

tile fields the lands that were once the hunting-grounds of the Blackfeet and the Sioux. The great human tide still flows on, and still in the West there is room and to spare, and men who can work, who have got energy and perseverance, who know how to use their brains as well as their hands, have still prosperous careers and bright futures waiting for them. Canada is but just awakening to the value of her heritage in the West. Population is only as yet slowly dribbling into the territories, that are capable of supporting a population equal to that of Great Britain. The mineral wealth of the Province of British Columbia alone is far beyond that of California, where fortunes have been made in the past, and are still accumulating, that are expressed in scores of millions. East of the Rocky Mountains lies the great wheat-belt, as yet almost untouched by the plough but destined to become the granary of the world. There are hundreds of our lads who have learned their business on the farms of Ontario, and have saved a little money from their wages, who are wasting their time in the older province, and we heartily wish we could apply some strong, impelling force, some charge of moral dynamite, that would fire them out to the West and plant them on some of those grandly fertile prairie lands that are waiting to be taken possession of. A free grant of 160 acres of land is offered by the Government to every man who will settle on it and make it his home, and land that is unsurpassed in fertility by any land on the face of the globe, and in a climate where there is probably as little sickness and where life is as enjoyable and free from physical disadvantages as any in the world. Unquestionably, when it freezes in the winter, the air is cold; when the sun shines in the summer, it is hot, when it rains, it is wet. The mosquito is just as unpleasant a companion and quite as pressing, in his attentions as in any other quarter of the earth. There are goats and

ants, bugs and beetles, to disturb the enjoyment of life, and the odour of the skunk and the gnawing activity of the mouse are just as interfering with one's peace of mind in Manitoba as anywhere else. A greater evil still, the voice of the grumbler is heard in the land, to whom heat and cold, summer and winter are alike a grievance and cause of complaint. There are individuals who would doubtless have seen much to find fault with in the Garden of Eden if they had been conveyed there by a cheap excursion. Our boys may take our word for it that the West has its drawbacks, like every country that has yet been discovered on the surface of our planet; but they may also take our word for it that, despite all its drawbacks and all that may be said about them, it is the right country for them to go to, and the sooner they start off the better. It is a young country and in a very early stage of its development, but it is a country that has a great future before it, and we believe the same will be true of those who get a foothold there and grow up with its growth. In the columns of the present number we are giving our readers the benefit of the interesting experiences of some of our own little pioneers in the West. There is a bright, breezy freshness about most of these little letters that suggests that they come from a country of hope and promise, where life is not a mere trudging along in a rut and working hard for a living, but where everyone sees the possibility ahead of him in the near future of being a land-owner and becoming affluent and independent. There is an immense charm in the idea of "independence," and if ever a class of men in the world could call themselves independent it is the farmers and ranchmen of the North West. They are absolute owners of their farms and their homes and as long as they obey the laws of the country and pay their taxes, they can do just their business and enjoy their lives with absolute freedom, on