

which, under British rule, did not know how to yield for a time to the overwhelming force of a popular majority constitutionally obtained, would be obliged to take up a new political position very considerably in advance of its past professions, or be content to surrender all hope of materially influencing for the future the affairs of *the new State*.'

Thus, in the Canadas, party animosities and the superior progress of the nearest States are the chief internal sources of danger; but in the valuable province of New Brunswick—according to Professor Johnston—the timber, or 'lumber,' trade, has been the great fountain of evil. At first there was an apparently inexhaustible resource in its boundless forests. The cutting of the trees, the haulage and floating of them down the rivers, gave healthy employment to many men; the raising food for these men called agricultural industry into play; the export of the timber employed many vessels and enriched many merchants. But the cutting went on most lavishly, even at low prices; while every year carried the scene of the woodmen's labours further up the main rivers and into more remote creeks and tributaries,—adding, of course, to the labour of procuring the logs, and their cost when brought to the place of shipping. Despite of the gradual overstocking of the home market, the colonists went on felling trees and building saw-mills, till the general embarrassment became sufficiently alarming. Just at this juncture, in pursuance of our new policy, the Timber Duties Bill of 1846 was passed. This at once brought matters to a climax: countless families were ruined, and the cry of discontent has never since gone down.

Out of the immediate evil the Professor anticipates an ultimate good for New Brunswick. It was, he says, an acknowledged effect of the lumber-trade that, so long as it constituted the leading industry of that province, it overshadowed and lowered the social rank of every other. The lumberer, fond as the Indian of the free air and untrammelled existence of the forest, receiving ample wages, living on the finest flour, and enjoying long seasons of holiday, looked down upon the agricultural drudge who toiled the year long on his few acres with little beyond a comfortable maintenance to show on the credit side. The young and adventurous among the province-born were tempted into what was considered a higher and more manly, as well as a more remunerative line of life; and many of the hardiest immigrants followed their example. A great proportion of the farmers themselves were seduced by the occasionally splendid profits of lumbering—as a lucky hit in a mining country makes crowds of miners; and thus not only was the rising generation largely demoralised by the habits of the woods, but agriculture was neglected, and the farmers very generally involved in difficulties.

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