

"Well, I say! I want to know? What kind of country are we in, anyway?"

The question somewhat startled us. We, like stolid sons of John Bull, had been keeping silence through the long tedious battle with the snow, and when snow had conquered the result was not a surprise. For that reason we kept silence, knowing that there was nothing better to be done than to wait for the snow-plow. This question, however, aroused us. It was put as a challenge, not in form indeed, but in tone. An ordinary question would not have aroused us from silence, but the implied challenge awoke every one of us. Evidently, with the exception of the questioner, all were Canadians.

"It's a pretty good country, I tell you," replied one.

"Well, it doesn't look very much like it just now."

"That I will grant; but that is because we are placed by the weather in an uncomfortable position."

"I don't see how that affects it."

"It does, however. On a clear day the view from this very position is magnificent. We are situated on the edge of a series of ridges of which this is the highest and last. From the top of this you may look back upon a country rocky but well wooded. Here and there streams cut their way. The valleys are very beautiful. On our front is a rolling country. We have here within a few miles the beauties of mountain and lowland."

"That may all be, but what is it all good for?"

"I wish I owned that pine down the hill here," responded the lumberman. "If it does not suit you as landscape, very little trouble will convert it into money."

"And that valley," interrupted the farmer, "is one of the richest farming countries you will find anywhere. Why! it is all clear, no broken land for miles, dotted all over with the substantial buildings of well-to-do farmers."

"Yes, but that's only half. I don't see much use for this hill here and the rocks beyond."

"Wait until you get around the corner of this hill and you will see," replied the architect. "The stone of which it consists has furnished the material for some of the finest buildings in Ontario."

"Well that is surprising. I never was in Canada before,