

about half the size of the little State of Illinois; but the settlers in this province were of a very superior order, being mainly composed of English and Scotch farmers. The climate is, all things considered, probably the finest in America; the land is fertile and easy of access from the lakes by which it is almost surrounded; native manufactures prosper, but the demand is very limited; there are no Government lands available for settlers in the peninsula, those lands being confined to that portion of the province lying back from the settled portions of the shores of Lake Ontario, and bounded on the north and west by the Ottawa River and Georgian Bay. These lands are intersected by a large amount of rock, lake, and swamp; the climate is severe, and unfit for any but the hardiest agricultural settlers and lumbermen. A narrow-gauge railway from Toronto into this region has been commenced, and will tend much to the opening up of the fertile portions of the country. A narrow-gauge railway is also being constructed from Toronto to the north-west extremity of the peninsula; this line will open up one of the best agricultural districts of the Dominion, and will give employment to a considerable number of railway and farm labourers. It will be seen by the foregoing that the field for emigrants even in Western Canada is not of large extent—in fact, it was the want of more fertile territory which made Western Canada so eager to acquire the North-West territory. But the acquisition of new territory is but a matter of secondary importance compared with the necessity for obtaining on a permanent basis the freest possible commercial intercourse with the United States. The prosperity and progress of the whole Dominion depends upon its accomplishment. In concluding this portion of my letter, I would observe that the great drawbacks to the success of emigrants in any part of the Dominion of Canada are the long winters and cheap whisky—the one begets a desire for the other, and the consequence is an amount of depravity which is quite alarming in so young a country; there is more drunkenness to be