A

FEW WORDS UPON

CANADA,

AND HER PRODUCTIONS

IN THE

GREAT EXHIBITION.

"Although every foreigner the instant he lands in England is struck with the evidence displayed before him, in every direction, of the wealth and energy of the British people, yet a much more striking exemplification of both is to be seen by any one who will carefully survey a BRITISH COLONY."—*Sir Francis B. Head's "Emigrant."*

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THE Reader will find in the few pages which are here offered to him nothing more than a plain and truthful statement of the advantages which the important colony of Canada presents to the British emigrant. It has been compiled with a view of affording such information upon the natural state of the country, and the position it has assumed since it became a part of the British dominions, as one premeditating a residence there would be desirous of acquiring, and which it is absolutely indispensable for him to know ere he travels thitherward with the hope of turning his labours to a profitable account. The Canadians have gone to a very considerable expense in forwarding to the Great Exhibition a large supply of the Natural and Manufactured Produce of the Colony; and it has been deemed advisable, by those interested in its welfare and future success, to second their efforts by publishing some facts in connection with these productions. The writer begs to acknowledge the assistance he has received from W. E. Logan, Esq., F.G.S., for his valuable remarks on the Minerals of Canada, and from A. Fergusson, Esq., for those on Agriculture: both of these gentlemen have been long resident in that country. He has also consulted with advantage Mr. T. C. Keefer's Prize Essay on "The Canals of Canada," and Mr. Warburton's "Hochelaga, or England in the New World"—the work of an intelligent and observant mind.

London, June 4, 1851.

CANADA.

"The most powerful impression I received was on turning down into Canada and wandering among the products of that world we call our colonies; those strange grains, and woods, and animals; those barbarous utensils, arms, and ornaments, mixed up with all the evidences of English civilization; those works of living savage populations—our fellow-subjects! Neither the mass nor the perfection of all that Birmingham, and Sheffield, and Manchester contribute, gave me such an awful sense of the power and the responsibility of England as these contributions of our remotest and earliest settlements to their glorious Mother Country."

"*Wanderings in the Crystal Palace*"—*Art-Journal*, June, 1851.

THE opening of the GREAT INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION is an event destined to occupy no unimportant page in the future history of Great Britain; but the record cannot appear as a simple historical fact for the mere information of those who come after us; its influence will not have passed away with the final closing of the doors of the "Crystal Palace;" nor will the lessons it has taught, whether of good or of evil, be lost when the nations that have thus been called together have returned "each to his own home." The summons England boldly, though not ostentatiously, put forth has been as boldly and as promptly answered from every quarter of the habitable globe; and, while the congregated masses of human science, ingenuity, and labour are viewed by some only as examples of what the industry and knowledge of men are capable of accomplishing, and are are therefore regarded as objects of curiosity and of display; there are thousands who recognise in them a higher and worthier motive, and regard them as matters in which they themselves are individually interested, and from which, either directly or indirectly, they are looking for some ulterior benefit. It would be easy to point out a variety of ways by which such advantage may be attained; but the object of this little work being a specific one, and addressed to a particular class, our remarks must be kept strictly within the limits we have assigned ourselves. Emigration now, as for years past, is occupying the attention of thousands of our fellow-countrymen, and there cannot be a doubt that a large number of those who visit the Exhibition will do so for the purpose of seeing with their own eyes the productions of distant lands, and of acquiring some knowledge that may be practically available in those countries whither it may be their intention to migrate. Canada, from its comparative nearness to England, has long been a favourite place of settlement with the British emigrant, and it is with the view of offering some useful and available information upon the country to such as may entertain an idea of settling there, that those interested in the welfare of this important colony are induced to put forth a few brief remarks upon the advantages it presents, and upon its natural and manufactured produce as seen in the Great Exhibition.

But, for the better understanding of the subject, it will be necessary to make some preliminary observations on the country itself, with reference to its particular locality, and on its climate. Canada occupies a space on the continent of North America of about 300 miles in length from south to north, by about 1000 miles in breadth. On the south, and partly on the east and west, it is bounded by the United States, and on the north by other British possessions; it is difficult, however, to describe its exact limits so as to render them comprehensible without the aid of a map. It is divided into Upper and Lower Canada, but both are under the same rule of government, and are subject to the laws made by the united members of the two divisions in one Legislature. The country is intersected by numerous rivers, which run either into the great lakes that separate it on the south and on the west from the United States, or into the St. Lawrence River, which joins these lakes with the Atlantic Ocean.

