

SOIL AND TIMBER ON THE HIGHLANDS.

The mountains—of which these cliffs form the base—present upon their slopes and summits long stretches of land fit for cultivation and settlement; the most elevated portions are generally covered with a growth of white birch, spruce and balsam fir, from 6 to 12 inches in diameter, 40 to 60 feet in height, on a good description of light, sandy loam; on the less elevated portions and upon the slopes, the same description of timber, but of a larger size, prevails, being frequently intermixed with black birch, cedar, maple and poplar, from 9 to 18 inches in diameter, by 40 to 50 feet or more in length, and the soil improves in quality in proportion to the size of the timber and the quantity of earth and vegetable matter, which increase with the decrease of the surface elevation above the sea. As far as could be judged in the winter season, from the description and size of the timber and the soil on the roots of overblown trees, the land along the western division of the line is superior to that along the eastern division, where the soil is apparently more stony and gravelly, and of a lighter and drier nature. On the whole it appears more favourable for cultivation than the lands along the Témiscouata and Saguenay routes, which were examined and reported upon in 1860.

3. LESSON ON BRITISH COLUMBIA.

1. Position.—This is one of the most recently formed of the British Colonies, having been erected into one by a Bill passed in 1858. It is situated in the far west of North America, on the shores of the Pacific; N.E. of Vancouver's Isle, and E. of Queen Charlotte's Isle. It lies between 49° 55' N. Lat. and 115° 133' W. Long.

2. Boundaries.—It is bounded on the north by the Simpson River, flowing west, and the Finlay, a tributary of the Peace River, flowing east; on the east by the Rocky Mountains; on the south by the United States; on the west by the Pacific Ocean.

3. Extent.—It measures about 420 miles in breadth, and 300 miles in length. Area about 120,000 square miles.

4. Natural Features.—As a whole the province is rugged and lofty. It is divided into three principal sections by the ranges of mountains by which it is traversed, and which are nearly parallel to the Rocky Mountains. The coast is a good deal indented by arms of the sea. The whole province is well watered.

5. Climate.—The summer of British Columbia is said to be warmer than that of England. In the high lands along the Fraser and its tributaries the winters are more severe than in England, but healthy.

6. Productions.—Previous to being made a colony, and when under the Hudson's Bay Company, it yielded skins of various kinds, salmon of excellent quality, and timber. It is, however, to its mineral resources, especially gold (discovered 1857) that this colony owes its position. Silver, copper, coal, and iron, are also found.

7. Mountains.—The Rocky Mountains on the eastern frontier; highest summit, Mount Brown, 16,000 feet high; Peak Mountains in the north.

8. Lakes.—Numerously scattered over this region, such as Flat Bow, Lower and Upper Arrow, Okanagan Shaushwap, Quesnel, Chilicotin, and Stuart Lakes.

9. Rivers.—Kootanie, Columbia, Fraser (said to have sixty affluents), Salmon, Simpson, Finlay, and Peace, are the chief.

10. Towns.—New Westminster, chief town and port, Langley Fort, Fort Hope, Fort Yale, Lytton, Fort Alexandria, and Fort George, all on the Fraser. Lilloet, on the Harrison, a tributary of the Fraser; Simpson, at the mouth of the Simpson River.

11. History, etc.—The coast was traced by Cook in 1778, by Lieutenant Meares more fully in 1788, and five years later by Vancouver. Along with the rest of the vast territory of British America N. and N.W. of Canada, it was occupied by the trappers of the Hudson's Bay Company, whose charter extended from 1669 till 1857. People from all countries have been hither, adventurers from the United States, from Great Britain and its dependencies, and even from China. In political matters, the governor, as yet, executes functions both legislative and executive. For judicial purposes, there is a supreme tribunal, which goes the circuit, and there are local courts, which exercise jurisdiction in cases of debt up to £50. The province is a diocese of the Church of England, and the bishop, who has eight or ten clergymen under him, has established missions among the Indians and the Chinese immigrants.—J. B. F., in *Pupil-Teacher*.

