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THE SAGUENAY AND LAKE ST. JOHN.

BY WILLIAM KINGSFORD, C.E., OTTAWA.

**M**R. BUIES has performed a good service by giving us the history of the Saguenay. Written in French, it is more especially intended for the political meridian of Quebec, and the ancient Province. But it has an interest for all whose fate is bound up in the welfare of the Dominion. We have, in these pages,\* the means of knowing the capabilities of the country, and the policy suggested for its development, and we learn a great deal which we did not know before. The district, however, labours under the disadvantages which affect the whole eastern section of this continent. It may be stated in a sentence; it is no field for the adventurer. In New England and in our Maritime Provinces, the new comers turn to the cities, and if fate be adverse, they push their fortunes westward. There is no influence to keep within the circle of

New England or Nova Scotia any one who has failed to better his fortunes. By some effort or another such an one manages to work his way to a more tempting spot, and advances often until he has reached a longitude whose further progress is impossible. He has there to face the situation and turn to what field he can find. He must live, and take the bread where it can be had, whether the effort to gain it be palatable or not. So the West advances while the East remains stationary. There is always a farther west being created, and hence the arena with its stimulus to action is still being widened.

Mr. Buies himself, from writing in French, is known in Ontario only to those who follow with interest what is taking place in the Eastern Province. The newspapers give a synopsis of the political issues day by day, and, as a rule, they are forgotten as soon as read, excepting when they have some bearing on Dominion politics. Most of the people look on the

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*Le Saguenay et la Vallée du Lac St. Jean. Etude historique, géographique, industrielle et agricole, &c., &c. Par Arthur Buies. Québec: A. Côté et Cie, 1880.*