By means of the Welland Canal, recently completed at a vast expense to avoid the interruptions of the Falls of the Niagara, between Lakes Erie and Ontario, the navigation into the interior has been rendered practicable from the mouth of the St. Lawrence to the head of Lake Huron, a distance of 1400 miles on Canadian waters, with 450 more on Lake Michigan, in the United States. Farther inland, Lake Superior, large enough to be worthy of the name of a sea, is navigable at certain seasons of the year; and, although the channel existing between it and Lake Huron is not available, a system of land carriage serves to supply its place.

The country lying to the north of Lake Superior, so far as it has been carefully explored, presents little attraction to the settler; it is generally dreary, its streams are small, and it is deficient in wood fit for commercial purposes. The climate is cold, though not lying in a higher latitude than Quebec, and game and esculent plants are exceedingly rare. The north and north-east shores of Lake Huron are moderately elevated and broken. On the former there is a breadth of about ten miles, of which the valleys and slopes, yielding valuable wood and a good soil, are capable of settlement, but the country in the rear is inferior; while, on the latter, the coast is rocky, but there is said to be land of good quality beyond. The tracts of country between the Lake Huron and Lakes Erie and Ontaria, and on the banks of the great St. Lawrence, to Quebec, are those which are more thickly populated, and where Montreal, Toronto, and all the principal towns are situated.

The climate of Canada greatly resembles that of the north of Germany and the centre of Russia. The greater part of the country is covered with snow from two to four months in the year, and most of the rivers are filled with ice for nearly the same period, so as to stop the navigation; but, on the other hand, the summer is hotter than in European countries lying under the same latitude, and the climate is altogether more constant; the extremes, apparently so objectionable, rendering the natural productions of the country most varied. The strong and steady heat of the summer matures with great rapidity the most valuable plants and fruits, while the severe cold of the winter enables the inhabitants to combine the products of the northern with those of the southern climes. Thus the grape, peach, and melon come to perfection in Western Canada without the necessity of forcing; while wheat, which cannot be grown in Norway, ripens in similar latitudes of Eastern Canada. At Quebec apples and pears are abundant, but the peach and the grape do not succeed. At Montreal these fruits ripen; but in the districts surrounding Lake Erie grapes, peaches, and nectarines are produced in abundance and perfection. The purity of the air, and the absence of fogs at all times, mainly contribute to this result. All the vegetables grown in England can be raised in Canada.

Canada is strictly an agricultural country, three-fourths of its inhabitants, on the lowest computation, being engaged in farming operations. The grains principally cultivated are wheat, barley, oats, rye, Indian corn, and buckwheat; hemp, flax, and tobacco are also produced in many districts. We shall, however, find occasion hereafter to enter at greater length upon this part of the subject.

But one of the great sources of the wealth of this country are its vast forests, covering a large extent of the surface of the land, and yielding annually an abundance of the finest timber, not only of the commoner kinds, but of those adapted for ornamental purposes. This matter must also be enlarged upon in a future place.

The domestic animals are nearly the same as our own—horses, cattle, sheep, and swine. The wild animals are bears, wolves, foxes, deer, moose-deer, beavers, otters, &c. The skins of most of these are in much request for articles of apparel, and some of them are valued at a high price. Fish is abundant in the numerous lakes, where a field of enterprise is at this date almost untouched. Cod is taken in various parts in great quantities; and the herring and salmon fisheries are also considerable. Some idea may be formed of the value of the Canadian animals and their productions when it is stated that in the year 1849 the amount of such exports reached £104,311, of which sum nearly £90,000 worth went to the

United States; and the exports arising from their fisheries were in the same year valued at £5806.*

MINERALS.

The minerals of Canada are both varied and important, and offer considerable inducements to the scientific settler. The country abounds in the ores of iron, consisting of the magnetic and specular oxides, and the hydrated peroxide or bog ore. The first occurs in beds, sometimes reaching 200 feet in thickness, in a formation that sweeps through the province from Lake Huron to Labrador, keeping at a variable distance north from the left bank of the River St. Lawrence and its lakes, crossing the river at the Thousand Islands only below Kingston, to form a junction with a great peninsular-shaped area of the same, occupying a mountainous region in Northern New York, between Lakes Champlain and Ontario. The produce of the ore in pure metal generally ranges from 60 to 70 per cent. Wood for fuel is in abundance near all its localities. Specular iron ore occurs in the township of Macnab, where there is a valuable and important bed, and also on the north shore of Lake Huron. Bog iron ore exists in large quantities in both sections of the province; it has been used for many years in the manufacture of iron. The cast-iron stoves made from it at St. Maurice bear a high character through the country, being less liable to crack than those imported, and specimens of the wrought iron produced there may now be seen in the Exhibition.

