

"The Laurentian range of mountains running south westerly and skirting the north shore of the St. Lawrence, between Quebec and Montreal, but gradually receding from that river on approaching the latter city, tends westward from Montreal along the north shore of the Ottawa, sending an out-lier or two to remind of its neighborhood the traveller on that noble stream. Some distance above Ottawa city—notably at Portage du Fort—the most casual observer may see it crossing the river strong; and, somewhat modified in character, it runs southward to near Brockville, whence, again turning westward, it forms a ridge, or rather a collection of hillocks, which shed the rain that falls upon them southward to Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence, and north and eastward to the Ottawa or Lake Simcoe and the Georgian Bay.

"When it was asserted, years ago, that the good lands of Canada were mostly sold, settlement had about reached this rocky ridge.—Roads made in this region showed its uninviting character. Worst of all, the free grants located upon some of these roads gave so poor a prospect that they were abandoned.

"But settlement was meantime turning the flanks of the Laurentian line. First, from the west, from near Lake Simcoe, people found the Muskoka District and Parry's sound not uninviting. Then, from the east, the men of Lanark and of Renfrew moved up the Madawaska and the Petawawa. Then the Crown Lands Surveyors, and, better still, the employees of the lumberers, went further back. The further they penetrated into the interior, the better the land became, and the result may be stated thus: that *inside* the Laurentian barrier, best approached by the Northern Railroad and Lake Simcoe on the one hand and from the Upper Ottawa River on the other, there is, in the basin of Lake Nipissing and the watershed of the Ottawa, both in Ontario and Quebec, a most extensive tract of excellent land, nearly as large as the peninsula of Ontario, much of it deep-soiled as the basin of the St. Lawrence, timbered with a heavy growth of mixed white pine and hardwood, much of it as level as the St. Lawrence valley, and some as even as a prairie. It lies, moreover, near waters which either are or can be easily made navigable. A market for its farm products exists already in the lumberers' camps, which are even now breaking its solitudes, and but few years will elapse before its forests ring with the settler's axe—before the shores of Lake Nipissing, which is three times as large as Lake Simcoe, echo to the whistle of the steamboat—or even before a railway runs across it by the shortest route from Montreal towards Chicago."

"It no doubt is deeply to be regretted that such a barrier should have been interposed by nature, to the settlement of this territory from the townships immediately south of it; and there is but little doubt, that many intending settlers have become disgusted with the barren appearance of the country through which the colonization roads unavoidably pass ere they reached that portion of it fit for settlement." C.

A committee appointed by the Peterborough County Council, in 1866, to enquire into the resources and capabilities of the back country, reported that "where crops, roots or cereals, have been sown in proper season the yield has been equal to that of the most fertile lands in the Province."

Speaking of the Company's Townships, another writer in the *Review*, in 1868, says:—