

agreeable every day, and only requires a large population to render it equal, in point of beauty, comfort, and convenience, to any part of the earth. The delightful asylum which it affords to the poor and unfortunate of every class, is a circumstance that has hitherto been little known or appreciated, and one which is of particular importance at the present time, when agricultural and commercial embarrassments have reduced so many individuals to a state of destitution and misery" (272). There is much in this writer of a similar character, which we cannot quote. (See pages 214, 215, 252, 271, 278, 281, 283.)

"The climate of Upper Canada," Talbot writes, (vol. ii. pp. 157, 165) "although verging toward the extremes of heat and cold, is . . . very fine, highly favourable to the growth of grain, and the production of the finest fruits; and the soil, though badly cultivated, is not surpassed in fertility by any tract of land of equal extent on the American continent. All kinds of grain which are among the productions of the Mother Country, are cultivated here with astonishing success; and many fruits and vegetables, which in Great Britain and Ireland are only raised at immense labour and expense, attain in Canada, without the assistance of art, a degree of perfection wholly unknown in more northern countries."

"In point of salubrity," Bouchette avers in his accurate and fine-spirited work (vol. i. 349), "no climate in the world can perhaps be found to exceed that of Canada, which is not only a stranger naturally to contagious or fatal disorders, but extremely conducive to longevity. In the early periods of the settlement of the Upper Province, the fever and ague were indeed very prevalent; but as the cause of this local affection was gradually removed by the draining of marshes in the progress of cultivation, it has almost entirely disappeared." Of the different portions of the country he speaks in terms very similar, while passing them under review.

The geological survey which has for some years been going forward under the able superintendence of Mr. Logan, is bringing to light a variety and amount of mineral wealth surpassed in few quarters of the globe. An interesting catalogue of the minerals, already discovered, with their respective localities, prepared by Mr. Logan for the World's Fair,—may be seen in Scobie's Almanac for the present year, as also in the Canada Directory for 1851.

Facilities for commerce, almost unbounded, are furnished by our rivers and splendid lakes—justly termed inland seas—which will be ere long increased by our railroads already in progress, or projected, with others sure to follow them.

For a vigorous and honourable use of these advantages, and hence for the future greatness of the country, we have a guarantee in the character of our population.

We have to be sure the reputation of being deficient in enterprise. On the supposition of the truth of this charge, I should like to know how the progress we have been contemplating, of which but a very hurried and imperfect sketch has been presented, is to be accounted for. I can think of only two theories on which its explanation can be attempted—to wit, that of the celebrated David Hume, which would annihilate the handsome buildings and well-filled stores which we imagine ourselves to see around us, with the elegant steamers that seem to ply on our lakes and rivers, and the cultivated farms and barns bursting with plenty, apparently presenting themselves to our vision—and the comfortable looking people with whom we conceive ourselves to be meeting and mingling, where so lately there was nought but wilderness; and have we believe them to be all pure matters of fancy, ideas existing in our own foolish brains (though on that hypothesis even these must be unreal); or one on which, when a boy, I have heard the erection of the old Glasgow Cathedral explained, which has been declared to me, without if or but, to have been built by the fairies during the night. Perhaps these benevolent gentry have been and may still be at work here; and it may be to them we owe what we speak of in our ignorance and pride, as the works of our own hands.

Should these theories be repudiated, a fair measure, of enterprise must, we think, be granted us. Look at the manner in which numbers of the cities and municipalities are taxing themselves for the railroads referred to above, and other improvements. Is it thus people void of enterprise are wont to act? He must be somewhat fool-hardy who will charge the citizens of Hamilton with want of enterprise, in the face of the fact that for the completion of the Great

Western Railroad they are voluntarily paying ninepence in the pound on their assessed value.

The value of enterprise to a country like this, to any country, we are disposed fully to admit. In so far as deficiency may exist, we would, therefore, counsel improvement; but we hold the representations often made on this subject, and believed, it is to be feared, by not a few from the confidence with which they are uttered, to be altogether contrary to fact; and, to parties situated as we are, most ungenerous and mischievous.

From what has been shown above, in relation to schools, churches, and the other means of christian instruction, the inference is irresistible that our people are to a gratifying extent, though by no means the extent desirable, imbued with the love of knowledge and impressed with a reverence for God.

It is true, differences of opinion exist among us, as experience shows them to have always done, though in varying degrees, wherever freedom of thought and discussion—rights most precious—have been conceded; but in one thing I trust we shall be found to agree, namely, in the recognition of the fact, that it is "righteousness" which "exalteth a nation," together with the determination to be governed in all things by heaven's revealed will, and to act towards one another in the spirit of the gospel which we profess in common.

But are we not slaves, prostrate on the earth, foaming with rage, and struggling to bite the foot that tramples us? or at best held back from rebellion, with the spirit of which we are penetrated, only by the bayonets which guard us? Would that Her Majesty's troops, if they be indeed charged with keeping us in order, found as easy work elsewhere! Soldiering would then come as near as might be to a sinecure. It is neither force nor fear, but a love—warm as it is true—to our noble Fatherland; a respect for her character, a gratitude for her liberality, a confidence in her justice and honour; and a fulness of sympathy with her, that holds us in our present connection. Our "love makes duty light."

Here, as elsewhere, there may be something to mend, and time and patience may be required ere our institutions are perfected; but, in the mean time, we are free, if under heaven there be such a thing as freedom. Where is the nation that can claim to take rank in this respect before us? "Slaves cannot breathe" in Canada; "they touch our country, and their shackles fall." Of this we have among us thousands of living witnesses; who feel themselves here to be not things, but men, and able to call the wives and children whom they love—THEIR OWN. So long as earth shall contain within her wide circumference a single slave, may Canada be ready to welcome him, not to an asylum only, but a home; to endow him with all the rights which her own free-born sons enjoy, and know so well how to value; to show him the sympathy to which the injured and the distressed have everywhere and at all times a right at the hand of those to whom God has given the power to aid them. Thus, we trust, it will be.

Large as the numbers are who are flocking annually to our shores, I have often wondered when looking at the advantages which Canada offers to the virtuous and the diligent, that they should not be very much larger. Such may command, almost anywhere they please to locate themselves, all the substantial comforts of life with a very moderate measure of exertion. Who are the owners of our handsomest and best-stocked farms? Generally speaking, men who have procured and improved them by their own labour; many of whom you find in all the older parts of the country—living like patriarchs, surrounded by their children to whom they have given inheritances. For example, I was myself intimately acquainted a few years ago with an old gentleman thus situated in Flamborough West (where there are others in similar circumstances), whose property consisted when he came into the country of nothing more than the axe which he carried on his shoulder, with a moderate supply of clothes for himself and his young wife; and who, ere he could procure a place where he might lie down to sleep, had to make himself a tent, by throwing a blanket over a few boughs which he cut from some of the trees in the yet unbroken forest.

Meeting some time ago with a countryman and fellow-citizen of my own, a native of Glasgow—who had occupied a respectable position at home, and whom I found living in a handsome stone house—with all the evidences of comfort around him, and in the enjoyment of the respect of his neighbours;—I remarked to him—"I suppose