Much eloquence of disquisition has heretofore been expended on this question of settling the Townships; and, to a certain point, we cannot refuse our assent to its statements. A barren assent is, however, nothing to the purpose. At the risk of being considered tedious, we must enter into details, even of a minute character, and invoke the patience of the reader accordingly.

A prejudice is entertained by many persons, against the fertility of a certain description of land in the Townships, and it happens to be precisely that which is the most eligible for the new settler. We mean the high hard-wood lands.

The Eastern Townships are mostly mountainous, and this quality contributes not a little, to confer the picturesque beauty described above. In such a country, there are lands of every kind: low interval, always difficult to clear and drain; and high hard-wood land, easy to be cleared, and requiring no artificial drainage. This definite distinction ought to shew sufficiently the superiority of the high lands. On these latter, the trees stand far apart, and the land is cultivable, before the stumps are rotted out. They are likewise naturally drained, so that, in the very first year, after the labour of clearing is completed, a crop may be raised, often the best they ever yield; the soil makes a grateful and immediate return to its proprietor, for the preference, by which he has distinguished it. Not so, however, with the low or interval lands: these cannot be cultivated until the stumps are all removed, or nearly so, a work of great expense, if sought to be effected in less than ten years, while considerable labour is requisite in draining, before the crop can be put in. The hard-wood stumps soon rot, and are extracted without trouble, in six or seven years after the clearing of the land. Meantime the settler can work his land, without much trouble. The hard-wood ashes become black salts, which often pay for the clearing of the land. It were lost time to make black salts out of soft-wood ashes, on account of the small proportion which