeable, in a foreign land, to meet even with those whom we have known merely as acquaintances; what, then, would

be the delight at again seeing those dear, dear *friends* we have left so far away? there is a pleasure in the anticipation, however improbable, that I can never abandon, nor consent to part with the cheering hope that it will yet be realized.

At this excellent hotel we were entertained for a dollar a day, each; beds and every thing included, except wine—an article, generally speaking, of very inferior quality, in steam boats and at hotels.

We remained but one day at Montreal, and proceeded, at five o'clock in the morning, for La Chine, (9 miles,) by the public coaches; our party filled two.

They are of the most extraordinary construction—not unlike the lord mayor's state carriage, except that in lieu of its profusion of glass, are substituted curtains which are occasionally looped up to admit the air.

The new coaches are very showy, and by no means ugly in their appearance. There are three rows of seats in each; the centre

seat moves on a pivot so as to clear the doorway, and allow of free ingress and egress, for those who occupy the other two; for *this* a broad strap of leather, well stuffed, is contrived to hook on, so that the mid-passengers may have something to lean against. Each seat holds four *moderate* persons, but, *three* Radcliffs.

I, in my ignorance, suffered myself to be placed on the back seat, which in the course of the nine mile stage fatigued me most dreadfully; profiting by experience, I have latterly chosen that in the *front*, which is remarkably easy, with an agreeable swinging motion. We were drawn by six noble horses, that excited our admiration.

You, my dear Mr. R. taught me to observe something about horses, in the many pleasant drives we have had together. If *our* harness here be *sufficient*, *your's is profuse;* for of the six horses, except the pair next the carriage, (and they were without pads,) the remaining four had but collars and traces, and yet there

was really no deficiency. The coachman drove the six in hand and turned into lanes but little wider than the carriage, with wonderful dexterity. The horses are particularly well trained, and answer to their names. At the end of the stage it was agreed by all, that they had never seen so good horses, or coachmanship, before.

The country was most beautiful all the way; not a single point of view that did not afford rich and varied scenery to the admirer of the picturesque.

At La Chine we deserted our land conveyance, and with the apetite of morning travellers enjoyed a good breakfast on board the steam boat under way for the cascades—a distance of twenty-three miles—there we took coach again for a village called Coteau de lac, (sixteen miles,) and *there* embarked in another steamer, which brought us (36 miles,) to the town of Cornwall.

How *you* would be delighted, dear Mr. R. with the exquisite beauty of that scenery.

This branch of the St. Lawrence, I believe, is called the lake St. Francis. The Ottawa comes in there, but their waters don't unite. I was called on deck to observe this wonder; you never saw any thing more perfect than the line of distinction, marked by the colour of the respective currents; that of the Ottawa being of a deep brown, and the St. Lawrence a decided green. I have read that some great rivers of South America rush into the sea, for many leagues without losing their freshness by any admixture with the ocean, and it may be that the same principle of currents in a minor degree, may account for this apparent phenomenon. All the rivers and lakes abound in islands of every size and shape—some wooded and wild—others cleared and inhabited. So brilliant is the effect of the fire flies at night that the country is for miles like a scene of enchantment, still more imposing from the fires of the Indian settlements, on islands perfectly illuminated.

The hotel at Cornwall is a wretched place; bad attendance, worse rooms, ill furnished;—vile beds, and no rest;—not a very good preparation for a long day's journey by land to Preston, (50 miles,) commenced, however, before five o'clock, with great delight at quitting our uncomfortable station; and, as our gentlemen would say, we set off *at the rate of a hunt.* Our carriages were drawn by four horses each, and very briskly, notwithstanding the heaviness of the roads. A thick and sudden mist, however, obliged us to slacken our pace. The road here was merely a green field, stripped of its grassy surface, cut up by various ruts and mud-holes, and crossed by swamps and hollow channels, impassable, except by means of loose planks and timbers, which hopped and bounded under the wheels, without the security of rail or battlement, making the least nervous of the party glad to close their eyes and *curtains*, against the danger.

Except on occasions of risk and alarm, we kept *both* open to the most lovely scenery that can be conceived; and were charmed with the native richness of the flowers, and the brilliant plumage of the feathered tribe. Here the Kingfisher frequents the banks, along which we were conveyed, its plumage different from those of our clime, of more vivid colours, and with tufted crest.

I forget what faithful lover was converted into this attractive bird; but if possessed of any personal vanity, the metamorphosis must have been highly gratifying.

We passed many pretty houses and comfortable settlements. This upper province is much more like dear home, than the lower; which, being chiefly inhabited by French, (who have imitated their own country in their buildings, &c.,) presents to the English eye a foreign and characteristic aspect.

Notwithstanding all our delays and difficulties, we completed our fifty miles, if not with expedition, fortunately without accident, and

reached Prescott at a very late hour on the 21st of July.

At all the poorest taverns along the line of road, they set out a plentiful dinner, not of the best quality of meat, excepting veal, which is very good; the cooking but middling. Pies and puddings abound, and uniformly a desert succeeds, of raisins, almonds, biscuits and wild fruits. The red currants are large, but sour; the strawberries and cherries scarcely eatable. The raspberries are better, and served up in milk, with sugar.

To the exhorbitant consumption of sweetmeats and fruit by the Canadians, is attributed the early failure of their teeth, particularly with the fair sex, who, from this sad deficiency, appear like old women at the age of thirty.

Our luggage, which was very heavy indeed, was forwarded from Montreal, by Bateaux, which are open boats. They are towed up the rivers part of the way by steamboats; partly pulled on by horses, and some-

times having sails to act occasionally, are wafted forward by a favouring wind.

It is altogether a most tedious method of proceeding, but the least expensive for heavy baggage.

The faithful Pat Mee went supercargo, and three of our gentlemen most kindly assisted in the charge.

Prescott is the first town we have entered in the Canadas where any attempt has been made at a flag-way in the streets. The improvement is most striking;—but we had no time to avail ourselves of it, farther than in proceeding to the steam-boat for York, the morning after our arrival.

At this time, from the dread of cholelera, all the steamers have medical men on board. Ours was a Canadian, a very elegant young man, of Irish extraction, his parents from the north of Ireland; his father an officer, and settled in the town of Brockville.—He is most anxious to pay a visit to the Emerald Isle.

We arrived at York on Monday, the 23d July; were well accommodated at the British coffee-house; good cookery, very middling ale, and vile table beer. They are obliged to use such a quantity of hops, to prevent it from souring, that it is extremely disagreeable.

The following day, we were fortunate enough to procure *the only* private lodging in York!—furnished, and comfortable, for one pound a week.

Our hostess, Mrs. Hall, an English lady, and widow of a Captain Hall, is exeedingly kind and attentive. Our friends and Dr. Phillips, have board and lodging, with an officer, a very respectable man.

Our gentlemen, as a matter of course, waited upon the Government Secretary, and you may conceive their surprise, when they were presented to Colonel Rowan; who, without their having heard of his appointment, now fills that official situation. In consequence of this recognition, and with every

expression of kindness on the Colonel's part, they were introduced by him to the Governor, Sir John Colborne, without the necessity of producing the letters of recommendation they had brought from home.

By both gentlemen they were treated with the most polite and friendly attention, and a settlement pointed out to them for their inspection, of the richest quality of land.

To this they go forward without delay, to approve, and to purchase.

Mrs. Rowan has been most kind, in visiting my sister and me. They left Liverpool but a fortnight before we sailed from Dublin, and arrived here more than a month sooner than we did. Mrs. Rowan considered the voyage a party of pleasure, so agreeably and elegantly were they entertained. She assures me that the accommodation on board the Liner in which she sailed from Liverpool to New York, was not only comfortable, but luxurious.—Drawing-room, eating-room, private cabins, good dinners, variety of wines,

male and female attendants, musical instruments, books, &c.

Charge for each passenger, ...	£35	0	0
Charge for servants, each, ...	17	10	0

Warn any friends that mean to follow us, to come by New York. It may appear more expensive; but I believe, in the end, when the cost, and great waste of private provisions, is taken into consideration, the difference of expenditure will be but trifling, that of comfort and health excessive.

William has not been well enough to go on the journey of inspection, and indeed is unwilling to leave me, till I am better able to travel.

His brother is gone, and till he returns, we can say nothing as to our future destination. But we are told that land is high, in great demand, and increasing in value every *month.*

The numbers of respectable people coming out would astonish you; and the wildest situation we may fix on, will, in all probability,

be fully settled within the year. Indeed, from our own large party, and the friends we expect will follow us, we shall be sure of having an agreeable society.

Physicians are very much wanting here, and apothecaries still more. Ignorant persons act in that capacity, who scarcely know the names of the drugs they sell. At Niagara that most necessary branch is solely conducted by a female, who compounds medicines and puddings, with equal confidence, but not with equal skill.

Any young man who should come out, in that capacity, with even a moderate knowledge of his business, would make a fortune.

Nurse-tenders are in great demand. They might make their own terms.

A gentleman, going immediately to New York, will be the bearer of this.—I must close it forthwith.

A few last words:—

I am collecting garden seeds for you, and am promised those of some very curious flowers.

There is but little music in Canada; but wherever it occurs, it is highly prized.

I have as yet scarcely seen any thing of York.

We get excellent Teneriffe at	5s.	0d.	pr gal.	
The best	7	6	do.	
Fine lump sugar ...	0	7h	do.	
Brown sugar ...	0	4	do.	

all Canada currency, which is 15 per cent. as I am told, in our favour. Clothing and furniture are dear.

No letter has reached us yet from home. Do write My dear Mr. R. * * * *

Believe me your

Attached Daughter,

R. RADCLIFF.

Tell of us, to all our kind friends, and assure them of our cordial remembrance.

In corroboration of the foregoing account of the Liners, which sail from Liverpool to New York, the Editor has been favoured with the journal of a party who made that passage, and are now settled in the neighbourhood of his family. He has extracted from it as follows:—

"Sailed with Captain Holdrege, one of the most temperate I have ever met—a cool, steady man, well acquainted with his professional duties. Every thing admirable in the packet. Eatables (what a sensualist is man!) of the most excellent description—fowls of all kinds—prime beef and mutton—capital hams, and puddings of all sorts and sizes. Dried fruits, &c. &c.—port and sherry every day *ad libitum*, and on Sundays and Thursdays, claret and champagne.

For each passenger ... £35"

An arrangement has been made for the present season, that other packets, equal to those in size and accommodation, will take

passengers, at £25 each, finding wine themselves.

The chief inducements to a voyage from Dublin by Quebec, (in other respects to be deprecated) are, a saving of trouble and expense in re-shipping at Liverpool, the higher rate of the superior vessels, and the impression of being liable to a heavy duty in the States; whereas, all baggage will pass free at Quebec. It is, however, the fact, that on all duties for baggage, charged at New York, there will be a drawback, on passing the the Frontier into Canada—and the superior advantages, in point of expedition and security, comfort and accommodation, should induce all, who are in tolerable circumstances, to prefer the latter passage.

LETTER VI.

From Thomas William Magrath, Esq. Upper Canada, to the Rev. Thomas Radcliff, Dublin.

Erindale, Toronto, January, 1832.

My dear Sir,

With respect to one of the remarks contained in your last letter, it *is* true that every one who comes here, feels at the outset, the difficulties of his new and trying circumstances; even the lowest peasant, on first entering his shanty, laments the loneliness of his situation, and experiences a sinking of the heart, and a longing after his potatoes and buttermilk at

home; but as his comforts increase, he becomes reconciled to his lot; finding himself independent, he becomes happy, and experimentally learns that this is really a Paradise to *him.*

Land is often managed on shares here, from want of money to pay for labour. The man who has land and seed, leaves the management of them to the labourer, who takes half the produce, and draws the rest into the barn of the proprietor. If we want timber sawed, we take the logs to the mill, and have them cut to any scantling we require, leaving one half for payment.

In the same way, if we want wool made into cloth, it is sent to the mill, where it is carded into rolls for a certain share or portion, spun for another, and afterwards woven for a third; the want of money rendering all this traffic, and sometimes interchange, of commodities, in primeval simplicity, essentially necessary to the settler's wants and comforts.

We have no walls to our gardens, because there are no *stones*, and if there were, building would be too expensive.

When I say there are no stones, I speak of particular districts, about York, for instance, where wood is the universal substitute. The town gardens are enclosed by boarded fences, those of the country by paling. Apropos of gardens. It is extraordinary that there are few peaches at the north side, or at either extremity of Lake Ontario, but, such is their abundance on the *south* side, that they are sold there, for a shilling a bushell, and yet the heat is the same in all those places.

I have heard it thus accounted for:—Lake Ontario (from its great depth,) never freezes, and the injurious north wind, which blows across it, is tempered before it reaches the southern shore, particularly in Spring, when the trees are in blossom. Melons, Cucumbers, and Pumpkins, grow freely and very abundantly in the open air, and require less attention than any crop we have. We preserved

a barrel of cucumbers last year, and kept them in salt and water, pickling them in vinegar occasionally, as they were required either by our servants, or ourselves.

Many of your garden plants grow wild here, tiger lilies, magnificent turncap and scarlet lilies, ladies' slippers, columbine, marygolds, and various others; but strange to say, I have not seen in Canada, the daisy, the holly, or the ivy, and the hawthorn very rarely: it is quite a garden shrub. I have planted three thousand trees, and a great variety of ever-greens to conceal our offices, and for ornament: for in truth the trees about us of natural growth are far from pleasing in their appearance, their closeness preventing the lateral furnishing of the branches, so essential to beauty.

Our house stands in the garden, with a circular paling at one end to fence off the yard and offices. The poultry plague us a good deal, in Spring, by scratching up the seeds. In the severity of Winter their claws are, in many cases, frostnipped, and our seed

beds become more secure: a good farm yard and a busy barn door are the best remedies. Many of the domestic fowl totally lose their toes in Winter, and consequently become harmless in the gardens; they are pitiable objects, when rambling about on their stumps, and we sometimes, in the excess of good-natured feeling, wish them their full complement of pedal members, even at the expense of our seeds.

When we first came here, our hands were soft and delicate, as those of a lady, from being unused to laborious occupation, but seeing every one around us employed at manual works—magistrates, senators, counsellors and colonels, without any feeling of degradation, we fairly set to, in the spirit of emulative industry, and have already exhibited pretty fair specimens of our efforts in clearing land, and afterwards ploughing it.

My brother Charles can take, what is termed here, a great *gap* out of a field of corn, with a

cradle scythe; he and his brother James once cut down two acres of Rye before dinner.

The latter makes all the waggons, sleighs, harrows, &c. and when I am not superintending the emigrant settlements, my time at home is occupied in shoeing horses, making gates, fences, chimney pieces, and furniture. Indeed my mechanical labours are so multifarious that I can hardly enumerate them, but you may form some idea of their versatility, when I tell you that I made an ivory tooth for a very nice girl, and an *iron* one for the harrow within the same day.

My younger brother lends a hand at every thing, from a duet on the piano-forte to the threshing of a sheaf of corn; and believe me, we are neither degraded in our own estimation, nor in that of the most elvated of our acquaintances, by thus earning the bread of independence; nor are we without our full share of amusement, which is much more grateful than can be imagined by those, whose days are spent in idleness, or vanity.

We have frequently occupied the morning at work in a *potato field*, and passed the evening most agreably in the *ball* room at York!!!

What would *Mrs. Grundy* say to that?

When we contrast our peaceful and tranquil state here, with the turbulence of Ireland, our hearts overflow with gratitude to the Being who has cast our lot, where neither bars nor bolts are necessary, where neither Indian nor settler will molest; where we can leave our property lying carelessly around us, even in the solitude of the night, and where capital punishment has occurred only in three or four instances during many years.

We have had, however, lest you should suppose us to be too perfect a set of beings, an Irish row or two. Some of our countrymen, in a drunken *frolic*, lately attacked the landlord of a tavern in which they had been drinking; broke every thing in his bar and pursued him into the Bush. Fortunately for him, he met one of his own men with a loaded

rifle, which he seized; being closely pressed, he took refuge in a shanty, where two of the ruffians attacked him in front, while a third endeavoured to pounce upon him through the roof, with the *benevolent* design of battering out his brains (a là Tipperary,) with a stave.

The fellow struck and broke the rifle, but, from the blow, it went off, and shot the assailant through the head.

The landlord then took to his light pair of heels, and escaped from the other two. An inquest was held, and a verdict of "justifiable homicide" of course returned.

A solitary instance of outrage need not alarm or deter a settler; let a man determine to *exert* himself, and, with even moderate capital, and health, he must prosper; if he be devoid of energy and become embarrassed, he will be ruined here, as he would elsewhere; and his creditors have a very summary way of recovering their demands upon him, as his land (though in perpetuity) can be sold, as if it were chattel property. But the vexatious

and useless severities of the English laws, as they relate to debtor and creditor are mitigated in this colony by local statutes; no one here can be arrested for debt on mesne process. If it be justly apprehended that a debtor purposes to leave the country, a writ (on affidavit,) of *ne exeat regno* can be taken out, to which he must give bail, but no farther step is taken until judgment be given.

Nor is the bail obliged to produce the debtor, if he can prove he is within the province, and in those cases in which arrest is legal, there are limits, of about sixteen acres, to the prisons, (generally including places of divine worship,) in which a debtor has power to reside; the sheriff being obliged to take sufficient security for his remaining within their precincts. Should he escape, the sheriff transfers the security to the creditor. Neither wearing apparel, beds, nor bedding can be taken in execution.

A whimsical occurrence (for the truth of which, however, I do not absolutely vouch,) is said to have taken place shortly before our arrival here: a writ against a debtor fairly liable to the law of arrest, was put into the hands of one of our sheriffs—a fat and unwieldy person, to whom the debtor was pointed out, and finding himself hard pressed by the sheriff (who was well mounted,) made off for a morass, into which he dashed, laughing heartily at his pursuer.

Now the puzzle to the sheriff was, how to make a proper return on the writ—he could not return, '*non est inventus*' for he had found his prey; he could not return 'cœpi' as he had not succeeded in the capture. So after much deliberation, he made out the return, "non est *comeatibus in swampo.*"

Your's, my dear Sir,

faithfully,

T. W. MAGRATH.

LETTER VII.

From William Radcliff, Esq. Upper Canada, to the Rev. Thomas Radcliff, Esq.

York, August, 1832.

My dear Father,

It was an old rule in raising the militia, that a man must act himself, *or find a better*,—of which latter privilege, with respect to our *correspondence*, I have availed myself, in an admirable substitute, who has been as anxious to write to you herself, as to prevent me, as I have really been unable, from my state of

health, till within these last three days, to give my attention to any thing but endeavouring at recovery. This through the skill of my kind friend, physician, and fellow-traveller, Dr. Phillips, has been happily effected; and I now feel something like myself once more.

I apprehend that the feverish attacks to which strangers are liable, on their first arrival, has been increased by the state of the air, which has brought cholera into this quarter in a most destructive form. My ailment tended that way, and alarmed me very much. It has raged dreadfully all round our lodgings. Persons in perfect health, with whom I have dined, have been carried to their graves next morning; and, amongst others, my poor little niece, greatly regretted by us all, and sadly deplored by her father and mother; who, to preserve the other children, got away from this as fast as possible; but *we* could not stir. We are all, however, nearly in perfect health, thank God; and next,

week it is our intention to proceed to the land, to get up my house before the winter sets in.

The choice of my lots I left to my brother, not being able to go myself. He has succeeded to admiration, for himself, for me, and for some friends in the same township.

I have, for the present, bought four hundred acres for two hundred pounds, land of superior quality, in the Huron track, London district, township Adelaide, named after the Queen, within twenty miles of Lake Huron, and thirty of Lake Erie.

As to people of moderate capital, (say from five to eight hundred pounds,) purchasing *desirable* land any where but in the absolute forest, is out of the question. So that, having been informed by a kind friend, of the prime quality of that we have purchased, and, my brother and his companions, who went to view it, having approved of it very much, our lots are all chosen there; and, as far as I

can learn, we have every reason to be satisfied.

Improved farms have risen to a price that no common capital can compass.* Even in our remote district, it is thought that land will be of three-fold value in two or three years. Therefore, if A——r, or any of our friends, decide upon coming out, and wish to be near us, they should write at once, that we may secure the lots in time; for the townships are filled up, almost as fast as they are surveyed.

Our divisions adjoin that which is laid out for the town. When that comes to be built, (and it is said it will be completed in three years,) the value of our property will obviously be enhanced.

Our fellow-travellers, Phillips and Groom, have settled themselves beside us.

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* On this subject, it may be perceived, opinions vary. The settler must decide for himself.

EDITOR.

The former, as resident physician, has got the grant of a town lot to build on.

How lucky to have such a man in the midst of us.

All the spare cash I had, I have vested in bank stock, in the bank of Upper Canada. It is a decided fact that this stock pays regularly twelve per cent. and is as safe as in the Bank of England.

Government are the holders, as I am informed, of one-third of the entire, and I am well assured that capital may be vested with perfect safety in this fund.

No *individual* is permitted to invest more than one thousand pounds, that *many* may partake of the advantage.

The influx of emigrants to our province of Upper Canada has been such, that in the last year the population is said to have increased one-fourth; and in this season, fully as much is expected. This affects the resources of the country in various ways, particularly as to the facility of disposing of farming produce;

and also, as to the banking interests, of which I have been speaking. As I am informed, and indeed read in the public prints, that so numerous have been the arrivals of settlers, with considerable capital, that within a year three hundred thousand sovereigns have been deposited in the bank of Upper Canada.

My deposit was in gold, and I received four shillings exchange on each sovereign.

Bank stock has this year paid sixteen per cent, never less than twelve; the legal interest is but eight; but on the last dividend there was a bonus of eight more, in consequence of the country rising into such rapid prosperity. So that I request you to get our friend and kinsman to call in any money that I can command, and to send it me forthwith. Double interest in Ireland may be a very bad thing; but, being well secured, is quite the reverse here.*

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* 100 Sovereigns at 4s. per, exchange, are equal to £120. This vested in Bank Stock, at 12 per cent. yields interest, £14 8s. per British £100. EDITOR.

