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**THE LIFE**  
OF A  
**BACKWOODSMAN;**  
OR,  
**Particulars**  
OF THE  
**EMIGRANT'S SITUATION**  
IN SETTLING ON THE  
**WILD LAND OF CANADA.**

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BY  
**A SETTLER,**  
**At Stratford, Huron District, Canada West.**

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1843.

## N O T E.

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THE following "Life of a Backwoodsman" is written by a settler in the Huron District, (formerly the "Huron Tract") Canada West. He has lived in the Village of Stratford and its neighbourhood for more than nine years past, having arrived at that place in July, 1833, though the village was then existing almost only in name. The writer has written the "Life" from actual observation and experience; he has borne a share of all the hardships of a settler, and the vicissitudes and trials endured by an emigrating family. He would disdain to write what is not consistent with truth. The remarks in the "Life" may therefore, as regards the details given, be depended on as containing *what is true*.

He hopes that what he has written may prove useful to intending emigrants, and direct them in some particulars connected with the situation they will be placed in, in this country.

(Signed)

J. J. E. L.

Stratford, 10th December, 1842.

*John J. E. L.*

THE LIFE  
OF A  
**BACKWOODSMAN,**

ETC. ETC.

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It has occurred to me, that notwithstanding the many, and some of them really valuable publications, embracing advice and instructions to intending emigrants, a *want* appears in not fairly stating the common routine of the business or employment of a settler or emigrant in the bush. I suppose, in referring to this want, that the intending emigrant is of an enquiring disposition, and is anxious to know to the utmost the various scenes he has to act in, *after arriving* in Canada. As I live in the bush in the Huron Tract, a tract of land which was purchased by the Canada Company from the Government, I do not intend in these brief remarks, (which are submitted from my own experience, and from the information of many with whom I have conversed) to refer specifically to other parts of Canada, but to confine them to the usual mode of settlement of wild lands in this tract, and to the life and ways of a settler or emigrant after he locates himself on his land. The term Backwoodsman is frequently applied to a settler who chooses to pitch his tent in the bush, and this is applicable to every emigrant who goes to live on wild land.

The information which I give will also be applicable to the life of a settler in any bush or wild land in Canada, as the same operations have to be gone through every where, in the clearing of wild or bush land. As to emigrants settling on cleared farms, that is

lots or farms of land of one, two, or more hundred of acres, with perhaps clearances on them from thirty to eighty, or 100 acres, the same, or nearly the same, system of farming is pursued as in England or Scotland. There is this difference, that the seasons are not the same, there being, it may be said, in Canada, summer and winter only, as will be by-and-by explained.

As to Canada being a fit country for a farmer, labourer, or a mechanic, to emigrate to, requires no attempt to prove it, so far that is beyond a doubt. On this subject I have observed in a Montreal publication (November 1842) some excellent, though brief, remarks to intending emigrants. They are by Mr. Dougall, a merchant at Montreal, and the name of this gentleman is a guarantee for his philanthropic and good intentions, and for the verity of the advice, who visited Scotland this last summer, and who, in some of his addresses at meetings in Glasgow, Paisley, Greenock, &c., while he was giving some wholesome and very valuable advice to the merchants and insurance brokers on the improvement of the state of the shipping and condition of the sailors, gave his advice and opinions on the subject of emigration. He says,—“The  
 “ subject of emigration was one of intense interest to the people  
 “ generally, and Canada was the place to which they appeared to  
 “ turn their eyes with most longing. I pointed out the obvious  
 “ advantages which Canada enjoys. *In the first place*, its great  
 “ natural advantages, such as a healthy climate, a wide extent of  
 “ rich and fruitful soil, well watered by lakes, rivers, and streams,  
 “ which afford excellent internal communications, whilst it is  
 “ within reach of a comparatively short and cheap voyage from  
 “ Britain. *In the second place*, its great advantages in a political  
 “ and moral point of view, such as civil and religious liberty,  
 “ in the widest sense of the term, entire freedom of industry and  
 “ enterprize, perfect security of person and property, and a comparative  
 “ freedom from taxation, whilst the taxes that are raised  
 “ are laid out in public improvements, and the necessary expenses  
 “ of Government. *In the third place*, its fortuitous advantages,  
 “ such as the admission by Great Britain, of not only Canadian  
 “ produce at low duties, but American wheat and provisions,  
 “ which pass through and undergo certain modifications in Ca-

“ nada, at the same rates, thus giving Canada a large share of the  
 “ business of the inexhaustible states of the north-west. I how-  
 “ ever fully warned intending emigrants that they would at first  
 “ endure great hardships, and probably wish they had never un-  
 “ dertaken a change which involved so much suffering. If, how-  
 “ ever, they resolved to brave all difficulties, they would find that  
 “ industry, enterprise, and sobriety would lead them to a state of  
 “ comfort and independence in a land where there would be plenty  
 “ of room for their children. I insisted upon the importance of  
 “ choosing for the voyage a good vessel, owned and commanded  
 “ by respectable persons.”

I may add here, that the best season for an emigrant to arrive  
 at Quebec or Montreal, (the two sea-ports in Canada to which ves-  
 sels sail to from England, Ireland, or Scotland) is from the  
 months of May to August, or September; *the sooner* an emigrant  
 arrives in the season, the better; I may also add that an emigrant  
 should make himself acquainted somewhat with the geography of  
 Canada, before he starts, or at least while he is in the ship on his  
 way. The best and most correct small map I have seen, is one  
 published by the Canada Company, and a similar copy, as cor-  
 rect, appears in “ Martin Doyle’s Hints on Emigration.” From  
 the agents, I believe, in the old country, and in this, of the Com-  
 pany, such maps can be got *gratis*. It is titled “ Map of the  
 Townships in the Province of Upper Canada,” and contains the  
 “ Huron Tract” in a corner of it on a large scale. The Canada  
 Company are preparing a new map, as I observe by a notice in a  
 late paper (30th November), the editor of which says—“ It affords  
 “ us much pleasure to state that the Canada Company are about  
 “ to issue a map of Upper Canada, carefully compiled from the  
 “ best authorities, and brought down to the latest dates. This is  
 “ very much needed; and we believe we are correct when we say  
 “ that the first map of Upper Canada, which was issued by the  
 “ Canada Company, was allowed on all hands to be the best that  
 “ has appeared. This is a good guarantee for the forthcoming  
 “ one.” I am thus particular about a reference to a correct map  
 of the country, as emigrants who will make themselves acquainted  
 with it, will find much advantage from a knowledge of the situ-

ation of the different parts of the country. Indeed, it is a pity to see some mistakes in quarters not expected, as to the geographical bearings of places in Canada.

The following remarks I will divide under these heads:—

- I.—The seasons in Canada, and the appearance of the bush.
- II.—The emigrant arriving in Canada, choosing or fixing upon his land, with the character of the soil.
- III.—First operations by an emigrant or settler, with his first winter and summer in Canada.
- IV.—Chopping, clearing, and fencing the land.
- V.—Crops, wheat, oats, barley, potatoes, &c.
- VI.—Remarks on the success of emigrants already settled in the townships near the village of Stratford, current coin, or currency, markets, &c. &c.

