

a third. JOHN YOUNG, Esq., of Montreal, H. RUTTAN and E. W. THOMPSON, Esquires, of Upper Canada, were the gentlemen selected as judges. Ten Essays were sent in. Several of them are highly commended by the judges; but the Prize has been awarded to the Essay of Mr. T. C. KEEFER, son of the venerable GEORGE KEEFER, Esq., Niagara District,—doubly honoured by the respect of a vast circle of acquaintances in various parts of the Province, and by the virtues, intelligence and enterprize of a large family of sons, of whom the author of the Prize Essay is the *ninth*.

This Essay is clear, perspicuous and often forcible in style; replete with various information, the fruit of great industry and research; abounding in comprehensive and practical views, and pervaded by a spirit of ardent and noble patriotism. His Excellency LORD ELGIN must experience lively satisfaction in having called forth such a production; and Canada may be congratulated that one of her own sons has distinguished himself above all competitors in appreciating her resources and advocating her interests. We could wish this Essay were in the hands of every man in Canada. No man can read it with attention without being impressed with the vast undeveloped treasures and capabilities of our country, or without admiring the fore-sightedness of those who have projected the canal and other improvements in our internal navigation. We would recommend every man who wishes to form a just estimate of the value of Canada as an agricultural, commercial and manufacturing country to procure and read Mr. KEEFER's Prize Essay. We sub-join several extracts, which, while they will present a fair sample of the author's style, will, we trust, promote the objects of his Essay, in impressing the people of Canada with the value of our country and the practical philosophy of its material and social advancement. The newness, the importance and varied interest of the topics embraced will supersede the necessity of any apology for the number and length of the following extracts; and for a full discussion of these, and various kindred topics, we refer the reader to the Essay itself:—

RIVER ST. LAWRENCE.—The position of the River St. Lawrence with respect to climate and latitude is one which is calculated at first view to excite misgiving and dissatisfaction:—but upon a full and fair investigation we must admit, (what indeed ought to have been assumed,) that when the Almighty Maker of the Universe "poured the rivers out of the hollow of His hand," He gave them that direction which should ultimately ensure the greatest number. Any other supposition would be contrary both to Reason and to Faith, and accordingly we find it impossible to propose any more advantageous position for the St. Lawrence than that which was given it when "the waters were divided from the waters;" or any embouchure more suitable to the valley from which it proceeds. We could not secure an unfrozen outlet north of Virginia; we could not improve upon the position of the lakes, and we would not like to abandon the timber of the Ottawa, the coal of Cape Breton and Nova Scotia, or the fisheries of the Gulf. No other direction could be assigned to this river which would, "take it for all in all," afford the same future advantages. Hereafter we shall notice the alleged inferiority, and endeavour to ascertain its comparative value.

This great river,—which for commercial purposes may be said to commence in Lake Superior, the largest body of fresh water on the globe,—leaves the valuable mines upon the coasts of that inland sea, and descending through six degrees of latitude, embracing an extraordinary extent of coast and fresh water fishery in the Huron Archipelago, which is only surpassed by the astonishing one at its mouth—penetrates the fruit-bearing zone of Ohio, Western New York and Western Canada,—the garden of North America for the variety and excellence of its products, and the seat of a commerce to which no limit can be assigned. From Lake Erie this great outlet takes a course almost in a direct line to the Atlantic Ocean, ascending to the same latitude from which it took its departure on the northern shores of Lake Superior. There can be no doubt of the favorable influence of the great lakes of Huron, Michigan, Erie

and Ontario upon the surrounding and included territory, for we do not find that similar fruits can be procured in the same parallels in Eastern New-York or New England.—pp. 8, 9. * *

CLIMATE OF CANADA.—Much has been advanced in disparagement of the Canadian climate, and there is reason to believe that its inconveniences have been exaggerated, while its advantages have been overlooked; for it is demonstrable that our commerce, wealth and prosperity, are in a great measure dependent upon those identical conditions which have been assumed to militate against us.

The climate of Canada is undoubtedly colder in winter and warmer in summer than that of countries between the same parallels in Continental Europe, but it is at the same time more constant; and these extremes apparently so objectionable, in reality extend the range of our productions far beyond those in similar European latitudes. The strong and steady heat of our summer matures, with surprising rapidity, the most valuable plants, while the extreme cold of the winter enables us to combine the products of the northern with those of southern climes.

The grape, peach, and melon, come to perfection in Western Canada, but cannot be produced in the damper climate of England; while wheat, which cannot be grown in Norway, ripens in similar latitudes of Eastern Canada. We are enabled, therefore, to embrace the range of products from the tobacco, rice, and fruits of temperate climes, to the wheat, hemp and hardy grains of the North. The severity of our winters are unfavorable to grazing, and increase the consumption of fuel, yet without the ice and the snow the invaluable timber of our extensive forests would be worthless:—and inasmuch as we do not find the fertility of the soil impaired by the frost, we are justified in assuming that our winters have the same invigorating effect upon the earth, for our peculiar productions, as that conferred by rest upon the human frame: and that when the mantle of snow is removed, the soil, "like a giant refreshed by sleep," is enabled to send forth that rapid and luxuriant vegetation which renders a longer summer unnecessary. Nor are we without encouragement to preserve, or hope of future amelioration in this respect;—Gibbon tells us that "in the days of Cæsar, the Rhine and the Danube were frozen over so firmly, as to permit the irruption of the barbarian hordes with their cavalry and heavy waggons, an event of which there is no modern instance on record." The reindeer, which is not now found south of Lapland or Siberia, was then a native of Hercynian forest, in Germany and Poland.

"The immense woods which intercepted the rays of the sun from the earth have been cleared, the morasses drained, and in proportion as the soil is cultivated the air has become more temperate. Canada at this day is an exact picture of ancient Germany. Although situated in the same parallel with the first province of France and England, that country experiences the most rigorous cold. The reindeer (cariboo) are very numerous, the ground is covered with deep and lasting snow, and the great River St. Lawrence is regularly frozen, in a season when the waters of the Seine and Thames are usually free from ice." We should never forget that we owe it more to our climate than our soil, that we are blessed with an abundant and certain crop of that most valuable production of the earth,—wheat,—the great staple of our commerce, and the prime necessary of civilised life.—pp. 10-12. * *

MANUFACTURING AND HOME MARKET.—If we had commenced a system of general protection *before* we became exporters of food, then might we have been now our own manufacturers, although we should have paid dearly for our patriotism; because, with a limited market and imperfect commercial facilities, we would have been badly supplied at extortionate rates. But as colonists, we could not become general manufacturers, nor as Canadians can we now become so, until we have greater commercial facilities,—railroads, and an efficient foreign and coasting marine, either of our own, or at our disposal. Manufactures cannot be profitably carried on upon a small scale; neither can the supply be so closely assimilated to the demand in any community, but that large accumulations will periodically occur, for which a safety-valve must be provided, in the shape of a foreign market. Therefore, if the commerce of the St. Lawrence is placed upon such a footing, that we can contest with the Americans, the supply with breadstuffs of the Gulf Provinces, the West Indies and South America, we may, *hereafter*, fill out our cargoes with manufactures from the St. Lawrence for the same destination. Then would our returning vessels