

the society. The gold is there and it will come in due time. Every river on the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains is full of gold. It might be asked, why is not this gold taken out! Men cannot at present find provisions while they try to do it. Flour is in that country \$1 a pound, working cattle \$200 each. Miners will not work there under \$10 a day. Men must go in and farm there, else provisions cannot be furnished in sufficient abundance to support the miners. When he came to Red River he felt cross with the Canadians every hour on account of their indifference to this fine territory. Americans are wide awake. An old farmer who wanted me to preach at his house showed me the wheat he had raised. He had raised 300 bushels of wheat weighing 68 lbs to the bushel. He had seen there the finest specimens of flax, and fit for thread of the finest quality for fisheries and other purposes. Native hops worth seventy-five cents a pound in St. Pauls' could be gathered by the waggon load.

2. PEAT FIELD—COUNTY OF RUSSELL.

From a letter in the *Canada Christian Advocate*, by the Rev. A. Carman, of Albert College, we make the following extract:

With other gentleman of our company I passed one forenoon examining what is known as the 'Mer Bleu,' 'Blue Sea.' Why it was so called, I could not learn. The only answer the inhabitants of the vicinity gave, was, that it was so called by the first raftsmen, and had kept its name. It is a vast peat field, seven miles long by four wide. The 'Mer Bleu' is a field of moss, as level as the sea, and dotted here and there with clusters of dwarf tamarac. One may easily get lost upon this trackless bed, for when you have gone in a little way, the view is completely encompassed by these clusters of tamarac; and no track is visible in the yielding moss beneath your feet. It is the common resort of the wolves of the region, as they succeed better here than elsewhere in running down the deer that frequently cross it. We passed over an arm of the Blue Sea to a promontory dovered with white birch and popular; then again another arm on the other side of the bluff. The walking was very wearisome, much as it is in deep snow or sand. This comes of the depth of the moss, into which the foot sinks some distance. We could run our walking sticks in their whole length without trouble; and our guide assured us that it was an easy matter to run in a pole from 20 to 30 ft. It seems as though the whole bed had been water once and had gradually filled up. The moss carpet rises in beautiful tufts finely variegated in color, presenting different shades of red and green. One would call it really beautiful to look at, and when you find those tufts literally covered with cranberries, and that strange plant, the 'Traveller's Cup,' lifting its richly colored cups filled with water on every hand, your interest is much heightened. I confess I looked upon the whole seen with as much interest as I did upon Niagara Falls, and I am as much pleased to have seen the former as the latter. There is vastly more of mystery about the 'Mer Bleu,' for one is continually asking himself unanswerable questions about it. And the greatest curiosity of all we found as we were about leaving it. We were led to a little island near the land, somewhat higher than the 'sea,' and covered with long grass. In size it is not more than 20 ft. square. Standing upon any part of it and jumping up and down a man can make the whole of it rock like a little raft in the water. It is literally a floating island. Out of it are continually rising five mineral springs. The one we examined more particularly is in constant ebullition, and an ignited match will at any time set fire to the escaping gas. This is the wonder of wonders, and we thought it in a measure the safety valve of the 'Mer Bleu,' as there must be gas arising from the decomposition of the vast bed. A specimen of the moss brought home with us is pronounced by Prof. Macoun the genuine peat moss. Here then, is a vast peat bed in course of formation for future use in our country, when our magnificent forests shall have been swept from the land.

ALBERT COLLEGE, October 30th, 1867.

3. AMERICAN TERRITORIAL ACQUISITIONS.

The following is a list:

1. The purchase of Louisiana and the Mississippi Valley, in 1803, from France, for \$15,000,000.
2. The purchase of Florida, in 1819, from Spain, for \$3,000,000.
3. The annexation of Texas in 1845.
4. The purchase of California, New Mexico, and Utah, from Mexico, for \$15,000,000, in 1848.
5. The purchase of Arizona from Mexico, or \$10,000,000, in 1854.
6. The purchase of the immense Russian possessions, running down on the Pacific coast from the North Pole to fifty-four north latitude, at which line it strikes the British possessions.—*Am. Paper.*

4. AMERICAN WEST INDIA ISLANDS.

The United States government has purchased from Denmark three of the Virgin Islands, for \$2,000,000 in gold. The three

islands are of little size—St. Thomas, Santa Cruz and St. John, and several others of no importance. The group was discovered by Columbus on his second voyage, in 1494. Between Florida and these islands lie the four pieces of manifest destiny—Cuba, the Bahamas, San Domingo and Porto Rico.

