

leaving in the rear, ranches and villages, the homes of cattle-kings,—a vast expanse of treeless plain. And yet, monotony does not reign supreme, for here and there are ponds frequented by water-fowl, a belt of undulations resembling waves, a herd of antelopes, a lone house, or station, on the wind-swept waste, experimental farms cultivated by the railway company to exhibit the capabilities of the soil, and miles of ripening grain stretching forward, and on each side of the track away beyond the ken of the sharpest eye, and broken only by a station, an elevator, or a village. The tireless engine still descending—for we are in the fertile valley of the Saskatchewan—sweeps on past Q'Appelle, the seat of the late rebellion, and now of a flourishing Indian mission, past Brandon, the grain-center for two provinces, past Indian Head,—where, on Bell's farm of one hundred square miles, plowing in furrows four miles long, was being done by brigades,—on through towns and villages, we have not space to name, till we reach the historic town, Winnipeg, a place we have long desired to visit. This is an enterprising and beautiful city of 25,000 people, two-thirds of whom are of French, English and Scotch origin, and the one-third are Indians and half-breeds. It is situated on a prairie, yellow with flowers, at the junction of the Red and Assiniboine rivers, both navigable, is twenty miles from the lake from which it takes its name, has railways radiating in several directions, by which it commands the trade of the vast North and Northwest, has an important post of the Hudson's Bay Company, and the principal offices for the sale of railway lands in the different provinces. It is handsomely built of brick, and of a yellow limestone, mottled and variegated with fantastic figures,—has street-railroads, electric lights, great flouring-mills and elevators, a fine court-house, a gaily-adorned postoffice, large stores, and numerous other notable buildings, among which are the parliament house and governor's residence. The extremes of civilization meet without exciting surprise in this quaint city;