

The Directors think it their duty to bring before the Society and the public the connection they have had with the survey of the Province by Professor Johnston.

The character of New-Brunswick as a field for Emigration or Agricultural settlement, stands in Great Britain and Europe at probably the lowest point. While the surplus population of the Old World is almost circling the globe to find a resting place;—while Australasia, Southern Africa, and even Gothland are absorbing thousands of that intelligent and energetic race, whose destiny it is to subdue the wilderness and carry the blessings of civilization over the earth;—while thousands of wealthy farmers are annually pouring into Canada and the Western States—New-Brunswick is passed by. What little emigration there is, is by accident, of those who take advantage of the cheap passage by the returning timber ships, to get to the United States.

One reason for this is, that New-Brunswick is either quite unknown to the middle classes of Great Britain, or regarded as a barren and inhospitable wilderness, where the wolves and the bears contend with the nearly-as-savage lumberman for the scanty pittance which he can extract from a soil, which has scarcely time to be thawed from the snows of one winter before it is sealed with the frosts of another.

One cause for this unfavourable impression is alluded to in Professor Johnston's Report. He says, "Two very different impressions, in regard to the Province of New-Brunswick, will be produced on the mind of the stranger, according as he contents himself with visiting the towns and inspecting the lands which lie along the seaboard, or ascends its rivers, or penetrates by its numerous roads into the interior of its more central and Northern Counties."

"In the former case, he will feel like the traveller who enters Sweden by the harbour of Stockholm or Gothenburg, or who sails among the rocks on the northern coast of Norway. The naked cliffs, or shelving shores of granite or other hardened rocks, and the unvarying pine forests, awaken in his mind ideas of hopeless desolation, and poverty and barrenness appear necessarily to dwell within the iron-bound shores. I have myself a vivid recollection of the disheartening impression regarding the agricultural capabilities of Nova-Scotia, which the first two days I spent in that Province, around the neighbourhood of Halifax, conveyed to my mind. Had I returned to Europe without seeing other parts of that Province, I could have compared it only with the more unproductive and inhospitable portions of Scandinavia."

"A large portion of the Europeans who visit New-Brunswick, see only the rocky regions which encircle the more frequented harbours of the Province. They must therefore carry away and convey to others very unfavourable ideas, especially of its adaptation to agricultural purposes."

Again, owing to the great profits arising from lumbering or timber getting, farming has been always regarded as a mere makeshift, as a matter of quite secondary consideration. It was easier to cut and hew a few sticks of timber for a barrel of flour or pork, than to plough, manure, sow, and wait patiently for the earth to yield its increase. And as habit forms a second nature, it came at length to be the general and settled opinion of the great majority in this country, that because, as compared with the apparently more profitable pursuit of lumbering, and followed in a slovenly and improvident manner, farming did not pay, therefore it would not pay, and ought not to be attempted; that it was folly to think of being able to raise the staple articles of consumption, such as wheat, corn and pork. Finally, that this was not an Agricultural Country! The Directors of this Society, in common with many intelligent men through the country, have long dissented from this prevailing opinion. They thought, on the other hand, that this country possessed superior capabilities for Agricultural pursuits. That the soil was fertile, the climate quite favourable to the production of grain and vegetables, and that increased population, more capital, and a better system of farming were all that was required to advance that interest, and with it all the other interests of the country, to a state of prosperity.

The Directors saw, in the announced visit of Professor Johnston to New-York, an opportunity of putting their opinion of the country to the test.

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