

between six and seven hundred thousand dollars, and is seldom exceeded by the expenditure.

Prince Edward's Island offers an example of increasing prosperity, greater in proportion than that of New Brunswick though on a much smaller scale. Indeed some authors and statisticians are of opinion that, from the great productiveness of its soil, this colony could easily sustain a million of inhabitants.

This may be considerably exaggerated, yet it would appear that of the 1,365,000 acres which it contains, hardly any part is unfit for cultivation; oats, wheat, barley, potatoes and turnips are the chief staples. Through the rapid progress of agriculture, the valuable timber of its forests is fast disappearing. About 100 ships are built annually; and about 400 belong to the island. The fisheries are very valuable. Exports are valued at a million and one-fourth, and imports at a million and a-half of dollars. The revenue and expenditure are between sixty and sixty-five thousand dollars.

The Lower Provinces thus combine all the elements of a powerful and prosperous empire, and are in nearer communication with the old world than any other part of America, Newfoundland being only 1,640 geographical miles from Ireland. They have railways and canals, although of course not on so extensive a scale as Canada. The connection of our Grand Trunk railway with Halifax, now that it has reached *River du Loup*, and that several portions of the line are made in the Lower Colonies, would be an undertaking of no extraordinary difficulty. Considering the Imperial Government have at present a greater interest in the execution of that noble project than Canada itself, their indifference can only be explained by a want of proper information, or perhaps by the all-absorbing questions of European and of Asiatic policy which have, for several years, engaged their attention.

To sum up: the total area of the Lower Provinces, exclusive of the Labrador territory, is nearly thirty four millions of acres, a very small proportion of which, as we have seen, is under cultivation, leaving millions and millions of acres of the finest land available for agricultural purposes. They have in their fisheries not only mines of inexhaustible wealth, but a great nautical school, which is actually nursing a fleet of more importance than that of many European States. Coal mines, with which, it seems, Canada is not favored, will give them those advantages which form so important an element in the power of the mother country. Their exports altogether amount nearly to twenty six millions; the imports are a little over twenty three millions. The aggregate revenue is about two millions of dollars. (1) The total population, in 1857, was 725,000, of whom more than one third were Roman Catholics, and about one seventh, say 100,000, were French-Canadians. The handful of people that escaped the banishment of their nation have wonderfully multiplied, and it is likely that the great American poet Longfellow, had no idea of this increase when in his charming poem of *Evangeline* he wrote the beautiful lines:

Still stands the forest primeval; but under the shade of its branches,  
Dwells another race, with other customs and language.  
Only along the shore of the mournful and misty Atlantic  
Linger a few Acadian peasants whose fathers from exile  
Wandered back to their native land to die in its bosom.  
In the fisherman's cot the wheel and the loom are still busy,  
Maidens still wear their Norman caps and their kirtles of homespun,  
And by the evening fire repeat *Evangeline's* story,  
While from its rocky caverns the deep voiced neighbouring ocean  
Speaks, and in accents disconsolate answers the wails of the forest.

The Acadians of the present day show the same attachment to the soil first settled by their forefathers as those of old; and Mr. Taché in his book contrasts it eloquently with the disposition lately evinced by some of his own countrymen:

"The descendants of those brave Acadians who had returned to their native land, after eluding a persecution by which they had been driven away, do not abandon their homes to seek in a foreign land a subsistence or a refuge. Though left in obscurity, and with but a small share in the direction of the affairs of their beloved country, they do not emigrate to the United States. Less favored than we are in many respects, they still cling to the soil which

their forefathers redeemed to civilization, and transmit to their children the traditions of the past. No extravagant idea, nor hollow dream of Utopia, no thirst for gold, nor spirit of insubordination has loosened the domestic ties, nor effaced the love which they feel for a rural life,—for the labor of the field is preferred to every other toil. They either till the earth or attend to their productive fisheries. The young men do not load and unload the *Durham* boats of the Erie Canal, nor are the young women to be found employed as servants in the towns. The custom has not come into vogue, of shaking off the paternal authority as early as possible, and of believing oneself of great consequence before being either the head of a family or a useful and respected citizen."