I can tell you nothing of the country, as I have been shut up for a month in this unhealthy town; where, however, the markets, being nearly on a par with ours, speak well for farming profits, though consumers (as *we* are now,) may feel the inconvenience.

Beef, mutton, and pork,	...	5*d.* per lb.
Butter	11	do.
Bread, dearer than at home.		

In fact, every thing is dear, as the province cannot supply itself, and is obliged to import from the States.

The farmers here have no difficulty in finding a market for their corn. For all that we can grow, these ten years to come, we shall have a ready sale at our door.

The number of emigrants going up each year, will take away all that can be spared at a full price.

All the old people say, that the country rises more now in one year, than it did before

in fifty. Upon the whole, then, I cannot see any risk the prudent and industrious farmer can be subject to, who pays no rent, has plenty to subsist him, with a ready market, and good price for the overplus.

Amongst some agreeable acquaintances I have made, is Dr. Gwynn, come to settle at York, in the medical department. He was introduced to me by a letter from our worthy friend and relative, S—— G——. We have become very intimate; he is an excellent fellow, and accompanied me on a trip to Niagara, from whence we returned yesterday.

You will expect some account of that wonder of wonders;—you are doomed to be disappointed;—not so much, however, as if I attempted to describe it. You know *my talent* don't lie that way. I can enjoy the sublime, but I cannot talk of it. Better observe a solemn silence. It appears to me, to be that which the magic scene itself would dictate; and I am strongly disposed to vindicate Mrs. Bogle Corbet, in having chosen the retire-

ment of her bed-chamber, to view this tremendous rush of waters, uninterrupted even by the scientific remarks of her husband, whose good taste would have done ample justice to the astounding subject.

As to my companion and myself, we resolved neither to speak or write about it, farther than to recommend it to all, whom it may concern, to come and view for themselves, that, of which no adequate idea can possibly be formed, from the ablest desription.

Before I left home, I read many accounts of those surprising falls, which miserable attempts, compared with the great reality, afford no pleasurable recollection. Martin Doyle's was short, and had some spirit in it; and in your own Encyclopædia, there was an accurate statement of heights and distances, of rocks, and foam, and spray, and all seemingly very well done.

But no pen can delineate, that which I again repeat, must be *seen*, to be conceived.

I understand that upon the very spot we traversed at the Falls, a handsome city is about to arise, which some think from the precedence and perfection of the town at Chippewa, will be a dangerous speculation. I hope this will not be the case, as we learn that J. R——'s near connection is a chief sharer and proprietor.

There appears to be every necessary attraction, and I sincerely hope for our cousin's sake it may succeed. He means, as we hear, to reside there, and will, from his habits, naturally prefer the mixed society of a lively town, to the sound of the axe in the forest, in which we shall find our enjoyment.

We have, so far, suffered great hardships on our voyage—also from bad health—and look forward to much trouble and inconvenience in forming a settlement on our land, but should be delighted and content, if we had all our people with us. When separated, even for the short time that we have been, a horrible feeling obtrudes on the

mind, at having left, perhaps, for ever, (with whatsoever motives of prudence or of wisdom,) our nearest and dearest relations; and this feeling alone (the sole drawback on the objects we have in view,) makes us, often, almost lament the step that we have taken.

With kindest love to those very friends, whose absence we so much feel,

Believe me, my dear Father,

Always, your affectionate Son,

W. R.

LETTER VIII.

From Mrs. William Radcliff, Upper Canada, to the Rev. Thomas Radcliff, Dublin.

Adelaide, November, 1832.

My dear Mr. R.

I promised to let you know our progress from York to this, our final settlement..

The moment I was able to travel we commenced our route, by steam-boat, to a very pretty place called Hamilton. The wharf is at least a mile and a-half from the town. In the hope of some conveyance arriving, we

sat down on the trunk of a tree, and very shortly a waggon appeared, which, on its nearer approach, we perceived to be that of a gentleman who drove a splendid pair of horses. On our requesting him to send us one from the hotel, when he returned, he made a point of taking us into *his*, which was very easy, and well constructed, and with the greatest politeness he set us down at the hotel, where we were comfortably accommodated at a moderate charge. The next morning we proceeded by the coach to Brantford. At this village, we hoped to have found the rest of our party, it having been arranged that women and children, *the heavy baggage*, should remain there whilst the gentlemen went forward to get up their houses for our reception; but our poor friends, who had suffered so much from cholera, were on their arrival at Brantford, immediately banished, by the circumstance of an unfortunate gentleman being carried into the hotel, who died in a few hours of that melancholy ailment.

We, of course, did not remain behind, but late as it was, procured a waggon to bring us forward ten miles to Burford. This was but a common rough machine, very unlike the smooth, and comfortable one, with which our polite Canadian had supplied us in the morning. The drive was most beautiful; but I could not enjoy it, from the extreme uneasiness of the carriage. We met many Indians of the Mohawk tribe—all on horseback; and we passed a remarkably neat school-house. It was near to this that John Brant, an Indian Chief, lived, and, universally lamented, lately died!

Were he in existence, we should experience great attention from him, through the name of our kinsman, who, when a boy in this country, was the cherished play-fellow of John Brant, and when grown up, had an opportunity of being serviceable to the Chief in London, which enhanced his friendship and attachment.

Throughout this district he is spoken of by all ranks, and colonies, in the highest terms of veneration and respect.

We were comfortably entertained at Burford, and though much fatigued, set forward next morning by break of day for the next tavern, Putham I think, a distance of fortymiles, in the very waggon which had brought our friends there sometime before. This was driven by the owner, Mr. Lyster, a very conversable and well informed person, for his rank in life; but all here consider themselves gentlemen and ladies—and this man, who, I must admit, was not troublesome or forward in his conversation, breakfasted and dined at table with us, without compunction or apology.

The farther we proceeded up the country, the more we were gratified by the scenery. The birds too, are very beautiful; the blue jay and woodpecker, especially—the wild flowers were in greater variety here, than at any other stage of the journey—the whole country abounds in sunflowers of gigantic size—

there are wild grapes also, which don't ripen till they get frost—and Partridges without number—when you whistle, they stop to listen, and are shot. This came under my own eye.

I was much amused at seeing William shaking hands most heartily on the road with a man from whom he was buying a pair of oxen. On inquiry, he proved to be a parishioner of yours, my dear Mr. R. many years ago, at Lisnadill. He asked about you most affectionately, and was delighted to see one of the name.

We proceeded next day to Delaware, twenty miles, in the same conveyance, which was tolerably easy, having the seats slung from the sides, in lieu of springs, and covered with Buffalo skins, (which are called blankets,) very handsome, soft, and comfortable.

The horses were excellent, and we were tempted to purchase the entire equipage, for 160 dollars.

At Delaware we came up with our party; found them all in good health, and enjoyed,

with them, an agreeable day. They went forward to Colonel Mount's, at Caradoc, the government agent for the western district, a most kind and attentive gentleman. We took up our abode at a farmer's, near Delaware, while our house was building; and passed six weeks there, very well accommodated, and abundantly supplied, on the most reasonable terms. For the whole family, (six in number, great and small,) we paid six dollars a week, and had a private sitting-room—never dining with the family of the house, which was thought very strange, nor suffering our servants to dine with *us*, which was considered still more extraordinary. This was a log-house, the first I had been in—very comfortably fitted up, and in some respects thought preferable to a frame-house, as being warmer in Winter, and cooler in Summer, from the greater thickness of the walls. The objectionable point is, that as the timber seasons, the logs settle, but not equably, by which the doors and windows are set awry.

Nevertheless, I am quite content with ours, which is of black ash, a timber not so liable to shrink as maple and bass wood, of which they are generally constructed. The farmers sons generally supplied the dinner tables—their own, with black squirrels—ours, with chickens, both *shot* by themselves. These, with bacon, venison, &c. constituted a plentiful larder. Most of the necessaries of life can be had for the trouble of providing them, and many of the luxuries at the cheapest rate.

I preserved some wild plumbs with maple sugar, which was better than that we bought. We had water melons in great profusion; and, when one year settled, we can have what we please; it is indeed the country of abundance. For the lower classes, in every respect, it presents a most inviting scene of plenty and independence; whilst those, who have been educated otherwise, cannot but feel the want of refinement, which generally prevails, and which, it will require ages to

correct; the palliative is to be sought in the manners and enjoyment of one's own domestic circle, nor need *they* much compassion, who like us, have been fortunate enough to settle with so many agreeable friends around us.

Whilst in the Farm-house, it was my amusement to study the manners of the people, which confirm the foregoing remarks.

They call every one *lazy* that does not engage in some manual work—and their dialect and mode of expression are quite amusing—on asking one of the girls, whether the Indians were cross when they indulge in any excess. "*Well*" said she, (for they commence every sentence with *this* word.)—"They are *pretty ugly*."

The mistress of the house, bringing in breakfast, says, "well, I guess the tea looks black—but my husband thought it *dreadful good*."

I asked her how we were to feed our cows in winter to make them give milk?

'Well.—*Slop your cows*,"—and "how am I to get them to come home from the wood?" "Well *salt your cows* and they'll come home."

"Is your dairy much under ground?"—"Well, considerable."

This dialogue affords a specimen of the comfortable and affluent in this class—who received us as lodgers, at the urgent request of Col. Mount; not wishing to be put to any inconvenience, and at the same time not *willing* to decline the *remuneration.*

On asking one of the daughters whether "they ever saw a clergyman or preacher?" she answered' "well, *preachers*, once in a while; and then they *sing* so, really I am sometimes in roars of laughter at them."—There can be no stronger test of the deplorable want of clerical appointments, and Spiritual advice, in this new country, where my little baby, now nearly three months old, remains yet unbaptized—but all this I understand is to be speedily remedied. Every town-

ship is to have its own clergyman, and *ours*, one immediately.

I have now only to recount the miseries of my days journey from the farm-house to Adelaide—where our mansion not being perfectly ready, Dr. Phillips proposed that we should occupy his, which was sooner built.

How any unfortunate female carrying an infant in her arms, could have passed the tremendous road we were reduced to on this occasion, is almost miraculous. In my long journey from the coast, I had suffered many hardships in travelling, and many barbarous roads that I thought could not be exceeded in badness and danger; but all was smooth and agreeable, when compared with this last day. It did not happen so with our friends who went six weeks before us—but in that long interval the rain fell, and the floods had risen—and the road which *they* had travelled without much difficulty, being for us perfectly impassable, the woods were our only resource. Through these we had to cut our

way—and to travel in a waggon drawn by one horse, the second being too spirited, for the intricacy of the dangerous passes.

We fortunately met upon the way one of Col. Mount's overseers, who sent a man with an axe to assist us, William who had one of his own, went forward to clear the way, and our northern servant, Sandy, led the waggon.

All this we could have borne, but for the innumerable creeks, or streams which crossed our way, and were it not for a party of men sent to our relief—we could never have compassed such repeated obstructions. They made themselves useful, indeed indispensably so, by cutting down trees, for temporary bridges, which we were to pass over in the best manner we were able—conceive, my dear Mr. R. my walking over deep creeks, upon two long and small trees thrown across, which however, with good assistance, I effected; but how the horses and waggon were made to manage it, I am unable

to describe; certainly the horses here are wonderful animals—highly trained, and if you let them go ahead, they will bring you up heights that would amaze you—at one place, I shut my eyes and gave my self up as lost; this was a deep creek with very high banks on either side—our descent was so rapid as nearly to throw us forward on the horse, whilst the sudden rise at the opposite side, was as likely to shoot us out behind the waggon; on opening my eyes, I perceived Wm. and his man in extreme terror lest we should fall back; but by encouraging the poor horse, he brought us up in safety. At another place we were obliged to cross one of those dangerous bridges on foot, and to walk a great distance, mounting over trunks of immense trees which lay across, whilst the waggon was sent through the wood, with twenty men to clear the way—after this, so great was my fatigue I passed over fallen trees of great size without leaving the waggon; and had I preferred doing so, the

want of time would have prevented me. The day was closing fast, half an hours delay would have doomed us to the forest for the night—fortunately we escaped this disagreeable alternative, and upon reaching the line of road, fancied all our difficulties over—alas! it was *but* fancy. The road was flooded, and full of mud-holes; the horse up to his haunches in water, and wretched Sandy, walking through it all. So dark had it become, I passed my own house without being able to see it, and, a little further on, was hospitably received in that of Dr. Phillips.

I can never be sufficiently thankful to a kind Providence, for protecting us through so many difficulties, and bringing us to the termination of our long and weary journey, without accident or suffering, except from excessive fatigue.

Having given you a detail, which may appear sufficient to deter all female emigrants from so distant a settlement, it is but fair

that I should explain how others may avoid the inconveniences which we experienced.

This is to be done by emigrating at an early season, and by not wasting time when they land. They will then find the roads in passable order; and may have some provisions growing, and their houses comfortable, before the summer is past. We were too late all through, and feel the inconvenience of it.

The Log-house we now inhabit, till our own is ready, was the first completed in the township;—if that can be called *complete*, which, on our arrival, consisted of but one room on the ground floor, and one in the upper story.

The owner, in politeness to us, went *up stairs*,—that is, *up the ladder, to sleep!!*—leaving us a room 24 feet by 16, the full dimensions of the house, with our cooking stove, and its various appendages, at one end, and his own Franklin stove at the other. A partition was soon formed for my convenience, and very snug we felt ourselves; though, in the unfi-

nished state of the edifice, we could see the light through many apertures.

I conclude this letter from *my own house*, of which we took possession yesterday.

It is considered the handsomest in the township; being 46 feet in front, and 16 feet deep, in the clear;—but when finished next spring, by an addition in the rere, will consist of parlour and drawing-room, 16 feet square, each; hall, kitchen, and five bed-chambers. The two stacks of chimnies, now of mud, but hereafter to be of brick, going up through the centre of the building, afford the means of warm presses, and commodious closets. The roof is formed on Cantalivers, very unexpensive here, which gives the whole a gay appearance. The entire cost, £50. This may be a good hint for some of our friends.

We had a large and merry party at breakfast this morning. I enjoyed it, as the forerunner of an agreeable society, fast forming about us.

And now that, according to promise, I have brought you fairly into the woods, and into our own *Wood House*, I will hand over the correspondence, for a little time, to our gentlemen, who can better inform you on more material points; though I do not profess myself wholly ignorant, either as to chopping, clearing, &c. &c. of which I have heard so much; but it may be more suitable to limit my *talents* to domestic purposes.

Believe me, dear Mr. R.

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R. RADCLIFF.

LETTER IX.

From Thomas Radcliff, Esq. Upper Canada, to the Rev. Thomas Radcliff, Dublin.

Adelaide, December, 1832.

My dear Father,

I am ashamed that this should be my *first* letter to you; but having heard of us all, from others of the family, you will make due allowance, and sympathise with us in the melancholy loss with which it has pleased God to afflict us. The despondency we suffered at having our dear little girl taken off in a few hours by that fatal pestilence, and our

anxiety for the safety of the other children, caused our difficulties, and privations, in settling, to be doubly felt. We are now, thank God, in perfect health, our spirits beginning to revive, and absolutely enjoying, if not a luxurious, at least a comfortable residence in *our own log-house*—the timbers of which, about three moths ago, displayed their leafy honors in the wild forest. It consists of a cellar, three rooms, and a small store-room, in the principal story, and two bed-rooms in the roof, or *Ruff*, as the Canadians term it. The *edifice* is thirty feet by twenty-five, from out to out. For the five rooms, we have three flues, and two stoves, and mean to be very snug and warm. When perfectly finished, the whole expenditure will be about £30 Hallifax currency, or £25 British.*

I have disovered limestone, which my Connaughtman, (an excellent servant,) has

* The manner of constructing a house of this description, is given in Letter 2.

contrived to burn in sufficient quantity for building the stack of chimneys, and plaistering the interior of the house, all which he has been handy enough to accomplish; and it may answer very well for some little time, till I can build a frame-house, of greater dimensions, which I mean to do. But I am most anxious that you should know how this said mansion is situated. In order to this, I must give you some idea of the land itself.

My lot is beautifully undulated. A creek or small river winding nearly through its entire length, between rich *flats*, as they are here called, is bounded on each side, at some distance, by high banks, upon which I am leaving a belt of ornamental timber, which swells with the form of the hills, and is, in general, about one hundred yards in depth. Between those banks and the river, all trees are to be removed, except a few maples.

At a short distance from the site of the town, the right bank takes a bend, as it were, across the flats, and on that my house

is placed, commanding from its windows a second smaller stream, with rising ground beyond, and a handsome point of land, embellished by a considerable clump of the best trees. The quality of the timber denotes the richness of the soil. Ours consists of maple, beech, butternut, elm, white ash, hornbeam, a sprinkling of oak, and some cherry and bass wood; all indicating a prime soil, and with great correctness, as I find it to be, in surface, five inches of black vegetable mould, over a few inches of clay loam, with a substratum of strong clay—and almost all my land, of this description, is an extended level of wheat soil, without the least unevenness. The knowing ones who have seen it, say it will give wheat for ever; and speak of fifty bushels to the statute acre. This I think scarcely possible, as I saw a standing crop, which I thought much better than any about you, and which the Fingallians would say, was "*the load of the earth*," yet I am told it produced but forty bushels; but this is a wonderful return, upon the

small acre, particularly when you consider that the stumps, after clearing, occupy nearly one fourth of the ground.

To so *handsome* an establishment, it is necessary to have a suitable approach. I have laid one out with some taste, useless, however, to man or beast, till the snow comes—now knee deep, of glutinous mud, that would slip off your Wellingtons like a boot-jack. This is one of our miseries, and must be that of all new settlers for a short time. We are in daily expectation of this much wished-for frost and snow. These last three days have given some menace, (*promise* I should say,) of its setting in. A great part of my furniture which lies at Kettle Creek, must remain there till the sleighs can work. The waggon and oxen would be swamped at present in the sloughs and mud-holes.

It snows lightly at this moment; and I have every hope that I may have tables and chairs for a party of nineteen, to dine under this roof, this day fortnight, being Christmas-

day. Here we think nothing of the expense, the larder is so cheaply and abundantly supplied. We are much worse off, however, than we shall be next year, venison being our chief article of consumption—brought to our door at one halfpenny a pound. We have occasionally beef (not the best) with mutton and fowls; potatoes bad, and dear.

I bought a young milch cow and a calf for twenty-four dollars—she gives a good supply of milk and cream—butter from 7½d. to 9d. per lb. I was taught to think that all cattle would be well subsisted in the woods. In summer they certainly will thrive, even to good condition—not so in winter. My teams of oxen are making the experiment; but if they did not get bran mashes, they would have a poor chance of seeing another summer. The first year is to all settlers, and to all animals under their care, the most trying and inconvenient; I mean with those who settle in the Bush. The second year brings

with it, its produce, its plenty, and its comforts.

Till this last week, the weather has been delightful. I have been occupied in getting as many acres as I can, cleared and prepared for cropping. Sixteen are already under operation, which will make a good open about the house. If I can get choppers in time, I will finish a good many more. The best management, in these new townships, is, to clear as much as possible in the first few years, while you have a sure market on the spot.

The task price is very moderate for such heavy work. My brother and I, have set ours at £1 8s. per acre; the brushwood to be collected and piled, and the logs cut to the proper lengths. It will fall to ourselves to collect the logs, and to burn all; but this, where we have our own oxen, will pay well by the ashes, which are very profitable. While on the subject of *clearing*, I will mention some of the tricks to which new settlers are liable,

and about which they ought to be circumspect, as no trade is exempt from a little humbug, here or elsewhere. It is easy, however, to prevent deception and disappointment, by having the contract made in writing, with a covenant that the work when finished, shall be inspected and approved by two or three intelligent men. This agreement, with your own superintendance, will put the choppers on their guard, and will save much future trouble and altercation. I have read frequently of the cost of clearing, but have not any where met an accurate statement of the *manner* of performing the work; and having already acquired some insight, as to the necessary operations, you shall have the detail, in the progress of which, those surreptitious methods to be guarded against, shall be noticed.

1st. The brushwood is cut away with a brush-hook, an instrument constructed here for the purpose, or with a light axe.

2nd. It is piled in heaps for burning.

3d. All trees, under six or eight inches diameter, are next cut down, and their tops are thrown on the heaps of brushwood—their stems are cut into such lengths, as may be removed by two men, without inconvenience.

4th. The chopping of the large timber commences, and in this process different methods are practised.

One (a very *bad* one) is, to notch a number of trees, half way through, and then to fall a very large one against *them*; when, giving way, and tumbling one against another, they come to the ground in a mass, which it is very difficult to chop up, as some of the logs may lie four feet from the ground. To stand on those for the purpose of chopping, is not only difficult but dangerous, for should that upon which you are working happen to break, or a branch of an under tree, (being freed from the incumbent weight,) to spring up and right itself, you find yourself, in the first case, capsized among the logs, and in the latter,

performing a *summerset* to some yard's distance.

Another method, (and the best) is to cut down each tree separately, by which means you can get about it without difficulty to chop it into the proper lengths, which, in large trees, should not exceed twelve feet. If longer they will require more than one yoke of oxen to draw them to the pile, where they are to be consumed.

In this instance young settlers are frequently imposed on, by cunning choppers, who save much labour to themselves and give much more to their employer, and his oxen, by not adhering to the foregoing rule. This is *one* of the *tricks;* another is, piling up brushwood over logs that have not been cross cut, or at most but half cut through ; a third deception is, piling brushwood over the fallen tree tops, which ought to be cut up and carried to the brush heap ; and a fourth is, making the heaps of brushwood too numerous, and of course too small.

I have been told of settlers, who had more than the wages of the first roguish choppers, to pay to other labourers, to complete the work; for in a field, badly chopped, the labour is more than doubled, when you come to reduce the entire to ashes.

