

We give below two copious extracts from Mr. Evan's Supplementary volume to his treatise on Agriculture—the valuable hints they give on the natural capabilities of our country, and the great advantages to be derived from an increased production of articles for export, should warrant their notice and careful perusal.

"I would observe that by not having more produce to dispose of, Canada loses in a great measure the advantage of the capital brought into the country, and it is scarcely ever employed after it is once paid away by those who brought it here, until it is again returned to the British Isles. If the cultivated lands were all producing as abundantly as they might, and ought to be, the farmers would be able to supply all the home demands, and have a surplus for export fully sufficient to pay the balance of the imports, without sending back the money brought into the country directly, before it was a second time employed advantageously in Canada. I have no hesitation in saying that were the lands now occupied in Upper and Lower Canada managed properly, and judiciously, they would yield (except in very adverse seasons) a surplus produce to sell to foreign customers, more than sufficient to pay the balance of the imports, after abundantly supplying all the demands of the present population for food. It is possible that a greatly increased influx of strangers to Canada, might at a future time, prevent the possibility of exporting constantly as much of the produce of agriculture as would fully pay the balance of the imports that might be required for the use of a greatly increased population, as emigrants could not, for the first few years, produce much for themselves; but the increase has never yet been so great that the exports might not have been equal to the imports, if the agricultural produce had been any thing near what it was possible to make it.

I will admit that Canada may, and is, prospering, notwithstanding her imports so much exceed her exports, and that she may go on increasing in population and wealth, her commerce continuing to show the same results as at present, while she receives an accession of population, and capital annually from abroad, that is employed in the cultivation and improvement of her waste lands. But let the accession of capital coming into the country be discontinued, and she must then sell produce to customers *out* of Canada, to the same amount of her imports, or the imports will soon be reduced to the amount of her exports, if there was a balance over, it could not be paid. It is not the merchants who are to blame for bringing more produce and manufactures into the country than is exported of produce from the country, nor is it for the accommodation of the merchant, that those goods, when imported, will be purchased, but because the people want them. The merchant would find it much more profitable to export produce, in payment to other countries from which he receives his imports, than gold or bills of exchange, that are always at a high premium. If he had produce to export, he would have a profit on that produce, perhaps equal to that on his imports. On remitting gold or bills, he cannot have profit. It must, therefore, manifestly be the interest of all parties, that the produce of Canada should be exported or sold to customers *out* of Canada, to nearly the full amount of the imports from other countries. The exports of England exceed her imports by more than a third, besides the profit of carrying almost exclusively to their destination, upwards of £70,000,000 sterling worth of her produce and manufactures, which must add immensely to their value.

"I may be too sanguine in my opinions of the natural capabilities of Canada for pro-

duction. I acknowledge that I cannot see any thing in the circumstances of the country, geographical or physical, that should prevent it from becoming populous and productive, as any part of North America, or as most countries of Europe. Though the winter may continue four or five months in the year, and so severe, as to cover the whole surface of the land with snow, and the mighty rivers and waters of Canada with ice, so far am I from thinking this circumstance prejudicial, that I look upon it as being ordered so by a bountiful Providence for the good of the country, and the convenience of those who inhabit it, and who could not otherwise make so profitable a use of it. If it is cold in winter, there is abundance of fuel on the spot, to keep the people warm and comfortable. What use would the majestic forests of fine timber be, that are so much wanted in other countries, and which now constitute almost the only exports, if there was not snow and ice in winter, that allows this timber to be prepared, and brought to situations where the waters will be navigable in summer, to be exported to those countries, which will give in exchange the goods that are required by the population of Canada! Were the winters soft and open as in England, the forests would be useless; indeed it would be scarcely possible to get firewood from them. Good roads, in a country of such vast extent, to accommodate all, are impracticable to a thin population, and until the country is more thickly settled, it is fortunate that the climate is sufficiently cold in winter, to make roads nearly equal to rail-roads, without any expense. The summer seasons on an average of years, are more favourable for agricultural production and for harvesting the produce, than in most countries of Europe, or the United States; and it is a well established fact, that the winters, however severe, are not injurious to the health of plants or animals."