## IX.

## LOWER CANADA.

The first place in Lower Canada which was honored with the presence of the Prince was Gaspé. The peninsula known under that name is now divided into two judiciary districts, Bonaventure and Gaspé, the latter jurisdiction comprising also the Magdalen Islands in the gulf of St. Lawrence.

Its area is 7,289 square miles, a very small proportion of which is under cultivation. Settlements are now being made in the interior, and the inhabitants are beginning to find that the land, which in most places is as fertile as that of the adjoining districts in New Brunswick, yields a safer revenue than the sea. The population by the census of 1851, was 21,748; but it must now be much greater. The annual value of the fisheries of the two counties comprising the Magdalen Islands exceeds one hundred thousand dollars. The total amount of exports from the ports of New Carlisle and of Gaspé in 1859 amounted to \$497,955 and the imports to \$235,589; Gaspé Basin was made a free port of entry a few weeks previous to the arrival of the Prince.

The Governor General Sir Edmund Head, together with all the members of the Provincial cabinet, went down in the steamer *Victoria* from Quebec to Gaspé, where they met H. R. H. on Tuesday, the 14th of August. On the following day, they were presented as well as the Sheriff and a deputation from the County of Gaspé, and had the honor of lunching with the Prince on board the *Hero*. The royal squadron left Gaspé Basin for the Saguenay river, at two o'clock in the afternoon, being preceded by the steamers *Victoria* and *Lady Head*, having on board H. E. and suite.

A royal salute was fired from a battery belonging to J. LeBouthillier, Esq., M. P. P. for Gaspé.

The beautiful scenery of the Lower St. Lawrence with the almost continuous range of white houses that line its shores are said to have been the object of much admiration. It is also reported that in the evening, the Premier of Canada the Hon. Mr. Cartier and several members of the suite sang some of our Canadian boat songs, the Prince joining in the chorus.

*La Olaipe Fontaine*, the most popular of these airs has on that account been published in the New York newspapers, and in several instances it was played in honor of the Prince in the course of his peregrinations in the United States.

The *Hero* at the entrance of the river Saguenay struck on the reefs, and though no serious accident happened, the officers in charge of the other vessels, thought it more prudent not to venture any farther. The Prince then went on board the *Victoria* and preceded by Mr. Price's steamer *Tadoussac* went forty five miles up the river past Cape Eternity. The weather was cold and wet, but the clouds, it is said, added to the usual wildness and grandeur of the scenery. The noble river which is navigable seventy five miles from its mouth up to Chicoutimi, takes its source from lake St. John, a sheet of water thirty miles by twenty five, and at a distance of 120 miles. It drains an immense country, a great part of which is of the most beautiful soil. The climate of the valley of lake St. John is milder than that of the northern shore of the St. Lawrence. The county of Chicoutimi which in 1851 had only 6000 inhabitants, has now in all probability more than double that number. The inhabitants are almost all of French origin. Numerous schools are springing up and are well attended. Immense lumber trade is carried on in these regions, and for several years to come it can only increase as the forests are cleared by the pioneers; while the river is far famed for its rich salmon fisheries.

The next day, Thursday, was cold but clear, and the Prince who at the close of evening had returned on board the *Hero*, again went up the river in the *Victoria*, and landed about 15 miles from its mouth near the river Ste. Marguerite, one of its affluents. There tents had been pitched and fishing tackle provided. After being engaged sometime in fishing and shooting, the whole party went

(1) The figures of the Catholic population given by Mr. Taché differ greatly from those given by Mr. Hodgins. They are: New Foundland 90, Prince Edward 35, Nova Scotia 100, New Brunswick 98; altogether 323,000. This would be very near one half of the whole population.