

Mr. Cawthra, who was somewhat unwell on our homeward journey, found a good health restorer in prairie chicken soup. He had a good many kind nurses who soon helped to bring him round.

I should say in passing through Wisconsin we had a splendid view of the Wisconsin river and the famous dells which ought to be, if they are not, a resort for sketching for those of artistic tastes.

We had a very comfortable run to Detroit, where Mr. Muloch, Mr. Cawthra and Mr. Armstrong went on to Toronto by the Canada Southern and Credit Valley railways, while Mr. Ramsay and Mr. Osler took the Great Western—I waited over a train to see my son John—all of us expressing our delight, each to the other as we parted, with the wonderful journey we had made, and the great future in store for what a few years ago was called the “Great Lone Land;” affording as it will do, homes for many millions of happy people, we felt that the prophetic words of Lord Selkirk, uttered three-quarters of a century ago, are only now beginning to be fulfilled, and the country is yet but upon the very fringe of its development. Again, quoting the language of the Rev. Dr. McGregor, we can all say, “Wonderful! that such a land should have remained so long unknown, millions of fertile acres crying out for the plough.” Or, as Principal Grant puts it, “Come, plough, sow and reap us.”

Well might Lord Dufferin say that Canadians “were the owners of half a continent of land of unbounded promise and predestinated greatness.” That the land in the fertile belt is good, is beyond a doubt. No one who has tested it questions the producing power of the soil; its glorious prairies stretching to the horizon like a sea, will, at no distant day, be the greatest grain-producing area on the earth. Nothing is wanted but people to possess the land. In with the men, say I, and out with the fruit of their honest labor, and send the grain to lands where the blessings of cheap food will gladden the hearts of the people; and while this is done, happy homes will be made for millions on our measureless prairies. Churches and schools will be erected to add to the blessings of a contented and prosperous people.

Let me mention a circumstance which was brought to our notice. Mr. Kirchoffer, of Souris, who joined us at Brandon, stated that during the troubles in Ireland he was boycotted, and having informed his