I.—The seasons in Canada, are, I may say, summer and winter, though the general term, “the Fall,” is applied to the period from the end of summer to the beginning of winter. The winter begins by slight frosts in October, fine sunny weather free of frost intervening, and at the end of the month and in part of November, what is called “the Indian Summer,” a period of as beautiful mild weather as in summer, and which is variable in duration from a few days to three or four weeks. This year (1842) it extended, in this part of Canada, to two weeks. There is then a particular haziness in the air, and a *blushing* appearance of the sun, as if the great luminary was afraid to dazzle us, shedding its beams with peculiar mildness. After this, for a short time, is generally open weather, perhaps some rain, frost, and latterly snow. The ground has then its white mantle, and, after this is over, fine sunny days and frosty nights, and then the bustle of a Canadian winter begins. The roads are then travelled by sleighs, peculiar vehicles adapted to the snow-covered roads of Canada. The roads are then in one continued path, or track, the breadth of the sleigh, along which, when the road is once broke in, (which happens in a couple of good days’ sleighing,) the sleigh glides along with ease and quickness. This weather continues, with intermissions of snow, till generally about the 15th of March. The winter is then drawing to an end. As the

winter began with the Indian summer, it ends with as peculiar kind of weather; it is wet, heavy showers of rain with blasts of wind, the ice-bound roads *break up* and get muddy, warm breezes blow, so much so as to be perfectly perceptible, like a blast from an oven, succeeded by cool blasts, and when this is over, in a short time spring seems beginning. The same variation of weather happens as in October, warm sunny days, some few showers of snow or rain, and frost till about the 25th of April, when the farmer may be seen ploughing, and preparing for his spring crops. The weather has been so mild, (spring, 1838,) that wheat and other grain have been sown in the middle of March, and on the 20th of April spring wheat has been often sown, though the proper season is about the 1st of May, as noticed afterwards. Spring may be said to begin after the 1st of April. The season for making maple sugar begins in end of March and beginning of April. What I have stated is the general or average appearance and time of the winter season. The winter has, however, extended sometimes longer, and, on the other hand, that season has been over in the beginning of March; snow and frost, however, following at times till the end of April. From the 1st May till the end of October appears as the season opposite to winter. The summer is warm. There is a change about the Equinox (20th of September) to rainy and windy weather for a few days. It appears that in March and September these rains with winds generally come. Some seasons, these signs of the Equinox do not appear, but pass over (even in March) with dry weather. The wind generally blows from the S.W., W., and N.W. The wind seldom continues (at this place) many hours blowing direct from the N. or S. The weather is always (I may say always, saving few exceptions) wettish, when the wind is from the E. or S. E. to the S.W. Thunder-storms, when they happen, are greater than in the old country. The lightning is very vivid. How quickly the lightning shivers to atoms the largest tree in the bush, if the fluid happens to touch it. I have seen a large maple tree, three feet in diameter, split and shivered by the lightning like a reed. Accidents to man or beast do not seem to me to happen so frequently as in the old country. There

has not been one accident by lightning, within my knowledge, in this settlement.

II.—To such as have seen a forest in the old country of tall trees, and of many years' growth, may imagine to themselves the appearance of the bush in Canada. There is this difference as to Canada, that the forest consists of a variety of trees, such as maple, beech, elm, basswood, ironwood, cherry, hickory, white-ash, and butter-nut, which grow on dry land; and when seen to be tall, and branching only near the top, denote the quality of the land to be good. If low in size, and scraggy, the soil is clayey and cold and inclined to be wettish, and in this situation will be found the birch. It is a tree which grows healthy and strong (often found from two to three feet in diameter) in land inclined to be wet at the spot where it grows. It is sometimes a mark to discover a spring of water. The birch will almost always be found near a spring. The trees which grow on wet and swampy lands are the oak, pine, hemlock, tamarack, black ash and cedar; but the pine and hemlock are found also on *dry* soil. Consider thousands and tens of thousands of acres covered with trees of the above kinds. Maple, beech, elm, and basswood are the kinds which grow most numerous, and on good land are sure to be found growing tall, and from one foot to three and four in diameter. There will be found in *dry sandy plains* and *hills* the oak and pine. When the oak grows on soil not sandy, it is apt to be clayey ground. Besides the large trees, there is also growing what is commonly called brush, which is composed of smaller trees, from 18 inches high to 30 feet or more. These smaller trees seem to be growing to take the place of the larger ones when the latter decay and fall down, or are prostrated by a storm, and a large tree, in falling, frequently brings others along with it, if standing in its way. In walking through the bush, the trunks of trees are found lying on the ground in different states of decay, and some having been broken off a few feet above the surface, leave their ragged stumps behind still standing, and others fall taking up or "turning up" their roots and a great quantity of earth with them, making a hollow on the surface. The hollows so caused fill up in part in the course of time by the



roots and earth falling back again ; but yet these hollows and corresponding small hills or risings (what a Scotchman would call " heichs and howes ") are never absent. The *surface of the land* in the bush is therefore not a fair level like a flat field ; the more the land appears uneven, with these small heights and hollows, the better the soil, for in stiff and clayey soils (which are so only *under* the surface, the top of the soil throughout the bush being covered with black mould, the remains of decayed vegetable matter, such as leaves, wood, &c. and with leaves), I have observed that these hollows and hills are not so prominently seen. When the land is cleared of the trees, as will be afterwards noticed, and turned over with the plough, in a few years the land so cleared is made level. To give some idea of the extent of the bush, or forest, a traveller might proceed in a northerly direction from this place (Village of Stratford) and travel for near 100 miles through nothing but a forest, and the first glimpse he would have of a clear uninterrupted view would be of the waters of Lake Huron at Owen Sound. The surface of the land in the bush, by the gradual " turning up " of the trees, would appear to have been all turned over, though it has taken some ages to effect this. Trees will occasionally be found of great height and thickness ; the elm, in particular, will be met with of a great size, perhaps in some instances four to six feet " through," or in thickness, and this tree may be termed the " monarch " of the forest. I took the trouble once to count the circles or rings of a very large oak, which grew in the adjoining Township of North Easthope, and which had been felled with the axe, and if my recollection fails me not, it had been a sapling about the time when Sir William Wallace and Robert Bruce were defending their native country.

In travelling through the bush with either the sun, the moss (or " fog ") of the trees, or the pocket compass, as your guide, the traveller will find many things though seemingly trifling, to divert his attention, or change the apparently monotonous scene. A " creek," (the term for a stream of water,) will cross his path, finding its way silently along, or a *meadow*, called commonly a *beaver meadow*, being a spot of land free of trees, which is

covered with good grass, and in the season with a good crop of hay,\* or a swamp or swale, a part of the bush which is wet, covered with trees, as the black-ash, cedar, tamarack, or the pine. But swamps are found with black-ash only growing, — and the same as regards cedar, and also tamarack, and small pines mixed with large pines. The soil of each of these three kinds of swamps appears to be different. The land is sometimes what is called “rolling,” or “undulating,” being alternate risings and fallings, with occasional prominences either on the banks of a large creek, or in a tract of land which is hilly. In this part of the country hilly land is not generally seen, yet in the eastern part of the township of North Easthope, there is some fine hilly land, and as it is all mostly settled on, and in part cleared, and studded with farm-houses, barns, &c. has a strong resemblance to parts of the old country. From one of the hills or eminences in that township on the farm of Mr. Andrew Riddell, senior, there is a fine view of several farms. From six to seven hundred acres of cleared land may there be seen at one view; and this improvement in the forest has been accomplished since 1833.