Lead ore is found in several parts of Canada, about Bedford, Bastard, Fitzroy, and other places, and associated with copper on the Canadian shore of Lake Superior. In the latter locality silver has also been found with it.

Copper exists in a variety of places on the northern and eastern shores of Lake Superior, and the north shore of Lake Huron, for a distance extending 400 miles, and in several islands of the archipelago which separates Neepigon Bay from the main body of Lake Superior, &c. Smelting works have been established at the Bruce Mines, and a cargo of tough cake copper has been shipped for the United States. One of such cakes may now be seen in the Exhibition.

Native gold exists in the Eastern Townships, along the south-eastern side of the Green Mountain range, and in localities too numerous to mention, but nowhere in such quantities as to render the search for it desirable in comparison with the other metallic ores. Selected specimens from the workings of the Chaudière Mining Company, weighing from a few grains to a quarter of a pound, and smaller pieces from other localities, contributed from the Museum of the Geological Survey, have, however, been forwarded to the Exhibition.

Many of the rocks and earthy minerals of the country are worthy of attention as commercially valuable. Among these may be mentioned a pure white dolomite, and a nearly pure carbonate of magnesia; of stone paints, barytes occur in large veins on Lake Superior, and in smaller quantities about Bedford and Bathurst, as well as a great abundance of iron ochres, in many places producing several beautiful tints allied to Sienna brown. Lithographic stone is found at Marmora, whence it appears to range about seventy miles towards Rama, on Lake Simcoe. Of these there are specimens in the Exhibition.

Of materials applicable to jewellery, agates and jaspar pebbles abound on Lake Superior and in other places, and jasper is found at Sherbrooke. Amethysts occur on the north shore of Lake Superior, and hyacinths at Grenville, on the Ottawa. White quartzose sandstone, suitable for glass-making, exists in various parts of the province, and glass is made from it at Vaudrueil and St. John. Plumbago is found at Grenville, asbestus in Dalhousie, and large beds of pure soapstone in the eastern townships, well adapted for the lining of furnaces, baking-stones, &c.

* It should be here stated that the sums mentioned throughout this work are stated in what the Canadians call "currency." An English sovereign is worth in Canada £1. 4s. 4d.; so that about one-sixth must be deducted from these several sums to give their relative English value.

Canada is not deficient in mineral manures, such as phosphate of lime about Burgess, Westmeath, and Hull. Gypsum is met with along the course of the Grand River from Cayuga to Dumfries, and is worked in various places. When ground in mills it constitutes a considerable article of trade for agricultural purposes. Shell marl is a very abundant production in numerous parts of both sections of the country.

Various rocks of the country, such as granite and whitish trap, afford excellent millstones; and whetstones have been manufactured from bands of talcose slate in Madoc, Stanstead, Hatley, &c. Roofing slates have been quarried in Frampton, and they occur in ground not yet worked about Kingsey and Halifax, and in greater abundance on the Rivière du Loup, in Jersey. Flagstones are abundant in the vicinity of Toronto and in the eastern townships. Building stones of different qualities may be met with almost everywhere. Various useful kinds of marble are obtained at Macnab, Grenville, Phillipsburgh, St. Dominique, and other places, and serpentine abounds in the Eastern Townships.

Peat occurs in some abundance in the flat country on the south side of the valley of the Ottawa, and in a similar district on the south side of the St. Lawrence. Coal has not hitherto been discovered, but this is amply atoned for by the existence of magnificent timber serving for fuel and all other purposes to which reference will now be made.

WOODS AND FORESTS.

