

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

In laying before Your Excellency the following Report on the Agricultural capabilities of the Province of New Brunswick, I wish to express my sense of its imperfect character, and to crave Your Excellency's indulgence towards the many deficiencies which on a perusal of it you cannot fail to discover.

The cause of these defects is to be ascribed in part to the extraordinary character of the past Season, and in part to the extremely brief period of time which my other engagements in America have permitted me to devote to this object.

In the early part of my tour through the Province, the extreme drought had parched in an unusual degree the whole surface of the uplands, so as to give a brown and barren aspect to tracts of country said to be in ordinary Seasons green and smiling. This condition of their surface was exceedingly unfavorable to an accurate estimate of their true agricultural capability. The numerous fires again which at that time traversed the woods, had in many places loaded the atmosphere with smoke, and so limited the sphere of vision that it was impossible to see to any considerable distance from the line of road along which we passed. This prevented me from observing with my own eyes so extensively as I should otherwise have been able to do. Lastly, the very general nature of my Survey of the Province which the time at my disposal demanded, and the comparative slowness of travelling in most parts of this country, not only prevented me from dwelling upon localities which were worthy of further investigation, and where much kindness and hospitality were shown me, but made it impossible to dip into the interior at many points where promising land and thriving settlements existed.

These causes have necessarily limited in some degree the knowledge I have been able from my own observation to acquire as to the agricultural character of the Province. I have also to regret that the period of leisure I have since enjoyed has been too brief