

not. Winter, in reality, cannot be said to last longer than three months, commencing about the middle of December, and ending about the middle of March. During this period there are, in the coldest sections of Lower Canada, from twenty to twenty-five cold days, when the thermometer ranges from fifteen to twenty degrees below zero. The cold is driven from the Arctic Regions by north-west winds, passing over the country in waves, lasting for about three days at a time—familiarily known as ‘cold snaps.’ During the intervals between these periods of cold, the thermometer ranges about zero.

“There are, generally, from four to seven snow storms, during each winter, when the snow falls, in Canada West, to the depth of about one foot in the aggregate; in Nova Scotia, from one to two feet; in New Brunswick, Canada East, and Prince Edward Island, from two to four feet. To these general rules there are frequent exceptions. Some seasons the snow exceeds these depths; and very frequently, in Nova Scotia, and a large portion of New Brunswick, the snow does not average one foot in depth. The ‘January thaw’ often sweeps the snow from the face of the country, leaving the ground, contrary to the interests of agriculture, uncovered for weeks. In Western Canada, where a large quantity of winter wheat is raised, these thaws are particularly injurious. At Vancouver’s Island there is comparatively no frost. During a large portion of winter, in the cold parts of the Colonies, the thermometer ranges from ten to forty degrees above zero.

“Deep snow adds to the fertility of the soil. The ground is so pulverized by the action of the frost as to be rendered friable, and more easily ploughed.

“By a wise and economical division of time, all classes of the people may be, and generally are, as profitably employed during the winter months, as in summer. It is a great mistake to say that winter is necessarily a period of idleness and inactivity; the reverse is the fact. Our winters are pleasant, and their long evenings afford the student ample time for the acquisition of useful knowledge. There is no season of the year so well adapted to the cultivation of literary, domestic, and social intercourse, as that of a North American winter. It is the lecturing season, in the institutes and halls, with which nearly every community is supplied; it is the season when the several Colonial Legislatures sit, and the season when the press is doubly vigilant in supplying the public with useful information. Indeed the winter season, in these Colonies, is very pleasant, affording enjoyment and profit to the inhabitants.

“The prevailing winter winds are the north-west, north, and north-east; in spring, south, and in the summer, west, and south-west. In the interior of Canada East, and New Brunswick, the heat of summer sometimes rises to eighty, and even ninety degrees; while along the seaboard the climate is more equable, and the air wholesome and bracing. Vegetation progresses with great rapidity.

“The autumn is the most delightful season in the year. In the language of J. V. Ellis—‘the summer still lingers, as it regretting to quit the scenes of beauty it has created—and then is produced the ‘Indian Summer,’ a season of rare and exquisite loveliness, that unites the warmth of summer with the mellowness of autumn.’

“The fogs which sometimes prevail along a part of the Atlantic coast line, seldom extend more than five miles inland. The Gulf and River St. Lawrence are more free from fogs than the Bay of Fundy, and the Atlantic coasts; but in none of these places are they found to impede navigation, or produce effects detrimental to the general interests of the country.”

“The following Comparative Statement will show the amount of Sickness among the Troops stationed in the Countries named in the Tables, from 1837 to 1846:

COUNTRIES.	RATES PER THOUSAND.
Canada.....	39.0
Nova Scotia and New Brunswick .....	34.8
United Kingdom .....	from 42.9 to 48.0
Gibraltar .....	43.0
Malta .....	43.0
Ionian Islands .....	44.0
Bermudass .....	55.8

“The relative mortality, in these several countries, stands in about the same proportion as the above, showing the decisive advantages, in point of health, these Colonies possess over other healthy countries.”

“Gold Fields of Nova Scotia.—The metamorphic district of this Province, which is the most rigid and uninviting portion of its sur-

face, is now, beyond dispute, one of its richest sections. The hills and vales of its Atlantic frontier, which have been heedlessly trodden, for untold centuries, by wandering Indians, are now yielding their treasured wealth to the hand of civilization.

