

THE EASTERN PROVINCES.

EASTERN Canada, comprising Ontario, Quebec, and the Maritime Provinces, is much better known in England than the great prairie region to the west, and it does not therefore appear necessary to enter, other than briefly, into the physical features of the older Provinces. The climate of Canada does not in different parts vary so much as might be anticipated when the great geographical range of the Dominion is considered. There appear, however, to be seven definable belts or zones of climate, each tolerably distinct in its temperature, rainfall, and general meteorological characters: (1) the extreme eastern, embracing Newfoundland and part of Quebec; (2) the Gulf area, including Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, and part of New Brunswick; (3) the St. Lawrence area, embracing the Province of Quebec; (4) the Lake region, including Ontario and Hudson Bay south; (5) the great inland or prairie region extending over Manitoba and the North-West Territories; (6) the Rocky Mountains; (7) the Pacific range.

The following remarks on climate refer chiefly to Eastern Canada:—*

“Owing to the dry, clear, bracing atmosphere which generally prevails, the sense of discomfort produced by the raw easterly winds and damp fogs of an English spring suggests an idea of cold, such as is rarely thought of in a Canadian winter. There are, indeed, every winter a few days of intense cold, as in the summer there are brief periods of equally intense heat, when the thermometer ascends, or descends, through a scale unknown in the more equable English climate. But throughout the greater part of the winter season in Canada the sky is bright and clear, and the weather thoroughly enjoyable. Open sleighs are in use by all. Sleighing parties of pleasure are arranged for the period of full moon, that they may return home over the snow, after an evening's enjoyment at some appointed rendezvous; skating, snow-shoeing, and other out-door exercises are in universal favour; and the

* ‘Encyc. Brit.’ 9th edition, 1876. Art. “Canada.”