



CAPE TOWN MALAY. From a Photograph.

original castle built in 1672 may still be seen. The old church is still used as a place of worship and is very interesting. To one who has not visited the Cape before, the shop windows, filled as they are with products of the Colonies, native curiosities, etc., etc., are an unfailing source of interest. In them you may see ostrich feathers and eggs, lion skins, the beautiful spotted skins of the African leopard, ivory tusks, massive horns of the Cape buffalo, the more graceful spiral straight or branching horns of the African deer and antelope, the native hunting, war, or domestic implements and weapons, assegais, knives, bows, knob sticks and different tribal ornaments or costumes of the people of the interior.

While Cape Town enjoys the presence of a large English and European population, a Canadian is apt to be impressed unpleasantly with the great number of its black-skinned citizens. The rough work is done almost altogether by the Kafirs, Malays and the mixed race known as "Cape Boys"; few full blooded negroes are seen. They are certainly picturesque, the Cape Boys and negroes with their rags and great slouch hats, the Malays with their high domed straw hats, bright turbans or crimson fez. They are not progressive and seem content enough in their humble position, only asking to make a poor living. The climate is variable, but with all agreeable and healthful. The atmosphere is never excessively humid, the high temperatures of December, January and February can be borne without inconvenience. The mean annual temperature is about 62 degrees, Fahrenheit. It is not, however, in the summer months, unusual to experience a temperature at midday of 100 degrees in the shade and at night to have it fall to 40 degrees, a variation of 60 degrees in 12 hours. Malarial fevers are unknown, epidemics of disease are most rare and

have invariably been traced to gross negligence of the ordinary sanitary precautions.

Rains are abundant on the south-east coast in summer. In Cape Town the rain fall is about equal to that in the southern counties of England, the annual average being about 42 inches. The first rains in Cape Colony usually fall between April 15th and May 1st and are frequent thereafter until the 1st of October. Early fruits, strawberries, etc., come into market about Oct. 25th. The wheat harvest commences about the last of October, while the vintage is not gathered until the end of February.

I shall hope to send you further letters from the country districts, where for two months the most of my time will be spent.

NEW-YEAR'S REVERIE

I LEANED down over the cavern
Time dug for the Old Year's tomb,
And laid my dead beside it
(For the sexton gave me room).
'Twas a skeleton form of sorrow
At last I buried away;
It had stalked through my soul's castle,
And haunted me many a day.

And then, as I peered down deeper,
I saw there yet was space
For a grudge that long had shadowed
My heart's most sunny place;
And I cast the blighting burden
In the grave where it belonged,
And I said, "There are fates more bitter
Than to be the one who is wronged."

And down on the lid of the coffin
I laid a vain regret
For a time and a pleasure vanished,
For a day whose sun was set;
And, just as the tomb was closing,
I flung in a selfish thought,
To lie in the dark and molder,
And perish as it ought.

And, while the bells were ringing
Their midnight chimes, I said,
"Since good endureth forever,
Let the dead Year bury its dead."
And then, like a radiant angel
Outlined in the skies above,
With the glad New Year in his bosom,
I saw the Spirit of Love.

And he spake: "It is only sorrow,
And sin, and folly that dies;
Whatever was good in the Old Year
In the soul of the New Year lies.
As you stand on the grave of Error,
Look up, for the stars are true!
Let go of the things departed—
Reach out! for the things that are new!"

—ELLA WHEELER WILCOX, in *Chicago Tribune*.

Production of Wheat in Canada.

THE *Canadian Magazine*, in a recent issue, has a very exhaustive article on the production of wheat in Canada. We give our readers a resume of the paper.

Of late years the wheat production of Canada has been the subject of so much exaggeration that some definite information on the question has become very desirable. Year by year, estimates of the quantity of wheat available for export have been published, out of all proportion to the production, and therefore impossible of fulfilment, and it is not to be wondered at if a certain disbelief in Canada's capabilities in this direction has been engendered in consequence.

Previous to 1882 there were no means available of obtaining any information about the area in, and yield of, wheat, except at the regular decennial census, according to which, in 1870, the area under wheat in the four provinces, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, was 1,646,781 acres, and the yield 16,728,873 bushels. The product of the rest of British North America was at that time too small to be worth taking into account. By the census of 1881, the area under wheat, in 1880, in the Dominion, which then comprised the

whole of British North America, with the exception, of course, of Newfoundland, which has not yet joined the Confederation, was 2,342,355 acres, an increase of 695,574 acres, while the yield was given at 32,350,269 bushels. At the end of the next ten years, the census gave the area under wheat in 1890, at 2,723,861 acres, an increase only of 381,506 acres, and the yield at 42,144,629 bushels.

In 1882 and 1883, the Ontario and Manitoba Governments respectively commenced the annual collection of statistics concerning the cultivation of wheat within their provinces, which, with the exception of a break in Manitoba, in 1888, have been continued up to the present time, and it is these figures that necessarily form the basis of any estimate that may be made of the wheat crop in any year, for, with the exception of Ontario and the North-West Territories, wheat-growing in the rest of the Dominion has not only always been insignificant, but has, on the whole, been steadily decreasing. The movement of wheat cultivation throughout the country is illustrated by the following figures, which are those for the crop years 1880 and 1890, as given by the census returns of 1881 and 1891:—

WHEAT PRODUCTION IN CANADA ACCORDING TO CENSUS RETURNS.

PROVINCES.	1880.		1890.	
	Acres.	Bus.	Acres.	Bus.
Ontario.....	1,930,123	27,406,061	1,430,519	21,314,522
Manitoba.....	51,293	1,033,673	896,610	16,092,130
Total.....	1,981,416	28,439,734	2,327,129	37,406,652
Quebec.....	223,176	2,019,004	191,599	1,568,289
Nova Scotia.....	41,855	529,251	14,157	165,806
New Brunswick.....	40,336	521,956	17,306	209,809
P. E. Island.....	41,942	546,986	44,703	613,364
B. Columbia.....	7,952	173,653	15,156	388,900
Total.....	355,262	3,790,850	282,921	2,945,568
N. W. Territ'ries	6,678	119,655	113,811	1,792,409
Grand Total	2,342,355	32,350,269	2,723,861	42,144,629

There was an increase in the total area of 381,506 acres. The movement in the several provinces has been as follows:—

CHANGES IN AREA UNDER CULTIVATION OF WHEAT BETWEEN 1880 AND 1890.

DECREASE.	ACRES.	INCREASE.	ACRES.
Ontario.....	499,604	Manitoba.....	845,317
Quebec.....	31,577	British Columbia..	7,204
Nova Scotia.....	27,698	P. E. Island.....	2,761
New Brunswick..	23,035	N. West Territories	108,133
	581,909		963,115

In the four original provinces of the Dominion, it will be seen, there was a decrease of 581,909 acres, and, though there was an increase in Prince Edward Island and British Columbia, the former province is likely always to be an importer of wheat, while it must be some years, at any rate, before the latter will grow a quantity sufficient to supply the home demand, if indeed such a thing ever happens. It is evident, therefore, that as far as the question of production alone is concerned, statistics of the wheat yield in Ontario, Manitoba, and the North-West Territories are the only factors of any material consequence to be considered.

In order, therefore, to arrive at the annual production, we have, to assist us, the official figures for Ontario and Manitoba, which comprise about 90 per cent. of the total yield, and the census returns for the remainder of the Dominion. The returns of the two provinces are largely made up from threshers' returns, which, of course, do not make any allowance for incorrect measurement, or for subsequent loss in cleaning, neither do they take into account inferior or damaged grain, which never goes into distribution. The fact that a certain