“Facing the seaboard, numerous estuaries, bays, and rivers wind between the spurs of the hills, giving to this section of the country a picturesque appearance. Along the coast line for 250 miles, and from eight to thirty-five miles inland, gold-bearing quartz has been found.

“By what exact agency, and at what geological epoch, gold was formed among the granite and metamorphic rocks, and distorted and sedimentary strata of Nova Scotia, is a secret not easily divulged. This part of the Province has probably been the theatre of igneous action, and to that action, and its influence upon the contiguous rocks, may be attributed the formation of gold. The gold exists chiefly in quartz bands, five or six in number, running nearly parallel to the Atlantic seaboard of the Province. Each band consists of numerous veins, and, in gold-mining parlance, ‘leads,’ which vary in thickness from a fraction of an inch to several feet; of various degrees of hardness and richness, and at various depths from the surface.

“Generally, the quartz rock is hard, and yields slowly to abrasion, or the action of frost. In some places the veins are folded and otherwise distorted; in others, they follow the geographical undulations, and geological sinuosities of the subjacent, overlying, and contiguous rock. In a few places, auriferous drift, the result of desintegration of pre-existing quartz veins, and decomposed rocks, afford ‘alluvial,’ or ‘placer’ diggings; but not, so far as known, of sufficient extent and richness to warrant extensive operations. The richness, depth, and dip of the veins appear to be governed by no immutable law. In some places the richest veins are deep in the earth, while in others they are near the surface. It is only by denudation that the leads can, in some places, be traced.

“It is now beyond dispute that there are vast quantities of gold locked up in these quartz bands, which can only be brought to light by skill, industry, and large pecuniary appropriations. It is needless for those of small means to undertake quartz mining, in Nova Scotia, except as servants. By the skilful application of means, however, gold in vast quantities may be obtained. Sufficient time has not yet transpired, since its discovery in this Province, to allow a full development of the gold-bearing leads. Many of the veins are highly remunerative, and richer ones are continually being discovered. Some of the more recently discovered veins descend perpendicularly, to a great depth, from the surface, between walls of other rocks, of various kinds, and of different degrees of hardness, which are generally removed by blasting, when the quartz is obtained. Crushing machines have been erected in the principal mining localities.

“Situated, as these mines are, in the vicinities of excellent roads, growing towns and settlements, and navigable waters, their commercial importance cannot be too highly estimated.

“It is now believed that the diffusion of gold is as general, throughout the world, as that of other metals. Almost every year adds new gold fields to the already numerous catalogue.

“These discoveries seem recently to have followed each other in such rapid succession, that it is impossible, even for geologists, to predict what new discoveries a year may bring forth. The effects of such discoveries, upon the social character, are not more remarkable than the discoveries themselves. The diffusion and intermingling of different races of our being, has, no doubt, a moral effect. Law and order have, for a time, been subverted, in some places; but this is not the case in Nova Scotia, although a large influx of population has repaired ‘to the diggings.’ In reality, law and order are not more highly respected in any part of the world.

“Gold has been discovered at sixty or seventy different places, in the Province, but regular mining operations have been carried on only at the following places: At Lunenburg, 75 miles west of Halifax; at Waverley, 10 miles from Dartmouth, on the road to Truro; at Lawrencetown, 12 miles eastwardly from Halifax, on the shore; at Tangier, 45 miles east of Halifax; at Wine Harbor, 55 miles east of Tangier, and near the mouth of St. Mary’s River; at Sherbrooke, eight miles up the said river; at Isaac’s Harbor, 15 miles east of Wine Harbor; at Country Harbor, a few miles further inland than the last named locality; at Renfrew, on the Nino Mile River, in the County of Hants; and at Oldham, in the County of Halifax; these two last named gold fields being, respectively, only ten and three miles distant from the Elmsdale railway station, which is 30 miles from the City of Halifax.

“In Nova Scotia, as in other gold-producing countries, gold mining is among the industrial pursuits; and is superintended by