

less meddlesome policy. Whether in such circumstances Lord Dufferin will not prove a round man in a square hole remains to be seen. The following quotations from native journals are significant of the unsettled state of affairs in India :—

The fiendish Englishmen say laughingly that the people of Madras died of starvation because they were improvident. If those whom they have robbed of everything lament, the fiendish Englishmen call them rebels. To beg for employment is impertinence. They call men idle if they cannot work on account of weakness caused by insufficient food.

A Bengalee paper says :—

Foreigners have taken possession of India and are sucking her dry. The people of India look on in a helpless manner. Their best interests are sacrificed for the benefit of the English. Over and above this, the innocent natives are insulted and killed. At every step the people send up a cry for succour, when the English whip or the English kick falls upon them. The demons are engaged heart and soul in violating the chastity and taking the lives of Indian females. What a heartrending scene. It is a matter of regret that the people of India do not gird up their loins to get rid of the oppression of white men.

Another Bengalee journal has the following :—

A brave Prince like Holkar could have been easily avenged upon the English for the humiliation of his family by taking the leadership of the rebels during the Mutiny. Had he done so it would not have been easy to quell the mutineers. But Holkar restored peace in his state, showing skill in defending the Residency and in saving the lives of Englishmen and Englishwomen. This display of heroism, which presents a striking contrast to the cowardly behaviour of Colonel Durand, has made narrow-hearted Englishmen his enemies.

The above quotations are, according to the correspondent of the *London Times*, fair samples of many which might be given if space permitted. And some of the Anglo-Native newspapers go to nearly equal length. Thus it will be seen Lord Dufferin is not likely to find his promotion to the Viceroyalty of India a sinecure.

### NOTES ON THE NORTH-WEST.

It is time that every public writer in Canada should see the North-West. To-morrow the North-West will be the great granary ; before long, if this string of Provinces from ocean to ocean really holds together, it must be the seat of power. The journey, though long, is not tedious, at least by the Lakes ; the C. P. R. boats are splendid ; the *Athabasca* is a paragon of comfort afloat. As the train shoots out upon the prairie the vastness of the level expanse and the unspeakable purity of the air at once tell the traveller that he is entering a new scene. A magnificent sunset, bringing out with full effect the dark line of the prairie, is followed, in that clear atmosphere, by a night of starlight as brilliant as that which on Chaldean plains gave birth to astronomy. This, the purity of the air, and the long, level horizon might remind us of descriptions of Zahara ; but beneath us, instead of barren sand, is one of the gardens of the earth, and the destined seat of a great civilization. It is a thought of reasonable pride to an Englishman who is no Jingo that this civilization will in its essential features be English. Orators have talked of the morning drum of England following with its beat the sun in his course round the world. Here no drum beats, no bayonet gleams, no sentinel's tread is heard ; yet race, character, language, literature, institutions, will form the foundations of a British Empire which, unlike empires held by the sword, is destined never to pass away.

By a conjunction new in history, the arts and instruments of scientific agriculture have been brought, in their full development, to a vast region of virgin soil which beneath their magic touch bursts at once into marvellous fruitfulness. By the peculiar manner in which this country has been opened, with a single long line of railway, a tract of a thousand miles has had hitherto only one centre of distribution. Hence Winnipeg, the great and almost miraculous, though the unfinished, with her signs of sudden growth, the alternation of fine buildings with shanties in her hastily-erected streets, her well-furnished stores, her excellent Club, her swarm of adventurous spirits, commercial and professional, her inevitable boom, its inevitable collapse, the moral consequences of the boom and the commercial consequences of the collapse now apparent to the eye in suspended undertakings, prominent among which is a magnificent but untenanted hotel. It is remarkable, however, that after all this gambling, and gathering together of gamblers, though there is said to be a strong passion for pleasure, which fills the pockets of livery men, there is no visible rowdyism ; the streets are perfectly free from it, even when filled with the young men at night. The situation of Winnipeg is not altogether happy ; the work of draining is arduous, though it is being carried on with vigour ; there is difficulty also about the supply of water, and the mud in the streets is unique : "champion glue mud" it might perhaps be called by a Yankee advertiser. The city wants lifting into the air ten or fifteen feet like Chicago. Some think it ought to have been at Selkirk. But the die is now cast, the population being reckoned at thirty thousand. Having grown so far, Winnipeg will continue to grow. It is with cities as with men ; to those that have is given ; a commercial centre with a ganglion of

