

contaminated with the diseases of civilization ; who, while recording the few maladies to which in their natural condition they were obnoxious, are either silent respecting those to which I now refer, or state distinctly, that in their uncorrupted condition they were absolutely unknown.

In view of the facts already indicated, and were nothing further to be related, the climate of the Northwest Territories might be justly regarded as occupying a very high, if not the highest place, among the purest and most salubrious of which we have any authentic record ; but we must not shut our eyes to the fact, that over vast areas of them, the limits of which are not yet clearly defined, Malarial Fever, often of a very severe and dangerous type, at certain seasons and under certain conditions favorable to its development, almost universally prevails, and must, as the country becomes more extensively colonized by unacclimated European immigrants, and larger areas of unbroken prairie are turned up by the plow, continue for many years increasingly to prevail ; the centres of activity or foci of which, during each particular season, will be determined greatly by the amount of annual rainfall, and the long continuance or the reverse, during the summer and autumn months, of very high ranges of temperature, which latter are the rule rather than the exception here during July, August and September, even in very high latitudes.

The subject on which I am now speaking is one with which many here present, more especially those whose professional experience has been acquired in the southwestern districts of Ontario, or further south in the states or territories of the neighboring Republic, must already be familiar ; but probably like myself, on first arriving in these remote and highly elevated northern regions (more especially as the type here differs materially from that occurring in southwestern Ontario) ; you are hardly prepared at first sight to recognize or even suspect the presence of this veiled and venerable but undesirable acquaintance, in latitudes far north of those to which its presence, (at least to any appreciable or dangerous extent) has long been restricted by the best authorities.

In a recent number of the *19th Century*, it is stated on the authority of Mr. William North, that no Malaria or such only as is insignificant in its character and effects, is found upon the continent of North America above the 50th parallel of north latitude. This is a grave mistake ; the limits of Malaria cannot be accurately defined by purely Geographical latitudinal lines ; they are modified often, it is true, to a very remarkable extent, both by these and the *Topography* of the region in which it may be found ; but to a much greater degree by its *Geological* formation, and by the direction, that is, the amount of *Northing*, assumed by the isothermal lines, which varies so remarkably in different longitudes upon this continent.

So far as Mr. William North's statement has reference to the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, it is sufficiently accurate ; but its truth, even here, depends far less on Geographical than on purely Geological conditions ;