

Editor's Notices, &c.

CANADA; PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE.

By W. H. SMITH, author of the "*Canadian Gazetteer*."
Toronto: Thomas Maclear 45 Yonge-street.

When we call to mind the fact, how little is really known of the condition and capabilities of Canada, not only in the mother Country, but also to a large extent among ourselves, we are ready to welcome any guide that is of a trustworthy character. The people of England commonly associate six or eight months of the Canadian year with biting frosts and overwhelming snows. Few understand the difference which obtains in climate, soils, and their productions, as one travels from East to West in these extensive regions; and fewer still, accustomed to the fogs and alternate freezing and thawing incident to the winters of the old country, can form any adequate conception of the clearness of our atmosphere, the brilliancy of our skies, the ease and facilities of travelling, during the severest portion of a Canadian winter.

And how little generally do those for example who inhabit the banks of the noble Ottawa, know of the inhabitants, soils and productions to be found in the rich valley of the Thames! One principal reason why we have so often advocated the annual publication, in an accessible form, of a condensed agricultural report, compiled from the reports of all the societies in the Province, is that the people of one part might be made acquainted with what is doing in another. As the country becomes more thickly settled, and Education and Enterprise arouse the dormant powers of the mind, such knowledge will be eagerly sought and properly appreciated.

The publication, whose title we have placed at the head of this article, judging from the first part that is now before us; seems admirably adapted to supply a desideratum which has long been felt in our Colonial literature. The author has already earned a reputation in this particular department, by his useful *Gazetteer*, published a few years ago, and which has been well received by the public. The present work, however, differs materially from that publication, not only in form, but more particularly in the extent and completeness of its information. The first part contains a neatly engraved map of the Counties of Essex, Kent and Lambton, and 112 octavo pages in a clear, bold type; each part will contain a map, forming when the work is completed an accurate delineation upon a sufficiently large scale, of the whole of Upper Canada. In the part before us, we have a copious account of the counties above mentioned, together with Middlesex and a portion of Oxford. The date of settlement of the several townships, character of the soil, value of land, population returns, state of the industrial arts and manufacturing capabilities; with an amount of general statistical information, all so clearly set forth as to give the reader a correct and distinct idea of the subject. In works of this sort the correctness of the details is the most important and essential quality, and in order to ensure this, Mr. Smith is again visiting in person, every portion of the Province; a fact which cannot fail to strengthen the confidence of the public in the trustworthiness of his statements. A judicious use is made of Government and Custom House returns and the reports of public bodies, not

omitting the very accurate and important information, which is well known to be contained in our Geological Surveys; but although the writer very properly, we might say necessarily, has recourse to these authentic sources of information, we think it only bare justice to state, that the work is not a mere compilation; but by far the larger portion, judging from the manner in which the subject is treated in the first number, will consist of original composition.

We have no space for extracts, and, in fact, no adequate notion of the work, as a whole, could be formed from selections that would come within reasonable bounds. We strongly recommend our readers to inspect it for themselves. The most important secular knowledge is that which relates to the country of one's birth or adoption. A few well selected books of high character, on subjects with which it is essential that every good and intelligent citizen should be conversant, are worth a whole library of trash; in fact we should regard the possession of the latter as among the greatest misfortunes with which any family could be afflicted.—We hope therefore for the good of our country, that the present work will be extensively circulated, not only in Canada, but in the British Isles, where full and correct information is so much needed; that people may learn what this country really is, and what industry, intelligence and integrity, with God's blessing are capable of making it through its future developments.

We have only to observe further, that the work is published in numbers at 1s. 3d. each, and in parts of double size at 2s. 6d.: each part will be accompanied by a map and about ten parts will complete the whole. We heartily wish both the author and publisher, that success, which their labor and enterprise ought not to fail of securing.

A PLAN OF SETTLEMENT AND COLONIZATION ADAPTED TO ALL THE BRITISH NORTH AMERICAN PROVINCES.—BY JAMES FITZGERALD, ESQ.

Just as we were going to press a Pamphlet bearing the above title has been put into our hands. The author a resident of this city, has had an experience of nearly a quarter of a century in Canada; and from the interest which he manifests in his subject, his opinions and suggestions are fairly entitled to a respectful consideration. The work consists of a series of letters addressed to a friend in Ireland, detailing the author's views on a system of Colonization, adapted alike to the wants of these Provinces and the mother country. It also includes several letters addressed by the author, at different times, to the Governor General, the Commissioner of Crown Lands, and the office bearers of some of the Agricultural Societies. As the subject of Colonization and the beneficial occupation of our wild lands is of paramount importance to the best interest of the country, we doubt not, but this pamphlet will meet with an extensive reading. We may hereafter revert to it more at large. It may be procured of the booksellers in Toronto, and we presume, in other places; price, half-a-dollar.

RECEIVED. The 12th number of the *Farmer's Guide*, completing the first volume, including Professor Norton's appendix to Spring.