II.—The emigrant when he arrives at Quebec or Montreal, and proceeding upwards to what was formerly called Upper Canada, now Canada West, (as Lower Canada is called Canada East,) by calling at the Government agent’s office, or at the office of the Canada Company’s agent, (at which several offices he ought to inquire when any correct information is wanted), will find directions there as to the route, means of conveyance, &c. Generally the passage is after leaving Montreal, by the Ottawa River and Rideau Canal to Kingston by steam-boat, and from thence also by steam-boat to the city of Toronto and the town of Hamilton. The latter town is at the head of Lake Ontario, and sixty miles from Stratford. From Hamilton to Stratford, and on to Goderich (on Lake Huron) the conveyance is by land. Goderich is about 105 miles from Hamilton. At this village, Stratford, the Canada Company have an agent, J. C. W. Daly, Esq., who is appointed to sell and

\* It appears that these meadows have been formed by the beavers, for a regular artificial embankment may be traced. The growth of some of the trees indicates the period of formation as perhaps remote.

locate the lands in the townships adjoining Stratford. These townships are North Easthope, South Easthope, Downie, Ellice, Logan, and Fullarton. The two latter townships are in part more immediately connected with the village of Mitchell, which is twelve miles and a half to the west, on the road to Goderich. There is also the township of Blanshard to the S.W. of this, where there is a grist and saw mill, store, (merchant's shop), &c.

Having premised so far, the emigrant when he arrives here calls on the Company's agent, who informs him of the lots of land for sale. This is generally done by the agent's jotting down on a slip of paper the numbers of various lots of land, on obtaining which the emigrant goes to inspect them. The time is not *lost*, if the emigrant endeavours to obtain, among the various lots, a good location. The land in this quarter, and generally throughout the Huron Tract, except where there are angled or *gore* lots, is laid out in lots of 100 acres of land in each lot. The lots are numbered beginning at No. 1, and so on, for as many lots as extend to the end, or in the breadth of the township. The townships are laid out in ranges or concessions being *stripes* in breadth 200 rods (fifty chains) and which extend from one end to the other of the township, and these stripes are numbered as first, second, and so on. In these stripes the *lots* are numbered, and the breadth of a lot is eighty rods (twenty chains), and the length 200 rods. The same number applies to the lots in the second concession as well as to those in the first concession. This will be best explained by a diagram, thus—

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		11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1		
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									x				II.	
	x					Downie							III. E.	
													IV.	
		S.												

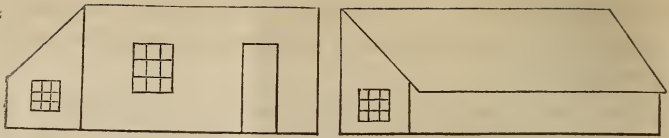
Suppose the agent informed me that lots, No. 4 in the third concession, No. 8 in the second concession, and No. 11 in the fourth concession of Downie, were for sale, I would have no difficulty in finding these lots out. At the end (or properly one of the sides) of every fifth lot, there is what is called a side line, or side road, being a road allowance to go from one concession to another, and between the concessions there are also roads, as for instance : there is a side road between lots 5 and 6, and there is a concession road between the second and third concessions, the same roads between lots 10 and 11 and between the fourth and fifth concessions, and so on throughout the township. The double lines represent roads. Stakes are placed at the corners of each lot, shewing the numbers and the concession (both numbers being marked on the stakes), and by finding the stakes the number of the lot is soon known.

In fixing upon a lot of land the emigrant may be guided by the advice of some of the settlers in the neighbourhood of the lots he is going to inspect, and if there is no near neighbour, he ought to ask the assistance of the nearest settler, and such aid I have never known to be refused. Besides, the Company's agent generally names (and puts it in writing) a settler who will accompany the emigrant to view the land, but in order to direct an emigrant to choose a lot of land, the following marks may be noted : First, get, if possible, a lot with a small running stream (called a creek) on it, or a spring of water. Every lot has not a creek or spring on it, but water can be got by digging, and the well when dug ought to be lined or walled up with stones. I have known wells built up square with logs, but this may be done *above* where the water rises to ; from the surface of the water and *under* stone should be used. Second, observe that tall and strong timber, free of rotten branches or an unhealthy look, *grows on good land*,—I mean elm, maple, beech, basswood, and cherry, and the other timber previously mentioned as growing on dry land. Throughout the bush, on both good and bad land, will be found the lifeless trunk standing ready to fall, “ where it must lie.” How beautiful the figurative expression of the Indian warrior on whom above one hundred snows had fallen : “ I am an aged hemlock, I

am rotten at the top." The falling of a tree, in the loneliness of the bush, conveys and awakens to a meditative mind, reflections of no ordinary kind.

I may here refer to the previous remarks on the appearance of the bush for the timber denoting the quality of the soil. A lot of land should not be rejected if a corner of it, even fifteen acres, is covered with black-ash, pine, or cedar. For fencing the cleared fields, black-ash and cedar are invaluable. For boards (lumber, as commonly termed) and shingles, the pine is more valuable. Where the land is undulating, that is, rising and falling, it is likely to be good. Where the butternut and cherry are, the land is rich, but maple and basswood with the elm denote the same; if much beech the land is lighter, but a warmer soil. The more "knolly" the land is (the knolls or small hills being caused by the "turn up" of the trees in falling) the better the soil. Where these are not much seen the soil is apt to be clayey. The emigrant, however, will find a superior surface mould at which to try his hand and his plough.

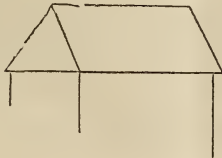
III.—I will suppose that the emigrant has now fixed on his lot of land, (or lots, as according to his ability in money and age of his family, he may have 500 as well as 100 acres,) and previous to moving his family, who are supposed to be living at the nearest village, or at a neighbouring settler's house, he will require to erect a house. The first thing is to choose the site or situation, where the house is to be put, and having done so, to *under-brush* an acre of land, or less, which is, cutting down and piling the brush and small trees in heaps, and then to chop down the larger ones, and cutting them into lengths, (as explained hereafter,) they can be hauled by oxen from off the place the house is to stand on. Some will advise a *house* to be first built, others a "shanty," but the latter is so expeditiously done, and much cheaper, and is a warmer house till the emigrant gets "acclimated," that I consider it the best. A shanty is built of logs cut from the felled trees. The size of the building to be according to the number of the family. They are to be seen from 14 feet long and 12 broad, to 18 feet by 14 feet or so, the shape as follows:

