

cattle, roaming over the sandhills, broke the surface held somewhat firm by the roots of its vegetation, and with the high west winds of autumn and early winter it hurriedly sped, covering deep the soil of the rich district in its course, so those unfortunate families were obliged to move upward to the southern portion of their estate. So, due probably to want of a proper appreciation of the importance of keeping the surface of the sandhills undisturbed, they suffered the loss of happy homes, and had to begin anew, under much less favourable circumstances, to found new ones.

Almost co-eval with this event the settlement of North Side, to which I have already incidentally referred, was begun by three families of Irish whose name the writer bears.

Possibilities were in a great many instances increased on the Island at this period. Ship-building was started in almost all places suitably situated, and the settlers, here as elsewhere, found employment during the winter in supplying the yards with ship-timber, and a ready sale for fish especially mackerel, as well as higher prices for farm products were obtainable, consequent upon the free trade arrangements with the United States following the year 1854.

It cannot be said however that commendable progress was shown in either of the adjoining districts. Industry was not directed to ensure continuous development; it was rather more intended for the accomplishment of some great feat which gave to the performer a prominence, which in the then status of social rectitude, some applauded, some disputed, some disparaged either by way of making it appear to wear less merit, or by relating a greater by some one else more in their favor. Thus, as may be observed, ambition was not far-reaching in character, or a spirit of advancement and general goaltheaditiveness was never dominant; it was rather to do hurriedly such operations as for the moment