5th. The process of burning comes next—for this you choose a dry and windy day, and kindling some of the brush-heaps on the windward side of the field, the fire is generally communicated to the rest, by running along the dried leaves upon the ground, or catching from heap to heap—you then, if disposed to expedition, employ four men and a yoke of oxen, in drawing together the larger trees to the most convenient places, and laying them side by side, till a platform of sufficient dimensions be thus prepared—upon this, other logs are rolled and placed, till the pile is terminated by one log at top. The intermediate spaces are then filled in by smaller poles, and the whole set fire to.

This is usually done about dusk; and, at

night. When many piles are in a blaze, the grandeur of the illumination can scarcely be conceived. An anxious settler will stay out all night, to see that the ignited logs of the pile are rolled together as they burn away, and that the remains of each expiring heap be removed to another, yet on fire, till all be consumed.

6th. Another method of felling timber is sometimes practised, but cannot be recommended.

It is termed wind-row chopping and is performed thus—you begin by falling the trees in a straight line, and others upon *them*, from the opposite side, for a space of fifty feet—and this process is followed up, till the field presents to the view a number of grand ridges or wind-rows, as it were, of fallen timber. These are set fire to when they have dried a little, but the filthiness of the operation, and great difficulty of cutting up the half burned timber, cause this method to be seldom resorted to, a second time, by the same person.

7th. That which is here considered the best time to commence chopping, is, when the leaves are on the trees, before the sap begins to return; as the stumps of the timber *then* cut down, decay a year before those, of the winter clearing; the timber is sooner dry, and the leaves also, encrease the flame. By these means, in the Canadian phrase, you "get a good burn," upon which the excellence of your crop mainly depends. That part of the field which is not burned black, never produces so good wheat, as that which is.

8th. The succeeding work is that of fencing, easily performed, and at the whim, taste, or discretion of the proprietor. If the trees be felled in line, split timbers, of suitable scantling, pinned from tree to tree will make a good and economical enclosure—another method is, to put rough rails across each other angularly, closed at top by a running pole secured at certain intervals to posts or forked sticks driven firmly in the ground, but

there are various modes to select from—for any paling about the house, I shall adopt that which you invented.

9th.—The concluding process of clearing, now remains to be noticed, viz. the collecting the ashes.—It must be done before rain comes; one shower would make them useless. They are to be safely deposited in a log-shed in the field, made perfectly water-tight. There they will remain safe till the winter, when your sleigh can transport them to the next *ashery*, or store, where they produce from four to six pence per bushel, paid in goods; that is to say, if the price be four-pence, fifteen bushels of ashes will be purchased by one of wheat, at 5s. But the misfortune is, that the bushel by which the wheat is *sold*, is the Winchester; and that by which the ashes are *bought* is double the size. This seems to require regulation, as the pot-ash manufacturers have an exorbitant profit, and think it well worth their while to follow and

attend on new settlements, for the advantage of this particular traffic.

An acre of hard wood, which is the quality of almost all *our* timber, will yield, as I am told, (but cannot speak from experience,) about sixty bushels of saleable ashes. This would pay more than the cost of chopping; but fortunately for me, my land is not as heavily timbered, as in other districts, and may fall short of that produce.

I think I have given you a minute detail upon the subject of clearing, on which you desired me, at parting, to be particular. You have the results of my short experience, and that of older settlers, whom I have consulted.

Desire Maclin to send me out some gooseberry seed, with the other things I mentioned before I left home. Tell him I see no opening here for gardeners or nursery men; but that *any* industrious man can do well, though he should not have a shilling at landing.

If he has sons able to labour, he gets immediate employment, for them and for himself, in the Government works, at 2s. 4d. per day, with rations;—also, 100 acres of land, with a house, at 10s. per acre, and he is allowed six years to pay the purchase money. It costs a good deal for a family to come out, but the Emigrant Society in Canada will forward any who apply to them and find their own provisions, free of expense to York; and from thence the Government will send them on in schooners, supplying them with rations; and when they arrive near the lots to be distributed, they will have their goods conveyed in waggons, free of expense, also.

This is peculiarly advantageous to the poorer emigrants; and even the rich can have their luggage carried free, from York, by an order from the Government.

We hope to have a good garden next season.

The Canadians call potatoes, vegetables, pickles, and preserves, by the indiscriminate appellation of *sace*, and think themselves badly

off if they have not *sace* in all its varieties, at every meal. In fact, there are no people who live so luxuriously as the yeomen of Upper Canada. In travelling, they pay as much for their dinners and suppers as gentlemen do; and this prevails even among the labouring classes.

We called at Erindale on our route, and met every attention from your friend, Mr. M. who is an excellent man, and whom I hope to know better hereafter. But the miserable state of our children's health, and our own spirits, made it impossible for us to enjoy his society, and that of his fine family, as we otherwise would. I was, however, greatly impressed and encouraged by the forwardness of his settlement, and hope to return to it.

I have filled my sheet so full, that I fear you will be indignant at the *cross bar*.

Believe me, my dear father,

* * * * * * * *

&c. &c.

THOMAS RADCLIFF.

LETTER X.

From Bridget Lacy, to Mary Thompson, Ireland.

York, Upper Canada, August 1832.

Dear fellow Servant, and fellow school-fellow,

For we were edicated together, and printiced out together—and my blessing on the Committee of fifteen, and my blessing on them that taught us to read and write, and spell, that you may know all about me, and I about you, though there are rivers, and seas, and woods, and lakes between us—and my

blessing on the mistress that taught us to work, and wash, and make ourselves useful, so that while health stands by us, we may earn honest bread in any country. And sure enough, dear Mary, you shall hear all the good and bad that happens me, and I hope to have the same from you.

And now that I am on land, it is only good natured that I should give you some account of my doings since I set out.

If I had you with me, I would have been easier in my mind; but still my mistress was very good, and I got on bearably, barring the shocking sickness, such as no one in the cholic, or the breeding way, or the billious fever, or after hippo, or after sqills, ever felt before or since.

If you were only to have seen how smooth we floated down the River, and out of the Bay, and away to Wicklow, where I was born, at the back of the murrough, near Tinnakilly, you would have said, away you go—eating, and drinking, and laughing, and cracking

jokes; but my jewel, before the second day was over, we were all knocked of a heap; and then if you were to hear all around you as I did, groaning, and raching, and willy wombling, and calling for water, and nobody to bring them a sup, and wishing themselves at the bottom of the sea; in troth, Mary, you would have pitied a dog in the same taking. The hold was full of people, mighty snug and decent, with money in their pockets, going out to make their fortunes; and most of them Protestants, that found home growing too hot for them; and that they had better save their four bones, and their little earnings before it was too late, and sure enough, I believe they're right. There are mighty good people among them, and mighty pretty girls, that when they arn't sick, sing psalms in the evening, very beautiful; and there's one Jenny Ferguson, from the north, that I am very thick with, and she has a voice like an angel. In troth there are none of them bad, and its mighty sweet upon the sea.

Well my dear, when the singing is over, they're all very merry; and there are some gay lads, and great fun, and a little courting, but all in a civil way; and I sometimes make one; and between you and I, Mary, but don't say a word at all at all, I think there's a servant-boy of a Mr. Jackson's, one Benson, that's throwing a sheep's eye at me—but nothing *certain*, barring a sly pinch here and there, and other tinder tokens that may end in smoak after all.

They say a girl will soon get a husband in this country. Some will, and some will not. I'd be sorry to be trusting to them.

The boy I have told you of, may be settled near us, and if he is as sweet upon me then, as he is now, he may put some of their noses out of joint. To say the honest truth, I would not like to be beholden to them; though they say they're civil enough in Canada, not all as one as the States, where they have the impudence of Old Nick, in making free with their betters.

You would not believe, dear Mary, the forwardness of them Yankees.

Sure, I heard a gentleman, after coming from Philadelfy, in the Untied States, telling my mistress of there going some journey there in a cart, and the horses tiring and stopping to sleep at a farmers, and when he had got into bed, and was falling asleep, was roused by one over him, saying, "I guess I tumble in here," when the greasy carter that drove him, stretched his ugly carcass along-side him, and began to snore in three minutes. Now think of that Mary. If it was my case, not a pin in my pincushion but he should have the full binifit of, the impudent mohawk.

That's liberty and quality as they call it—a nice bed-fellow indeed—instead of his own pretty wife, who was put to sleep with the young woman of the house, to make room for this scurvy Gee-ho-dobbin.

The only accidence we had on the voyage was an old woman that died, and a child born in the hold, and a little girl choaked with a

potatoe, and two doctors on board—but no blame to them—they weren't called till all was over—and the Captain, long life to him, put the old woman decent in a coffin, saying that the sherks should have a mouthful of sawdust before they got at her old bones.

Oh! but I had like to forget the chief sport. Sure we had a boxing match, Mary, which I must tell you of, by and by. But what banged all was the storm. That was what was near settling us for life. Oh! Mary, Mary, it was tremenduous—but I can only tell you the beginning of it.

Now, Mary dear, how will I desribe it to you?

Do you remember when we were litte girls in the school—and the carpenters working in the yard, and a great long board, and we and the other girls playing weighdy bucketdy, and we going up in the air and down again to the ground. Well then, there's the way it began, but in troth my dear, it was only a

beginning—for before you could thread a needle, up went my heels as straight as a ladder, and then down again, that though I was lying on the broad of my back, I thought I was standing on my two feet in the bottom of the sea.

Then came on the whillaloo from above, and the cracking of masts and ropes, and dear knows what—and off I dropped in a swoon I suppose, for I never saw or heard any thing more till all the danger was over.

I just remember calling out oh, my jewel, take the child—and when first I opened my eyes, what should I see, but my little darling, Miss Mary, tied in her own mahogany chair, and that same tied to the bed, and the little dear laughing heartily; and no wonder, Mary, for you'd have laughed yourself, as I did, and couldn't help it, when, with a toss of the ship, we saw every thing, big and little, mugs, jugs, and porringers, &c. all hunting each other about the floor.

But I promised to tell you about the boxing. Well, my dear, the next day was quite calm, and we all got up on the deck. I went forward to talk to my friend Jenny Ferguson, and there were five or six fellows beside us, tripping and boxing with big gloves; and we heard one of them saying to another, "arrah, Brien, what if you were to challenge the big man there above on the quarter-deck, (meaning my master,) they say he's fond of the fancy."

"Oh bother, (says he,) he's too heavy for me."

"Never a pound, (says the other,)—and he's flabby and wake,—they say he was sick all the way."

"Sick or no sick, I'll have nothing to do wid him," says he.

"You won't then?—O! Brien, is that talk for you, that's the Borry of all Westmeath?—there's the back of my hand to you, and I'm ashamed of you for evermore."

"Well then, if I must, I must," (says he,) so be going, and asking him will he take a turn.

Up they go, and I following them close; and says the same man to my master, "plase your honour, we hear you're fond of the sport, and there's a boy here has got the gloves.—Would your honor be so free and asy as to put them on wid him?"

"I don't care if I do, (says my master,) but I am not very well, and I feel weak; but a little sparring will do nobody any harm."

Upon this they took off them, and put on the gloves.

Oh, Mary dear, isn't my master a fine man?—Sure you saw him the day we sailed.

Well, my dear, there he stood like a rock, parlying, as they call it, while the other was striking with all his might;—but never a touch was himself able to give my master, at all at all,—and the upshot was, he was beat to his heart's content.

But to give him his due, he shook hands

with the master, and said, "he begged his honour's pardon for giving him the trouble of bating him, which he well desarved, for coming fornent so fine a man entirely; and that the only satisfaction he had was, that it was the first time he was ever bate in all his life. The master gave him half a crown and a glass of whiskey, and they were mighty good friends ever after.

Well, well, well,—I believe this letter will never end; so that I'll say nothing about the journey from Quebec to York, only that it was mighty pretty; and beautiful steam-boats, and rumbling coaches, and bad inns, and fine rivers, and plenty of trees; and here we are at York, and here we have been for a month, living as bad as in a cholera hospital, for the whole town was nothing else; and every day, every day, we never thought we would get over the next night safe. But we could not run away, for my mistress was brought to bed of a little girl, as fine a little crature as ever you see. But we are all well now; and when my mas-

ter comes back from the waterfall of Niggeraga, (the say they were all Niggers here once,) we are to set out for the estate he has bought in the Huron Tract; and whatever comes across me there, Mary, you shall know the particulars of it, as it may be a temptation for you to come out yourself next year, with your own black eyes, to throw yourself in the way of the same good fortune. They say no girl, barring she is old and ugly, will stand two months.

My Mistress says an officer will take this free, with her own.

So dear Mary no more, (and I'm sure no more would be agreeable,) at present, from your loving schoolfellow,

And friend,

BRIDGET LACY.

My next shall be from our own place, and you shall hear all the ways of it.

LETTER XI.

From William Radcliff, Esq. Upper Canada, to Arthur Radcliff, Esq. Dublin.

Adelaide, December, 1832.

My dear Arthur,

I have at last got time to write to you.—Here we are, stuck in the woods, but so differently circumstanced from others who settled before us, that I am told we are very well off; and so we are, every thing considered. The Government have cut out our roads, a task which former settlers had to perform for themselves. They also sell us provisions, so that we are in no danger of starving. Nor are we alone in the forest;—never

was there a township so quickly filled up, with respectable people. We shall shortly have a thicker neighbourhood than any, I know of, in the country parts of Ireland.

A vast number of those who came out this year, have congregated in this township, a proof that the land is good. It is considered the best in upper Canada, and the settlement, it is thought, will be one of the most flourishing. There are still crown, and clergy reserves, which will be sold next year to *gentlemen* settlers, but after that, the lots here will be closed to every one, except by private purchase—my house when finished, will be comfortable, and not despicable in appearance—being forty-six feet in front with an eve projecting eighteen inches.

You will be impatient to hear of the shooting; an interesting topic to a good sportsman like you. The time has been, when I should have considered it paramount to any other; but, would you believe?—I have not even had time to think about it—no one, however,

goes into the woods, or any where on business, without his fowling-piece; and game, of one sort or another, is generally brought home. My occupation has almost entirely precluded this, as, being my own architect, I cannot leave the building for an hour—my entire success in the shooting way can, therefore, be reported in a few words—in riding through one of my lots, a partridge got up, I dismounted, when another rose, which I shot flying—a *great feat* here, where they never attempt any thing beyond a sitting shot.

This is the only *game*, I have yet brought home—a finer bird never came to table—infinitely larger than our grouse, of the same form, but remarkably white in the flesh, and with the plumage of the common partridge. They are called pheasants, and are most numerous; I have no doubt that there are a hundred coveys within two miles of this house, but, alas, I have no dog—what would I not give now to have old Grouse?

Let no one persuade you against bringing out your dogs; they would be invaluable. I have not been able to see, or hear of a good one in this country. A flock of about thirty turkeys came round the house last week; my man fired at them, and like sportsmen, that you and I have met, boasted that he had knocked as much feathers out of one of them, as *would make a good pillow*, but the *larder* fared nothing the better. They are very numerous, but very wary—and run faster than an Indian. If you were with me, we could shoot more game in a day than a good horse could carry home. When I can spare time to go out, I can without failure, bring back one, two, or three deer, any day I please. They are in hundreds in the lands all round, and nothing can be more certain, than the Calderwood rifle, which I brought from home. It has obtained a great character here, from my having tried it at a mark, against an Indian Chief, whom I beat unmercifully; poor

Calderwood took great pains with it, and in my mind, his workmanship cannot be exceeded.

We were under a great mistake, in supposing that the woods afforded the best sport—quite the reverse; in them you have nothing but bears, wolves, deer, turkeys, partridges; whilst the cleared land abounds with birds too numerous to mention; but those for the table, which follow the settlers, are woodcock, snipe, partridge, quail, very large, and the meadow lark, a beautiful bird as large as quail; plover, also of several kinds. Then come those of ornamental plumage, the various species of woodpecker, all beautiful; with blue birds, yellow birds, red birds, and humming-birds.

My discussion upon shooting must terminate, till I can send you the result of my own experience. At present I could better treat of the clearing of land, in which I am deeply engaged—but as my brother, whose letter to my father I have read, (and which you will of course see,) has gone minutely into that sub-

ject, and as we go hand in hand in those matters, I will not trouble you with repetitions, which ought to be avoided where so many of the same family are writing; all that I shall say upon it, is, that I have already cleared five acres, and that by February, thirty are to be completed for me, and an equal number for my brother, at £1 8*s.* per acre, for brushing, piling ready to burn, chopping, and cutting into lengths. The drawing together, and burning, to be executed by ourselves. The workmen demanded much more, and had not we been a full party with a little steadiness, and some money stirring among us, they would have beaten us out, whereas we are now victorious, and the defeated party, perfectly contented, in the expectation of touching a little hard cash, of which, they have very little, and are passionately fond. I could never have imagined that the axe could be used with such dexterity; I really think that two Canadians, would clear all Gerardstown in a fortnight; they would

take but two blows to every tree in the plantations.

Desire all friends who come out, to bring delft, but not glass—as the latter is as cheap here, as the former is extravagant in price—also, hardware of the necessary kinds, and spades and shovels, which are ill constructed in this country—but, above all a hay-knife—here they cut their hay with an axe, and, I may say, do almost every thing with that *universal* implement.

I have bought a waggon, and pair of horses—one of them a choice saddle horse, fully equal to my weight, which however is much decreased. He cost me a hundred dollars, and such a one would bring a hundred pounds with you. They are very good here, and very cheap.

Now, my dear A. as to advising you whether to come out or not, as I promised to do, I can safely say, from all that I have seen and heard, that if you can contrive to reach my house, with five hundred pounds in your

pocket, you may, with your present experience, insure yourself a certain and gentlemanlike independence.

Think what an advantage you would have over me, who have spent a little fortune in bringing out a family, and in the delays and heavy cost of their voyage, journey, lodgings, residence in towns, and charges at taverns and elsewhere, till nearly the present date, when we are at length settled, but not unexpensively till next year, when the produce of the farm will begin to tell; whereas you who are a single man, can apply all your time, and energy and money to settling yourself prudently and comfortably, and make us happy by remaining with us till you do so. I only fear that if you do not come soon, you will not be able to find land near us, so fast are the lots disposed of—you need have no scruple about adding to our establishment, if you can live on venison and many other good things that cost but little. My cellar also defies you. I have a very snug one, moderately stocked

with choice Teneriffe at 7*s.* the gallon, Brandy at 10*s.* Rum at 4*s.* 6*d.* and Whiskey, (very good) at 1*s.* 8*d.*—No locks or bolts here, which is rather new to me. The Canadians never steal, but are sharp enough, and will take advantage when they can.

I have now told you many of the favorable circumstances of the country, which are decidedly very great; still, however, an *Irish* day of recollection, sinking the spirits down, down! will occur; and sometimes, notwithstanding the outrages and the murders, the politics, and the poverty of that unhappy country, I would give all I am worth to be walking beside you, shooting the Enfield bottoms, as in those happy days we have spent together; again, these feelings vanish, when I look at my rich land, unencumbered by rent or taxes, and ask myself, if I *were* back again, how could I command such certain independence.

If I had my friends all here, I should be the happiest man breathing.

I inspect my choppers, and am much interested. They say here, that once we see the crops growing, we shall never think of home again, but this is a bold assertion.

I do not feel at home here yet—my former life, my sea voyage, and travelling some seven hundred miles through a new country, appear more like a dream than reality; my very existence in these drowsy woods, appears doubtful, till I rouze myself by thinking on my College friends, my hunting days, the animating hounds, the green open fields, and the scarlet coats.

Thus have I been active, and depressed—bustling, and gloomy by turns, but now that I am fairly settled in my own house, my spirits and exertions are both on the rise. I have much carpenters work to execute, and find that I am growing more expert every day. Let my brother John know that clergymen are in great demand: had he been here he would probably have been appointed to the rectory of this township. I am in-

formed that the governor has thirty clerical situations to fill up. If my brother comes soon, he may get one near us. They are very desirable preferments and afford a fine field for active zeal.

As there is some difference of opinion as to the temporalities to be attached to those appointments, I am delicate in giving, as a certainty, what I have heard, though it has been apparently from the best authority, but all will be finally arranged shortly. What I have been told, is, that they are in the gift of the Governor, (with the approbation of the bishop of course,) and that the clergyman is to have 150*l.* a year, a house and 400 acres of land, 200 as glebe, and 200 in perpetuity.

Another statement mentions house—100*l.* a year—200 acres of glebe—50 of which are to be cleared for the incumbent at the cost of government—but none in perpetuity.—I wish to mention both, that our friend may only calculate upon the least ad-

vantageous; by which means, when he comes, he may happen to be agreeably surprized, but cannot be disappointed. Make him bring out proper testimonials from his Bishop, &c. &c.

What I have still to say may be comprized in a nut-shell; come by New York, don't loiter on the road to waste your money; bring out rape-seed, hay-seeds, garden-seeds, especially those of culinary, and aromatic herbs, and sail in April, if you can.

Yours, my dear Arthur,

* * * * * *

Faithfully,

W. R.

LETTER XII.

From Thomas Radcliff, Esq. Upper Canada, to the Rev. Thomas Radcliff, Dublin.

Adelaide, January, 1833.

My dear Father,

A sketch of the state of religion in Upper Canada, may not be unacceptable to you.

Episcopalian, as I am, it grieves me to observe, that our number of Church of England Ministers is lamentably insufficient; and that unless prompt and energetic arrangements be made, to meet the wants and desires of our ra-

pidly increasing colonists, there will be, with the absence of sound religious principle, a proportional accession of sects, or total indifference to, and ignorance of, any religion. Many districts are in a deplorable state in this respect; and, what is the worst feature, some of the settlers themselves seem careless about it.

There are young families which have never been baptised; and, I am credibly informed, that there are fathers and mothers, nay, grandfathers and grandmothers, who have never been received by baptism into the Church of Christ.

When prayer-books, catechisms, and tracts have been offered to them, even without price, for the mere trouble of calling at a clergyman's house to receive them, that trouble has not been taken; the Canadians do not like to *lose time*, even for such an important object as that of spiritual instruction; and, as to wishing for clerical attendance on the sick and dying, there are many professing Episco-

palians, who would not spare a messenger to request their pastor's services.