*Front.**Back.*

The roof may be covered with shingles, or with boards. Shingles are made from the pine, by cutting a pine-tree down, and then cutting it with a saw called a "cross-cut saw" into lengths or blocks of 18 inches long, (they are cut sometimes 24 inches long,) and these blocks are split into quarters, which are again split into thin slices of different breadths, but they will be about one length. These are shaved off with a drawing knife, at one end, when the shingle is done. They are sold from  $1\frac{1}{2}$  dollars to 2 dollars per bunch, containing what is called 1000 shingles, of different breadths. A thousand shingles will cover about 10 feet square of a roof, (that is, equal to 100 square feet.) They are laid on boards, (and the roughest and cheapest boards, split or sound, will do,) like the slates or tiles of the old country houses. No wet or rain will get through them, and they answer all the purposes of the slated, tiled, or thatched roof of a house in the old country. But the roof of the shanty may be covered with boards. These are put on the roof, breadthways, and are got of lengths to extend across the breadth of the roof, and if put on two inches apart from each other, and if the boards are twelve inches broad, will in a roof of fourteen feet long take only about thirteen boards allowing them to "lap" over at the ends. The *spaces* between each of the boards, are then covered by slabs, or by narrow boards. The roof is then completed. *Slabs* are the outside "slices," as I may term them, which are taken off the logs at the saw-mill, in squaring them to make straight-edged boards. These can be got at the mill for the taking of them away, though sometimes a *cent*, (a fraction above a halfpenny, or "copper" as termed in Canada,) is asked for each slab. The spaces between the logs are filled in from the inside of the building by split pieces of basswood, cedar, or other wood, which splits easy, and this operation is called "chinking." On the outside of these spaces, the settler then plasters them over with mortar, being the clay

mixed up with water, and which makes a good substitute for lime. By mixing a little sand with the mortar, it makes it harder when dry, and not so liable to crack. The chimney is built at one end of the shanty, and may be built in two ways, by split laths, (split pieces of basswood,) and then plastered over with mortar, or by making, as it were, four ladders, spars of which ten inches or so apart, and then filling up the spaces with what is here called "cats," being mortar mixed up with hay (wild meadow hay the best) or straw, and moulded by the hand, into lengths, according to the breadth of the spars in the ladders, and these are laid over the spars and joined together, each succeeding course being joined to the one below, and thus form when dry a continued and solid chimney, perfectly free from harm by the fire, which the first described chimney (by split pieces of wood) is not. But this, and the fixing the windows and the door, by cutting out the logs of the building and fitting in windows and door casings, &c. will at once be learned, in a few hours, by an inspection by the emigrant on the spot, and by the hints from his neighbours. If the emigrant will spare the money, carpenters (wrights and joiners) can be got to fix the roof, windows, door, and floor.

If the emigrant resolves on having a *house* in place of a shanty, I may state that it costs more money, time and labour, than a shanty will. The work to be done to a house is of the same *kind* as required for a shanty, which being described need not be repeated. The difference is, that the house is built up of logs to the height of ten feet or so, on the four sides, and there is an upper floor, joists being put in as the building is raised. Houses vary in size from twenty feet by sixteen or eighteen to thirty feet long and twenty feet wide. The roof is not a shed or shanty roof, but the same as an ordinary house, shaped like this :



When the shanty or house is to be raised or built, the neighbours are invited, and they always come willingly, for there is not one

among them but had the same done to himself. This is called a "bee." There are house, chopping, and logging bees. When the first settlers came to the township of North Easthope, and they were just eight Highland families, (from Glenquaiich, Perthshire, Scotland,) they found some difficulty, for the whole clan were obliged to attend. Now the case is altered, and a more thriving settlement will hardly be found, than the Highland settlement in North Easthope.

The emigrant is now, we suppose, living in the bush on his land, and the first thing to be looked after for the support of himself, wife and children, is to obtain a supply of flour and potatoes, (potatoes can be kept for use till July,) which will easily be procured from any of the older settlers, or, as regards flour, at the mill. Groceries, hardware, clothing, and other articles needed, can be obtained at the nearest stores or shops.\* If the emigrant is so settled by the month of June or middle of July, he will, if inclined, find employment at "hay-time," or hay harvest, and afterwards at the regular harvest of wheat, &c. But if he can remain on his own land, it will be better.—If so, the sooner he begins to *underbrush* a few acres the better, and afterwards to chop the same and get it cleared, ready to put in or sow fall-wheat by the 15th of September, or at the latest about the 20th. The way in which land is cleared and fenced, will be shewn in the next division of these brief remarks. If an emigrant accomplishes the sowing of fall-wheat the first season, he does well, but this depends on an *early* start from the old country. A respectable and thriving settler, (Mr. James Simpson, from near Pennycuick, in Scotland,) in the township of Downie, arrived here in the month of May 1834; and when he came, while his family were living in a temporary shed, or shanty of boards on his lot, he set about the planting of potatoes, of which he had a good crop, sufficient nearly for the use of the family, during the winter.—He sowed, in the proper time, fall-wheat, and as then working oxen were scarce, he hoed and raked in the seed, and next year (1835,) he obtained about (if not above) thirty bushels of wheat per acre.

\* Stratford village, the river Avon, (formerly called Little Thames, being a branch of the River Thames,) runs through this village. Here there are three stores, two taverns, smiths' shops, carpenters, a tailor, shoe-



If an emigrant, with a wife and family, settles on his land, it will be profitable for him (more especially where there are children) to buy a cow, but with her calf also. The price of cows depends on the demand, but for the money a cow and calf may be bought for from seventeen to twenty-two dollars, (equal to from £4:5 to £5:10 currency); cheaper and dearer, I have known them sold. The object in having the calf is to attach the cow to her new home. If the emigrant does not settle on his land till late in the *fall*, it may depend on circumstances whether he should buy a cow or not. The object to a new settler with a family of children, in having a cow is, that a supply of milk is obtained, which, besides its nourishing qualities, "is a saving in a family." If this supply cannot be *prolonged* (depending on her having calved early or late, and on the feeding, in the winter time, with *soft* food,) an emigrant who settles in the fall will do well to let "*crummock*" alone till the spring, when the buying of a cow with her calf should be the first thing done.

There is nothing now to stop the emigrant, seeing that his family are as comfortably placed as can be expected for the first season, from continuing to chop and fell the trees which obstruct his view. The land to be chopped must be underbrushed first, and what is intended to be chopped during winter must be so prepared before the snow comes. It is surprising how soon a small clearance is made. The space chopped, (and properly when it is cleared of the timber,) is called a "clearance." When wet, stormy, and snowy days come, he will be obliged to remain in doors, or he may go and visit his neighbours or prepare fire-wood, for there is plenty to do for a hard-working man, or if he is of a very saving or money-making disposition, the snow storms of

maker, waggon makers, and a cooper, a saw-mill, and a grist (flour) mill ; there is a handsome church, erected by the members of the Church of Scotland, but which is not yet finished. A church, in a like state, by the members of the Church of Rome, and there is a prospect of a church being soon built by the members of the Church of England, who have previously met on the subject, and the day this note is written, two clergymen of this church are in the village making arrangements, it is understood, as regards this ;—they all have burying grounds; there is a school-house also.

Canada will never plague him a jot. I have often heard at three o'clock in the morning, from the farming-steading of a settler in North Easthope, who is of this disposition, during the winter season, the sound of the solitary flail (and a cheerless lonely thing it is) rap, rap, rapping. The work of chopping down the trees may be continued all winter (excepting stormy days) till the spring begins.