4. HOPE, ON THE FRASER RIVER.

Hope is perhaps the prettiest town on the Fraser. Indeed, until Cayoosh, or, as it is now called, Lilloet, is reached, there is no other settlement that will bear comparison with it. Behind it Ogilvie Peak rises abruptly to a height of 5000 feet; to the right stretches the valley of the Que-quealla, through which the trail to

the new gold districts in the Semilkameen country is cut; while in the front the river glides, its channel divided by a beautiful little green island, the hills upon its opposite bank rising gradually to a considerable height, and forming a charming background to the prospect. High expectations are entertained of Hope by its settlers; and indeed, since the discovery of gold in Rock Creek and Semilkameen Valley, for both which districts Hope must serve as the emporium, there is a probability that they may be, in some degree at least, realised, though at present, all traffic being directed to Cariboo, it is not thriving.—*Mayne's British Columbia and Vancouver Island*.

5. AUSTRALIA THE LAND OF CONTRARIES.

In Australia the North is the hot wind, and the South the cold; the westerly wind the most unhealthy, and the east the most salubrious. It is summer with the colony when it is winter here, and the barometer is considered to rise before bad weather and to fall before good. The swans are black, and the eagles are white; the mole lays eggs, and has a duck's bill; the kangaroo (an animal between the deer and squirrel), has five claws on his fore paws, three talons on his hind legs, like a bird, and yet hops on his tail. There is a bird (meiliphaga) which has a broom in its mouth instead of its tongue. The cod is found in the rivers, and the perch in the sea; the valleys are cold and the mountain-tops warm. The nettle is a lofty tree, and the poplar a dwarfish shrub; the pears are of wood, with the stalks at the broad ends; the cherry grows with the stone outside. The fields are fenced with mahogany, the humblest house is fitted up with cedar, and myrtle plants are burned for fuel. The trees are without fruit, their flowers without scent, and the birds without song. Such is the land of Australia!

6. GIGANTIC AUSTRALIAN TREE.

In a gorge on the declivity of the Mount Wellington range, near Tolossa, about six miles from Hobart Town, a tree of the blue gum (*Eucalyptus*) species, stands close to one of the small rivulets that issue from the mountain, and is surrounded with dense forest and underwood. It was measured with a tape, and found to be twenty-eight yards in circumference at the ground (more than twenty-seven feet in diameter), and twenty-six yards in circumference at the height of six feet. It has all the appearance of being quite sound except at one place, where the bark has been displaced, and showed a small portion of decayed wood.—*Proceedings of the Royal Society of Van Dieman's Land*.

III. Papers on Truth in Children.

1. TRUTH CULTURE

There is no defect of character more lamentable than a want of truthfulness. The man who lacks veracity, is, indeed, destitute of integrity or wholeness; he is unsound, broken. The liar is like a bilged ship. The greater the difficulty in his keeping afloat. Although tact and shrewdness may be working the pumps, their efforts are unavailing. He must founder and go down to the depths of infamy.

A want of truthfulness is not merely a defect; it is a moral disease under which the whole character is often destroyed. Like venous blood in the arterial circulation, it vitiates and poisons man's entire moral nature.

The prevalence of this vice among children is not in exact conformity to Lord Palmerston's dogma that "all children are born good." A wiser man than the English Premier has said, "They go astray as soon as they are born, speaking lies."

Nor is lying wholly a juvenile vice. While it is true that business, society and the state are sustained by the general integrity of the people, it is also true that falsehood is fearfully prevalent. The very atmosphere we breathe is heavy with lies—fashionable, social, mercantile, political and civil—with broken oaths and perjuries. Politics is lying "made easy." This infamous Rebellion which is filling the land with mourning, is organized falsehood under the direction of the very Father of Lies!

These facts must impress every thoughtful parent and teacher with the very great importance of early instilling into the minds of all our youth a more sacred regard for truth and a thorough and active hatred of falsehood in all its guises and forms. We repeat what we have already said in these pages, that no efforts of the teacher are worth half so much as those which make his pupils frank, honest, truthful.

It is greatly to be feared that many teachers are sadly deficient, to say the least, in moral power. We have seen schools in which gross deception and lying to circumvent the teacher were evidently