Santa Cruz is the most important, having an area of 78 square miles and a population, in 1850, of 23,729. St. Thomas comes next, with 27 square miles and 13,666 inhabitants. St. John has 22 square miles, and a population of 2,228.

Santa Cruz is about 20 miles long, from two to six miles wide, generally flat, well watered, moderately fertile, unhealthful, and subject to droughts, hurricanes and earthquakes. About two-fifths of the land is planted with cane, and the annual sugar crop varies from 12,000 to 40,000 hogsheads. The cultivation of cotton, indigo and coffee has dwindled to almost nothing. The harbor of the capital town, Christianstadt, has a bad entrance, and is full of shoals.

St. Thomas is about twelve miles long, less than three miles wide, rugged, bare of woods, parched and sterile. The area of cultivated land is only 2,500 acres, half of which is given to sugar. The free port of Charlotte Amalia is the centre of a large trade. The annual importation is valued at \$5,000,000, and the number of ships touching at the port in 1850 was 2,196.

St. John is about twelve miles long, four miles wide, very uneven, with little water and poor soil. Small crops of sugar and cotton are raised, and some care is given to the raising of live stock. There is good anchorage at Christiansborg.

5. WHAT IS LONDON?

We commonly speak of London, and correctly enough, as a city that is growing from about 2,000,000 in 1851 to 2,800,000 in 1861, and increasing steadily. The Lord Mayor of London, however, was mortified recently to find that "the city proper," according to the last census, only contained a little above 100,000 inhabitants. This was the result of actual census work made on a particular night of all who slept within the boundaries. It was, however, considered unfair, and the Mayor had another estimate made by day, from which it appears that in every twenty-four hours there are, on an average 726,986 persons within the old city limits, and in twelve hours, 549,613—283,520 being the number of day residents in the city doing business, renting houses, shops, or rooms, or regularly working there themselves. At five o'clock the provision men are congregating. Between eight and twelve the mercantile classes arrive, and leave between four and six; some stop till nine; while at night only about 100,000 sleep in the city to take care of the property. To estimate all this is a work of great difficulty. The number of inhabitants of the city proper, and in fact of all our cities depend more than anything else on the hour of the day or night. In laying taxes it does not do—it is not fair—to go by the night census, embracing those who regularly sleep in the city. Equally wide of the mark would it be to take the day census instead of the night including all the casuals who daily enter the city, but live, to the number of hundreds of thousands, and more than half, beyond the limits even of the Board of Metropolitan Works. Three hundred thousand is perhaps fairly considered the number of inhabitants of the "city proper," or "London Town," as it used to be bounded in the days of walls and gates.

London proper only covers a little over 632 acres. In Lombard Street it has been sold at nearly £70 stg. per square foot, or over £2,000,000 per acre. Alderman Mechi, says a friend of his thought he had got a bargain when he purchased at the rate of £1,660,000 per acre. About 606,000 persons come into that acre to do business every forenoon, and leave again in the afternoon and evening.

6. NEW SEWERAGE OF LONDON

The latest statistics of the new main-drainage works in London are curious. The total length of new sewers at present completed is eighty-two miles, and the works, when finished, will have cost £4,200,000. The drainage intercepted and carried off by these sewers is derived from an area of about one hundred and seventeen square miles, and a population of 2,800,000. The amount of sewerage carried off on the north side of the Thames amounts to 10,000,000, and on the south to 4,000,000 cubic feet. In the construction of the works, 318,000,000 bricks and 880,000 cubic yards of concrete have been used, and about 3,500,000 cubic yards of earth excavated. The *Lancet* says:—"This grand system of sewerage has been constructed under buildings, and over and under canals, rivers and railways, from twenty-five feet above to seventy-five below the surface, without any important casualty or interference with the public convenience or traffic. The structural arrangements of the Metropolis would appear to be more wonderful and successful below the surface than above."—*New York Tribune.*