Towards the end of March (some seasons earlier, some later,) is the *sugar season*. This is the time when the sap in the maple trees begins (when the tree is *tapped*) to run. From the sap of this tree excellent sugar and molasses are made. The emigrant is thus supplied, from the sap of the maple tree, with two very necessary things,—sugar and molasses (or treacle.) The sugar can be made very nearly as good as the best Muscovado; at any rate as white, and as pure from extraneous substances. The sap is collected in wooden troughs, made by the settlers themselves. The tree is *tapped*, an operation performed by making a very slight slanting cut with the common chopping axe, or by boring with an auger (an inch or inch and quarter auger will do) a hole in the tree an inch deep; and to the slanting cut, or to the hole, a spout is fixed in a cut made with a “tapping-gouge,” an instrument got made by the blacksmith on the spot. The sap runs down the spout into the trough, which is emptied from the latter into wooden pails, and carried by hand (some perform this with oxen and sleigh, having a large receiving barrel on the latter,) to the place where the fire is, near which are to be placed one or two large wooden troughs (made also by the settler) capable of holding each from 40 to 100 pails, and the pails are emptied into them. These are called “receiving troughs.” A sugar kettle or kettles with smaller pots are on the fire, in which the sap is boiled down to a consistency or thickness resembling thin molasses. It is then purified by putting in (while the boiled sap is cool) a beat egg, or a little milk, or by (a very recently known invention) putting in a small quantity of Indian corn meal and then stirred about; after which the kettle is hung on the fire again, and as it gets warm the scum and dirt is thrown to the surface and skimmed off. The sap so purified is continued to be

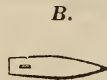
boiled down till it arrives to a certain state when the operator does either of two things, he either pours the sap so boiled, (letting the kettle stand for a minute or so on the ground,) and which is pretty thick, into a dish, which when cool is hard, and is maple sugar in the "*cake*," or he stirs the said thick sap, the kettle being off the fire till it cools, when excellent soft sugar (resembling Muscovado or common brown sugar) is the result. The quantity of sugar and molasses made will depend on the exertions and close attendance of the settler. Thousands of pounds of the sugar have been sold in this village to the storekeepers, who retail it, and send the surplus down the country to market. The storekeepers give goods in exchange for it. Some settlers, to my knowledge, I mean the indefatigable Highlanders of North Easthope, have made in one season, above 1000 lbs. weight, and from 300 to 500 lbs. was a common thing.

The season for clearing the land already chopped and preparing for the spring crops is drawing near. These crops are put in (that is, sown or planted) from about the 20th of April to the 15th of June, and, including buckwheat and turnips, to the beginning of July. As to the work to be done by the emigrant, namely, burning the brush, and timber piled and chopped in the winter, and putting in the crops, I refer to the two next divisions, which contain the particulars of all the spring and summer work.

IV. The *first* thing to be done in clearing land in the bush, is to underbrush. This has been already described. Next the chopping or cutting down the trees, large and small. As I have not alluded to the axe in particular, I may here observe, that the chopping axe in Canada is wedge-shaped, though not flat, but roundish on the sides, after this fashion:



A, side view, with part of handle  
or "helve."



B, top or bottom, shewing the  
"eye," or opening for the  
helve.

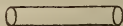
The old country axes for chopping down trees are useless. They

serve when brought here for chopping up meat, and are therefore useful in the kitchen. It is a rule among those experienced in chopping, to chop the large trees first, as if the smaller ones were first felled, the large ones would be on the top of them, and the work of logging or putting them together could not be managed. It may be thought a simple matter to chop or cut down trees, and so it is in one way; but when the same trees are to be cut up into lengths, of a size or length, that a yoke of oxen can haul or drag them together, to be put into heaps to be burned, it is very necessary, nay, absolutely requisite, that a *system* or rule be followed, so as the work may be done well and expeditiously. The more delay there is, the more cost, either in the emigrant's time or when men are hired to work, in the cost of the hire, which in this country, as wages are high, may be considerable. The trees are felled or chopped down, one by one, in a way which will enable the person who burns them off to get them put together without much trouble. Any variation of this rule, is better learned on the spot. The above is the common way. When a tree is cut down, it is cut into *lengths* or *cuts*, as it is termed, from fourteen to eighteen feet long, which is, into sizes sufficient for a yoke of oxen to haul together, one by one, and if small pieces, two are "hitched" and pulled. The tops or branches of the tree so cut down, are lopped or cut off, and piled into a heap, which heap is termed a *brush-heap*. When a large tree is to be cut down, it is seldom cut up; for in the *logging up*, (that is, hauling the pieces or *lengths* together into heaps), the smaller lengths are hauled up to the big one, and a large heap made. The tops of the large tree must be piled also into a brush-heap. The appearance of a standing tree nearly chopped down, and about falling, is as follows :



and a cut or length, say, from 14 to 18 feet long, like this (b).

b.



The cutting at the ends of the length are sloping, and are called the calf (cawf). When the piece of ground is chopped down, which is intended to be chopped, say for example, five acres, this piece has the appearance of heaps of brush scattered here and there, (but piled in the heaps pretty closely together, and not loosely, at random) with all the trees, the monarch of the forest as well as the sapling lying flat on the ground, or lying across each other, but in a way, that each piece or length can be dragged, one by one, away.

The above is the common way followed in chopping. There is another, and that is in "*windrows*," which is, by chopping all the trees down, so as the tops are thrown together, in a row or strip, the trees being so chopped down, as to cause the brush to lie together, in a row, which not being cut, (unless some high branches, which lie not close) saves trouble in cutting the branches off and piling them. This plan is not often, in this part of the country, followed. There is another way also, and that is to make jam heaps, by throwing as many of the tops of the trees together as possible, making thus, a large brush heap. This is not a bad plan, if the season is a dry one, as these heaps burn off many of the upper and thick branches or limbs of the trees, which would otherwise need to be cut by the axe and logged or hauled together.

The next operation is clearing the land of the brush and timber, and this is commenced by "*burning the brush*," that is, the brush heaps, (and burning brush or heaps of logs, can only be done during the spring, summer, and fall,) and these being set fire to, all the heaps being as quickly fired as possible, the whole of them soon disappear; leaving the cut trees only on the ground. The emigrant (or settler, as he will be by this time called) now takes his yoke of oxen, with a chain attached to the yoke by a hook, and begins *to log* or haul, together, and pile into heaps, the trees so cut up as before described. Now here appears, as well as in chopping, the advantage a settler has with a grown-up family of boys, and, I may add, grown-up girls, for I know a family so placed, that they, there being no boys, not only chopped, but helped their father to log, driving the oxen, &c.; but though not to be recommended, ("*necessity has no law*," sometimes, with an in-

dustrious settler,) for having this help, he may log up the piece of land so chopped, with ease to himself and without other help. If the settler has not this aid, it cannot be expected, even with the oxen, that he will manage so well. Yet there are settlers who have logged up some acres *without oxen*, and one man I know, (a single unmarried man,) in the township of Ellice, has chopped, logged, and cleared land, without any help, not even oxen. One farmer in North Easthope (Mr. Timothy Wallace) has told me, that not wishing to incur any debt by hiring labour, he has logged many acres himself with only the help of his oxen. He said it was hard work for one person to do, which I know it is. These are exceptions. The usual way is, for the settler to have at least, two, often three, besides himself, in the logging field. One drives the oxen and gets the timber drawn in, the others pile the timber so drawn together, and when there is a heavy lift, (and heavy lifting there will be pretty often) the teamster, or driver, gives his help. When the timber is so logged, and piled into heaps, scattered here and there, these heaps are set fire to, and burned off. Sometimes as the logging is going on, the heaps first made are set fire to, so that burning and logging may be seen going on at the same time. The spring season merges so quickly into summer, that if any logging is to be done *then*, it ought to be done expeditiously, as the time spring crops are put in, (to be yet explained) soon arrives. Logging and burning off is done also after the time the spring crops are in, and before *haying*, and also between *haying* and the time the wheat is ripe. This logging is generally for to get land cleared to put in a crop of *fall* wheat. When the *log heaps* or *log piles* are burnt down, some remains will be found, and these are again logged together into heaps, and this work is termed *branding*. When they are burnt, and the ashes spread, the land is ready to receive the "crop" or seed. I may remark, that all big chips, or small pieces of wood, or rubbish, are gathered together by the hand, and thrown on the log heaps.

