

INTRODUCTION.

The immense natural advantages which Upper Canada possesses, for agricultural and commercial purposes, are unrivalled, perhaps, in North America. A line of water communication extending a thousand miles, and upwards, upon its frontier, and embracing a territory of a richly varied and productive soil, with a salubrious climate, offer rare facilities for successful and rapid improvement. The interior every where presents the appearance of a country peculiarly adapted to supply the wants created by civilization; and where enterprise and industry would be sure to meet an abundant reward. In addition to all these, it will, no doubt, one day, appear, that Upper Canada is rich in all the useful, if not in the most precious minerals, which now lie buried beneath the surface for want of enterprise to stimulate the search. The full development of their internal resources, and their active adaptation to the wants of a growing empire, need hardly be looked for, so long as they remain a dependent colony of manufacturing England. It being a part of the colonial policy of that country to make her foreign possessions the consumers of the surplus products of her overgrown manufactories. Such a course of proceeding is, no doubt, absolutely, necessary to support the excessive trading and manufacturing interests of Britain, and to preserve in some degree, the proper relation which ought to subsist between the parent state and the colony; and which, to some extent, might be rendered mutually beneficial. But it is so absolutely destructive of that spirit of enterprise which transforms the wilderness into fertile fields; that speeds the plough; the shuttle and the hammer; plants cities, towns and villages; paves the streets, rears the college dome and academy hall; gives life and energy to trade and commerce, by cutting artificial channels from lakes to rivers, and approximates distant places by levelling hills and raising valleys; that gives impetus to the axle, and expansive force to steam; peoples the waters with WALKING THINGS OF LIFE; and spreads the sail of commerce to every breeze, and wafts the treasures of the far