All who are acquainted with the commerce of Canada are aware that her timber exportations form a very important item in it; and this will afford no matter of surprise when the variety of her forest growth is considered. Birch, oak, black walnut, hard and soft maple, ash, red rock elm, pine, bird's-eye maple, spruce, basswood, butternut, white oak, ironwood, tamarack, and others, are found in various places growing in luxurious abundance; but the white and the red pine are what the Canadians chiefly export. The valley of the Ottawa is one of the great sources of these two species, whence it is brought down the river, a distance of 660 miles, to the shipping port of Quebec, in enormous rafts, some of which cover a superficial space of 80,000 feet. In Mr. Warburton's interesting and valuable work, "Hochelaga, or England in the New World," we find the following description of one of these huge floating fields:—"For 100 miles up the great river the scene is the same, monotonous, if you will, but monotonous in beauty; the shores all along thickly dotted with the white cottages of the simple inhabitants. A short distance above Cape Rouge we met a large raft of white pine, one of the strange sights of the St. Lawrence. It was about three acres of timber, bound together by clamps of wood into a solid stage; on this were erected five or six wooden houses, the dwellings of the raftsmen. The wind was in their favour, and they had raised in front a great number of broad, thin boards, with the flat sides turned to the breeze, so as to form an immense sail. These floating islands are guided by long oars; they drop down with the stream till they meet with the tide, then anchor when it turns, till the tide again comes to their aid. They have travelled from many hundred miles in the interior; by the banks of the far-distant Ottawa those pines were felled; in the depth of winter the remote forests ring with the woodman's axe; the trees are lopped of their branches, squared, and dragged by horses over the deep snow to the rivers, where, upon the ice, the rafts are formed. When the thaw in the spring opens up the mountain streams, the stout lumberers collect the remains of their winter stock with their well-worn instruments, and on these rafts boldly trust themselves to the swollen waters." The largest white pine trees of the Ottawa are used for masts, and are of sufficient diameter to yield planks five feet in breadth, free from sap. The largest pine tree will give logs of about 18 inches square and 40 feet long. White oak is another of the important commercial woods of Canada: it grows principally in the western division of the country, and is much used both there and elsewhere for ship-building. A large plank, 26 inches in breadth, of this wood is in the Exhibition.

From the same part of the province of Canada is chiefly derived the black walnut, the use of which for ornamental furniture may be seen in the various manufactured articles contributed to the Exhibition. It also forms a considerable material in the interior decoration of houses, and, as it grows in immense quantities, the inhabitants can afford to export it freely, which they do, generally to the United States.

The curled maple, bearing so strong a resemblance to satin-wood, and the bird's-eye maple, both well adapted for ornamental purposes, are abundant; the soft or sugar maple is not much used by the manufacturer, the proprietors of the land reserving it for its yield of the matter from which it has acquired its name. Hard maple is made up into the best articles of common furniture, and, with the black and red beech, it is extensively imported into the United States, where, as in Canada, it is used for similar purposes. These three kinds of wood and beech constitute the staple domestic fuel of the Canadians; the latter wood affords a peculiar acid, for the manufacture of which several establishments have recently been erected in the country. The presence of all the woods here enumerated is considered an undoubted sign of the soil being good and fruitful; as is also that of the bass, or white-wood tree, growing most extensively in both parts of the province. This kind is much used for the pannels of carriages of every description, as well as for the interior of cabinetwork, and for some of the commoner domestic articles. The butternut tree is a sign of good dry land; it forms one of the best materials for veneering cabinetwork, as it is not liable to warp or crack. White spruce is almost exclusively applied to building purposes; it forms a considerable branch of export trade, large quantities of it, as well as of white pine, being sent to Europe and the United States. Samples of the hickory-wood may be seen in the various agricultural and mechanical implements in the Exhibition; its toughness adapting it, in a peculiar degree, for the handles of axes and tools of all kinds, for grain-cradles, &c.; it is of sufficient importance to be made an article of export to Great Britain.

This brief allusion to the principal trees that make up the vast forests of Canada will suffice to show their great importance to the settler in that country; and it is with this view that the Canadian authorities have been induced to contribute the various specimens that are placed in the Exhibition.

The total value of the timber imported from Canada in the year 1849 was £1,327,537 15s. 4d. Of this vast sum upwards of one million's worth came to Great Britain, and the far larger portion of the remainder was sent to the United States.

AGRICULTURE.