There are, however, some gratifying instances of the delight with which even from *a very considerable distance*, whole families come to meet the Church of England clergyman, who will, in his periodical visit, have perhaps 20 or thirty communicants, and will baptise ten or twelve children, besides reading the churching service for their mothers. In *a Mission or Parish*, where I stopped some time on my journey, there is to be found in a certain small portion of it, the following variety and classification of religionists and free-thinkers.

Out of 360 souls,

Episcopalions	130
Presbyterians	102
Methodists, Baptists, Menonists and Roman Catholics	73
Without any form of religion ...	55
	360

Of Roman Catholics there are comparatively very few in *our* province.

The number of Methodist Missionaries is very considerable.

Wherever a settlement is formed, there they are to be found. Many of them are excellent men, and all of them are really or apparently zealous; and from all I can hear they have done infinitely more among the *Indians* in promoting a knowledge of Christianity, than our clergymen have been able, or anxious to effect. I know that there exists, at this moment, a demand, (in mercantile phraseology,) for thirty, or forty Church of England clergymen.

If care be taken to select able, zealous and active men, the happiest results will follow; but if a swarm of *Drones* be sent among us, attracted merely by the temporal advantages of a settlement, without higher motives and anxieties, the degradation of *our* religion and the general contempt of inefficient ministers, must be anticipated.

That a considerable change is likely to take place in this respect, I have every reason to expect from the zealous attention of our excellent governor, Sir John Colborne, to all the best interests of the province; and especially as the selection of clergymen, and their appointment to the rectories of the new townships, will be, as I am informed, at his disposal; and, being a man of great correctness, he will strictly scrutinize the testimonials of those who may offer themselves, and who will, no doubt, be required to produce strong recommendations from their respective Bishops.

But I much fear that the government of the parent country has let the time pass by, when good might have been effected through the instrumentality of our clergy. The Methodist dissenters have obtained an ascendancy over our infant population. Their habits of domiciliary visitation, their acquaintance with the tastes and peculiarities of the Canadians, their readiness to take long and fatiguing rides, in the discharge of their self-imposed

labours, render them formidable rivals to our more *easy going* clergy.

I repeat, that it is of the utmost importance to send us men of *character* and high religious attainments, deeply convinced of the responsibility attached to their calling, and determined that every other pursuit, and care, shall be secondary to the great purpose, for which they are designed, and to which they should be principally devoted.

I mean not to say that there are not here spiritual, and earnest ministers of our own church, but unquestionably, on a fair comparison with the sectarian preachers, on the single point of zeal and ministerial industry, they do not occupy the first place, however they may have the 'vantage ground' in other particulars.

How delightful would it be, in this great and improving country, rising so rapidly into a state of civilization, which is extending every hour, through the medium of British emigration, to have this numerous body fully

supplied with pastors of their own church?—and how cheering would it be to have their respective settlements anxiously superintended by a zealous well educated, and well informed body of clergy?

In a political point of view, also, it would be important, as here the Episcopalians, are, one and all, attached to the British Constitution. In the democratic principle, (wherever it appears,) in the instigation to discontent, and in disaffection to the laws, may always be traced the absence of Church of England principles. In this fine province, where a single grievance does not really exist, where there are neither rents, tithes nor taxes to pay, nothing seems wanting but a resident and regular clergy, to go frequently in person among the people (who are inclined to quietness and good order,) to encourage them in their moral duties, and to inform them in the spiritual doctrines of their religion.

Thousands in many parts of Canada have never seen the face of a Protestant clergyman (of

the Established Church), and many thousands have been lost to our Church from the want of regular pastors and the consequent influence of itinerant teachers of innumerable creeds.

The forms of sectarian worship are very simple; they generally commence with a prayer, (the congregation sometimes kneeling) then a hymn, the people standing; and a very long sermon concludes the service.

The dissenters here, as elsewhere, find great fault with the frequent change of posture at our service. A Methodist lady lately told a friend of mine, between jest and earnest, that a fugle-man would be necessary in our churches. The opinion here, is, that our liturgy is too long, and consequently fatiguing to the attention;—that the Lord's prayer is repeated too often, and that some other prayers might be, at least occasionally, omitted.

In the marriage ceremony there are, (as they complain,) parts that are objectionable,

for instance the length of the preamble, and the indelicacy of part of it. Some persons, I understand, have been disposed to go away unmarried, from the man's refusing to say, "with my body I thee worship"—One, contending that worship was due to God alone, was induced to comply with the Rubrick, only by the positive refusal of the clergyman to proceed with the ceremony, unless the form were acquiesced in.

A woman from the STATES, in the true spirit of *independence*, left a church in this province, unmarried, from her refusal to say "obey." She had previously determined never to give the solemn promise required, and preferred living with her intended spouse, unshackled by the yoke of matrimony.

She now has three children, and lives happily with her mate.

You remember the old song—

"A maid there was who did declare,
"That if she ever married were;
"No pow'r on earth should make her say,
"Amongst the rites, the word *Obey*:

"When this she at the church confest,
"And when she saw the angry priest
"Shut up his book to go away,
"She curtseying cried, Obey—Obey!!"

The first verse critically applies in the present instance; but, it is to be regretted, that the dame in question did not permit the second one to be equally in point.

In this region of Sectarianism, it would perhaps be prudent to make some concessions as to mere points of *Form*, which, when they do not involve any vital *principles* of our religion, might be abandoned without injury to our liturgy.

The Bishops in the States, have authorised many alterations in it; and have shortened the ceremony of Baptism, in which the Creed is not repeated—a simple assent to it only, being required. For my own part, on the old-fashioned principle I dread innovation, lest it should encourage too sweeping a reform. Being a true Church of England man, I have been led into these remarks from what I had an opportunity of learning upon my

journey hither, and from having been, since our arrival, without any clergyman, which engaged my brother and myself (though laymen) in the duties of the Sabbath, and we have had a congregation of the chief part of the infant settlement in our own log-houses. But this will be no longer necessary, as a church is about to be built in Adelaide, and a Mr. Cronin, as I understand, a correct, talented, and zealous clergyman, is appointed to the situation. Those clerical appointments are now called *Rectories*, and will become most desirable settlements for zealous and unambitious clergymen.

I believe it is not yet precisely ascertained to what extent, the fund, arising from the sale of the clergy reserves, can be made available, as to the number of Rectories to be formed, or the particular emolument of each; but it is the intention to equalize them as much as possible. It is said that one half of the land which the clergyman is to have, is as glebe for his life, and the other half in

perpetuity; of this, I am uninformed, nor do I believe that the arrangements are as yet permanently made, or they would have more publicity; but I believe it is so far determined, that a clergyman appointed to a new township, is to enjoy the following benefits at the least:—Glebe, 200 acres, 50 of which are to be cleared at the expense of government; *Glebe-house*, at first a *Log-house*, to be be replaced, in a year, by a Frame-house of suitable dimensions.

Cash income, £100 a year. This is all that has come to my knowledge; but other advantages may be added. It is said, for instance, that surplice fees will be received, which, in a populous township, might add considerably to the clerical income, and would be a fair and fit remuneration for pastoral attention.

In our case, at Adelaide, a church is to be erected as soon as convenient, probably within a year, and in the mean time, a school-house is to be formed in the log-way, to be used for

Divine Service till the church is prepared. The Archdeacons in the towns of Canada, I suppose from the absence of higher Dignitaries, affect the episcopal appearance as much as possible, observing the costume of the standing collars, short cassocks, and rosettes in the shovel hats. They have, alas! but *one* superior, the amiable and truly religious Bishop of Quebec, whose extensive duties are observed, with as much zeal and accuracy, as any *one* person can accomplish in a diocese of two immense Provinces, which it is altogether impracticable for the most anxious and devoted Prelate to *visit* within the year, much less to regulate and superintend. We hear that in Ireland you are striking off ten Bishops; I wish you could send some of them to us—we have much occasion for them.

The humbler clergymen of our church, when riding through their parishes, in travelling dress, resemble the Irish Methodist Preacher. They carry a valise, containing gown, surplice, books, communion

elements, chalice and cup, with a great coat and umbrella strapped over it.

Indeed you never see an equestrian traveller leaving home for a couple of days, without a valise before or behind him, for no one here is grand enough to have a servant riding after him; and, as to travelling in a waggon, it is often utterly impossible, from the condition of the roads, which render wheel conveyances insupportable.

The quantity of mud which a waggon has to encounter is inconceivable; the useless trouble of washing it never takes place.—The usual mode of clearing the wheels of the adhesive mud, being to strike them, when dry, on the rims, with a heavy hammer, which, causing the dirt to drop off, restores them, in the eye of an American, to a perfectly *dandyish* appearance.

But this is a digression from the main point of my letter.

As connected with religion, I must not omit a remark or two on the subject of education in this country.

As there is a want of clergymen, so, I believe, there is of schoolmasters. Those settled in townships generally receive two dollars per quarter for each pupil *badly paid*, and may have, perhaps, thirty pupils during the winter months. They complain greatly, I am told, of being too dependent on the whims and caprices of a few leading persons around them. It would be desirable, if practicable, to render correct and valuable teachers, somewhat independent in this respect. I have just heard, however, that some arrangements to promote education have lately been made, with the *particulars* of which I am not acquainted.

The school-houses are frequently used as places of worship for the different sects. In a country where the labour even of children is valuable to the colonist, it cannot be expected that they will be left at school beyond the age of ten or twelve years; it is, therefore, of supreme importance, that, previously to this period, they should have all the advantage which sound and uninterrupted edu-

cation can confer. The Sabbath is shamefully desecrated in many places, even by those who might be expected to observe it. A clergyman in a certain township, finding that drinking and Sabbath-breaking were prevailing offences in his district, had a petition drawn up, and signed by the respectable inhabitants about him, to have fishing on Sundays prohibited by law: a point which happily has been accomplished, and in that neighbourhood, once remarkable for the most disrespectful negligence of the Lord's day, there is now a strict observance of it.

Future generations will bless the memory of Sir John Colborne, who, to the many advantages, derived from the equity and wisdom of his government, has added that of a magnificent foundation for the purposes of literary instruction.

The lowest salary of any of the professors of this institution, is £300 per annum, with the accommodation of a noble brick house, and the privilege of taking boarders, at £50 per annum.

I have given you a sufficiently "lengthy" detail of those matters, in which you as a clergyman must feel peculiar interest, and as the limits of my closely written paper are now filled up even to the minutest point of margin, I shall conclude.

Your's * * * *

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THOMAS RADCLIFF.

LETTER XIII.

From Thomas William Magrath, Esq. Upper Canada, to the Rev. Thomas Radcliff, Dublin.

Erindale, Toronto, January, 1832.

My dear Sir,

In your last, you express some disappointment at my not saying any thing of my Indian friends. I really forgot to do so—my father gives in, an annual return of the state of his mission to the bishop, in which is included that of the Indian village of the Mississaguas. I send you a copy of it.

The village consists, as well as I recollect, of twenty four houses, inhabited by about two hundred and thirty individuals. It is situated on a high bank of the river Credit, where, what is termed, the *Pond* of that river begins.

On the flat immediately below the present village, the Mississagua Indians, and other tribes, were in the habit of encamping for the purpose of salmon-fishing, during the season.

Their camp at that time, presented the most heterogeneous mass of dirty wigwams, surrounded by heaps of fish bones, offals of deer, and putrid filth of every description. How different is its *present* appearance! laid out in beautiful enclosures, well cultivated by their own hands, and having borne in the last harvest, the finest crop of Indian corn ever raised in this country. It is gratifying to perceive, that instead of the drunken and savage brawls, which disgraced even their beastly orgies, happiness and peace have sprung up

among them, good order, sobriety, and cleanliness in house and person. I think I hear you say,—how was this surprizing change effected? I answer by the Methodist clergy. Although I do not agree with them in politics, or as to church government, it is but fair to allow them every credit for their zealous exertions amongst the Indians, which have been most successful in several instances, as well at Rice Lake and Simcoe Settlements, as here.

In passing through our village at an early hour, I have often heard the morning hymn sung by an Indian family, in a manner that would surprise a European, and with greater sweetness than in many churches. Their demeanour is moral, their attendance at divine worship regular, and their observance of the church service, grave and attentive.

There are three chiefs resident in the village—Lawyer, Crane and Jones—my friend Lawyer is certainly a very intelligent and clever fellow, but in council, they complain

of his being sometimes a little *long winded*—Crane is a fine specimen of a true Indian. He stands six feet four inches in height, with a lofty carriage that would do credit to a guardsman, and "fearlessly looks heaven in the face."

Mr. Jones, happening to dine with us in company with some friends, surprised the new comers of the party, by the perfect ease, and unembarrassed manners, with which he acquitted himself in all the modern attentions of the table, conversing naturally with both ladies and gentlemen, on light or graver subjects, with equal address.

They were also struck with his dress, the full costume of an Indian chief—a coat (made in form of a shirt,) of deer skin, dressed in the Indian method without the hair, of a golden colour, and as soft as glove leather.

On the front and behind the shoulders, are lappets, ten inches deep, beautifully punched in various patterns, like coarse lace or net work—all seams, (instead of being sewed)

fastened with narrow stripes of skin cut into fringe for that purpose.

The head dress—a valuable silk, or fine cotton handkerchief, in turban form, worn by some tribes with feathers. Leggins,—reaching to the hip, and ornamented on the sides, serve as trowsers. Mocassins—curiously ornamented with porcupine quills, complete the drawing room habit; whilst the tomohawk, scalping knife, tobacco pouch, and rifle, equip the Indian for the woods. As he becomes civilised, silver ornaments previously worn in profusion are laid aside, and the European dress of his *white brother* is adopted.

I have frequently met John Brant, the Mohawk chief, at the Government house, and in the first circles. He attends all our assemblies, and dances quadrilles much better than many of Garboi's pupils. His manners are perfectly those of a gentleman, and our ladies have no objection to "trip it on the light, fantastic toe," with a thoroughbred Indian chief.

John Brant was returned as member for his county, to the last parliament, and made some excellent speeches in the house, but on a petition lost his seat, by some trifling informality in the Election. *

As amongst the "untutored" Indians, are to be found, all the worst traits of uncivilized life; so are there to be met, especially among the chiefs, noble specimens of dignified and rational character; and those that I have mentioned are not singular in this respect.

But whoever desires the true and characteristic picture of the Indian, must read the inimitable portraitures of Cooper, in his unrivalled novels. The accuracy of their delineation I had the means of putting to the test.

On a hunting excursion through the woods for some weeks, with two Indians, who car-

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* Since the date of this letter, this respectable chief has paid the debt of nature, much and deservedly lamented.—v. Letter 8.

EDITOR.

ried my baggage, and a few others who joined me; happening to have "The last of the Mohicans" in my pack, I read extracts to my party at night, around the fire, and the astonishment they expressed at a white man being able to describe their native scenes and characters so precisely, was a greater compliment to the talented author than any I can pay him; for the Indian seldom foregoes his self-possession, or evinces feelings of pleasure or pain by words or gesture. On this occasion they were highly pleased, and expressed themselves so. One night, when encamped on the shore of Lake Huron, our *literary* party was interrupted by the sound of many paddles, and we soon discovered that some new arrival had taken place. On going out, I perceived eleven canoes discharging their crews opposite our encampment. In less than twenty minutes there were fires blazing in all directions, and the cooking going on as if they had been there as many weeks. Shortly after, two chiefs came forward, shook hands

with me in the free and friendly manner an Indian generally does, and, at my request, supped with me. They had come to that part of the lake to take white fish, which is the best fish; and, there, most abundant.

Next morning I had a noble dish sent me as a present, by the Chief, Wagna; and on his signifying that they would take to the fishing ground at noon, I purchased one of their bark canoes and paddles, for five dollars, and joined the *Fleet.*

Will you believe it? I never passed a more agreeable time in my life, than when surrounded by this party, at times 150 in number; nearly one hundred miles from any settlement, and I myself the only white man (not *very white* either) in the entire camp. My tent was pitched on a green bank, about twenty yards from the wigwams, with its door to the lake, into which I plunged every morning from my bed, and either joined my companions during the day, in hauling the net; or, taking my rifle to a deer pass, never

failed of sport, as some obliging Indians were always ready to surround a portion of the Bush, and drive the game in the direction where I stood. This was generally at the entrance of the valley; and with two or three good marksmen below me, we seldom returned *lightly* laden. I always beat the Indians at a running shot, at which they are not expert; but whatever might be our individual success, all we shot went into the general stock; and whether I went out or not, my table, or rather my mat, was regularly furnished, with fish, duck, or venison, in profusion. With what pleasure I look forward to another such excursion! At night the shore was brilliant with the fishing lights in the canoes; and I had to walk but twenty paces into mine, to enjoy as fine sport as the most enthusiastic fisherman could desire.

After a residence of six weeks with my Red Brothers, I prepared to return homeward, and felt much regret at parting from them, so marked was their kindness to me, and so

goodnatured their attention. When I fixed the day, every one had something to give; and had I accepted half what they presented, two canoes would have been insufficient to carry away the provisions. I embarked at five in the morning; when three miles distant from shore, the sudden swell of the lake, and black appearance of the sky foreboding storm, I directed the men at the paddles to turn back, and before we had got within a mile of shore, the waves (as is often the case in those lakes) running mountain high, we made every possible exertion, but very little way.

The wind was right ahead, the canoe small, and freighted with six persons—but she rode it like a duck; we at length reached the land, nearly exhausted, and I was welcomed back with as much cordiality as if my absence had been for weeks instead of hours. Had we not returned we must have been inevitably lost; in a short time, however, I was safely lodged again in my old quarters.

About dusk a canoe, with two Squaws on board, was observed struggling to make the shore. On inquiry, I found they belonged to our camp, had been about a mile along the coast, for some fish which had been left behind, and were blown out as they were rounding a head land close to us. We could observe them throwing out the fish, and the group on shore had hopes of their arriving in safety; none, however, attempted to go to their assistance, knowing that, in such a gale, both canoes would be endangered, as, by a sudden collision they would be upset or staved to pieces; they, nevertheless, looked on with deep anxiety, when, as the little vessel rose on the summit of a wave, the foremost paddle snapt close to the hand of the Squaw that plied it, and disappeared. She lay down in the canoe, and her comrade could do no more than prevent it from turning. In a moment a canoe was launched, by two men, one of them the husband of her, who still worked that

which was in distress; they were making some progress to her relief, when it became so dark that we lost sight of both. The shouts of the two men to discover where the canoe lay were feebly answered by the unhappy women, and then all was still.

I had a fire lighted on the beach, as a beacon to direct them, in the excessive darkness of the night.—The group around it formed the finest subject for a painter, that can be imagined.—There we stood, about eighty in number, gazing at the flame, blown by the wind in all directions, the light thrown strongly, but fitfully, on the features and figures of the Indians, but not a word was spoken—at length the grating sound of paddles reached our ears; the light of the immense fire flashed on the approaching canoe, and the persons it contained—the two enterprizing men, accompanied by *one female!*—Poor Segenauck,—the wife of an attached husband, who hoped and tried to save her,—was no more!

They landed—not a question was asked—all retired to their wigwams in solemn silence. In a few minutes I was alone.

The manly and dignified manner in which this melancholy occurrence was received—the solemn, but silent, tribute of regret paid by all to the memory of one of their tribe, thus suddenly called away, gave me a still more favourable impression of my Indian companions, and sent me to bed, with the storm in my ears, and its fatal result occupying my waking and sleeping thoughts till morning.—I learned, then, from Segenauck's husband, that as soon as the canoes came near each other, the Squaw at the head, taking hold of the gunwale of that in which he was, cautiously stept in, forgetting, in the hurry and danger of the moment, to keep hold of that she had left, which, losing the weight in front, rose at once out of the water, was blown round and upset, without a possibility, on his part, of saving his unfortunate helpmate.

The storm ceased in the night; the morning was very fine. I left the camp at break of day, and was soon out of sight of my kind and hospitable companions. I quitted them with a degree of regret, in which, I have since found, I was not singular. In Moore's Life of Lord Edward Fitzgerald, we find that unfortunate nobleman expressing himself to the same effect; and I have heard many say, that those who were long in the habit of Indian society, were generally fascinated by it—as the excursion which I have described to you, has left on my mind a similar impression; should I not, in the course of a year or two, be able to prevail on some fair friend to share with me the world's cares and pleasures, I shall resume the blanket coat, the mocassin, the rifle, the snow shoe, and only visit the haunts of the *deceitful* white man, when my red brother gets tired of me. It is but fair, however, to state this *clearly and candidly*, as some considerate and tender-hearted fair one wishing

to prevent it, might yet, by a flattering communication of her good opinion, induce me to break through my present resolution, of living and dying an old bachelor ! !

Believe me, my dear Sir,

Your's, &c. &c.

T. W. MAGRATH.

LETTER XIV.

From Bridget Lacy, Upper Canada, to Mary Thompson, Ireland.

Addalad, Dec. 1832.

My dear Mary,

We are at our journey's end at last. I hope you got my letter from York town; I have a great deal to say, and but little time to say it in, as Mr. G. is going back to York, and will carry this, and send it free too, from that, if he can.

It's I that would be long sorry to put you to charges for my foolish prate;—and send

your's Mary, to the old master, and I'll get it by some one comming out.

