

## FROM THE PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS.

"At Camosack there is a pleasant and convenient site for the establishment, within fifty yards of the anchorage, on the border of a large tract of clear land which extends eastward to Point Gonzalo at the south-east extremity of the island, and about six miles interiorly; being the most picturesque and decidedly the most valuable part of the island that we had the good fortune to discover.

"The accompanying ground plan shows pretty correctly the distribution of wood, water, and prairie upon the surface, and to it I beg to refer you for information upon such points.

"More than two-thirds of this section consist of prairie land, and may be converted either to purposes of tillage or pasture, for which I have seen no part of the Indian country better adapted; the rest of it, with the exceptions of the ponds of water, is covered with valuable oak and pine timber.

"I observed, generally speaking, but two marked varieties of soil on these prairies, that of the best land is a dark vegetable mould, varying from nine to fourteen inches in depth, overlaying a substrate of greyish clayey loam, which produces the rankest growth of native plants that I have seen in America. The other variety is of inferior value, and to judge from the less vigorous appearance of the vegetation upon it, naturally more unproductive.

"Both kinds, however, produce abundance of grass, and several varieties of red clover grow on the rich moist bottoms. In two places particularly we saw several acres of clover growing with a luxuriance and compactness more resembling the close sward of a well-managed lea than the produce of an uncultivated waste.

"Being pretty well assured of the capabilities of the soil, as respects the purposes of agriculture, the climate being also mild and pleasant, we ought to be able to grow every kind of grain raised in England. On this point, however, we cannot speak confidently until we have tried the experiment and tested the climate, as there may exist local influences destructive of the husbandman's hopes, which cannot be discovered by other means. As, for instance, it is well-known that the damp fogs which daily spread over the shores of Upper California blight the crops and greatly deteriorate the wheat grown near the sea-coast in that country.

"I am not aware that any such effect is ever felt in the temperate climate of Britain nearly corresponding in its insular situation and