Agriculture, *as a science*, it must be acknowledged, is almost, if not entirely, unknown, or, at least, very partially developed; and it would scarcely be reasonable to expect it otherwise, considering the spontaneous fertility of the soil, and the desultory character of those who have assumed the business of farming. Men are not naturally inclined to spend their means and their labour liberally, where neither is required to make a profitable investment; and the settler in Canada frequently finds that such an outlay of his capital and his toil is not absolutely needful, for no formidable difficulties present themselves in regard to the climate as affecting farming operations. The topographical position of Upper and Lower Canada, in relation to each other, is apt to convey an impression of superior geniality as regards the latter. This, however, is altogether incorrect; in fact, the very reverse is the case. Both divisions of the province possess advantages peculiar to themselves, and calculated, in a considerable degree, to equalize success among the settlers. As an example, we may in Upper Canada look in vain for peas rivalling those which Lower Canada grows in abundance, and of which she has sent such fine samples to the Exhibition. A pestilent insect, known as the "pea-bug," too often blasts the expectations of the Upper Canadian; while, as a set-off, he is more than compensated by his splendid crops of winter wheat. Although allusion has already been made to the

climate of the country, a few more extended remarks will not be deemed out of place here; and of this Mr. Warburton's book, before referred to, gives the following information:—"With the exception of a very few bitterly cold days, the winter is far from being disagreeable; the pure, dry, frosty air has at times a most exhilarating effect; and the blue, unclouded sky above relieves the eye from the almost painful monotony of the snowy earth. While the snow is melting away in spring, the weather is usually beautiful and very warm. Then, when the young summer fairly sets in, nothing can be more charming than the climate, bright and warm during the day, with the air still pure and clear as ever; and the transition from bare brown fields and woods to verdure and rich green foliage is so rapid that you can almost fancy you see its progress; while at night light frosts refresh the atmosphere, and brace the nerves relaxed by the delicious warmth of the day.

"To this succeed July and August, almost terrible in their intense heat; the roads and rocks so hot at midday as to be painful to the touch, and the strength of the direct rays of the sun even greater than in the tropics; but the night always brings a reinvigorating coolness, and the breezes of the morning are as fresh and tempered as in England. The autumn, or the 'Fall,' as the Canadians call it, rivals the spring in its healthy and moderate warmth, and far excels it in the beauty of the colouring which it bestows."

It must be remembered that this eulogium in favour of the climate of Canada is not written by one who had an object of self-interest in painting it in the most glowing colours, but by an intelligent and observant traveller who passed through the length and breadth of the land for the purpose of making himself thoroughly acquainted with all its peculiarities, and of rendering a truthful report of what he saw and felt—a report which fully corroborates the accounts of other writers, both residents and visitors. The country, as a whole, is a valuable agricultural one, and it would be futile to speculate upon the supplies she may furnish, should her farmers once become acquainted with and carry out the improvements of modern husbandry, so as to develop all her natural resources. Attention to these improvements is absolutely necessary, whatever natural qualities any country may possess; but, at the present time, it cannot be denied that the Canadian farmer is wofully addicted to slovenly habits, for, when crops fail, or fields become overgrown with weeds, instead of ridding the land of its rubbish, he lays his axe to a few fresh acres of the "bush," and so perpetuates the evil. This system will, however, no doubt come to an end by and by, as the population increases, and as land becomes more difficult to acquire. It is, perhaps, not too much to affirm that a finer tract of country for the operations of the industrious and intelligent agriculturist is nowhere to be met with, bounded by the inland seas of Canada, while those mighty lakes and the giant rivers, and the canals connected with them, offer mill power and means of transport perhaps unequalled in the universe. On this point Mr. Warburton says:—"To the emigrant from the British islands there is, perhaps, no place in the world offering a better settlement than the eastern townships of Lower Canada. There, in his log hut, with his wife and children round him to cheer his labour, he may speedily cut out his independence from the magnificent forests, and possess the fertile land. In less than twelve months of patient toil enough is cleared for the production of sufficient potatoes and corn to place him beyond the reach of want, and set him in the road to competence. In Upper Canada also the prospects of the settler are not less encouraging. The Canada Company published a statement a few years ago of the condition of the people at the settlement of Goderich; in 1829 was the first commencement; in 1840 six thousand people had established themselves there and made improvements in the lands, and acquired live stock to the amount of £242,287; nearly half of this was in the possession of families who had originally nothing, or, at most, some few of them had £10 to start with: the remainder was accumulated by people who had been slightly better off in the world. Most of the first settlers have already paid out also the full extent of their purchase-money, and are now freeholders of the land. With a *sufficient capital* and extent of land under

cultivation to make it worth his while to devote his time to it, a man who understood it would at once be able to live in comfort and make money on a farm." The quality of the various grains commonly produced in the country the visitor of the Exhibition has abundant opportunity of testing in the contents of the casks exposed to view. He will find there spring wheat, and autumn or "fall" wheat, as it is termed; barley, oats, beans of various kinds, peas, flaxseed, clover, buckwheat, flour, Indian meal, hops, oatmeal; in short, everything, with many additions, which he would see in an English market town upon a market-day. The cultivation of flax is at present much occupying the attention of the Canadian agriculturist, and considerable rivalry exists as to the best method of preparing it for the manufacturer.

