

ing a North-westerly direction about the head of Lake Superior, continues in this course and almost parallel with the Rocky Mountains as far as fifteen hundred miles, and with only a slight elevation above the neighbouring plain until reaching the Coppermine river near the Arctic Ocean, it forms hills eight hundred feet in height. Its average breadth is two hundred miles. On the side that looks towards Hudson's Bay, its outline is pretty much the same as that of the shores of this sea, thus verifying what Geologists say as to the waters of this region having been confined within their actual limits by the upheaving of these primary formations. Between this belt or plateau and the Bay, there is a narrow strip of limestone. From this bed of limestone to the sea, the land is low, flat, swampy, and, in part alluvial.

#### LAKES.

On the western edge of the great Crystalline Plateau are situated the principal Lakes of the North-western Continent—Winnipeg two hundred and thirty miles in length and forty miles broad; Athabasca, Great Slave Lake, and the largest of them all, Great Bear Lake, which is intersected towards its North-western extremity, by the Arctic Circle.

To the west of this great chain of waters the country is all habitable, and in a northerly direction, as far as the sixty-fifth degree of north latitude. If, indeed, the MacKenzie river should ever be what nature has adapted it for being, the principal channel through which a great portion of the trade of the western world must flow, there may one day be a dense population even so far north as the junction of its waters with the Arctic Ocean.

#### COUNTRY WEST OF THE CRYSTALLINE BELT, ASSINIBOIA, &c.

The portion of the country that may be first considered is the extensive region bordering on Lakes Winnipeg, Manitoba and Winnipigoos. Its principal rivers are the Assiniboine which is all within British territory, and the Red river which only becomes British at Pembina, a small town on the frontier of the United States. The authorities that can be most relied on, speak highly of the climate, the soil, and the beauty of this region. It has been officially reported by the Canadian Exploring Expedition of 1857, that "the summer temperature is nearly four degrees warmer than at Toronto, as ascertained by comparison of corresponding observations." Summer begins earlier and with more regularity than in Canada. We are not surprised, therefore, to learn that "the melon grows with the utmost luxuriance, without any artificial aid, and ripens perfectly before the end of August." (Expedition '57). Wheat crops have often been known to give a return of fifty bushels to the acre, and farms have been proved to be capable of yielding for eighteen successive years, without any diminution of their produce. All kinds of garden vegetables as well as oats, barley, indian corn, hops, flax, hemp, potatoes and other root crops are easily raised. "The potatoes, cauliflowers and onions I have not seen surpassed," says Professor Hind, "at any of our Provincial fairs."