

AUTUMN

Meanwhile, also, the great central cities swelled with men and money, and the greater they grew, the more they attracted both men and money,—like gravitation, acting directly as the mass. Unlike gravitation, these cities acted directly as the distance also; for thirty, forty, nay, sixty and seventy miles do not deter the inhabitants of the country from going bodily to Toronto or Montreal, leaving there their hardly earned dollars, and taking back with them perhaps the very articles which are exposed for sale in the shop-windows of their native towns. Then, too, there has been long and continuous migration from the agricultural districts, first to the manufacturing centres, second to the Northwest Territories, and third, no doubt, to the United States. The protective tariff has conduced to this emigration, as also has the system of public education, which teaches the sons of farmers things quite alien to the plough. The consequence is, that, passing along the line of traffic which skirts the shores of Lake Ontario and forms