

Again, "Comparing the two provinces, it is admitted that the climate of Upper Canada is the most favorable for agricultural purposes, the winter being shorter and the temperature less severe; but the brilliant sky, the pure elastic air, and uninterrupted frost of Lower Canada, though perhaps lingering too long, are far more exhilarating and render out-door exercise far more agreeable. Few who have enjoyed the merry winters of Quebec and Montreal, with the noble hospitality and charming society of these cities, their sleigh-drives and their pic-nics, can ever forget the many attractions of a winter in Lower Canada."

This will probably be enough about the climate, yet I may add, that less time is lost in Lower Canada, by ship-carpenters and other persons who work out of door, in consequence of inclement weather, than perhaps in any other part of the world. There may be half a dozen of snow-storms of sufficient violence to drive them home, just as a rain-shower may do elsewhere, but they are seldom if ever stopped by the cold. The same may be said of the warmest summer weather, which is very rarely, indeed, certainly not one day in each season, such as to prevent men from labouring under the noon-day sun. In a word, Lower Canada has an excellent working climate, and if during winter, men are well clothed and fed, they are more than a match for the keenest breath of winter.

The soil of Lower Canada varies a good deal. In many places it consists of a light sandy earth over a substratum of gravel; in others it is composed of clay, loam, and a good vegetable mould upon a reddish argillaceous bottom. This latter species exceeds the inferior classes in quantity, and with proper attention to husbandry cannot fail of yielding satisfactory returns. On the whole, however, the soil of Lower Canada is inferior to that of Upper Canada, which also has the advantage of climate for agricultural purposes. Yet, at one time, Lower Canada, which at present produces but little wheat, raised with half its present population full one million bushels in excess of its own wants; and the fact of its hardly feeding itself now, is rather due to the kind of agriculture which has prevailed, than to any inherent defect in the soil. The *habitans* of Lower Canada, as the French Canadian farmers are designated, are averse to move from the lands bequeathed them by their fathers, and the consequence of this attachment to the soil has led to the division, sub-division, and re-sub-division of the farms among the increasing families, to such an extent that upon many of the principal roads these lands are reduced to narrow strips like streets. The soil, obliged to yield sustenance to an unreasonable number of mouths, and unrenewed with rich and restoring manures, has become quite impoverished, and refuses to grow such exhausting crops as wheat. Of late, however, necessity has compelled the *habitans* to provide for their children by opening up new lands, and it is found that wheat grows there just as well as it did thirty years ago upon the front farms. It may not be amiss to state here, that by the