For to go for to tell you all we had to bear since I wrote last, would take a choir, and in troth I've no great time on hand, for sure enough, dear Mary, I have *changed my sitiation* since I came here. Now, I know what you'll say—aye do I—as well as if I was at the inside of you:—"Oh ho! I knew what the tinder whisper and the loving pinches aboord the ship would come to—and I wish you joy, *Mrs. Bridget Benson.*"

Troth then, my dear, your'e out in your guess—for it's no such thing, but *who knows?* Would you believe it, *he's* living within four miles of me at Bear's Creek, and comes over to church of a Sunday, and to see me, and to eat a bit before he goes; and now Mary *the butter is coming out of the stirrabout,* being that my *change of sitiation* is nothing more or less than my change from childeren's maid to *cook,* and a happy change too, Mary, for instead of that poor streeleen thing I was, leaving home,

I am now growing plump and fat, and well to look at—and so Benson tells me, and that I look better and better every time he comes over; and Mary, dear, there's a wide differ betune the nursery and the kitchen—and isn't it a great thing to be able to give a friend, and *such a friend*, a savoury toothful, when he's so oblidgeing as to go for to come so far to see you, and he a fine young lad that hasn't a nick in his horns yit, as the saying is, whatever he may live to have, and has the whole township to chose from. And Mary, dear, we're no ways stingy of our vickels in this country, and it's he that likes the Venzon. Why, my dear, they're as plenty with us as goats on the Wicklow mountains; and Mary, you'd like it greatly, and so do I: and sure enough it does'nt go into an ill skin.

But what made this changification? you will ask. Why this way—the mistress thought the other life was too asy for me: and so it was; and as I dressed a dish or two that plazed the master, she said, she'd put me

into the kitchen where I might show my talons.

We've got a very good girl in my place—a little Yankeeish as they say—but we must give and make allowances, I'd like her very well for a fellow servant, only she's allways bother-in me for *sa-ce.* Now what do you think she means by that?—Why every thing in the world, but meat—not that she'd be content without that too, but she must have *sace* besides. Now when you come for to know what this *sace* is, it would make you wonder.

Sace is every thing you could name—potatees, vegables, butter, pickles and sweet-meats—they're all called *sace*—only mustard, pepper and vinegar is not.

And Mary my jewell, the people here must have *sace* at all their meals.

Now Mary dear, we were well fed at the school, but we never heard of such doings as these; I like a good bit as well as another, and why not? but this is too bad entirely; they are cheap enough though, indeed mostly for

nothing, or who could stand it? This girl *we've* got (and a smart girl too,) has five pound a year, and sure that's not much after all the great talk about high wages. Where the farmers get their penny out of them in hard work, they should pay for it, but isn't it better be with a mistress that's asy and good humored and good, and won't work one to the stumps? but without any mather of doubt the servants are great plagues; they think of nothing but bettering themselves, and they that come out hardly puts their foot on the land when they get's roaving thoughts in their sculls, as if the air of this country gave them a rambeling way with them.

There was a friend of my masters brought out an old servant who had earnt £20 and had it in a purse; her master at first refused to bring her, guessing she'd leave him. Well, she bound herself for a year, and to lose the £20 put in his hands, if she left him; why then my dear, she was'nt a month here when she made herself scarce, leaving her money

behind—and no more about it or her, ever since. Then there was our Sandy, was sent to the post and never came back, and who should come in his place but a Yankee, mighty fond of his gut, and always grumbling about *sace*—a hard working fellow for all that, and had £20 a year. Well my dear, he was sent for change of a hundred dollar note, and that same made *him* take to his scrapers.

The master was all in a quandary when he did'nt come back, and he went off to his brother, and got his man Pat Mee, to run off and try if he could overtake the blicguard, and Pat Mee, nabbed him sure enough late the next day about sixty miles off, without the manes of a horse itself, and got amost all the money in his pocket and gave him, as he says, the *father of a bating*, and brought all home safe.

Pat, surely is an honest boy and so he ought, for he's well treated and has five and twenty pounds a year, it won't be long before he'll be buying a lot of land. Benson

has never had the sperit to come to the point with me yet—so there's no harm in having *two strings* to one's bow my dear Mary, Pat and I to be sure are not of one way of thinking, but he might come round. As we were coming, on the journey, near a town where we were to come up with his master, who should we meet but Pat, without my knowing him, in a mighty quare cap and jacket, and a face as brown with the sun as a copper skillet: "why then don't you know your old friends Biddy Lacy," says Pat, "when you meet them in a strange place, but I suppose you took me for an Ingine and I'm like one sure enough, with this burning sun on my face, but yees had better be going on, and you'll find friends before you—and I shot a pair of ducks this morning, that you'll have for your supper" and so there was, and glad enough we were all for to meet, for my two fellow prentices are with his mistress.

While my master was building this house we lived above a month at a farmers, and a

quare place it was, but I larned a great deal while I staid, and the woman of the house was no bad warrant to tell me how to do a thing.

But what flogged all that I had ever seen, was making sugar out of a tree, Mary—not a word of lie do I tell you; you take a big gimlet and make a hole in the tree, (the *maypole* I think they call it,) and out comes the shuggar, like sweet water thick like, and you boil it, and you —— but where's the use of my telling you any thing about it, as you have no sugar trees at home.

I remember when you and I thought a shuggar stick, a mighty good sort of a thing, never thinking I'd lay my eyes upon a *sugar tree.* I'm told there are such things as butter trees too, but seeing's believing, and they shan't take me in that way, but there's one tree I'm sure of, and that's a plumb tree, wild in the woods, for I pull'd with my own hands more than I could eat and carry away, and we boiled them with the maypole sugar,

and a fine parcel of jam we had, all for nothing but our trouble, which was only a pleasure, not to say any thing of having it to the fore.

When I was pulling them, it come into my head, that if there was shuggar trees, and tea trees, and butter trees, and bread trees, which I read of at school, the wood would be a very nate place for a tea party, and the plumbs, and the rawsberries, and currents, and strawberries would be good *sace*,—was'nt this a funny conseat? But I'd want something after all, and that would be *you* Mary along-side of me, and a pair of handsome lads to make us merry—and sure enough the woods aren't without that same, only that their pelts are all red, with roasting themselves I suppose at them big fires in the woods at night. Some of them without any manner of doubtification, are very fine Ingines, but that's our share of them, for they say they won't mix, and may be all for the better, for I'd rather

die an old maid than be called a squawl, and have a *porpus tied on my back, rolled up like a salmon in a hay-rope, on the Wexford Coach; and more than that, to be made do all the druggery by land and water, in the shanty and kinnoo, gutting all the fish, and dressing all the birds and beasts, for never a hand's turn will them fine haroes do, but hunt, and shoot, and fish, and eat plenty, and drink hearty, like any gentlemen. Fond as I am of cooking, Mary, this would be beyand the beyands, (as the saying is)—but while I'm on the subject, I must tell you how much I'm coming on; and would you believe it? I bake all the bread, for there's no bakers or huxters here to send in the fresh loaves every morning; but we must have all *within ourselves.* But my dear, the bread's the greatest part of all; for it's made with barm, that's made with salt!—and it's very good, and I'll send you the resate that the mistress wrote

* Probably meant for papoose.—EDITOR.

out with her own hands, and it may be of use to you in the country when barm is scarce—and here it is:—

CANADIAN BARM.

"Take a pint and half of boiling water, one quart of cold water; put this into a tin vessel; then put a teaspoon full of salt in, and mix it well, then take one pint out, and throw it away; then get your flour; stir the water and salt well with a spoon, while you are putting the flour in, which is done as if you were making stirabout; make it as thick as beer barm; mind you are to blend the flour well; set this in another vessel, with very hot water in it, and constantly renew the hot water under the barm, and very often stir it up from the bottom of the pan, so as not to let the flour settle; if it is rightly done, it will begin immediately to ferment; remember to cover it up closely, and let it stand near a fire;

as soon as you perceive it rising, let it stand quite quietly; this process takes from four to five hours; you will then take eight quarts of flour; put in your salt, and butter your pans. When the yeast is risen up pretty high, then commence making your bread; first loosen the yeast from the edges of the vessel it is in, and get some one to pour it into the middle of the flour, while you mix it up; then add either warm milk or warm water, whichever is most convenient, and work up the dough as usual; when this is done, put it into your pans, and set it in a very warm place to rise, which it will considerably; but it often takes a long time; it must be covered over with a cloth; it rises to twice the size of the piece of dough you first put in, and then it is fit to bake."

Well, my dear, did you ever hear the likes of that? But you may reckon on it as sure. We use nothing else here; and I was taught it by the farmer's wife where we lived, and

the mistress put it down word for word as you have it. And then, there's the *bumkin pie*, which they give to the workmen; but that's aisy made enough. The master doesn't like it; but it does very well on a Sunday, in the kitchen. You takes and slices it like apples, and gives it plenty of the maypole, and a pinch or two of cloves, and a glass of whiskey, which is like ditch-water here, and it's mighty good eating.

Indeed the farmer's wife was very civil, and told me many a thing. But I cant give in as yet, to eating sqirrells; for they're for all the world, all as one as rats.

One day, there came two women to the farmers to buy cabbage, for my dear, they'd sell any thing here, they're so fond of the lucre of gain; but says one of the women to my mistress, that was standing in the firhandy, "Why then ma'am," says she, "I'm sure you're the lady my daughter was telling me about, that she said, she was sure was an

Irish lady." "Why do you think I'm Irish?" says my mistress. "Well then, I'll tell you that—because you're fat, and you're fair, and you're comely, and you're handsome." And true for her, for she's all that, and *good* into the bargain.

Well, Mary, that was the day but one before we came away; and it's well that ever we got to this place, with them roads, and the floods, and the cricks, and the axes going, and the wagging knocked about, and the horses tired, and the dark night coming on us, and the mistress almost destroyed, and the children as bad. But God be praised, here we are all, safe and sound.

You have plenty of *Whitefeet* with you, Mary; but here they were a scarce article 'till we came. My master's brother's wife's were the first female whitefeet that ever stepped upon the township of Addalad. Then came on my two fellow 'prentices, and then my mistress, and then myself, that's as white as

the best of them, as Benson the rogue told me yesterday.

But now, lo and behold you, there's hundreds and hundreds all about us, and houses growing out of the woods every day.

But after all, its an awfull thing to be living in the woods. Oh! them terrible wolves, if you were to hear them. I never got a wink of sleep the first fortennight. I'd be shockingly in dread, they'd spoil our *tea party*. Such yowling, aud growling, and yelling, and pellmelling, as no Christian ever heard. They say it's hunting the deer they are. Set 'em up with venzon the bastes!

Well isn't it surprizing with all I have to do, I could find the time to write so long a letter, by fits and starts—but do the same to me, and I tell you again and again, come out if you can, and be sure to come to Addalad, (isn't it a comical name? may be there's *something* in it,) and by the time you come, I'll know who's who, and what's what, and will direct you for the best.

You know I told you, I had *two* strings to my bow. May be one of them might make a noose for *you*.

Good night dear Mary. 'Early to bed, and early to rise.'

Your affectionate School-fellow,

BRIDGET LACY.*

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* The name of this correspondent is the only fictitious one introduced. The facts, however, are correct.—EDITOR.

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LETTER XV.

DEER SHOOTING.

From Thos. W. Magrath, Esq. Upper Canada, to the Rev. Thomas Radcliff, Dublin.

Erindale, January, 1832.

My dear Sir,

You expressed a wish to learn something original, and in detail upon the field sports of Canada—and I will endeavour to gratify you.

Many new settlers have been surprized at not frequently seeing, deer, bears, wolves, &c. in this country; as if those animals were to walk out of the woods, and shew themselves,

as their keepers would present them in a menageric, for public exhibition, not considering that they are of retired habits, not given to obtrude, nor much pleased at having their secluded haunts invaded. Therefore, except to the persevering sportsman, they seldom give demonstration of the numbers that really occupy our extensive forests. It is also an erroneous opinion with many, that no fat venison can be procured here; but though our family resided in a venison country, in Ireland, abounding with parks, I can aver, that I have repeatedly shot fatter deer here than I ever saw there. What has given rise to this opinion, is, that when the bucks are in their prime, in August and September, the farm works are too important to be sacrificed to amusement. I have known the most devoted sportsmen, when once settled on their *own property*, and feeling the necessity of giving personal attention to its improvement, to have abandoned the fowling-piece altogether, during the busy season, but, to have

gladly resumed it in the Winter, (the Canadian's Jubilee,) while the ground is covered with snow, and sealed up by frost, to the prevention of all farming operations. This then, becomes the selected season for deer shooting, when the bucks are out of condition, which accounts for the foregoing remark.

The *Does*, however, though an inferior quality of venison, are at this time in high order, and very acceptable at the settler's table—nor is it necessary to be too fastidious, as to either sex—as the servants and labourers on the settlement, though they like plentiful meals, are not epicures, and will not object to a haunch of venison, although destitute of an aldermanic cut of fat.

My brothers and I are now become expert.

> "If we have luck,
> "We'll bring a buck,
> "Upon our lusty shoulders home."
>
> *Old Glee.*

In winter we make it a point to provide abundantly for the larder.

However, as you desire this sporting information for young settlers, I shall commence with our first day's work, and go forward in regular detail.

The Winter after our arrival here, my brother and I made our first essay, about sixteen miles back in the woods behind our house.

However young at this particular sport, we were not inexperienced in the use of the rifle.

Mine was of the true Yankee cut—three feet, six inches in length—as heavy as a musket—the bore, calculated for balls seventy to the pound; and his, a short Spanish rifle—two feet, ten inches long—carrying half-ounce balls, thirty-two to the pound.

We took a wide range for the entire day, and never got a shot. We saw indeed, abundant tracks, and many *singles*,* as the deer darted off through the wood, but had no opportunity of presenting our rifles with any

* The tails of the Deer.—EDITOR.

prospect of effect. In despondency we returned to the farmer's house where we were to sleep, disgusted with our sport, or rather with our failure. When the family were assembled in the evening, and talked over our disappointment, the farmer, a thorough-bred Yankee, said, "*Well*—I guess you know nothing about this here deer shooting. I *calculate* I will go out with you to-morrow, and see how you get on." We thanked him, and having received from him, some preliminary instructions, and a good breakfast before day light next morning, turned out with our host, in the hope of a more successful day. He was even of greater value to us as a model, than as a monitor; for as soon as we got upon the track of a deer, we could at once perceive by our companion's manner of proceeding, the true cause of our own failure the preceeding day. *He* was all quietness. We had been all bustle. *He* walked silently and steadily along, taking special care not to break, or

even touch the point of a branch, lest the sound should disturb the game. *We* had been slashing and smashing every thing before us, which could not fail to rouse at a distance, far out of view, or at least out of shot, a timid animal, most susceptible of alarm.

Upon holding a council of war, at the suggestion of our practised hunter, we agreed that my brother and I should separate, on distinct tracks, and our Mentor in an under-tone, said to us—"You may have pretty considerable sport, I guess, if it be not your own fault—be silent and steady—I *calculate* you will have to keep down your hands—well, step gently through the snow—if you see a deer running past, shout out, and I guess he'll stop—I wish you sport." Upon which he wheeled about, and returned to his farmyard.

We observed his directions, and when some time on the track which I had followed, I found by it, that at a particular place, the

deer had stopped, and turned, and sprung off again, compassing a tremendous distance at each bound, leaving me but little hope of coming up with him, though, by the indication of the snow, as I went forward I could observe that he had frequently stopped, and turned, but, alas! had again continued his progressive course.

The snow being eighteen inches deep, and the walking very laborious, I sat down quite exhausted, to recover my fatigue and to consider how I was to get back. Resting quietly, with my rifle across my knees, I heard some branches snap; and the next minute, a noble buck came dashing along, within shot. Springing up (as I had been instructed by the farmer,) I gave a shout. That moment he stopped, snorted and looked at me—I fired; but, to my great disappointment, he bounded on, leaving me to conjecture how I could have missed so fair a standing shot, and within twenty paces!

Having loaded again, I went up to the place where he had stood, and found a large gush of blood upon the snow. I felt as if I had not walked a mile. In a little time I caught a glimpse of the poor fellow within fifty yards—the trees however, were too close. He moved slowly on, with drooping head and lagging step, and, stopping for a short space, lay down apparently in pain. Then taking deliberate aim at the head, I fired. The branching antlers, by a quivering movement, indicated a short and final struggle to rise—on coming up, I found him stretched on his side, and for the first time, enjoyed the savage, but instinctive, delight of seeing an American deer lying at my feet, brought down by my own hand—what was next to be done? I had left my knife behind me, and could not perform the necessary operations in *breaking up* the deer, as it is termed, and must of course be burdened with the entire weight of the interior—but how was I to drag

along the first fruits of my deer hunting career.

By a clumsy and fumbling application of my ramrod to his nose, I succeeded in making a perforation sufficient to admit the end of my handkerchief—securing it there, I moved him with difficulty along the snow: not having any means of tying his fore feet to his nose, (which is usually done,) they caught in every log and branch I passed, by which I was both retarded and fatigued. Stopping to rest, I found that in the confusion of my joy, my rifle had been forgotten where I fired the last shot—and it should have remained there till next day, but for the apprehension of its being covered by the snow of the night.

I returned for it; yoked myself again to my cumbrous but honorable burden, and was proceeding gallantly, when the head of the buck happening to catch on a stump; at a sudden pull the handkerchief giving way, down I went head foremost, rifle and all, into

the snow. My sporting ardor would notwithstanding have made light of this, and of the weight I dragged along, had I not discovered to my utter consternation, that I was in a wrong track, and had completely lost my way. Still moving on, however, my ear was gratified by a distant shout to which, on my part, I most joyfully responded.

This gave me new life to tug along the trophy of my successful sport—another shout! still nearer and more distinct—returned by me of course—"a louder yet and yet a louder strain,"—one other shout—and all was still.

The parties mutually attracted by the approaching signals, had met, and shaken hands—and *there* appeared my brother Charles, yoked to another deer!!

On asking him in what direction the farmer's house lay? I was mortified to find that he knew as little of the matter as myself.

He had a knife, however, which enabled me to lighten the buck to which I was harnessed, and to brace his feet and head in a

more convenient manner for the draft. We then agreed to keep straight forward in the hope of crossing on some *Concession line*,* which might direct us in our course; but the sun had disappeared; the twilight was receding fast, and a faint gleam of moonlight through the trees afforded us but precarious assistance; at one place, however, where they were not so close, a stronger light broke in, and Charles, in great joy, called out that he had come upon a track; but judge what my disappointment must have been, and let me have the sympathy of all brother sportsmen, who may learn that the buck, which had travelled behind me for so many hours, was again lying within a few yards of the very spot on which he had first fallen.

By this time, in sporting phraseology, I was completely *done up*, and obliged to abandon my game from downright inability to pull

* Concession lines are those on which posts are fixed to number the lots of the townships.

it after me another yard.—My brother still stuck to his—but saddled me with the weight of his rifle. Becoming, shortly, as exhausted as myself, *his* deer was also left behind; and struggling on a little farther, so weak were we from fatigue, that we were deliberating upon ridding ourselves of the incumbrance even of our rifles, when a sudden shot was fired beside us—a horn sounded—almost in our ears, which we acknowledged by a double discharge—and to our great joy discovered that we were close to our good quarters of the night before; whilst, to our utter amazement we were informed that we had been all the time, so near the house, that the people repeatedly heard our voices and were surprised at our staying out so late.

Our guide of the morning received us hospitably, *guessing* "we had missed our way, and *calculating*, that it would be better if he had not left us, as he saw we did no good after all;" our point of honor, as sportsmen, being called in question, we averred that

each had brought down his deer; two of the spunky boys turned out, and soon returned with both deer to confirm our veracity and triumph.

In the morning it was great amusement to review our *circuitous* tracks, (which, as they said, "had *bet* down the whole place pretty considerably,") and to perceive that we had gone *round and round* in rings, within the limits of *twenty* acres, that were never passed during the space of the last five hours!! which terminated the hunting of our second day.

I remain, my dear Sir,

Your's faithfully,

THOS. WM. MAGRATH.

LETTER XVI.

From Thos. Wm. Magrath, Esq. Upper Canada, to the Rev. Thomas Radcliff, Dublin.

Erindale, January, 1832.

My dear Sir,

In my last, you were presented with the Johnny-raw results of our two first day's sport; but as practice makes perfect, I have not only been amply repaid for my first failure by future successes, but having tried all the various methods of the country for the gratification of this exciting amusement, I am en-

abled to detail the different modes of deer hunting, with their appropriate circumstances. As I commenced with *snow* shooting, I will here add some useful directions to be observed by sportsmen, in this particular branch, and also the usual dress and apparatus to be adopted.

The dress should consist of a blanket coat, made to button up to the collar; a cap of the same material; a warm pair of light coloured cloth trowsers, *three or four* pair of stockings under the moccasins, or a piece of blanket rolled round the foot as a protection from stumps—thus, with a leathern belt to carry your hunting knife, and with a rifle of the following description, you are accoutred for the hunting ground.

It should be two feet ten inches in the barrel, about ten pounds weight, and of a bore, suited to balls, forty to the pound; a description of rifle shot, experience has taught me to prefer to any other. This however is a

point upon which you will seldom find two sportsmen agree, as your fellows of light metal generally prefer a bauble.

I have invented a powder flask, to contain caps, balls and powder, to save the necessity of fumbling with cold fingers in different pockets, for the several articles—and will send you one as a model by the first opportunity, for the benefit of my brother sportsmen, who may come out to this country.

If on arriving at the scene of action, you find the wood abounding with fresh tracks, stand steady for a time, and observe if any of the deer are in motion. If you spy one that does not see *you*, contrive to be concealed by the trees, whilst you approach him—should your step be heard, stand still, and never stir till he begins to move: when within shot, fix your eye on a space through which he must pass; your finger, rifle, and eye, all ready. If you require it, take a rest against a tree, but be sure to cover the spot, and as he passes, aim for the shoulder,

and fire. Should you miss the deer, don't stand gaping like a fool, but load again at once, as he may be simple enough to give you a second shot, and you may have the luck to hit. Should he go off with his *single* DOWN, he is wounded. Keep as close as you can, and if he do not fall from the effects of the first shot, you can make sure of him by a second; your hunting knife must then be employed in the necessary operations—and lastly in opening the muscle of the nose and sinews of the fore legs, so as to admit a gad of the blue beech to pass through, and connect them all together—then taking the rifle on your left shoulder, and the gad over your right, you may pull away to the next house—but should you object to this laborious work, and yet wish to secure the venison, till an opportunity offer of sending for it; the head must be first got rid of, and the skin, to preserve it entire, be stripped from the *fore*, and left attached to the *hind*-quarters, when, the carcass being cut across, you must

look out for a tree of small diameter that will bend with your weight upon climbing up—as soon as it begins to spring, let go your feet, holding on with your hands only, and you will thus bring the top to the ground. The half deer fastened to this (as the tree springs back,) is put out of the reach of wolves and bears, as the former *cannot*, and the latter *will not*, climb a tree of such pliable dimensions. A stem calculated to raise but half a deer, could not fail to give way under an entire bear, besides, that to admit of being climbed, the tree should be of sufficient circumference to fill his embrace, and Bruin is too shrewd a fellow to take the risk of a failure, and a fall. The remaining half must be treated in a similar manner on a separate tree.