There is one thing more yet to be done by the settler, and that is *fencing*. The piece of land chopped and cleared as above described must be fenced in. This is accomplished by splitting into what are called rails, the lengths or cuts, generally eleven feet long,

of black ash, cedar, oak, elm, white ash, cherry, or basswood, or, when handy, poles will do in part, though rails are the best, and generally used. I have seen rails made from the pine, maple, and beech, the two latter, rarely seen. A straight fence of logs is sometimes put up, being logs of any kind, (about from ten to fourteen inches in diameter) cut into lengths of twelve or fourteen feet. The rails are split by the axe, and iron and wooden wedges, with a large mallet or *maul*, made of wood. Some cuts, depending of course on their freeness (easiness to split) and size, will yield from ten to fifty rails each. The rail fence is built in a zig-zag manner, as follows:—



It is generally laid seven rails high, each rail placed above the other, and crossing at the corners, with one stake planted in the ground in the inside, and one on the outside, of each corner, and on these stakes are placed the riders, and the fence thus made is strong and steady. From corner to corner is called a "*panel*." The kind of fence, which is called a legal fence, depends on the laws, as to fencing, made each year on the first Monday in January, at which time the inhabitants of each township meet and elect township officers, make laws about fences, cattle, &c. Of these rails, and seven high, including two stakes, and two riders, to each panel, as above described, 100 rails will lay five rods, or eighty-two and a half feet of a fence, including in this the zig-zag, and it will be, to the top of the upper rider, above six feet high. Sometimes in place of stakes and riders, what are called "*lockers*" are put, but this method, and any other variation as well as log fences, will be best known on the spot. The above rail, stake, and rider fence is the ordinary one. I need not refer to a brush fence, to protect a crop of grain or potatoes, as it is not worthy the consideration of an industrious settler.

V. The crops which are cultivated are fall and spring wheat, oats, barley, peas, potatoes, turnips, buck-wheat, and Indian

corn. To these may be added flax or lint and hemp. The latter grown by the Dutch settlers. I will briefly refer to these crops.

1st. *Fall Wheat*.—This grain may be either the white or red, generally both kinds mixed. On *new* land, that is, land which has been newly cleared and never cropped, one bushel per acre is sown. On *old*; one bushel and one peck per acre. The time of sowing, from the 1st to the 15th September. In the township of Waterloo, settled by the industrious Dutch, the wheat is often sown in the end of August. That township has been long settled, and the farmers having as much land cleared as they want, have always a field or fields summer fallowed, and prepared in time for the fall wheat. In a new settlement the settler is not so quickly ready, for it takes longer time to a new settler and harder labour to chop, log, clear, and fence a field, than to merely take down the bars of a field-gate, and enter the field, and begin ploughing or fallowing a field already cleared. Sometimes, indeed, the wheat is sown up to the 10th October, but there is a risk after the 20th September at the farthest. The sooner sown, the more free is the crop from the risk of the *rust* or *smut*, two diseases which affect wheat. The average yield or return per acre is, on *new* land, 20 to 25 bushels, of 60 lbs. per bushel, per acre, but it is often as high as 30 bushels. A farmer in North Easthope, Mr. John Kelly, (from parish of Stow, Edinburghshire, Scotland,) this year has an average of 30 bushels per acre, and he obtained the first prize for wheat at the Agricultural Show at Stratford, on 14th October last. This farmer had, in 1840, average 35 bushels, and, in 1841, 32 bushels. He had ascertained this from actual observation. He is both a good and an exact farmer. On *old* land the average may also be stated as above. I have been informed by a settler in North Easthope, that he has had a fine crop of fall wheat (the wheat weighed 64 lbs. per bushel) succeeding a crop of spring wheat. He says, “ I cleared the land, about five acres, in the spring, sowed spring  
“ wheat, had a very good crop of that, and, after it was reaped,  
“ I ploughed it and sowed fall wheat. I dragged (that is, har-  
“ rowed it, as a harrow is called a drag) it well, about seven  
“ times. The land had been chopped the winter before, and was



“cleared in the spring.” I may add, that this succession of crops is not usually done. I notice it as what may be done. The land for fall wheat, if old land, is always summer fallowed, prepared and made ready by ploughing and dragging, and then sown from the 1st to the 15th September. Fall wheat is the first crop of grain ready, in August.

2d. *Spring Wheat*.—It is of a reddish colour, may be sown from the 20th April to the 15th May. The first week in May is better than the second week; but wheat, if the season is favourable, has been known to yield a fine crop even when sown about the 20th of May. The proper time is as above. One bushel per acre is sown on new land, and on old one bushel and one peck. The average return is from 18 to 20 bushels per acre, though a greater return has been got in many cases. This wheat does not weigh so heavy as fall wheat. It is a common crop for the spring, as it does always well if justice, as to the *time* and *manner* of sowing it, is performed. It does well to be sown on land which has previously had a crop of peas, oats, or potatoes, or turnips. But the crops raised from *new* land, being its first crop, is either fall or spring wheat, barley, potatoes, or turnips. Spring wheat is ready to be cut after the fall wheat.

3d. *Oats*.—Seed sown from two bushels to two and a half per acre produce a return from 35 to 40 or 45 bushels per acre, if the land is good and well prepared. Oats may be sown from 1st April to 15th May; if sown later they are apt not to ripen in time in the fall. Oats and peas are not sowed on new land. The settler, who sowed the fall after the spring wheat, informed me that he had (in May, 1841) a piece of land of about six acres, which had been summer fallowed the previous year for fall wheat, but this not being sown it was ploughed in the following spring and oats sown. The produce averaged about 80 *bushels* per acre. The oats were sown in the first week in May. A neighbour of Mr. Kelly's (Robert Patterson, from Liddlesdale, near Langholm, Scotland) this year has a splendid crop of oats. The return of 60 bushels per acre was expected, or even rather above this. Oats may be sown after any previous crop, as, if the land is well

prepared by ploughing and dragging, they will grow after any thing.

4th. *Barley*.—Seed sown about two bushels per acre, may be put in from 15th May to 4th June, and will do on new land as well as old. Produce 28 to 35 bushels. The land should be well prepared or cleaned for barley.

5th. *Peas*.—Seed sown one bushel and a half per acre, though sometimes from seven pecks to two bushels is sown per acre. This crop should be sown the first in the spring, if possible. Produce from 20 to 30 bushels.

