

truth, those barbarians are good soldiers; and the french, who despised them when they first came here, have changed their minds since they saw them last winter in a hot skirmish; the winter, too, was more severe and protracted than it had been for 30 years. The snow lay 4 feet deep. The earth begins to be covered with it in november, and is uncovered only in april; but what is surprising is, that the melting of the snows causes neither inundation nor overflow of the rivers beyond their banks. And, after all, we enjoy better health here in winter than in summer. Inflammations, colds, and catarrhs are unknown then, so pure is the air. I do not think that the severe cold keeps the people within doors; more work is done in that season than in summer. That is the time when the trees are felled for the purpose of clearing the fields, when wood is cut for fuel and for building purposes; and the whole is hauled over the snow by oxen, with greater facility than on wheels in summer.

The heat is much greater than in France. We experienced some in June this year, that made people swoon. But it is very fortunate that this extraordinary heat does not last long. Wheat is sown here only at the end of april or beginning of may, and is cut about the 2nd of september. It grows as well here as in france. Truly, if the many poor people who drag on a wretched existence in France only knew the advantages that are here for those who wish to work, and who have strong arms, I think that many of them would come over here. A man can in 2 years harvest upon his land more wheat than he will need to feed himself and a small family; and we know nothing of taxes, of imposts, of [blank space]