When you cross a river or ravine, never expose your person suddenly, and instead of walking along its edge, make a circuit through the wood, coming out with caution about three hundred yards below your point of entrance;

and observe to examine the brow of the opposite hill, as the deer, in winter, always lye in a situation that commands a wide compass. If two sportsmen are in company—one, should show himself at a distance to attract the attention of the deer, whilst the other, making a circuit, may come round unnoticed, and have a fair and decisive shot. This has happened to me in many instances.

Should the snow be very deep, snow-shoes become necessary. I have had occasion for them, however, but one winter out of six—at first they are very unpleasant, experience only will teach to use them, without inconvenince.

The second variety of the sport is termed *deer stalking*.

This takes place in summer—at which time the deer are so much scattered over the face of the country, it becomes very difficult to find them.

This is best to be effected at the *salt licks*, or springs, whither they resort to drink.

The sportsman should walk quietly along, in the direction of one of these—stopping occasionally to listen, and reconnoitre. By observing this precaution, and strict silence, I have frequently known the deer to walk up within ten yards of me.

In this mode of hunting, the arms should remain perfectly at rest; the body erect and steady—all motion limited to the legs and feet—no sawing of the air—no coughing—no brandishing the handkerchief—no sounding of the nasal trumpet—no flourishing the rifle from one side to the other, and above all, no *talking*—else the deer will be off. They have eyes, and ears, and a quick sensation of alarm. They dart away at a distance, and you will never get a shot.

A third method is termed *night shooting*.

The proper season for this sport is during the months of July and August. The time from midnight to day-break.

In this case the salt spring is again the

scene of action. Besides your rifle ready loaded, you bring thither, as appurtenances, a lantern with a concealed light, a bundle of pitch pine split into small stripes, and a *flask of brandy*; on your arrival seat yourself to leeward of the spring, that the deer, which are quick scented, may not perceive you on their approach. Let not a gleam of light escape, and remain quiet, 'till you hear a deer leap into the little marsh, which always surrounds the spring, then, waiting a few moments, slowly produce the light, and taking the rifle in your right hand, and the faggot in the left, apply your light, and ignite it gradually, as a sudden flash would put the deer to flight. As the faggot of pine wood, formed like a Bavarian broom, spreads an increasing light, you begin to perceive the game, the eyes first; which, from the reflection of the blaze, appear like balls of fire; you then take deliberate aim, and if you are not a *bungler*, you will bring down your deer.

Still move not farther than to re-load. They generally come in pairs; if not so now, drag out the fellow you have shot, resume your former situation, and you may probably bring home a second deer; avoid the does; the bucks are now very fat and in high season.

The fourth method is that of *Driving the Deer.*

This is in my estimation, an unsportsmanlike method, and is effected in the vicinity of lakes, by driving the deer with dogs, who pursue the animal through the woods, till he is obliged to take refuge in the water. There, a canoe is in waiting; and as the hunted deer comes bounding along, and boldly dashes into the lake, the aquatic hunters follow slowly, till he has made some way, and then press on, the chace. Thus pursued, the deer makes for the next headland, at a rate of swimming, which seems to baffle his pursuers; but they contrive to intercept his landing, and he turns again to the expanse of water.

The sportmen, (if they deserve that title,) not a little exhausted, still gain upon the wearied animal, he gives up his forward course, wheels again and again in narrower circles than the canoe can compass; yet makes no way—his nostrils distended—his head less raised above the water—his swimming slackened—he sees the canoe approach him—snorts wildly, but cannot escape the fatal noose thrown over his gallant head by his enemy in the boat, who twisting it on his neck, by means of the long pole to which it is affixed, thus puts an ignominious termination to the poor deer's life, and to the inglorious chace.

Sometimes I have been gratified by seeing a novice take the deer by the horns. That moment, he strikes at him with his four-feet, and unless the boat be a large one, invariably upsets it, or pulls the *Green-horn* overboard.

The common practice is, when the deer is perfectly exhausted, to seize him by the

tail with one hand, and make use of the tomohawk with the other—a description of butchery, to which I never have, or ever will be accessary. Having now detailed the various modes of deer-hunting, I will hold out some concluding encouragement to sportsmen, by adverting to a day's sport which my brother and I enjoyed, very different from that which I reported at the commencement of this subject.

In December, 1830, having arrived at the hunting ground, early in the morning, we found the tracks of deer so numerous on the snow, as to resemble those of a flock of sheep.

Getting forward, in great heart, we came to a ravine, where we spied at least twenty deer, gamboling about a spring. Each singled out his deer and fired. Without waiting to see whether they fell, we made off to a pass where I knew the herd would come out, and having re-loaded, we met them precisely at

the expected place, bounding and clearing every obstruction.

Our alarm was, that they would run over *us;* but they stopped short, and we pitched off two of them. Having bled, and collected together those that we had shot, we parted company, taking different directions in pursuit of the scattered deer, and fixing on a place of rendezvous for the night, we met there at eight o'clock, and on comparing notes, we found that my brother had ten balls at setting out; he had expended all, and missed but one shot. I had ten in the morning, but two on my return, and had missed two shots. Next morning we hauled all home, and never stopped till we ranged along the farmer's yard, thirteen fine deer, (two of them twice hit,) which were duly transferred to the frozen larder, at Erindale, for Winter *provant.*

Many weeks of similar amusement might be enumerated, since I became acquainted with the manner *of getting in* on the game. The

young sportsman, however, must not expect the success which I have described, on his first arrival in the woods.

I remain, my dear Sir,

Faithfully your's,

THOS. WM. MAGRATH.

P. S. My next shall treat of Bear Shooting.

LETTER XVII.

From Thos. Wm. Magrath, Esq. Upper Canada, to the Rev. Thomas Radcliff, Dublin.

Erindale, January, 1832.

My dear Sir,

I follow up, at your desire, the particulars of the *field* or rather *forest* sports—and having closed my last long letter, with the subject of deer hunting, I will commence this with another description of amusement.

BEAR SHOOTING.

The bear, though apparently an unwieldy animal, gets over the ground, faster than one could suppose.

I have had a pet one for years, (reared from a cub) that follows me about, and has often kept up with my horse, when at a round canter.

This huge black bear, standing five feet high when upright, is of the *fair* sex. The name to which she answers, "Mocaunse." * Her qualities, mildness and docility.

She runs about the house like a dog, and is invited to the drawing-room, when any visitor arrives, who wishes to make her acquaintance—when my avocations led me to the woods in distant parts of the province, Mocaunse was the companion of my journey, and the nightly guardian of my tent—not a sound or stir could be made, without a warning from her cautionary whine, or growl.

It was amusing to observe with what gravity she took her seat each morning at the opposite side of the mat, upon which my break-

* Mo caunse is, in the Mississagua language, Young Bear.

fast was arranged, and the *patience* with which she waited for her share of the repast. In this cardinal virtue she failed but in one instance. One morning on the shore of Lake-Huron, my party having stopped to prepare breakfast; whilst my servant was getting ready mine, I plunged into the lake to indulge in a bracing swim, and on returning with "encrease of appetite," found Miss Mocaunse, lying down perfectly at her ease, having devoured every morsel of my breakfast—biscuit, bread, sugar, &c. all eaten up, and the tea *equipage*, &c. &c., in the most glorious confusion!! Conceiving it necessary to impress strongly on her recollection, my disapprobation of such unladylike conduct, and to guard against the recurrence of a similar disaster, I tied her to a post and bestowed on her hairy sides so sound a drubbing, that benefitting by this practical lecture upon patience, Macaunse has invariably waited breakfast for me ever since.

Bears are not as numerous as they were on

our first coming to Canada—nor are they as troublesome, or as dangerous, as is supposed.

They have been sometimes known to carry off a small pig; but as to their attacking the human species, without being grievously provoked, (though it *may* have occurred,) no instance of it has come within my knowledge or experience. They seem rather to avoid a conflict with man, but if assailed and injured by him, there can be no doubt, that his danger would be in proportion to their strength and power, which are very great.

The manner of shooting bears is much the same, as in the case of deer, with the exception of using a heavier ball; and, that should you wound one badly without killing him, the sooner you get up a tree, too slight for *him* to climb, the better for your own security.

The Winter skin of the bear generally sells for six or seven dollars, and is very useful in sleighs, and as bedding.

The meat of a *young* bear is not unlike pork, but infinitely better. I have frequently eaten

it, and like it. In New York it is considered a great delicacy, light, wholesome, and easily digested.

The interior fat, entitled *Bear's Grease*, is valuable for the hair, more in *demand*, than in *real existence*, in the shops.

I sent over some to ladies of my acquaintance, who perceiving that it was neither bleached nor scented, preferred, as I am told, the medicated hogslard of the perfumers.

One fellow that I shot, produced me as much pomatum as would cover the tonsured heads of an entire monastery, with a pile of hair as thick as a wig. I shall never, the longest day I live, forget the hour I killed him. It was one of my earliest essays in this branch of sporting.

A few weeks after we arrived at Toronto, my brother and I, in walking through the woods with our rifles, observed several pieces of bark falling to the ground from an old pine of great dimensions, and on looking up, perceived an enormous bear, endeavouring

to lodge himself in the hollow of the tree; after some consideration, it was agreed that *I* should be the assailant, my brother reserving his fire, lest mine should prove ineffectual. With this counter security against the *fraternal embrace* of a savage animal, dangerous when attacked, and furious when wounded, I took the most deliberate aim, and fired; at the moment came rolling to the ground "with hideous yell," the shaggy monster, writhing in agony.

We looked from him to each other—our resolve was rapid, as mutual—we ran for our lives; whichever occasionally took the lead, fancied the footsteps of the other, those of the pursuing bear; to our ear, he seemed to close upon us. The rustling of the underwood encreasing our alarm, doubled our speed; and it is difficult to say when we should have stopped, had we not found ourselves up to the knees in a deepening swamp. From hence we cast an anxious look behind, and

not espying Bruin, plucked up our courage, and with my rifle re-loaded, and both cocked, began to retrace our steps, with due and exemplary caution; about midway a black squirrel darted across, our imaginations were so deeply occupied with terror of the bear, our rifles were in a second at our shoulders, and I will not say, whether a little more would not have given us a second race.

We proceeded, however, *gallantly* towards the place where my first shot had taken effect, and making our observations, at *respectful distance*, we remarked the bear at the foot of the same old pine; when, my brother, saying that he looked *suspicious*, fired with a certain aim; he need not have been so particular, as poor Bruin never winced, and had never moved from the moment that his terrifying, but expiring, roar had put us to ignominious flight.

Many a weary tug it cost us, to bring him to our house; where the candid confession of

our exploits excited no inconsiderable fun and merriment.

Hunting the Racoon.

This is a kind of sport which does not admit of much variety.

In the moonlight nights the Racoons collect in numbers in the cultivated fields, to regale upon the Indian corn, and are there to be attacked with caution, as, they retire at the slightest noise, which makes it particularly necessary to keep all quiet, about the house and farm yard, for an hour or two after nightfall; at which time, having a dog well trained for the purpose, you sally forth. The dog may be "half lurcher and half cur," or of any description that has a tolerable nose and *an audible voice.*

The moment he comes upon the scent, he gives tongue, and the Racoons immediately fly to the adjoining trees. He runs the first, to the tree in which he has taken shelter, and remains barking at its root. You come up,

and from the indication of the dog, as well as from the assistance of the moon, you have no difficulty in finding your game, or in killing it.

When you have shot the first, lay the dog on, again; the same result may be expected; and so in continuation, till, by the cessation of the barking, you are apprized that no other Racoons remain.

Occasionally, however, a more animated scene takes place, by day light, when one of those animals may happen to exhibit himself in a tree beside the house.

This is the only hunting of wild animals, in which the fair sex partake; but on this occasion the entire family turn out: men, women, children, domestics, dogs, &c.

If there be a gun in question the sport is soon over; if not, the tree must be cut down. Pending the operation, all eyes are fixed on Cooney, sitting aloft with perfect composure, and looking down with ineffable contempt upon the gaping enemy; and with some jus-

THE RACOON HUNT.

Etched by Samuel Lover Esqre R.H.A.

"all striking at him together intercept each others implements of war"

tice!—for how could he imagine, that, with the purpose of destroying a peaceable and harmless animal like himself, a domestic host should be arrayed against him. He gives no credit to it, 'till the creaking tree yielding to the axe, begins to give way, when running rapidly down the stem, and bolting up that of an adjoining tree, he makes a second effort at security.

In the confusion upon his first descent, he frequently escapes; all striking at him together, intercept each other's implements of war. Cunning and nimble as a fox, he avoids them all; but should he cling to the falling tree, he comes to the ground, bruised, and stunned, an easy victim to the beetle, potstick, fleshfork, or poker of the amazonian cook maid, who carries him off in triumph to the kitchen, encouraged, by her success, to hope for a few more to line her Sunday cloak with their comfortable skins.

Believe me, dear Sir,

Your's faithfully,

T. W. MAGRATH.

P. S. I rather think I shall be the bearer of this letter myself as far as London; if so I shall continue the subject from thence and may happen to see you before summer.

LETTER XVIII.

From Thomas William Magrath, Esq. to the Rev. Thomas Radcliff, Dublin.

London, March, 1832.

My dear Sir,

As I supposed would be the case, when I wrote last, business has led me to this city; and I shall go forward to Ireland before my return to Canada. I promised to continue the subject of field sports, and having now *despatched* the beasts, I must try my hand upon the *birds*.

Partridge Shooting.

The partridge is here, a much finer and larger bird than with you, but does not afford half the sport.

The coveys, when raised, generally perch in trees and sit there, as tamely as barn-door fowl. The best dog to use in this case is of the genuine King Charles breed—who, when he finds, will quest, and *tree* the birds, whose whole attention being fixed on him, as he barks at the bottom of the trees, you may come within half distance if you wish, and pick them off one by one, without disturbing the rest; unless, that by firing at the upper birds first their tumbling through the branches, will disconcert the others and make them take wing—even in this case, the lively cocker will follow and tree them again; and unless in the vicinity of a settlement, where they are frequently disturbed, you may shoot three or four brace from the covey without any difficulty. The dog must be trained, not to mind the fallen birds, but

to pursue those on wing, and thus, from tree to tree, you may by degrees, bag the entire covey, without compunction, as, in this country no one ever thinks of leaving any for breed. Your poaching sportsmen whose main object is a supply for the table, and whose epicurean tact appreciates the delicious flavor of the bird, think this delightful sport; but I cannot agree with them—there is something inglorious in a sitting shot, that a true professor cannot brook.

Quails, also, upon a much larger scale than your's, are becoming abundant, as the clearing advances.

The shooting of Woodcock and Snipe.

It appears extraordinary to a sportsman, coming from the old country, who has been accustomed to shoot woodcocks, in the depth of winter, to find on his arrival here, that the summer months are those, when that sport is enjoyed in high perfection—not at the moment reflecting, that they, being birds

of passage, will be led by instinct to desert the northern latitudes, (before they become bound in impenetrable frost,) for milder climes whose unfrozen springs are better suited to their manner of subsistence.

Ireland is, in many places, remarkable for excellent cock shooting, which I have myself experienced in the most favorable situations, not, however, to be compared with this country, where the numbers are truly wonderful.

Were I to mention what I have seen in this respect, or heard from others, it might bring my graver statements into disrepute.—As a specimen of the sport, I will merely give a fact or two of, not unusual, success, bearing, however, no proportion to the quantity of game. I have known Mr. Charles Heward, of York, to have shot, in one day, thirty brace, at Chippewa, close to the Falls of Niagara—and I, myself, who am far from being a first rate shot, have frequently brought home from twelve to fourteen brace, my

brothers performing their parts with equal success—after dinner, now and then, an amicable disputation will arise as to the number of shots hit, and missed; which is generally decided by reference to the remaining contents of the powder horns, all having been equally filled in the morning. This frequently reminds me of a story I had heard before I left Ireland, of a large party of sportsmen who turned out one day from a most hospitable mansion, into the best cover that country afforded, and returned to dinner, after a splendid day's shooting.

A convivial evening naturally embraced the subject of their morning prowess—and each exulting in the sport, and elate with his own particular success, enumerated the shots which he had hit and missed. A gentleman present, who was no sportsman, and, of course entitled to express surprise, took out his pencil, to note, as it were, the wonders of the day, and having exhibited the account, which was stated to him as correct, he

rang the bell, and inquired the *number* of woodcocks brought home that day; this being sent up, bore testimony to the *accuracy* of the sportsmen's *recollection*, and upon the whole, their *skill* and *fortune* appeared to have been equally good, and, that but *one* shot had been missed out of every *five*—upon which the same gentleman remarked that there must be some mistake; as he, who had accompanied them to the cover, and had never left it till they did, not carrying a gun, had amused himself, with a knife and stick, tallying every shot that was fired during the day. This fatal tally being produced, and its notches compared with the number of woodcocks, the account assumed a different form, which evinced, that instead of *one* shot *missed* in *five*, there was but *one* shot *hit* in *six*.

This admirable lecture upon *vain glory*, was productive, I am told, of great merriment. The gentleman who instituted the humorous scrutiny, having assured them that he meant not to make any invidious or individual appli-

cation of his *sporting arithmetic*, but to leave them to settle the balance among themselves.

The woodcock here is smaller than those I was in the habit of seeing at home. When flushed they rise with a kind of whistle. In settlements near a river they are most numerous; but never appear until some clearing has been made. I have never met a woodcock in the *wild Bush*, in all my excursions.

The snipe are pretty much the same as with you, differing a little in plumage; and being less wild, are more easily shot. There is a variety called the *great snipe*, not very common. The former kind is to be met with every where, and are in such numbers that a tolerable shot may bring home from twenty to thirty brace in a day.

DUCK SHOOTING.

Of the *varieties* of the duck species I must postpone the description till a future opportunity, as my present letter is drawing to a close.

The *Wood Duck* is so termed from lighting in the trees; and is, of course very easily shot. The warfare against this sort, must be considered a slaughter, rather than a sport. Should our friend John Wall bring out with him the *Roaring Mag*, as he calls his great duck gun, what lanes would he not cut in the countless flocks that seem to *court* destruction?

The common duck shooting, affords excellent sport. They particularly abound in a marsh near York, where the amusement is enjoyed in manner following.

You get into a canoe or skiff, with a person expert at the use of the paddle, and then proceed quietly along, avoiding the dry sedge and rushes as much as possible; the sound caused by their brushing against the sides of the canoe, disturbs the ducks from their feed, and sets them on the watch; in which case it is very difficult to get a shot. The true method is to proceed with two canoes, that while one remains quiet, the other, making a wide circuit, may come round the flock, and make

them fly over the party, in that which is stationary; this method can seldom fail of success.

Great steadiness, however, must be observed on board, in default of which, many accidents take place. I have known a whole party lose their guns, by the awkwardness of one who, unaccustomed to "*the shimmer of the seas*," lost his balance, and upset her; treating himself and his companions to a hazardous swim, and wet jackets.

In lake shooting, a friend of mine, in letting down the hammer of his gun, discharged its contents through the bottom of the canoe at a considerable distance from shore, when the only mode of safety was to hurry off his coat, place it over the orifice, and sit down upon it firmly; at every swerve of the canoe, a plash of water would break in, making his situation as uncomfortable as dangerous, till at length he reached the shore, immersed above the hips.

For river shooting, the Nottawesaga, which runs into lake Huron, is the best duck

river I have ever met. Twenty pair a day, has been with me a common day's sport.

They abound here from the remoteness of the situation, and from their being seldom disturbed. Here are to be found, in great numbers, the large black duck, the *Canard Francois.*

You come at them in this way—when you perceive a flock on the water, you must paddle *slowly* towards them, keeping in the middle of the river; if you go faster than they can swim, they will take wing, but if you proceed quietly, they will continue to swim before you; joined, perhaps, by another flock, but not within shot. When you have driven them thus, for a few hundred yards, run the canoe into the sedge, at the river's side, remaining silent and concealed; presently they will all return down the river to their feeding ground. Wait till they are just passing; determine how many are to fire at them on the water, and how many in the air, and a great havoc is the certain result.

Chasing the wounded birds is esteemed good sport. For some days my party eat of nothing but ducks. Too fastidious to be at the trouble of plucking the feathers from the entire body, they merely bared the breast, and cutting it out threw away all the rest, except when the Indians, who were with me, wished to convert the refuse into soup; and even then they were not very particular, as to the *feathers*.

Your's, dear Sir,

Faithfully,

T. W. MAGRATH.

LETTER XIX.

From Thomas W. Magrath, Esq. to the Rev. Thomas Radcliff, Dublin.

London, April, 1832.

My dear Sir,

I was obliged to close my last letter abruptly, or should have missed a favorable opportunity of sending it free.

It terminates all I have at present to communicate as to the sports of the wood; and I shall now touch briefly upon those of the water.

Whoever is fond of fishing, should bring with him his tackle duly prepared; a stiff trout

rod, and all the usual requisites for angling. The flies made use of here, are precisely the same as those which are most approved with you.

The Canadian trout is neither squeamish or particular, and will not disdainfully reject *any* that you may throw in his way, but on the contrary will rise briskly at *some* that *your* epicures of the stream would hold in utter contempt.

