

refer chiefly to the back settlements of which we are speaking.

The summer does occasionally show us the mercury at 90, or so, but never for any number of days in succession, and we have known it as high within the limits of Cockaigne. So Canada is not so very remarkable for that circumstance, at all events. The heat is much more oppressive on the southern side of the line 45, and we are, therefore, at a loss to understand why emigrants should prefer the United States to Canada, with a view to the mildness of climate.

The prevailing epidemics of the summer season, which first appear on board the emigrant ships, and spread over the Continent, often reach as far north as the southern shores of these lakes, and sometimes appear, but in a mitigated form, in our frontier cities,—the sanitary regulations of which have not kept pace with their material prosperity,—but have scarcely ever been known to reach the new settlements. The greatest safety has always been found in the greater distance to the north and west, and from the American frontier. Medical men *can* manage to live in Canadian cities, but only a limited number of them find adequate employment in the settlements and back townships. We have watched the progress of more than one thriving township in Western Canada, from its primeval state of unbroken forest, to its present broad landscape of wide, well-tilled fields, undisfigured by stumps. And the growth of these settlements has been remarkable for some facts, worth observing in reference to the Canadian health and mortality tables, if such things should ever be published. In the first place, we remember distinctly, that for years a doctor was never seen, and very seldom needed, within the circuit of many miles, although nearly every hundred acres of land held a family. The population increased with a rapidity equal in proportion to what has been known in any part of Britain, Ireland not excepted; and this increase, in by far the great majority of cases, was without the interference of any disciple of Galen; for if perchance a journey of twenty miles or so,—that was generally about the distance,—was undertaken, for the purpose of procuring such aid, the worthy doctor nearly always arrived just in time to take a tumbler with the happy father, pocket a moderate fee, and return home. The mortality among children was comparatively very small, and among adults, much less than in the cities of either Canada or the States. Ague, in the part of the country we have now in our mind, was a few years ago, scarcely known. It has since appeared, not from any natural cause, but having

been invoked by the contrivances of the settlers themselves. The erection of water mills, causing large mill ponds to overflow the flats of the rivers and reduce huge quantities of timber to a state of rottenness, has produced as much malaria as is quite sufficient to account for all the fevers and agues in the neighbourhood. Steam will cure all this. But it is scarcely fair to ruin the health of a country by such abominations, and then damn it, as grievously insalubrious. Much of the Canadian ague we hear talked about, may be accounted for in this manner.

As for the summer heat;—we have heard of cases of *coup de soleil*,—one we have just read of. It took place in *England*. Such things have happened, too, near the Lake shores here, but very rarely. We never knew an instance in the woods, and it is not an uncommon practice—though a very imprudent one—for boys to work in the open air without either hat or shoes. For our part, we preferred the trouble of carrying both, although often quite sufficiently ventilated; but the heat, although sufficient to render a pretty long rest in the middle of the day, desirable enough, is never found so severe as to prevent labour. It is true that the change of climate from Europe, especially from the sea-coasts to the inland parts of America, is such, that proper precautions are necessary to be taken by old country people; such, for instance, as wearing flannel at all seasons; never working without having the head covered, abstaining from cold water when overheated, and not taking rest with wet clothes on, however harmless it may be found to remain wet while the body is kept in a state of active exertion. But, pray are there no other countries where similar precautions are needed? Are they not requisite, or most of them at all events, in Europe? And we are not contending that people who can “live at home at ease,” and provide for their families in their own country, ought necessarily to come and cast their lot in Canada, as a matter of mere choice. We address those who, at all events, think of moving some whither, and we protest against the propriety of their choice, if they prefer the precarious chances of Australian gold, or the tolerably certain disappointment that awaits them if they turn towards the United States, to the tangible advantages which our country offers to the intending emigrant.

Yet, with all the advantages which Canada offers to the labouring man, those who suppose that labourers are the only useful and fortunate settlers in the woods, are very much mistaken. We have said that the work of clearing land is hard, and some of the “white handed classes”