6th. *Potatoes*.—Seed planted from six to eight bushels per acre, and, perhaps, in some instances more, depending how the sets are cut, and the kind of potato. Potatoes are generally planted after other spring crops are sown. May be planted from the 15th May to the 10th June. To have a patch of early ones, may be planted first week of May, in a sheltered spot. The produce is about on an average, when well planted and the land good, 300 bushels per acre. They are sometimes ploughed in and sometimes planted in small *hills*. They are planted in new land in hills, by putting three sets on the ground, and drawing a small hill of earth with the hoe over the sets.

7th. *Turnips*.—The common turnip is sown from the 15th June to the 15th July. The Swedish turnip is sown earlier after the 1st June. Turnips will produce easily 1000 bushels per acre.

8th. *Buck Wheat*.—Sown from the 15th June to 10th July. This crop is very apt to be affected by any slight frost. Produce about 25 bushels per acre. Quantity sown a peck and a half per acre. It will not do on new land, always sown on old, and the poorest land, I am told, will suit it best. The chief use to make flour of for pancakes, or, after it is broken or coarsely ground at the mill, for feeding hogs (that is, pigs).

9th. *Indian Corn*.—This is not grown generally as a crop in this quarter, with few exceptions. Patches of it, however, are planted. It is planted from the 10th to the 20th May. The produce is large. The chief use of it to feed hogs with. A meal or flour is made from it, from which mush, a kind of porridge, is

made, and which (when rightly boiled) is very good. The meal is used in cakes, too, and sometimes fried after due preparation.

10th. The grass seed sown is almost always what is called "*Timothy*." Red clover is mixed sometimes with it, and sometimes the clover is sown by itself. White clover is sown also, though seldom, yet there is plenty of it seen.

VI. 1st. Were I to enter upon a minute reference to the many cases of successful results attendant on emigrating to this country, which have come under my notice in the townships around and near this village, it would embrace a large part of these remarks; though I hardly think it would appear tedious. There are *some*, no doubt, of the families who have become settlers, and who have emigrated since 1833, (there were not many families before that year settled in these townships,) who have not succeeded so well as might be expected they would have, the more particularly when the advantages of emigration appear so plain, and the results almost certain as to be near a perfect calculation. But causes have operated in these few cases which, wherever a person may emigrate to, will be found. But on the other hand, *and including these cases*, I may say, in honest truth, that there *are none* but who have bettered their conditions here by having emigrated. But these few instances are only so comparatively. I say *by comparison*, for I lay down as a rule that a farmer, labouring man, or mechanic in this country, with or without a family, and arriving here with or without money, will, in a few years, in a period equal to that which has elapsed since 1833 to this present time (December 1842), be worth so many hundred dollars, in very many instances thousands, more than he would be worth if he remained in the old country, the same circumstances attending him there, during the same period, as when he emigrated. I may assume this without any fear of contradiction, if the facts, living instances, which surround me in these townships are to be admitted, and they cannot be controverted or denied.\*

\* In addition to the proof I bring forward of what I here state, I may briefly refer to p. 54 and on to p. 57 of a book published this year in London, titled, "*A Statement of the satisfactory Results which have*

I may remark, that mechanics on emigrating have a double advantage over a farmer, labouring man, or a “gentleman” emigrant, (I must use the last term, for want of a proper substitute to convey my distinctive meaning,) for they can apply themselves to farming or to their several trades, or to both, in some cases.—A “gentleman” emigrant, one who has not been accustomed to work, will not succeed so well at first, to speak plainly but truly, as any of the classes I refer to; unless he brings money with him, and is careful of that too, or unless of a robust constitution, or a persevering disposition, or having a family to be inured to a different life from that led in the station he occupied in the old country, and moreover, laying aside in part any prideful notions which he might have, even though imperceptibly, and perhaps, necessarily acquired.

I will refer shortly to a few instances of success.

1st.—MR. JOHN SHERMAN, blacksmith. He lives in this village, came here in July 1834.—Emigrated from the village of Tilbrook, in Bedfordshire, (England). He bought a village lot, and commenced his business as blacksmith. Has a wife and children. Had about £100 currency (400 dollars) when he came here. He has now five village lots, and a farm adjoining Stratford. He has a good two-story framed house, and back kitchen, with barn, &c. on one lot, and a workshop (formerly his dwelling house,) with stable, on another. Also an unfinished frame building on another lot.—He estimates the value of his property now, after deducting what he owes, at a moderate valuation, £900, though he says he might easily say with truth £1000, this sum being equal to 4000 dollars. He has constant and steady work

“*attended Emigration to Upper Canada,*” &c., third edition, price one shilling. A very correct small map is prefixed, a similar one as the map I have recommended before. This book is compiled for the guidance of emigrants, and living as I am in the country to which it particularly refers, viz. Canada West, I may be permitted to say that the statements in it are invaluable to an intending emigrant. I mean the statistical tables, and particularly the information by F. Widder, Esq., Commissioner of the Canada Company, contained from p. 93 to the end. This last I have looked over with some pleasure, and an emigrant will do well attentively to consider it.

for a man besides himself. Indeed he has more to do than he can well manage. The trade of a blacksmith is a money-making trade in this country, particularly in a well located country village, or in any settled township; providing however, that the blacksmith is a good tradesman, and of an obliging disposition, as Mr. Sherman appears to be.

2nd. GEORGE WOOD.—He is a farmer on lot twelve, in the fifth concession of the township of Downie. Has a wife and children; two of the eldest able to assist him on his farm. Had sixteen sovereigns when he came, besides a sum (about near as much) lent to his brother-in-law, William Dunn, who emigrated along with him, but which has since been repaid. He came from the parish of Rothbury, in Norththumberland, (England). He now estimates the value of his property, cattle, &c. at £700 (2800 dollars,) which sum he has told me he would not take for his property. He has one yoke of working oxen, four yokes of steers of different ages, six cows, and five calves, four heifers in calf, (a fat ox and two fat cows he has slaughtered lately to some advantage, by obtaining a ready sale for all he killed, from the emigrants who have settled in the township of Downie,) thirty-five sheep, besides about twenty swine, large and small. This enterprising settler, who besides is well educated, has settled near him two brothers-in-law, his father-in-law, (Mr. J. Gibb,) and some other relations. I might bring forward as instances of success the cases of these relations, particularly William Dunn, but I will rather allude to one or two others in another township.

3rd. JOHN KELLY, in the township of North Easthope (whose name I have previously mentioned). He was a steward (or griever) for Mr. Hastie, on a farm in the parish of Stow, about ten miles from Dalkeith (Scotland.) He had about 250 dollars (£62:10 currency) when he settled in 1834. His farm is lots No. 15, and part of 16, in the third concession of this township. He now values his property, including his cattle, &c. (but exclusive of his crops, house furniture, and farming tools,) at 2500 dollars (£625). He was a *single* man when he came to the bush, and married only the other year, his *betrothed* coming out from Scotland to him, and they live happily together, and have

two children. His land is nearly paid for to the Canada Company. He is an intelligent farmer, and a very exact one.—His method is chiefly to *manage well* what he does, and he is never disappointed in the results, as he has told me. His stock of cattle, &c. this fall was one yoke of working oxen, three cows, three yokes of steers of various ages, three head of young cattle, fourteen sheep, and about eight hogs, and two horses, and a colt. He has a neat log dwelling house, plastered like an old country house in the inside, and a very large log barn, which contains his stable. This settler obtained several prizes at the show of the Stratford Agricultural Society in October last. The fall-wheat, which he exhibited, was as good as could be wished for.