I have frequently caught from nine to ten dozen in a few hours, where an artificial fly had never appeared before. In fishing for trout, the *bass* frequently takes off the fly. The salmon fly is best suited to them—which is here but seldom used, as the salmon are so well fed at the bottom of the rivers, they are, in but few instances, known to take the fly; and the most usual method of killing them is, with the *spear*. If this take place in the day time, a bright sun is preferred, and a tree having been felled, so as to fall across the river, the sportsman taking his stand on

this, rests quiet, and strikes the fish as they pass up—any violent movement will alarm the Salmon, and drive them suddenly back or make them shoot forward with great rapidity. By observing stillness and composure, I have known a good spearman to kill from forty to fifty Salmon in a few hours.

The method, however, which is usually preferred is *night-fishing*, which is effected thus: Two sportsmen take their stations in a light skiff, one at the bow, with spear in hand, the other at the stern. The spear is three pronged, the handle twelve feet in length, of the best white ash; the thickness, that which is *well known*, but *better handled*, in every fair in Ireland, under the title of a *shilelagh*.

In the Bow, also is secured a pole of stronger dimensions about four feet in length, to the top of which is appended by means of a socket, an Iron Jack, or grate, moveable on pivots, so as to balance, and right itself, when the boat moves roughly through the rapids, and to prevent the fire or light wood,

which it is to contain, from being thrown out. This Jack or grate is circular, about one foot in depth, and fourteen inches in diameter. It is supplied from time to time with pitch pine, cut into lengths of eight inches, about inch and half in thickness—a large heap of these is piled in the centre of the skiff, from which magazine, the light-Jack is replenished, so as to keep up a bright and continued flame, which blazing upwards from two to three feet, exhibits clearly to your view the fish even to the depth of ten feet, or fairly *across* the river where it happens to run shallow. The spear-man takes his stand behind the Jack. If in *deep* water, he at the stern, plies the paddle, if in *shallow*, a light spear; by means of which he prevents the skiff from bolting too suddenly down the rapids, and often strikes a fish the bow-man may have missed. Thus appointed, you go as quietly as possible down the stream, and on seeing a fish, you must not be in too great a hurry to strike, unless in a shallow and rapid part of the

river. If, in deep water, the blazing Jack throws down its light upon a Salmon, let your eye not swerve from the object, nor your spear deviate from its poise, till you strike; and when you do, observe that you throw yourself back to preserve your balance; or an upset, and a cool dip will be the penalty of your incaution.

In aiming at the fish, strike nearer to you than he appears, and nearer still, in proportion to the depth of the water.

In this respect, the young sportsman will meet frequent disappointment, as nothing but experience will enable him to calculate the power of refraction, so as to reconcile the real, and apparent distance.

You should always aim at the shoulder, and if you strike successfully, bring in the fish with as much expedition as possible, lest he should twist himself off the spear—when you have him fairly in the skiff, you loose your spear from the fish, by striking it against the seat. Should the Salmon however, at which you

have struck, escape, and turn down the stream, keep steadily on, and when he wheels to pass you, wheel also rapidly, by putting out your spear at one side to assist the steersman, then push up the stream to get above the fish, as he will generally rest some time after making, what is termed, *the dart pass*, and you will be sure to find him in the first sudden deepening of the river. The slightest wound he may have received will appear quite white in the water, and should he be out of distance, you must endeavour to strike, by *throwing* your spear, for which purpose you must grasp it at the middle with your left hand, and at the top with your right, and fling it at the remote object with such aim and dexterity as you can command—many are expert at this, but he that is not, had better avoid the experiment; as the effort will probably be unsuccessful, and, it will require the greatest possible steadiness, to keep his feet, when the spear has quit his hand. Shortly after our arrival here, my brother and I

speared one hundred and twenty Salmon of a night; but they are now becoming less numerous, in consequence of the number of saw-mills erected, the profusion of saw dust on the water, (always annoying to the fish) and, the multitudes of oak staves annually floated down the river.

By the hardy sportsman, night-fishing is always preferred, but is a source of misery to the *Dandy*, who is afraid of wetting his feet. For this description of animal, I have so little respect or pity, that I have often undergone a wetting by upsetting the Canoe, to enjoy the terror of the *would-be* sportsman—one need not however, often volunteer these occasional ablutions; they will occur of themselves, and, when you least expect them. As my brother Charles is generally my companion in all sports upon land, so, my brother James, is upon the water—not having the same relish for the fatigue of Deer shooting as for the saddle of a *Prime Buck*; to which no man can pay his respects in greater style, or

better understands the due and relative proportions of the currant jelly and wine sauce; and woe betide the cook, if there be any omission on her part, of preparing, cording, pasting and basting, when he invades her premises on a visit of inspection.

For our third or fourth attempt at night fishing, we prepared by pulling our skiff a couple of miles up the river by day light, and when night came on, to use the sporting phrase, we *lighted up*, and falling down the stream with excellent amusement, had taken about thirty Salmon, when being driven at a spanking rate by a smart current, we discovered, (but alas! too late) that a tree had fallen across the river against which the staff of the light-jack having struck, the skiff wheeled broadside to the stream, and the gunwale coming in contact with one of the branches, the capsize was as sudden as disastrous—every article on board, our dear selves—the numerous Salmon—magazine of Firewood—axe rifle—brandy bottle—Light jack—all—in a

moment committed to the deep ! !—Most fortunately, however, we were not past our depth, but pretty nearly so. Floundering about in our blanket coats for some time, and having at last gained the bank, our first look out was for the skiff; having hauled her on shore, and, with much groping recovered one of the spears, our next exertion was to kindle a fire, the night being too dark from the over hanging trees, to venture forward without a light. In our dripping state this was a project of very dubious result; but having luckily between us, a flint and steel, at the sore expense of our knuckles in the dark, we at length succeeded in setting fire to an old tree; and forming a torch with some birch-bark, we resolved on walking home, and returning in the morning for the recovery of our apparatus.

Here, however, the idea of being laughed at, shook our resolution; were we, uninjured in our persons, and unentitled to any serious sympathy, to come back like drowning Rats,

to the family fireside, divested too, of the produce of our night's labour; how truly ludicrous would be the exhibition? No; it would never do—we could not stand the jibes and jeers, even of the home party.

Resolved, therefore---

"That, the skiff be forthwith launched once more.

That, the fishing light be renewed, and—

That, the recovered spear be put in immediate requisition to raise and fish up our sundry property, from the place of its immersion.

Acting upon the spirit and principle of the foregoing resolutions; by means of the skiff and spear, we brought up all the solid articles, except the brandy bottle, which, rolling off the prongs at every effort to raise it to the skiff; my brother, grievously disappointed, and suffering from the cold, determined on a desperate and final effort, and wading in, to the shoulders, upon touching, with his foot, the object of solicitude,

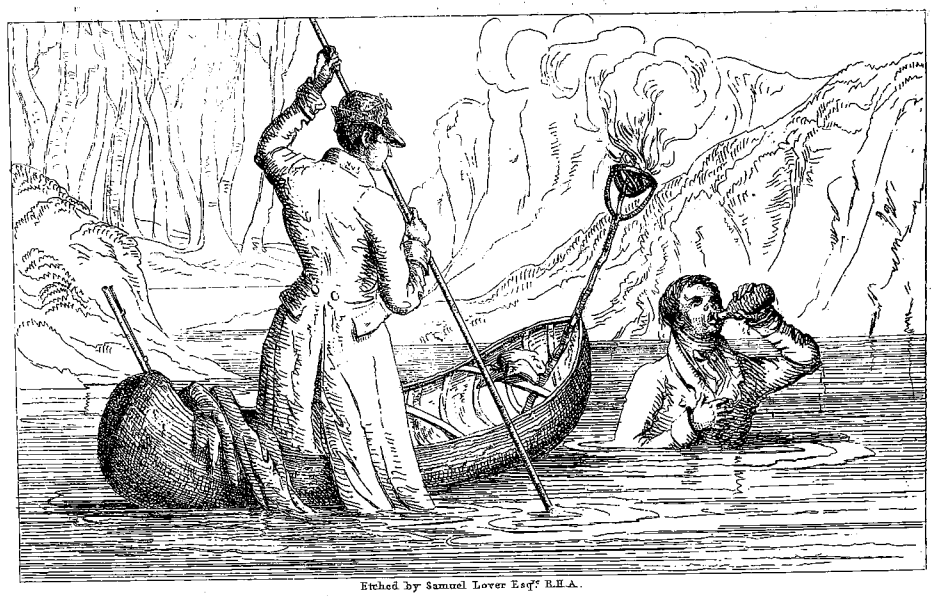
immediately dived and brought it safe to—the skiff?—no—the land?—no—his mouth? yes—but not till he had removed both that, and the *mouth* of the bottle into shallower water, and beyond the risk of admixture with that deteriorating element. He embraced his regained companion with prolonged ardor, but had the charity to interrupt his draft by leaving me a comfortable potation, to which I paid my respects, with great complacency. With renewed vigor we plied the axe—prepared the firewood—re-lighted the jack—and bound for home, picked up at every eddy, one or more of our lost salmon; bringing back, in triumph, after all, twenty-seven choice fish, being within three of the original number taken.

There are other modes of night fishing:—

That practised by the Indians, from whom we derive our habits, differs from the foregoing, in two particulars only.

First—Instead of the light-jack they make use of a slender pole, split at the top, so as

NIGHT FISHING



Etched by Samuel Lover Esq.r R.H.A.

"He embraced his regained companion with prolonged ardor."—

to receive a torch of birch bark, which, with respect to light, is equal to the former method, but from the frequency of its renewal, is attended with infinitely more trouble.

Secondly—Instead of a steers*man* at the stern, that situation is generally assigned to the *squaw*.

I should be very sorry that any fair lady, who may intend, or be persuaded, to honor me with her hand, should suppose that Mrs. T. W. Magrath would be obliged to take her place at the stern of *my* canoe, upon such occasions.

In all other respects the Indian practice is the same with our's.

Another method is that of erecting a stage or platform in the river; and supplying it with sufficient light, you spear the fish as they pass up. This often affords tolerable sport, but very inferior, in point of number, to the other modes.

It is, however, much to be recommended to your fat and unwieldy fellows, who dislike

being wet to the skin, and enjoy a firm footing. The platform is an improvement on the Indian plan, (with the same object of security,) of lighting a fire on the bank, and striking the fish from thence.

There is one other method to be remarked, which is that of cutting a hole in the ice, of about eighteen inches diameter, and sitting over it, rolled up in a blanket or buffalo skin, with a line, and small hook baited with a grub taken from the inside of the pine bark. Trout is the chief fish sought for in this way; but you may occasionally hit with the spear the bass, the pickrel, and the pike.

Some dozens of trout have been often hooked through this aperture, when the ice has been ten inches thick; a kind of sport which I never enjoyed, but which may be agreeable to those who, as my countryman would say, "*are very hot in themselves.*"

The salmon fishing is, to me, the most agreeable. I have taken, in the river Credit, in spring, within twenty yards of our hall

door, as fine fish as I ever met in Ireland, as firm and full of curd as if within *ten* miles of the sea, instead of *five hundred.*

It is still a matter of doubt with some, whether the salmon of Lake Ontario visit the ocean every year, or not. My opinion is, that according to the natural history of that fish, they must do so. It is only in the waters that communicate with the sea they are to be found. No salmon was ever seen in any river or lake *above* the Falls of Niagara; indeed it would be, as the Yankee expresses it, "*pretty considerable of a jump for him.*"

Mullet (a very bad fish,) are to be taken in vast numbers, I have speared them till I could hold the spear no longer. When they come up the river to spawn, they are taken in hundreds by the net. They are still worse at that season, but by some are thought worth being salted and packed in barrels for future consumption.

The fish of the lakes are salmon, salmon

trout, herring, pickrel, cat fish, pike, white fish and maskanonge; the two latter are of superior quality.

These may be treated of in future; but though I have confined myself in this respect to the fish of the river, I think I have furnished you with a *pretty good dish* for one letter, which, in compassion to you and myself, I will now conclude.

I remain, my dear Sir,
Your's, &c. &c.
T. W. MAGRATH.

LETTER XX.

Extract of a letter from Thos. Radcliff, Esq. to his Agent in Dublin.

Adelaide, Caradoc, London District,
Upper Canada, Feb. 1833.

Dear Sir,

In August last I wrote to you, from Toronto, directing the manner in which you should forward my remittances; this is February, and as I have not heard in reply, I begin to entertain some apprehension that you never received my letter, although I sent it by New York, and post paid it so far. The

object of this is to trouble you with some commissions, as every thing of British manufacture, is here nearly double the price it is in the mother country.

Considering all things, we are now very comfortably settled, and should have little to complain of, if the state of the roads would permit me to haul my luggage up from the lake; but the mildness of the winter prevents this, as there has not yet been sufficient frost and snow to admit of sleighing.

What renders this settlement peculiarly agreeable is the circumstance of its being mostly peopled by British; many of them, families of respectability, living within a few minutes walk of me. We are making rapid advances as to numbers and improvement; when the resources of the country are more fully developed, (judging from what has been done in so short a time,) there is every reason to look forward to the future with the happiest anticipations from the industry and enterprise of the emigrants. Last July, this township

was a wilderness without habitation; there are now upwards of two thousand inhabitants, and houses within every half mile along the road. A village has commenced already; there are seven houses, two of them shops; an hotel, and post-office are in progress—the parsonage was begun last week, and the church will be finished in Spring. A family which had been attached to some choir in England, has arrived here, with capital voices and good instruments, so that even your practised ear would acknowledge the merit of the performance, in that branch of our service.

It would astonish you to see the facility with which they knock down immense trees in this country. I have already thirty acres cleared.

Whenever you have a sufficient sum of money, lodge it to my credit in the house of Messrs. Thos. Wilson and Co. of Warnford Court, Throgmorton-street, London, Agents for the bank of Upper Canada; as money lodged with them, on the bank account, will

be paid by the bank of York, with benefit of exchange.

Bank stock is now upwards of twelve per cent.*

* * * * * *

T. R.

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* This short extract is given as the latest information received from the settlement at Adelaide.

CONCLUDING REMARKS.

The Editor has taken a great liberty in publishing the foregoing correspondence with undisguised signatures.

He feels that he need plead no other excuse to the writers, than his wish to furnish the information conveyed in their letters, in a manner the most satisfactory and authentic. *

* It is but fair towards the correspondents to state that those letters were written, without the most distant idea on their part, that they were to meet the public eye—an accurate diary has been kept, with that view, by another person of the same family, which has not yet arrived; but from which, Extracts may hereafter be given. Mr. Magrath means also to publish, very soon, Canadian Scenery and Field Sports, on an extended scale.

Though they may not abound with the statistics of the new Country, they cannot be wholly devoid of matter interesting to all who turn their thoughts to Upper Canada, especially to those related to, or acquainted with the parties, whose judgment and discretion they can appreciate, and whose track they may safely follow in forming similar settlements.

Information communicated by various correspondents, though desultory, may not it is hoped, be the less attractive; care has been taken to exclude repetitions, and the *order* of the subject matter, has been preferred to the consecutive arrangement of dates.

It may be right here to refer to one or two points, upon which erroneous opinions seem to have been formed. The first is, as to the supposed high price of labour which has often alarmed, if not deterred the purchasing Emigrants; whilst the lower classes, who look to excessive wages, have been as frequently disappointed—a chief cause of this error is,

that few make a true distinction between the nominal price of labour in the States, and in Canada; the Dollar in the former, being *Eight* shillings, in the latter but *five*. So that a calculation on the value of labour in either case, particularly in the first, must mislead; as, even in Canada the five shilling Dollar is but about four shillings and six pence british. The hard-working labourer, however, is sure of a fair remuneration, but *work* he must, or he will not be employed; on this extra work turns also the equalization of wages, between the old and the new country. The daily wages at the government works, being 2s. 4d. with rations—(v. letter 9.)---must be a guide to the price of labour generally, though it may vary with change of circumstances.

At Toronto, near York, day wages are two shillings and six pence *cash*, three shillings *store*, i. e. by an order for provisions—and these rates are very general. The rations, or diet, however good, are there very unexpensive, and when it is taken into consideration, that a

greater number of hours are occupied in the days labour than with us, and a stoppage made for any portion of the time, during which that is suspended, either from idleness, or from necessity; and when the skill of the workman, which enables him to perform his task in a shorter time, is also considered, it will be found that the disparity between Canadian, and British value of labour is very small indeed; and so with Servants' wages---suppose a general farm Servant at £25 per annum: this cannot be thought dear, when he is fed so cheaply, and clothes himself. This statement may tend to remove error, as to these points.

The Editor is also anxious to advert to the Indian settlement mentioned in letter 13. The document referred to in page 207 is as follows:

Report of the state of the Indians on the River Credit, Township of Toronto, Upper Canada, presented to the Lord Bishop of Quebec, by the Rev. James Magrath, Missionary. March, 1828.

"Those Indians, consisting of about 200 souls, are a part of the tribe of Missessaguas; to whom, a large portion of the upper part of this province formerly belonged. About four years ago, they were wandering Pagans, without any fixed habitation. In 1823, they were collected on the grand river by Mr. Peter Jones, assisted by his brother John, who are Wesleyan Methodists. These pious men taught the Adults by rote, by frequent repetitions, the first principles of Christianity, as they were too far advanced in years to learn to read and write. They were taught the creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the commandments; as soon as they were converted, they were sensible of the evils attendant

on their former ignorant and wandering state. They began to work, which they never had done before. They perceived the advantages of cultivating the soil—they totally gave up drinking, to which they had been strongly addicted; they became industrious, sober, and useful. The government in 1826, built a handsome village for them on the River Credit, consisting of twenty houses, they have built seven more themselves; they have a Meeting-house which is also used as a School house for the boys, there is another school house for the girls, and a house for the resident Missionary. They are anxious that some trades people should be established in the village, and the boys instructed by them. They have two yoke of Oxen in common, and seven yoke private property; twelve cows, six horses, four ploughs, four sleighs and one waggon; last year they cultivated thirty-five acres of land. They have about two thousand acres round the village—thirty

five boys attend school—Mr. John Jones is Master, with a salary from the Methodist Missionary Society; at first he had but £30 per annum: this year, it has been increased to £50. He receives no remuneration from his pupils or from any other quarter. About thirty six girls are in the female school, Miss Sillick, Mistress, without any fixed salary as yet; the children in both schools are instructed in reading, writing, and arithmetic; and in the Bible, and Church Catechism. The girls are taught sewing and knitting; they wish much to get spinning wheels; the school Mistress told me that his Excellency the Governor, has ordered them a supply of Bibles and Testaments. The pulpit and desk are open to any Clergyman of the established Church who may choose to address them. Mr. Peter Jones, (who with his brother, are half-bred Indians, and speak the Indian language fluently,) is good enough to interpret for me, as almost all the women, and about one fourth of the men, cannot speak

English. I visit the village about twice a month, when my health permits.

State of Farm in 1828—		*State of Farm in* 1831:—	
In tillage . . .	35 acres	In tillage . .	206 acres
Oxen in common	2 yoke	Oxen in common	7 yoke
Oxen private . .	7 do.	Oxen in private .	6 do.
Cows	12	Cows	20
Horses . . .	6	Horses . . .	18
Ploughs . . .	4	Ploughs . . .	4
Sleighs . . .	4	Carts . . .	2
Waggon . . .	1	Sleighs . . .	8

Houses lately built by the Indians:

A Work-house for all Trades,

A Saw-mill,

A Store for Merchants on the River.

N. B. They manufacture Gloves, Mocassins, and Baskets—best Gloves of Deer skin, 7s. 6d. a pair.

Mr. Peter Jones, has published seven chapters of St. Mathew in the Chippewa tongue—Mr. John Jones, is translating the Gospel of St. John. The moral and religious improvement of the Indians may chiefly be

attributed to those *two men.* It would be highly injurious to the converts, in my opinion, were any attempts made by the clergy of the Episcopal Church, to shake their confidence in the Messrs. Jones, who have a decided advantage in being able to preach to them in their native language.

1831---*Established by the Society of Methodists.*

Resident Missionary, Rev. Geo. Ryerson,
School Master, Mr. Edwy Ryerson,
School Mistress, Miss Eliza Rolph.

September, 1831.

JAMES MAGRATH."

The Editor trusts, that the foregoing will be considered an interesting document, as to the facility and good effects of civilization, when undertaken with zeal, and continued with perseverance.

He will not obtrude farther, than by extracting some information from excellent authorities in the form of a brief appendix,

which may be useful as to the cost of labour, culture and stock, and as tending to prove the general excellence of Upper Canada, and the particular advantages of the District in which his friends are settled.

APPENDIX.

LABOUR.

Wages, per day, 2s. 6d. with diet.

Working hours: from light to dark, in Winter; from six o'clock to dusk, in Summer.

*Cost of preparing one acre of uncleared land for wheat.**

Clearing by task work, 13 dollars - - -		£3 5 0

Particular cost of each branch of the clearing process.

Chopping,	6 dollars, - -	£1 10 0†	
Fencing,	3 ditto, - -	0 15 0	
Burning	4 ditto, - -	1 0 0	
			£3 5 0

* This varies from 13 to 17 dollars per acre; according to circumstances; 13 being the usual charge.

† This varies, according to the kind of timber, from 5 to 7 dollars.

Cost of producing, and delivering produce of one acre of wheat.

Clearing - - - - - -	£3	5	0
Seed, 1½ bushel, at 5s. - - -	0	7	6
Harrowing before and after sowing -	0	5	0
Cradling - - - - -	0	6	3
Binding and Stooking - - -	0	3	0
Drawing home - - - -	0	3	0
Threshing and winnowing - - -	0	15	0
Provisions to labourers - - -	0	10	0
Delivery - - - - -	0	2	0
	£5	16	9
Add the purchase of one acre - -	0	10	0
Total cost - - -	£6	6	9

PROCEEDS.

Thirty-five bushels wheat, at 5s. per -	£8	15	0
Deduct cost as above - - - -	6	6	9
Net profit on first year * - -	£2	8	3

Communicated by T. W. Magrath, Esq. Township of Toronto.

