

chewan valley lays its fair length for 800 miles in unmixed fertility."

Hind, Archbishop Taché, Butler, Palliser, and Selwyn, the reports of the exploring parties for the Pacific Railway, all confirm this fact. Of the western curve of the fertile belt, especially that portion through the Blackfeet country (of most of which Butler in winter spoke so slightly), extending for 300 miles along the eastern faces of the Rocky Mountains, with a varying breadth of from sixty to eighty miles—one scientific and official observer speaks as "the future garden of the Dominion," magnificent with regard to scenery, with soil of surpassing richness, and in respect of climate with an average temperature during the winter months 15 deg. higher than that of the western portion of Ontario. Here, as yet uninhabited except by the roving Indian and the wild animals of the prairies and forest, are undoubtedly regions of cultivable land, and of a climate as salubrious for a hardy race as any in the world; an area greater than that now inhabited by 40,000,000 of American citizens. The tide of emigration, which has been bearing upon the centre of the American continent, and been rolling westward in great waves, is now checked by the impassable borders of the great American desert. Who can doubt that it will diverge to the north, and bear its currents of life and civilization up the great valley of the Saskatchewan?

The last link in this long chain of empire is British Columbia, on the western coast, combining in itself almost all the advantages possessed by the most favoured northern countries of Europe, with a concentration and variety of wealth and solidity of promise which, could it only be reached by population, would make of it alone a mighty nation. We shall see directly that British Columbia has, in its situation, climatic advantages rivalling those of Great Britain. A great stream running from the tropics impinges upon its coast and disseminates its salubrious influences over an extent of country much greater than that of the British Isles. The facts related about this wonderful region, whether as regards its