

able. On the contrary, the dryness and purity of the air and the evenness of its temperature combine to make the climate of Dakota one of the most salubrious. The people, as a rule, appear to be healthy and contented.

The comparative dryness of the atmosphere and the scarcity of trees may possibly admit of more damage being done to buildings, and of greater loss of life by lightning than would be the case were the country possessed of a moist atmosphere and many tall trees. But, this can, in a great measure, be remedied by the proper erection of lightning-rods, each to extend at least six feet into the earth. The planting and raising of trees would, no doubt, also prove beneficial in this direction. Not to mention their value to a country as ornaments and a protection from the wintry blasts, trees act as large reservoirs for water, the evaporation of which supplies the air with moisture, and this moisture or aqueous vapor, by its conductive and diffusive properties, tends to prevent undue accumulation of electricity.

Mirages, of frequent occurrence on the prairies, are too well known to call for a description here. A phenomenon, however, which attracted my special notice, was that of the great length of day and the corresponding shortness of night. The latter sets in about ten o'clock during June and July, and lasts only until half-past two, about four and one half hours! What with the short time elapsing between sunset and sunrise, and what with the long twilight, the moon, and the strongly defined *aurora borealis*, there is often in summer really no night at all. The causes of such disproportion between day and night are to be found in the high latitudes,  $47^{\circ}$  to  $49^{\circ}$ , the elevation of the land and the absence of hills and forests.

Whilst the population of southern Dakota is largely composed of native

"Americans" from the older States of the Union, with a sprinkling of Europeans, by far the greater number of the people of north Dakota are Canadians and British Canadians, the remainder consisting of Americans, Norsemen, Bohemians, Poles and Germans. Proofs of the intelligence and enterprise of the inhabitants are seen in the number of good railways, neat and comfortable school-houses, and the improved agricultural implements which they possess. All the school-houses in rural districts are frame buildings painted white, and provided with desks and seats of the modern, approved style; while in the towns and cities the school buildings are constructed of brick or stone. Churches of the Episcopal, Congregational, Methodist, Presbyterian, Baptist and other religious denominations are numerous throughout the settled portions of the territory. With regard to the agriculturists it ought to be stated that many of them, owing to the fertility of the soil and a careful husbandry of it, are rapidly becoming wealthy. Yet, there are some of them who might, with profit, reflect upon the folly of attempting, with little capital, to cultivate farms of from 480 to 1,500 acres each.

The word *Dakota* or *Dacotah* signifies "united" or "allied," alluding to the friendly relations existing among the native Indian tribes. Not having met with more than two or three of the native Indians, I have been unable to obtain, at first hand, much knowledge of them and their modes of life. However, in a grove west of Garfield village, I observed a number of "half-breeds" preparing their mid-day meal. One man of the party was singing aloud, and all were in merry mood. They had seven so-called "Red River" carts, and two waggons. Upon one of the latter were inscribed the name and address of the maker in Mitchell, Ont. The "Red