

Edward Island, "monarch of all he surveyed." For 150 years the Island hardly knew its own name—for another 100 years the immigrating principle only played over this "granary of North America," like the fitful northern lights, rising from a unit to from 4,000 to 6,000 inhabitants, and falling again in the year 1770 to 150 families * It contains now in 1860, nearly 100,000 souls. But the difference of the olden time and now will be still more apparent by consulting once more, John Speed's Geography and Atlas of 1666—speaking of "the regions contained in this western hemisphere, under the name of the New World or America," he says,

"What lyeth from the *Æquator* toward each Pole appears as yet but as waste ground in our Maps: for the experience of our Travellers have not reached so far, as to search fully into the Commodities of the Countries, or nature of their Inhabitants, yet questionless there are many, and may hereafter yield as much profit as any other.

"Of the quality of this region in general we can speak but little. For by reason of her length and breadth, she lyeth at such several distance in respect of the Heavens, that she admits indeed all variety almost either of plenty or want, which we have hitherto found in Asia, Africa, or Europe. Here admirable for the fertility of soyl; then again as barren: here temperate, there scorching hot, elsewhere as extream cold. Some regions watered with dainty rivers, others again infested with perpetual drouth. Some plains, some hills, some woods, some mines,

*The period in which England corresponds in its history with the state of P. E. Island in 1770 is about a century less than 2000 years ago. Charles Dickens says, speaking of ancient England then, "The whole country was covered with forests and swamps, the greater part of it was very misty and cold; there were no roads, no bridges, no streets, no houses that you would think deserving of the name."

If old England was once thus, surely England's sons may plant effectively some of their noble purposes in P. E. Island, without much doubt of a reasonable success and benefit.