railways once formed, all things come to it, pleasure as well as trade. Henceforth great cities drawing by means of railways from an extended area will stand far apart. Winnipeg's nearest rival will probably be Brandon, one hundred and thirty-six miles off, on a site where the monotony of the prairie is broken by a pleasant river valley, while the surrounding country is very rich and the roads excellent. Brandon has already three thousand inhabitants, and on the brow of this infant, if on any, the hand of nature has written the promise of a happy destiny. The North-West is in every sense young : there are as yet no old men ; elsewhere, the Mayor of Brandon would be almost a boy : he may well live to see his village a great city.

That the North-West was a most magnificent country for wheat, and for cereals generally, could never be doubted ; all doubt at any rate must vanish from the mind of any one who beholds its seas of waving grain. That the wheat is of the very finest quality is also an admitted fact. Tracts of arid or less fertile land on those boundless plains there probably are, and it is childishness or worse to try to hide the fact, and to accuse those who confess it of decrying the country. Nothing can do the country any harm but falsehood ; nothing can do it any good but truth. Land which is only less fertile may not unlikely be some day the garden of the territory, since it will call forth agricultural effort, while on the richer land the husbandman is apt to content himself with drawing on nature till she is exhausted. The weak point is the liability to early frosts ; last year the grain suffered, and as harvest time approached this year the people were almost in an agony of fear ; but no frost came sharp enough to hurt wheat, and it seems that the visitation is rare, though there is no denying that summer is a fortnight or three weeks too short. Every country has its drawbacks, and the Nile does not always rise. Stock raising, it seems to be thought, should be combined with grain-raising to make farming thoroughly profitable. The cattle are very healthy. Under the Rockies, we are told, they can winter out : in Manitoba they cannot ; at least, if they do, they will be scarecrows in the spring. Flies are bad at present, and smudges are necessary in the evening ; but insect plagues are always diminished by cultivation. The vegetables are superb ; the horticultural prodigies exhibited at Toronto were fair specimens after all. Fruit as yet there is none, though berries abound ; of which one consequence is the remarkable number of fruit shops in Winnipeg, the denial apparently breeding a special craving for the luxury withheld, which is easily gratified by importation.

That the climate is healthy, every face bears witness. The summer air is delicious, and the nights are always cool. The people protest, and all the more strenuously if you seem to doubt the assertion, that owing to the dryness of the air they do not feel the cold in winter. That they do not feel it so much as they would feel damp cold may be ; yet forty below zero must be felt, especially in a slight frame house, or a house built, as some absurdly are, with the towers and the mansards of Italy and Southern France. The winter is at least six months long. Success then must depend on the result of a battle between soil and climate, to decide which in favour of the country, cheap fuel is an absolute necessity. Whence is cheap fuel to be obtained ? That is the vital problem which seems not even yet to be finally solved. Of lignite there is plenty, and some of it is of superior quality, but the best of it is not equal to coal ; a fire made of it will not keep in all night. In a few thousand years, no doubt, if the people will have patience, the lignite will turn to coal. Anthracite has been found, but it is said to be too hard and to fly to pieces. The problem, once more, is not yet finally solved. In the meantime the settlers import coal, which of course is dear, and they pay the coal tax.

It has always been the "Bystander's" theory that the North-West would be peopled mainly by immigration from Old Canada or from the United States, and so far this belief has proved well founded, for Canadians with a few Americans intermixed form not only the bulk but the core and life of the new population. These men are pioneers. The English farmer, especially if he has reached middle-age, is anything but a pioneer ; he is intensely conservative as well as portly, and wholly unused to shifting without the mechanic. As to the young Englishmen of the upper class, of whom a good many have been tempted out, the universal verdict is that they have almost without exception failed. They spend their money, then take up land and send for further remittances, which they are always expecting and which the scoffers say are their only crop. A few, when their purses are empty, show their native pluck and force, but most of them find an asylum in the Mounted Police or come utterly to ruin. Cricket, boating, and lawn-tennis may be a training for the muscles, but they are not a training in labour. So that puffery of the country in England, for the purpose of drawing British emigrants, may after all not be the best hope, or worth so much effort and expense. The British