4th. ROBERT PATTERSON, Jun.—He came from near Langholm, Liddesdale, (Scotland.) He settled in 1838, near John Kelly, on No. Thirteen in the same concession.—*He had not a farthing when he settled.* Has a wife and six children. His clearance is about thirty-five acres with a dwelling house, and a good log barn, as neat and substantial a one as I have met with. His fences round his cleared land, are laid down exactly and neatly. I have no data within my reach, while I write this, to shew the number of his cattle, &c. but I know he has a stock of cattle. This is the settler I have previously referred to, whose crop of oats this year will yield fully sixty bushels per acre. This settler's father, brothers, and sisters have emigrated from Scotland since 1838, and are settled near him. It may be supposed how happy and comfortable these settlers now are, when they find themselves together again, in their adopted country, and surrounded with every comfort, and free of the harassing cares attendant on a farmer's or a labouring man's life in the old country.

5th. There is another family of Pattersons. The father, ROBERT PATTERSON, Sen. came from near Lauder, in Berwickshire, (Scotland,) to North Easthope in 1833. Settled on No. Sixteen in the second concession, and some adjoining lots. He has a large family of sons; three of them were able to keep the father (who is an elderly man) when he settled, and two of them, Walter and John, have since married, and are living on neighbouring lots, with stocks of cattle, dwelling houses, and barns. Two

other sons, Henry and George, have each also 100 acres of land, and large clearances besides. The old man lives on No. sixteen in a nicely finished log-house, with barn, &c. and a large stock of cattle. This family of Patterson's is a complete instance of the success of emigrants in clearing the forest.

6th. There is a family of Riddells, from near Lauder also, who have succeeded remarkably well. The son, ANDREW RIDDELL, Jun., settled on Nos. 16 and 17 in the first concession of the township of South Easthope, came in the summer of 1832. When he observed the advantages of emigrating to this country, he wrote home to his father, Andrew Riddell, Sen., (who had removed from near Lauder to the service of Mr. Church, near Melrose and Gala-shiels, Scotland, he being a farm servant to Mr. Church), and also to old Robert Patterson, (who is spoken of in No. 5), and both these families emigrated on his recommendation, and this has been the means of laying a prosperous foundation for the future welfare of these families. A. Riddell, Jun. considers himself worth between 2000 and 3000 dollars (£500 to £750), and he had in money, when he came, sixty dollars, which he has told me he paid on his land to the Company, working out at first for provisions for the support of his family. He has a large framed barn on his farm.

7th. I may refer to the father, ANDREW RIDDELL, Sen. He has told me, and he has not a little pride too in telling it, that when he came to North Easthope in 1833, "*he had not a shilling.*" He has now in stock, two horses, six cows, one bull, one yoke of oxen, four yokes of steers of different ages, eight head of young cattle, eight sheep, and a number of hogs. He has paid for one lot of land, (100 acres), and a good part of another. He, however, did not make all his property by farming *solely*, but took some jobs in the formation of the turnpike road which leads to Goderich, and saved money at them. But the advantages he benefited by are open in many ways to persevering and industrious emigrants. This settler, who had not a shilling, and whose word in respect of this has never been doubted, is now worth in property, &c., as he reckoned to me, 3000 dollars, (£750 currency;) he has a good framed barn also.

8. I might here point to Mr. DAVID BELL, from near Lockerby, Dumfriesshire, (Scotland,) who emigrated in 1833, and was the first sower of fall wheat in his township, or indeed almost in this district, and to Mr. George Hyde from the same place, both farmers with large families, who, if I was noting particulars, will shew greater instances of success. The latter, in particular, who was a farm servant to the former, in Scotland, and who is the equal now of his old master. Mr. JAMES HASTINGS, from the parish of Glencairn, near Minnihive, from said shire, with a large family, is another emigrant I can refer to, to shew the advantage of emigrating.

9. I have not said much as to the early emigrants in North Easthope, who came in 1832, from Glenquaich, in the Highlands of Scotland. JOHN STEWART from Turrerich, is worth 4000 dollars, (£1000,) besides his large stock of cattle and crops. PETER CRERAR, who had hardly any money when he settled, may be worth 3000 dollars, (£750). John M'DAVISH and family, rather more, and ALEXANDER CRERAR, (who has a deed for one lot of 100 acres besides other land) about £750. JOHN CRERAR (who came in 1833,) with ROBERT FRASER, JOHN KIPPAN, and his family, (already well provided for,) and many others I might name, are all well off. The communications made by these settlers to the relations and friends they left behind, induced many to emigrate, and settle near them, and now the old associations of "kyth," and "kin," and "boyhood's years" exist here, and those who lived for many years as neighbours in Glenquaich, are likely now to spend in North Easthope as neighbours and as little landlords (some of them have 600 acres of land) the remainder of their days.

I had intended to have added here some remarks as to the current coin or "currency" of Canada, and also as to the markets. As regards the currency, the sovereign is a current legal coin (see 4 and 5 Vic. c. 93,) for £1. 4s. 4d. currency, the crown for 6s. 1d. and the other silver coins in proportion, but to avoid fractions, the English shilling passes for 1s. 3d. and the sixpence for 7½d. currency. The American (or States) silver half dollar passes for 2s. 6d. and the other States coins in proportion. The dollar is equal to 5s. currency, and in the States contains 100 cents, each



cent being rather more in value than a halfpenny, though the cents in change pass for the same value as a halfpenny, or "copper" as it is called.

The nearest markets to this place for grain, butter, pork, &c. are Doon Mills, (belonging to A. Ferrie, jun., esq.,) the towns of Galt and Preston, Dundas, and Hamilton. But there is a market in this village, to a considerable extent, by the way of exchange with the stores, and also for cash in part. As regards the prices of farm produce, (which vary,) and of other articles, I may refer to the book before alluded to, "A Statement of the Satisfactory Results, &c." In it are contained also the prices generally of labour, &c.

I may conclude this by copying some observations made by Mr. George Wood, the settler before-mentioned, when giving an account of his success as a settler. "I consider that the  
 " change by emigrating here is to my advantage and that of  
 " my family. I am quite in a different situation now in this  
 " country as regards acquired property, from what I would have  
 " been in had I remained in the old country; and though I  
 " cannot say but that I was at home as others were, comfortable  
 " in one respect, and also as having a good master in Mr. Red-  
 " head, still my adopting this country as the future home of  
 " myself and family, I am now a *master* where I never could  
 " expect otherwise than to see myself and my family as *servants*.  
 " The facility of acquiring property here is great, and any man,  
 " *single or married*, of sober, economical, industrious, and per-  
 " severing habits, is sure to do well. That this is a general  
 " remark I am well aware, but I consider my own case, as above  
 " detailed, a favourable and further proof of the correctness of the  
 " observation."

(Signed)

J. J. E. L.

Stratford, 10th Dec. 1842.