* The result of actual Experiment.

QUERIES ANSWERED BY T. W. MAGRATH, ESQ.

Q. Best season for chopping?

A. July and August.—The stumps decay the sooner.

Q. What time occupied in clearing one acre, by a given number of hands, stating the number?

A. One man should chop an acre of even land in six days, and with the assistance of a yoke of oxen and another man for one day, should burn and clear it in six more.

Q. Season for wheat sowing?

A. November or April.

Q. Quantum of seed?

A. From 1 to 1½ bushel.

Q. Quantum of produce?

A. From 25 * to 35 bushels.

Q. Are horses and oxen to be procured for hire, and at what rate per day, including driver?

A. Oxen and driver, 3s. 9d. per day; horses and waggon, 7s, 6d. to 10s. according to the season of the year; much dearer in Harvest than Winter.

Q. Prices of stock?

A.

Work horses, each, from -	£12	10 to	£15	0	0
Trained Oxen, for the pair - -			10	0	0
Untrained ditto, ditto, from £5 to -			7	0	0
Cows (springers) each, from	£4	to	5	0	0
Cows (dry) ditto	£3	to	4	0	0
Sheep, - 5s. 10s. and				12	6
Hogs, per cwt. according to size 12s. 6d. to				15	0

Q. Manures in use?

A. *Farm-yard Manure,* for potatoes. *Gypsum,* which is supposed to be formed by vitriolic springs acting on a calcareous subsoil, used as an approved manure.

* This, in *moderate* soil.—In the *rich* lands, from 25, to 50 Bushels.—Vide p. 153.

Q. Quantum per acre?

A. If on light sandy soil, at the rate of three bushels by the acre.

Q. Price per bushel?

A. It is sold in powder at 12s. 6d. per bushel.

Q. The ground being cleared of stumps, what are the seasons, for sowing, culture, and rotation of the various crops?

A. In most respects the seasons are nearly the same as in England; the culture *ought* to be so, and is improving; the rotations are ad libitum, according to soil and market; wheat is considered the *money making* crop; maize, the most valuable for the farm purposes.

Q. The system to be pursued after the first year's crop?

A. He that wishes to improve his land for the permanent advantage of himself and children, or to preserve it in a profitable state for his own occupation or for sale, will not pursue the system of his cropping the same land year after year from the time of clearing; but will rather undertake to clear a new portion every year, sowing grasses in the former one, which has borne one crop of wheat—not to be reverted to till the stumps are perfectly decayed. *Timothy* grass, is that in general use. The British and Irish varieties are much wanted. White clover is indigenous in Canada, therefore should be sown largely.

Q. How often are work horses shod in the year?

A. About three times, with occasional removes.

Q. Are oxen shod—and how often?

A. They are—one set of shoes is in general sufficient for the year.

Smith's work is very expensive, and very inconvenient to get done, which is the cause of many working their horses without shoes.

All the foregoing prices are in Hallifax currency which makes a difference of 15 per cent.

CANADA, (UPPER.)

"Lies between the parallels of 41° 47' and 49° of N. latitude, and extends westward, from 74° 30' W. Longitude, of Greenwich. It is bounded on the S. by the United States, on the N. by the Hudson's Bay territory, and the Grand or Ottawa river; on the E. by the province of Lower Canada; and on the W. its limits are not easy to ascertain. They may perhaps, fairly be considered to be formed, by the head waters of the rivers and streams that fall into Lake Superior, at or about the height of land on the Grand Portage, in longitude 117° W. The vast section of country appertaining to the British dominions to the W. and N. W. of this point, is generally known by the denomination of the Western Country or the North West Indian Territories. It is divided into eleven districts, twenty six counties, and six ridings, comprising together, 273 townships, besides various large tracts of reserved land, and Indian Territory. *Bouchette, p.* 63 and 65."

From Catermole, on the advantages of Emigration to the Canada's, May, 1831.

Page 2.—" For the purpose of Agriculture the Upper Province is decidedly preferable—the climate being much milder."

Page 7.—" A further reason for advising all who think of the Canadas, to go direct to the Upper Province is, that Lower Canada is too hot in Summer, and cold in winter,

to suit the general habits and constitution of the English Emigrants."

Page 9.—"The western part of Upper Canada is decidedly the finest portion of British America that I have seen, particularly along the side of Dundas-street, for 30 or 40 miles on both sides of the road—all this extensive tract of country will produce Wheat Crops, I think better in quality, and more abundant than the opposite shores of Ohio, and Michigan; and is not behind Pensylvania in productiveness, although a much older state—the land in Canada lying rather higher from the lake."

Extracts from Statistical sketches of Upper Canada, by a Backwoodsman.

Page 77.—"Having got through the small portion of second-rate land, we now come to the garden of Canada—the London and Western districts. This country occupies fully one-third of the whole province, and there is not on the continent of America so large a tract of unexceptionable land. The soil seems to have been laid down by the water; for it is based on limestone rock—then comes a stratum of clay—and generally, between that and the mould, there is a layer of gravel, of greater or less thinkness. The soil on the surface is of a loamy description—sometimes sandy and sometimes clayey, but in every case highly productive."

Page 78.—"The timber is such, as in this country indicates the best land; and it is necessary that you should, in the choice of land, be aware of what kind of timbered land is the best. A mixture of maple, bass wood (a kind of lime,) elm, and cherry, indicates the very best soils; —(v. letter 9.)—an intermixture of beech is no objection;

and black walnut is found on first rate soils. But if beech be the only wood, or the prevalent one, you may be sure that the soil is light. Pine grows on Sandy soil, as often does Oak, and always chestnut." See Rapson, Pannell, Heming.

Pages 78 and 79.—"The growth and appearance of the timber, as well as the species will enable you to judge of the nature of the soil. In the best soils, the timber is large, tall, and with a broad-spread bushy top, the bark, clean, and without moss. If in addition to this you find weeds, particularly a large species of nettle, taller than yourself, and that the trees rise out of the ground at once, like a broom-stick, without at all displaying those roots which Gray calls 'wild fantastic,' and which poets and painters admire, but Canadian farmers abominate—you will find you have got a rich deep inexhaustible soil—where, if you sow wheat the first year, unless you eat it down with your stock in spring, you will have a crop of straw, but, if you adopt the above-recommended precaution, you may count on a return of from thirty to forty bushels per acre."—(v. letter 9.) The great majority of the lands of this division are of this description.

"The markets of Canada for farm produce are, and must be, better than those of the United States; for, Canadian corn is admitted into both British and West Indian ports, on much more advantageous terms than foreign grain, and the taxes on articles required for the consumpt of the Inhabitants, are not one-twelfth so great in Canada, as in the United States. Thus, all British goods pay at Quebec, only 2½ per cent, *ad valorem*, whilst at any American port, they pay from 33½ to 60 per cent.

Page 115.—Although the necessaries of life are cheap in America, and equally cheap in Canada, the luxuries of life are higher, by several hundred per cent, in the one country, than the other. Thus, wine in the United States is so highly taxed, that in a tavern at New York, you pay more for a bottle of Madeira than in one at London, viz. five dollars—and fifteen shillings for port."

Comparative view of the Duties, payable on articles of European Manufacture, consumed in the United States, and in the British North American Colonies.—(Adjusted to the new Tariff of 1833.)

BRITISH AMERICA.		UNITED STATES.	
	Ad Va.		Ad Va.
Woollen Goods (per cent)	$2\frac{1}{2}$	10 to 75 (per cent)	
Cotton Goods	$2\frac{1}{2}$	25 to 125	..
Silk Goods	$2\frac{1}{2}$	5 to 40	..
Linen Goods	$2\frac{1}{2}$	25	..
Leather Goods	$2\frac{1}{2}$	30 to 100	..
Earthenware and China....	$2\frac{1}{2}$	20 to 30	..
Hardware	$2\frac{1}{2}$	25 to 30	..
Iron and Steel Manufactures	$2\frac{1}{2}$	10 to 125	..
Iron in bars or sheets, Cables, Anchors, &c.	$2\frac{1}{2}$	100 to 200	..
Salt	free	5*d.* per bushel, besides a State excise of $6\frac{1}{4}$*d.*	

I was much impressed with a favorable opinion of the the great Huron tract, from the fact that many steady Dutch settlers, in the possession of old productive farms near York, were, at the period of my visit, disposing of their property and removing to Goderich; a change which the calculating Dutchman would not have rashly adopted without pretty reasonable prospects of bettering himself to a considerable amount. The township of Goderich contains about 400

inhabitants already; and several Dutch families from the neighbourhood of York, have sold, or are endeavouring to sell their cultivated and valuable farms, and have purchased lands from the company in the Huron tract. About 6000 acres have been sold them in the neighbourhood of Goderich within the last six months.—*Practical Notes by Adam Ferguson, Advocate.*

HURON.

A large tract of country in the London district, bounded on the W. by Lake Huron, purchased of the crown by the Canada Company.

If you have no particular motives to induce you to settle in one part of the province, more than another, I would recommend to you the Canada Company's Huron Tract, and for the following reasons:—

1st. The land, as I shall have occasion to show, is equal to any in the province, and superior to much the greater part of it.

2d. The very great extent of land (nearly eleven hundred thousand acres) gives the settler an extensive power of selection, which he does not possess in any other part of the province; and when a community, however numerous, comes out, they are enabled to settle together, without any other party interfering with them. *

3d. It possesses numerous streams capable of driving any given quantity of machinery, whether for mills, manufactories, or farming purposes, and it has water-conveyance to carry away produce.

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* Vide Preface.

4. Being from 120 to 400 feet above the level of Lake Huron, it is healthy, and the prevalent winds, the north-west, west, and south-west, blowing over the lake, which, from its depth, never freezes, temper the rigour of the winter frosts and summer heat; and the snow, which has always hitherto fallen in sufficient quantity to afford good winter roads, prevents the frosts from getting into the ground, so that the moment it melts the spring commences, and the cattle have pasture in the woods fully three weeks sooner than in the same parallel of latitude on the shores of Lake Ontario—a great advantage to the farmer under any circumstances, but an invaluable privilege to a new settler, whose chief difficulty is to procure feeding for his stock during winter.

The Company has made good roads through the tract; and this regulation, by making every farm be opened towards the road, not only keeps them so, from letting in the sun and air upon them, but secures the residence of of eight families on every mile of the road, by whose statute labour it can be kept in the very best repair.

It has been objected by some, that this tract of country is *out of the world;* but no place can be considered in that light, to which a steam boat can come; and on this continent, if you find a tract of good land, and open it for sale, the world will very soon come to *you.* Sixteen years ago the town of Rochester, (in the United States,) consisted of a tavern and a blacksmith's shop—it is now a town containing upwards of 16,000 inhabitants.

The first time the Huron tract was ever trod by the foot of a white man, was in the summer of 1827; next summer a road was commenced, and that winter, and in the ensuing spring of 1829, a few individuals made a lodgment: now

it contains upwards of 600* inhabitants, with taverns, shops, stores, grist and saw mills, and every kind of convenience that a new settler can require; and if the tide of emigration continues to set in as strongly as it has done, in ten years from this date, it may be as thickly settled as any part of America—for Goderich has water powers quite equal to Rochester, and the surrounding country possesses much superior soil.—*Backwoodsman' p.* 23, *&c.*

Extract from the Montreal Gazette, Nov. 30*th,* 1832.

The new township of Adelaide in the London District, containing 80,000 acres, which five months ago, was a complete desert, without house, or inhabitant, now possesses a population of 1,600, with leading roads, and numerous buildings, which, though rude, will afford a comfortable shelter to their inmates, until time permits better ones to be erected. In the districts of Gore, and Niagara, and every part of the country lying west of them, back to Goderich and Fort Erie, extensive purchases of land have been made by emigrants of property, and many new stores opened, among which, we are informed, is a wholesale one at Simcoe, by Mr. Fuller, on an extensive scale; and there are still many emigrants in quest of land, and situations for business, who have not yet located themselves. It is evident, that the emigration of last season, has done more for the western parts of this province, than the ten preceding years: the emigrants being of a more wealthy class, in general, than any that preceded them; and the number greater than in any former season.

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* In February, 1833, the Township of Adelaide alone, (an uninhabited forest in July, 1832,) contained 2000 inhabitants—vide Letter 20.
EDITOR.

But the Huron, a tract which extends over 1,100,000 acres in the London district, besides the strong recommendation which it receives from the properties it possesses in common with other tracts, holds forth to the farmer of small capital, the additional inducement of cheap land; and even in that remote quarter, settlers who make choice of situations on the great lake of that name, are not cut off from the benefits of navigation, as it communicates with the Atlantic, through Lakes Erie and Ontario.—*Evans' Emigrant's Directory, p.* 71.

The whole tract is alluvial in its formation, and the surface is a deep and rich vegetable mould, sometimes intermixed with a rich sandy loam, highly fertile in its properties —extensive quarries of lime stone are to be found in various parts of this province; freestone is occasionally found on the shores of the lakes."—*Idem. p.* 145.

ECCLESIASTICAL DEPARTMENT.

CLERGY OF THE ESTABLISHED CHURCH OF ENGLAND, 1832.

The Honorable and Right Reverend Charles James Stewart, D. D. Lord Bishop of Quebec.

The Venerable George O'Kill Stuart, L. L. D. Archdeacon of Kingston.

The Honorable and Venerable John Strachan, D. D. Archdeacon of York.

Domestic Chaplain, &c.—Reverend Robert D. Cartwright, A. M.

Visiting Missionary to the Diocese.—Rev. G. Archbold.

EASTERN DISTRICT.

Matilda, &c. { Rev. F. Myers.
Rev. D. Robertson, *Assistant Minister.*

Williamsburgh and Osnabruck, { Rev. J. G. Weagant.
Rev. F. Mack, *Assistant Minister.*

Cornwall, &c. { —— ——
Rev. J. L. Alexander, *Curate.*

BATHURST DISTRICT.

Perth, &c.—Rev. M. Harris, A. M.

Beckwith, &c.—Rev. R. Harte, A. B.

Richmond, &c.—Rev. R. Short.

March, &c.—(Vacant.)

JOHNSTOWN DISTRICT.

Brockville, { Rev. J. Wenham, Chaplain to the Lord Bishop, (absent.)
Rev. —— Gunning, (in temporary charge.)

Prescot, &c.—Rev. R. Blakey.

Yonge, &c.—Rev. R. Elms.

Oxford and Marlborough, &c.—Rev. H. Patton.

MIDLAND DISTRICT.

Kingston, { Rev. G. O. Stuart, L. L. D.
Rev. T. Handcock, A. M. *Assistant Minister.*

Bath, Ernestown, &c.—Rev. J. Stoughton.

Adolphustown, &c.—Rev. J. Deacon.

Hallowell, &c.—Rev. William Macaulay.

Belleville, &c.—Rev. T. Campbell.

Carrying Place, (Township of Murray) &c.—Rev. J. Grier.

NEWCASTLE DISTRICT.

Cobourg, &c.—Rev. A. N. Bethune.

Port Hope, &c.—Rev. G. Coglan, A. B.

Cavan, &c.—Rev. J. Thomson.

Peterborough, &c.—Rev. S. Armour.

HOME DISTRICT.

York, &c.—Hon. and Rev. J. Strachan, D. D. Archdeacon of York.

Toronto, &c.—Rev. J. Magrath.

Markham and Vaugham,—Rev. P. Mayerhoffer.

GORE DISTRICT.

Ancaster, Barton, Hamilton, and Dundas, { Rev. J. Miller, M. A. and Rev. R. Leeming.

Missionaries to the Six-Nation Indians on the Grand River, { Rev. R. Lugger, and Rev. A. Nelles.

NIAGARA DISTRICT.

Niagara,—Rev. T. Creen.

Chippewa, Stamford, and Queenstown,—Rev. W. Leeming.

Grimsby, &c.—Rev. R. Grout.

St. Catherines, &c.—Rev. J. Clarke, A. M.

Waterloo, Fort Erie, &c.—Rev. J. Anderson.

LONDON DISTRICT.

St. Thomas, &c.—Rev. M. Burnham, A. B.

Woodhouse, &c.—Rev. F. Evans.

London, &c.—Rev. E. J. Boswell.

WESTERN DISTRICT.

Amherstburgh, &c.—Rev. R. Rolph.

Sandwich,—Rev. William Johnston.

Chatham, &c.—Rev. T. Morley.

CHAPLAINS TO THE FORCES.

Kingston,—Rev. R. W. Tunney.
York,—Rev. J. Hudson, M. A.

CORPORATION FOR SUPERINTENDING AND MANAGING THE CLERGY RESERVES.

The Lord Bishop.
The Established Clergy.
The Inspector General.
The Surveyor General.

Secretary,—The Honorable George H. Markland.
Agents,—The resident Clergy in the several districts.
Meetings of the Board,—The first Tuesday in the months of February, May, August, and November.
N.B.—A General Meeting is held in February.

CLERGY IN COMMUNION WITH THE ESTABLISHED CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

Williamstown,—The Rev. J. M'Kenzie.
Lochiel,—The Rev. J. M'Laurin.
Cornwall,—The Rev. Mr. Urquhart.
Martintown,—The Rev. A. M'Connell.
Perth,—The Rev. Thomas Wilson.
Bytown,—The Rev. Mr. Crookshank.
Kingstown,—The Rev. J. Machar.
Ancaster,—The Rev. Mr. Sheed.
Niagara,—The Rev. H. M'Gill.
London,—The Rev. A. Ross.
Amhertsburgh,—The Rev. Mr. Gale.

ROMAN CATHOLIC CLERGY IN UPPER CANADA.

Glengarry,—Right Reverend Alexander M'Donell, Bishop of Kingston.

Very Rev. W. P. M'Donald, } *Vicars General.*
Very Rev. W. J. O'Grady, }

Rev. John M'Donell, } *Chaplains.*
Rev. James Campion, }

Rev. —— Dempsey, *Secretary.*

St. Andrews and Cornwall,—Rev. William Fraser, *Rector.*

Prescot and Brockville,—Rev. Timothy O'Meara, ...

Bytown,—Rev. Angus M'Donald, ...

Perth,—Rev. John M'Donell, ...

Kingston, { Very Rev. W. P. M'Donald, ...
Rev. M. Lalor, ...

Hallowell and Marmora,—Rev. Michael Brennan, ...

Peterborough,—Rev. James Crowley, ...

York,—Very Rev. W. J. O'Grady, ...

Toronto and Adjala,—Rev. Edward Gordon, ...

Niagara, Guelph and Dundas,—Rev. John Cullen, ...

Amherstburgh, &c.—Rev. J. Fluett, ...

Sandwich and Rochester,—Rev. Joseph Crevier, ...

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* The late appointments by the Government to the Rectories of the new Townships, have not yet been communicated officially.—EDITOR.

As the various expenditures for different purposes, (though minutely stated,) are, from the nature of the publication scattered through the correspondence—some of the chief shall be recapitulated here, in a more condensed form—

EDITOR.

	£	s.	d.
Total cost from Liverpool to a settlement in Upper Canada, with comfortable accommodation for nine persons, being at the rate of £15 per each individual. - - -	135	0	0
Total cost including the above, and also, purchase of 200 acres, clearing 10. Building Frame-house and Offices—some Furniture, Seed, Implements, Tools and some stock. -	421	17	4
Total Expenditure of settling in the Bush	178	0	0
Total Expenditure of settling on a Farm with 10 acres cleared and House &c. built. -	207	0	0

The Editor takes the liberty of inserting the following tables from that inimitable compendium by Martin Doyle, upon Emigration—1832. Upon comparing them with the information he has himself obtained, and with other late publications—they appear to him to be correctly stated.

How to arrive at Upper Canada, by New York, and at what cost.

	Steerage.	Cabin.
From Bristol to New York, -	£5 10 0	£25 0 0
— Liverpool ditto, - -	5 0 0	30 0 0
— Dublin, ditto, - -	4 10 0	
— Cork, ditto, - -	4 10 0	20 0 0
From Limerick, to New York -	£4 10 0	
— Sligo, ditto, - -		
— Londonderry, ditto, - -		
— Belfast, ditto, - -		
— Greenock, dittto, - -	5 10 0	25 0 0
— New York to Albany, - -	0 6 9	
— Albany to Buffalo Point, by Canal Boat, - - -	2 0 0	
— Buffalo Point to any part of the Canadian side, provisions included	0 18 0	

The Rates by Quebec.

	Steerage.	Cabin.
From Bristol to Quebec. -	£4 10 0	£15 0 0
— Liverpool, to ditto, - -	4 0 0	15 0 0
— Dublin, to ditto, - -	1 10 0	12 0 0
— Cork, to ditto, - -	2 10 0	12 0 0
— New Ross and Waterford, to do.	2 0 0	10 10 0
— Limerick, to ditto. - -	£2 to 2 10 0	12 0 0
— Sligo, to ditto, - -	2 10 0	12 0 0
— Londonderry, to ditto, -	1 10 0	12 0 0
— Belfast, to ditto -	1 10 0	10 10 0
— Greenock, to ditto, - -	3 10 0	15 0 0

Provisions for each adult from any of the English ports may be estimated for the poorest person, at £4. From Scotch ports, £3 10s. From Irish ports, £1 10s.

From Quebec to York.

To Montreal, Steam-boat -	£0	7	6
— Prescot—Durham do. -	0	6	3
— York - - - -	0	10	0

WAGES—BOARD NOT FOUND.

Stone Masons earn from 6s. 3d. to 7s. 6d. a day.

Bricklayers, 7s. 6d. to 8s. 9d. a day, or 12s. 6d. to 15s per thousand bricks laid.

Brickmakers, 5s. to 7s. 6d. per day.

Plaisterers, 7s. 6d. a day, or 9d. to 10d. per square yard of work.

Carpenters and Joiners, 6s. 3d. a day.

Cabinet-makers, 7s. 6d. a day.

Sawyers, 7s. 6d. a day, or 7s. 6d. per 100 feet of pine.
And 8s. 9d. ,,,,, oak.

Painters and Glaziers, 5s. a day.

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