In the year 1849 Canada exported agricultural produce to England to the value of £326,510 8s. 4d.; North America received to the amount of £105,580 6s. 10d.; and the United States to that of £388,224 0s. 9d.; making, with her exports to the West Indies, the gross sum of £821,608 5s. 11d. The increase during the past year was very large. And it must not be forgotten that this large amount accrues from a country not one-tenth or one-twentieth part of which is under cultivation, even of those localities best adapted for the operations of the farmer. The cry there is still for more cultivators. The thousands of emigrants continually passing thither are soon scattered over the vast territories that lack inhabitants, and appear to make but little difference in the extent occupied. The solitary places and the wilderness have as yet found no civilized tenant in proportion to the number they could maintain.

MANUFACTURES.

It cannot reasonably be expected that a country like Canada, whose inhabitants are mainly occupied in procuring the necessaries of life, should have paid much attention to the production of its luxuries. Its social and domestic comforts are what man generally—and more especially an Englishman, and those of like disposition with him, as the Canadian—first looks for. When he has gained this, and his circumstances permit it, he seeks after what will add to his mental and physical enjoyment. And thus it is we find the contributions of the industrial art of the Canadian consist more of the useful than of the ornamental, though there is no lack of the latter. Of the former we may instance as suitable for domestic and personal use the blankets, of a quality scarcely, if at all, to be surpassed in England; counterpanes, table-cloths, linens, carpeting, cloths of various kinds suited to the climate of the country, leather, &c. &c.; and among the ornamental we may point out the furniture adapted for the mansion of the wealthy; the carriages and harness, &c.; while the artisan and the mechanic will find in the specimens of tools of all sorts everything requisite for the promotion of his trade and manufacture, with a special reference to the peculiarities of the country. Nor will the scientific operative pass by this department of the Great Exhibition without seeing in it something worthy of his notice to prove that there is here also room for the display of his skill in what relates to machinery and such matters, as the powerful and beautifully-constructed fire-engine, the model of a locomotive, models of bridges, &c. In short, the rapidly-increasing population of this colony within the last few years has called into operation a corresponding increase in every description of its manufactures, and still the supply is unequal to the demand. There is no doubt that skilful and intelligent mechanics, men altogether of a superior class, would find there a wide and remunerating field for the exercise of their talents. It may be mentioned, as a proof of the value and extent of the manufactures of Canada, that in the year 1848 she exported to the United States and other places goods to the amount of £30,000 and upwards.

STATISTICS.

The population of Canada, in proportion to the extent of the country, is not very large, but it increases annually to a considerable amount; this is reasonably to be looked for from the accession it receives from the numerous

emigrants who take up their residence there. The census taken in 1848 showed a population of 1,405,000 in the two provinces; that of Lower Canada exceeding Upper by about 50,000. In 1849 the number of inhabitants had increased to 1,582,000, equally distributed between the two provinces, and showing a surplus over the preceding year of 177,000. This increase is so enormous that we are almost compelled to doubt its accuracy, seeing it amounts to about one-ninth of the entire population; but it is so stated in "Scobie's Canadian Almanac" for 1851, a work of good authority in the country. Nearly, if not quite, one-half of the inhabitants, being descended from French or Irish settlers, are of the Roman Catholic religion, whose church establishment is richly endowed; nor is the Protestant faith less liberally cared for both by the friends of the English Church, and by those who dissent from it; indeed, wherever a congregation exists able to support a place of worship, such an edifice will be found.

In 1818 schools were generally established in Lower Canada under a settled system, supported by a grant from the provincial Legislature; but in 1832 this grant was reduced, and the year after discontinued altogether; for a separate plan had been commenced in 1829, giving a school to every parish, under the care of trustees elected by the landholders, who were allowed to hold and manage the school property, and receive benefactions. At this time there were 1344 elementary schools in Lower Canada, besides a certain number of girls' schools, each attached to a Roman Catholic church. In 1836 two normal schools were established by the Legislature, and considerable grants of money were made for the purpose of training teachers for the country districts. In 1849 the number of schools in operation in Upper Canada, under what is termed the "Common School Acts," was 2871, attended by 138,465 children; and in Lower Canada 1417 schools received 68,422 children. It may, therefore, be remarked that throughout the whole of Canada, except in the remote and very-thinly settled districts, there are fair opportunities of ordinary useful instruction for every one. The higher class of educational establishments it is unnecessary to refer to here, as they scarcely come within the scope of the object of this pamphlet; it is sufficient to state they are within reach of all who can avail themselves of them.

