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POSITION AND CLIMATE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

Let any of our young readers look at Nova Scotia on a Map of the World—or better, a Globe if they can find one—and see what a trifling little speck it is. But let them at the same time mark where it is situated, and how it is nearly surrounded by water. They will see that it lies further East than any other portion of the American Continent, and is consequently so much nearer to Europe; and if they pass their eye along the line of latitude they will notice that Halifax is as far South as Bordeaux in France, and further South than London.

Now the effect of the sea nearly surrounding us is very beneficial to our climate, causing the temperature to be neither so hot in summer nor so cold in winter as in places further in-land. And it is also a great advantage to the trade of the country, being indented by numerous excellent harbours. There is no point in the Province where one can be thirty-five miles distant from the sea, and while farmers in Canada and the States have often a long way to carry their produce to a shipping place, our farmers have but a trifling distance to carry theirs.

The circumstance of its stretching out so far towards the east and having so many harbours gives it great political and commercial advantages. Should war unfortunately occur, ships could enter harbours in any direction, either as places of refuge or to receive supplies, and might be in readiness at any point to go out and attack an enemy. In times of peace and commercial prosperity vessels may load, and goods may be shipped from any quarter. And when railroads are

constructed, connecting us with New Brunswick and Canada, much of the trade of these provinces will pass through our road and harbours, more especially in winter time. Nova Scotia will also become the great highway of travel between Europe and America.

Our climate has been grossly misrepresented, as rigorous and disagreeable, by several writers of former days, because they wrote about what they knew nothing of, except from the information of persons who had no experience of it, or had some supposed interest in traducing it. It is true that the extremes of heat and cold are greater on this than on the European side of the Atlantic. This is owing to causes which we need not enter upon, but we may safely say that the average of human life is as great here as in any other country.

Our coldest season is during the first three months of the year—but the cold is not so continuous, nor does the snow remain so long on the ground as in New Brunswick and Lower Canada, owing to the frequency of thaws, which occasion more varieties in the temperature than at any other season. Our Spring commences in April, and seed time continues through May; but even during these months the transitions of temperature are frequent and sudden. Afterwards vegetation proceeds with rapidity. In June the fields and the forests are in full bloom.

Our Autumn is commonly a very agreeable season, although we cannot boast much of it this year. Apparently we are to have no Indian-summer. December, although called a winter month, may rather be regarded with us as belonging to Autumn—the usual weather not being of a wintry character.

Altogether, when we compare our Country with others, taking all its faults and properties into account, we have much reason to be pleased with and thankful for our lot. It should be our endeavor to make the most of the benefits with which Providence has blessed us, and not complain of some discomforts which no land is free from.

THE HUMAN PULSE.

The human pulse, in all ages of the world, has been consulted as an index of health or disease. It is a kind of dial within us, which gives us both the measure of time and of health. The pulse of a person in health beats about seventy strokes in a minute, and the ordinary term of life is about seventy years. In this seventy years the pulse of a temperate person beats two billion, five hundred and seventy millions, four hundred and forty thousand times. If no actual disorganization should happen, a drunken person might live until his pulse beat this number of times; but by the constant stimulus of ardent spirits, or by pulse-quickening food, the pulse becomes greatly accelerated, and the two billion, five hundred and seventy million, four hundred and forty thousand pulsations are performed in little more than half the ordinary term of human life, and life goes out in forty or forty-five years, instead of seventy. This application of numbers is given to show that the acceleration of those forces diminishes the term of human life.

A MOTHER.

There is something in sickness that breaks down the pride of manhood; that softens the heart and brings it back to the feelings of infancy. Who that has suffered, even in advanced life, in sickness and despondency—who that has pined in a weary bed, in the neglect and loneliness of a foreign land, but has thought of the mother that looked on his childhood, that smoothed down his pillow and administered to his helplessness? O, there is an endearing tenderness in the love of a mother to her son that transcendeth all other affections of the heart! It is neither to be chilled by selfishness nor daunted by danger, nor weakened by worthlessness, nor stifled by ingratitude. She will sacrifice every comfort to his convenience; she will surrender every pleasure to his frame and exult in his prosperity; and if adversity overtake him, he will be dear to her by his misfortune; and if disgrace settle upon his name she will love and cherish him, and if all the world cast him off, she will be all the world to him.