

sent condition and future prospects of the country ; its politics, its agriculture, the influence, whether beneficial or otherwise, of lumbering, on the progress of the province. In such discussions I find few, if any, exceptions to the general discontent with the government of the colony, the unfitness of the legislators for their position, and the paralysing effect of the whole system. There may be some ground for this all-pervading grumbling ; but I strongly suspect that much of that stagnation which is attributed to bad administration of bad laws may rather be attributed to deficient energy, deficient education, a want of common sense in the people, to say nothing of a great want of cash ; the latter want being in fact the consequence of the former wants. Lumbering is in truth the one great radical evil, the worm which is gnawing at the roots of the tree of New Brunswick prosperity ; the life is not destroyed, but its growth is checked. If this be killed, or even scotched, the tree will flourish with a vigour commensurate with the exceeding vigour of the soil. The plain truth as to the lumbering question is this : the timber, the forests of the country, are exchanged for provisions and clothing for those who cut them down. So large a proportion of the population is engaged in this gambling, reckless,