The extent of the commerce of this important colony may be gathered from the following statement:—In the year 1849 there entered the port of Quebec 1328 vessels, measuring 465,088 tons; and the port of Montreal 144 vessels, measuring 37,425 tons; and there cleared outwards from the former place 1243 ships, measuring 481,227 tons; and from the latter 149 ships, measuring 40,377 tons. The imports consist chiefly of sugar, molasses, tea, tobacco, wines and liquors, salt, fruits and spices, salt and fresh meat, leather, oils, cotton goods, iron and hardware, woollens, linens, silks, &c. &c., valued at £3,002,599; while the exports, the particulars of which have been already given, amounted in the same year to £2,327,564. The Custom-house receipts average about £800,000 annually, and up to the 31st October of last year, (the Government expenses and interest of debentures having been paid,) there was a surplus of half a million currency to the credit of the revenue.

Railroads, which have of late years done so much to bring "nations, people, and tongues" into frequent and rapid communication with each other, have not been forgotten amid the many improvements lately introduced into Canada. The Great Western Railroad extends from Hamilton to Detroit, with a branch from London to Sarnia, and another from Hamilton to Lewiston, connecting the great lines to Chicago and St. Louis with Boston and New York, and with Toronto, Montreal, and Quebec; besides bringing down all the produce and copper ore from Lakes Superior and Huron. The Canadian Government has also consented to undertake a railway from Halifax to Quebec, a distance of 600 miles; this will be extended to Melbourne, in the Eastern Townships, and will form a junction with the line between Montreal and Portland, of which 100 miles is completed. The canals, having nine feet of water, are open to Hamilton, and a vessel of nearly 400 tons may sail from that port to the sea.

It may not be out of place to remark here, that the great canals on the St. Lawrence have opened up a route for emigrants to the western parts of Canada, and to all parts of the United States of America bordering on the great lakes, which possess considerable advantages over that previously used by the way of New York and the Erie Canal. In the first place, the passage money to Quebec is generally less than that to New York, and the distance from England to the former port is shorter by about 250 miles than to the latter; but the chief advantage is this, that emigrants, on arriving at Quebec, are at once placed on board large and commodious steam-vessels which convey them, without any delay, to their several places of destination; whereas, if travelling by way of New York, they are compelled to land, with all their luggage, in that city; and are subjected, for a time, to all the annoyances of lodging-house keepers, agents, &c. &c. After leaving New York they are conveyed by steamers 150 miles up the River Hudson to Albany, where they are transferred to boats on the Erie as far as Buffalo, a distance of 363 miles; the boats are towed by horses, so that the passage occupies from *eight* to *ten* days, while the passage from Quebec to Buffalo is completed within *three* days; first-class steamers conveying the traveller to Lewiston, 520 miles, and the railway from Lewiston to Buffalo the remaining distance of 30 miles. Her Majesty's Colonial Land and Emigratian Commissioners, referring to the St. Lawrence canals and steamers, observe that "*they offer great advantages to emigrants proceeding to the Western States, as they make the route of the St. Lawrence much shorter and cheaper than by the way of the United States.*"

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Thanks to various concurrent circumstances, the British farmer who emigrates to Canada may rest assured that nowhere will he be less sensible of having made a change of home than by fixing himself there, especially in the western province, always premising the serious consideration *whether he should make a change at all.* He must not be so unwise as to indulge in golden dreams of amassing wealth quickly, but he may confidently anticipate an abundance of the necessary comforts of life, and avoid many of those anxieties concerning the future well-being of himself and his children, that, perchance, disturb his mind and depress his energies here; at all events, he will escape the trials with which he has struggled to meet his engagements to his landlord, who would relieve him if he could, but who is, probably, more willing than able to exercise feelings of kindness and consideration.

