

of wheat in Manitoba, and yields enormous returns, with a weight per bushel of from 50 to 55 pounds. Oats also thrive well. Potatoes—the well-known principle established by climatologists, that “cultivated plants yield their greatest and best products near the northernmost limits of their growth” applies with peculiar force to the production of potatoes with us. The mealy quality, the snowy whiteness, the farinaceous properties, and the exquisite flavour which distinguish the best article, reach perfection only in high latitudes.

The potatoes grown in Manitoba are well known to be unsurpassed in all the qualities named, while their prolific yield is not less remarkable. Turnips, parsnips, carrots, beets, and nearly all bulbous plants, do equally as well as potatoes.

#### CLIMATE AND SEASONS.

The natural division of the seasons in the valley of Lake Winnipeg is as follows:—

*Spring*.—April and May.

*Summer*.—June, July, August, and part of September.

*Autumn*.—Part of September and October.

*Winter*.—November, December, January, February, and March.

The peculiarity of spring is strikingly represented by the early and rapid advancement of temperature in May. It is the excessive cold of the long winter season, embracing five months of the year in this latitude, which reduces the annual mean, being  $34^{\circ} 38''$ , while that of Montreal is  $42^{\circ} 03''$ ; but Blodgett claims that the whole Saskatchewan Valley has a climate very nearly as mild, in its *annual average*, as that of Wisconsin, Northern New York, and Ontario, which would give it a winter mean of 15 degrees. The mean for the three months, December, January and February, at Fort Garry, in Manitoba, is  $6^{\circ} 85''$ ; at Montreal,  $16^{\circ} 83''$ . In April and May, the mean temperature rises to  $39^{\circ} 83''$ , and  $58^{\circ} 46''$ , being about equal to Toronto. The winter climate grows rapidly milder in the same parallel westward, even where there is an increase of elevation, and in the Saskatchewan Valley, almost represents the climate of Ontario.

The buffaloes have wintered in myriads on the nutritious grasses of its prairies, up to as high a latitude as Lake Athabaska; and the Half-breeds and Indians camp out in the open plains during the whole of the winter, with no shelter but a buffalo skin tent and robes, and horses of the settlers run at large and grow fat on the grasses which they pick up in the woods and bottoms.

The following table will serve for comparison between the summer temperatures of the Manitoba, with the agricultural climates south of us:

	JUNE.	JULY.	AUGUST.	SUMMER MEAN.
Red River.....	69 10	71 16	63 03	67 76
Chicago.....	62 7	70 08	86 05	67 03
Iowa.....	66 4	70 05	63 09	68 06
Wisconsin.....	61 7	68 06	65 07	65 03
New York.....	64 2	68 05	66 07	66 05
Ontario.....	59 93	67 95	64	63 98