

but steady. Nova Scotia has got eighty-five miles of railway in operation; and New Brunswick, including the St. Andrews' line, one hundred and forty miles. Though the construction of these lines has sunk these Provinces deeply in debt, we fear beyond redemption, still we are not without hope that they will be of much service to the country, by way of leading to a development of our resources.

In Prince Edward Island, the tenantry system, which has been a serious drawback to its progress, is about being changed, so as to afford the inhabitants of this fine Island, enhanced facilities for future improvement.

Education and Agriculture, those substantial handmaids of progress, have made their usual advances, and commerce is slowly reviving. A spirit of enquiry is abroad; the mass think and read for themselves, to a great extent. However, on these points there is much room for improvement.

On the whole, we have much reason to be thankful; the soil has yielded more largely than formerly; and we are permitted to enjoy its products in peace and harmony; each denomination of Christians, enjoy the inalienable right of worshipping their Maker as they please, while millions of the human family are living in poverty and wretchedness, and made to worship under pains and penalties, as others dictate.

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### The Great Arctic Expeditions in Search of a North-West Passage to Asia.

The recent visit of the noble-minded Lady Franklin to this continent—(with the physical geography of whose northern regions her heroic husband's name is so memorably associated)—has given such additional interest to the history of the search in the Arctic Seas, and the unparalleled sufferings of its navigators that we are induced to devote a few pages of this number of the *Journal* to a brief sketch of them. Taken together, the forty years' search after the North-West passage, and its now ascertained discovery, forms, a grand and solemn episode in the naval history and enterprise of the British nation, aided, as they generously were in this instance, by the American people.

To Sir John Franklin's exploration of the Arctic Seas of North America, is attached a deep, as well as melancholy, interest. In 1818-21, when a young man, he had explored these regions, enduring incredible hardships, and afterwards published a simple but thrilling narrative of his adventures and discoveries. Twenty-six years afterwards, he succeeded in solving the long-essayed problem of a water communication between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, *via* the Northern Coasts of America, as the skeleton of one of his party was found within the line of coast which had been explored from the Pacific by Simpson. He died within sight of the goal he had been so long seeking; but he left no record of his achievement, and none of his brave-companions survived to announce