

the Assiniboine, as compared with the popular ideas on these subjects.

Hitherto these districts have been regarded, by the majority of the people of Canada, at all events, as most uninviting to settlers, not merely by reason of their distance from civilized life, but from the inhospitable nature ascribed to the climate, and the difficulty of raising the roots and cereals grown in our more favored country.

Even to the better informed amongst us, I think it will be a matter of surprise to learn that the summer of Red River is nearly four degrees warmer than the summer at Toronto, as ascertained by a comparison of corresponding observations; and that in the district of Assiniboina, wheat, oats, barley, Indian corn, hops, flax, hemp, potatoes, and all kinds of garden vegetables, succeed admirably; and Professor Hind asserts that the potatoes, cauliflowers, and onions, he has not seen surpassed at any of the Provincial Fairs. From the statistics furnished by Professor Hind, there appears to be no doubt of the perfect adaptation of the climate of the valley of the Red River to the ordinary purposes of husbandry.

It is true that the prevailing characteristic of the winter months is long continued, intense cold, the temperature being 26 degrees lower than the temperature of Toronto; but, on the other hand, the temperature in spring is only 2° 83 lower than with us; that of the autumn, 6° 94; while the summer, as I before stated, shows an excess of 3° 78; so that the mean of the spring and summer months at Red River is nearly one degree higher than the corresponding months at Toronto. Added to this, the much greater rain fall, being 27° 74 inches more during the summer months than at Toronto, produces a wonderful richness in the vegetation, and, combined with the absence of late spring or early autumn frosts, renders the whole district peculiarly favorable for agricultural operations.

Now that the practicability of establishing a direct communication between Toronto and the Red River has been proved, the tide of emigration must soon be directed to those vast regions, even should the more magnificent scheme of Railway and Steamer communication to the Pacific and the rich gold fields of British Columbia be much longer in realization.

In the meanwhile, we in Canada are under no small obligations to those gentlemen whose explorations have already furnished us with so much valuable information, and I believe I am correct in stating