"By a reference to the price of provender for cattle, for the last ten years in the principal markets of Canada, it will be found that in seven years out of ten, the best hay has been selling from £1 to £2 per ton, a convincing proof to me that the productiveness of the land in summer is sufficiently great, amply to supply the wants of a long and severe winter, with any farmer who understands his business, and will practice what he knows, and those who may not understand or will not practice a proper system of husbandry, cannot justly attribute unprofitable farming to the climate, as far as I am capable of judging."

"I consider that state of population the best, which will afford to every individual an opportunity, by applying their talents industriously to some useful and suitable occupation, to provide what is necessary of the conveniences of life, for rational enjoyment, according to the station they occupy in society. If all who are disposed to be useful to themselves, and to society, are offered a fair and equal chance to advance their circumstances, which I hope they always will have in British America, those who will possess most talents, industry and prudence, will be able to acquire proportionate advantages.—For ages yet to come, Canada will afford the materials to produce the necessaries and conveniences of life to those who will seek for them and be disposed to make them available. There is an objection that possibly may be urged to the capabilities of the country, from the failure of crops in adverse seasons, in the lower parts of the Province. Adverse seasons are not more frequent there, than in many populous countries of Europe, and there may be much of the disappointment in crops to be attributed to bad ploughing, insufficient draining, judicious cropping, and the total neglect of a proper system being observed in the management of the land. I

have no doubt these causes have produced more loss than the climate."

"Nineteen-twentieths of the forests of Lower Canada is now unproductive and waste. Would it be for the interest and advantage of every individual of the present community in this Province, that those lands should be settled, and cultivated as speedily as circumstances would permit? Would their settlement to the full extent which I have above stated be consistent with the general comfort and prosperity of so greatly increased a population? These questions I candidly answer in the affirmative, from the clearest conviction of my own mind. What has hitherto confined the settlement of the lands so much to the front, or the banks of the principal rivers! The difficulty of going back, and making roads at the labour and expense of a thin population. Were the back country occupied by active settlers, this difficulty would be obviated. The same road that would be necessary for the convenience of five settlers, ten or twenty miles back in the forest, would answer for a hundred, or perhaps for five hundred; and the making of a road which five could not undertake, would be easy to five hundred. There are many other circumstances which prevent almost the possibility of a few persons going back into the forest to commence a settlement which would be rendered perfectly practicable to a more numerous body settling together, who would assist each other and would leave no interval of woods unoccupied to injure the small portions of cleared land that can never be productive without a free circulation of air. I have heard much complaint in these Provinces of the injurious effect produced from the Crown and Clergy Reserves being left waste. If these waste reserves are injurious to the adjoining cultivated lands, which no doubt they must be, how much more injurious must it be to the poor settler who ventures to commence a settlement in the wild forest, without neighbours on any side to assist him to open the forest, or drain the land. Enclosed by high, impenetrable woods, that prevent the sun a good part of the day from shining on his clearance, what chance was he to be successful, or to be happy! debarred himself and his family from all communication with their species, their state will be little better than that of the savage; and they are unable to derive from their lands and labour, half the produce they would do, were they surrounded with neighbours, cultivated fields, and easy access to markets. Means of free and constant intercourse has, in all countries, a powerful influence on civilization, improvement, and rational enjoyment, principally because it greatly augments the produce from every branch of industry; and it is only where industry is abundantly productive, that civilization and improvements will go on, and rational enjoyment can be practicable to the people. Where a population are barely able to subsist, civilization will not be greatly advanced, improvements are out of the question, and what ought to be considered as rational enjoyment is civilized society, cannot be known or understood."

"In Lower Canada, the greater the population the more there will be annually produced, and the greater will be the savings that can be made, to be again expended in useful improvements, productive labour, in cultivation and in the comfortable settlement of the rising generation. This produce might be constantly going on, augmenting, population increasing, and the power, wealth, and prosperity of British America advance most rapidly and certainly. In all new countries that have abundance of good land, waste and unprofitable, it ought to be the first object of government and people, to settle and cultivate it. The prosperity of the United States is estimated by the rapid increase of