

continental railway at that time, that there would be those drawbacks which Captain French has pointed out. At the same time I am bound to say that, looking to the great length of time which has elapsed—a third of a century—since I left that country, I do not feel so qualified to express an opinion now. The progress it has made, and its promise for the future, is something which no imagination could have then conceived. (Hear, hear.) I left the territory in the year 1844, by no means in a railway carriage, but by a birch-bark canoe, which had been paddled by the same hands some 7,000 miles. A district where we could scarcely grow potatoes, and where I have seen mercury frozen as hard as a stone, has since sent magnificent wheat to the Philadelphia Exhibition. (Hear, hear.) I think we are not yet fully informed as to what influence the processes of civilisation and of cultivation may have towards improving a climate. As to that plague the grasshopper, opinions differ much as to the frequency with which it may be expected; some say it comes every thirteen, some every thirty years, and some even as often as every third. It comes too often, at any rate, for the husbandman; it may, however, very possibly give way before the processes of agriculture. I believe that if the settlement of the country is only advanced in the spirit of prudence and modesty, and moderation, which I may be permitted to say has characterised Mr. S. Fleming's paper, which I have listened to with great interest, there is a splendid future for those regions. Mr. Fleming has carefully avoided drawing a too highly-coloured picture, and, having known him for thirty years, I must say that there is no man on whom I place more reliance and confidence for sound judgment. Misrepresentations respecting that region have not come from him, but from speculators, who seldom face the hardships to which they invite other people, and who have endeavoured to attract into it industry from this country which might have been much better attracted to other quarters. Let the process of settlement be gradual, let those go there who are prepared by their birth and antecedents for the life of a backwoodsman, and before long we may hope to see teeming thousands all over the place; but do not force it. You may take over the Icelanders and Mennonites in any numbers; to them it cannot but be gain. The population taken there fifty or sixty years ago were Orkneymen and Highlanders of Scotland, used to the same description of life, and they soon found a home; but it is a different thing when we come to take over agricultural labourers from our own districts to—I was going to say to this inhospitable, but that is hardly the term to use—to this severe and trying climate. If Mr. Fleming's