Little, indeed it may be said no, method or definite system is pursued in Canadian husbandry, and, in consequence, much evil has frequently resulted from growing wheat to excess. A judicious rotation will effect wonders, especially when combined with due attention to the products of the dairy, to improvement in the breed and treatment of live stock, and the composition and application of manure, hitherto not unfrequently deposited upon the ice in place of the land, and there left to float off in the spring, or else allowed to accumulate year after year, until it becomes necessary to erect new stables to abate the nuisance.

While it will be found that Canada contains, comparatively, but a small portion of sterile land, there is yet a very considerable difference in the quality of different distances. Clays of various degrees of tenacity; sands of a poor, and others of a fertile, nature; loams of a greater or less valuable description; swamps which, when drained, will become fertile meadows: these, and many others, present themselves on every hand, and will command the attention of intelligent settlers. As one general rule, and as evincing the gracious appointment of Providence, the quality of the soil as we recede from the *frontage* sensibly improves in a measure more than sufficient to compensate the extra expense of transit. The land which is covered in a natural state with the maple, elm, beech, and other deciduous trees, surpasses in value that where the pine, or even the oak, constitutes the natural product. And, as Sir Francis Head remarks, "while every backwoodsman in America is occupying himself, as he thinks, solely for his own interest, in clearing his

location, every tree which, falling under his axe, admits a patch of sunshine to the earth, in an infinitesimal degree softens and ameliorates the climate of the vast continent around him." Canada lies upon a substratum of limestone, and the geological survey which for some few years past has been in operation under the able superintendence of W. E. Logan, Esq., has been the means of pointing out her inexhaustible fields of gypsum, and various beds of rich marl, with many important mineral productions.

The price of land varies of course according to relative advantages, as we find it does in England; such as buildings and improvements already in existence, convenience of situation, and productive powers. As a general rule it may be said that, presuming a similarity of quality, *freehold* property in land may be acquired at a rate considerably lower than it is customary to pay for *one year's rent* of it in Britain.

In becoming a Canadian settler, the British farmer, a little shy, perhaps, of at once fixing himself in the "Bush," or uncultivated parts, may purchase a farm under improvement, provided he can command £1000 or £1500. Houses, fences, and, indeed, everything except the soil itself, may come far short of his preconceived notions, yet he will soon discover, in all probability, that he has made a fair bargain; one which *skill and capital, combined with industrious habits*, will soon turn to good account. Some annoyances he must be prepared to meet with, but almost every change is subject to these: he must occasionally submit to substitute barter, or, as it is called, *trade*, for transactions in cash, and especially so when he is the seller; but, on the other hand, tithes are unknown, taxation is a mere trifle, wages by no means exorbitant, and sufficiently good servants, farm labourers, and mechanics may be found in all parts of the provinces. Soap and candles may be manufactured by the thrifty housewife without any troublesome visit from the exciseman.

A British farmer will find some difficulty in reconciling himself to the inferior quality of the live stock, with the exception of horses; still improvements in the breed of cattle are annually taking place, and useful stock may be obtained from a well-bred short-horn bull and a country cow carefully selected. Some uncertainty attends the growth of turnips, partly from a difficulty in procuring labourers at the critical period of transition from the smooth to the rough leaf, and partly from a scorching sun and the ravages of the fly; yet it is well for the agriculturist to try some swedes for his young stock. The potato and mangel-wurzel are of great value, and may be more readily cultivated by horse labour. It is also to be borne in mind in discussing the provision for cattle, that large supplies of bran and pollard may be procured from the extensive mills in most parts of the province.

The patriotic example of the Scotch Highland and Agricultural Society has been followed in Canada, and the provincial Government and Legislature have been prompt and liberal in granting their aid. Both divisions of the province possess an association with large and well-supported exhibitions; from these institutions great benefits may be looked for. At the University of Toronto there is a professor of agriculture, and an experimental farm is about to be attached; it is also in contemplation to establish a library, museum, and a veterinary school.

With regard to the political institutions of Canada, all that need here be stated is that they closely assimilate to our own; a system of self-government, with uncontrolled fiscal regulations, has been wisely and generously conceded by the British Parliament. The entire administration of the colonial Post-office has been handed over to the provincial Legislatures. The roads, in times past the greatest impediments to improvement, are now consigned to the district councils, for the people to alter or amend as they may deem requisite for their convenience. In short, every intelligent and unprejudiced inhabitant of Canada freely admits that the country has been kindly and liberally dealt with by the parent state; and the disinterested conduct of the Imperial Parliament can scarcely fail to maintain the loyalty and attachment of this fine territory, one of the brightest jewels in the British crown.

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