

might otherwise be ; yet the earnestness of which it furnishes evidence is commendable, while it, at the same time, prepares beforehand a supply for the multitudes pouring in upon us so fast.

From a Report of a Committee of Assembly, presented 15th March, 1828, it appears there were at that time in Upper Canada, 236 ministers—about half of them Methodist—some of whom had come in as early as 1792. The number at the commencement of 1851, as stated in the Canada Directory (p. 553) was 869—one to every 870 of the population. At this moment they can hardly be under 900. In 1828 the number of churches was 141 or from that to 150 ; 66 of them being Methodist. They are reported in 1848 to amount to 895—six times their number only 20 years before. Now they must be as many as 950, or from that to a 1000. Rapidly as our population is growing it thus appears that the churches are increasing faster—being now six times as numerous as they were 20 years ago, while our population, as we have seen, numbered in 1850 something more than five times what it was 25 years before.

This is a fact worthy of notice as indicating the feeling of the country. Not merely, however, are the churches as to number keeping pace with, outstripping the increase of the population ; but in character they are rising with the wealth of the community ; becoming in proportion to that, at once, more commodious and more handsome. In their case as in that of the dwellings of the people, brick and stone are, in many parts, taking the place of wood.

The Home District contained in 1850, 163 churches. In the Gore District they had risen between 1817 and 1848, that is, in thirty-one years, from 4 to 64, exclusive of those in the Wellington, formerly included in the Gore District. Seventeen years ago Paris contained none. All denominations worshipped in the school-house. In the fall of 1834 I recollect being told by a brother minister that he had on the Sabbath before been one of three who waited turn for the use of the house. Now Paris contains, as has been noticed already, six churches (one stone and one brick) with five resident Protestant ministers. Brockville, you will recollect, had no church when Talbot visited it. Now it contains six. Brantford, which had none 18 years ago, now contains eight. In this city, instead of the four which Talbot names, we have now twenty, exclusive of four or five at Yorkville—which in his time, and much later, had no being, its site—now occupied with so many handsome villas—being covered with woods.

Furthermore, the organizations to which Christianity has given birth elsewhere, such as Bible, Tract, Missionary, Temperance and Anti-Slavery Societies ; with Sabbath Schools, and institutions for the relief of the destitute and recovery of the sick, are found in active operation among us : conferring their varied blessings on those who need and will accept them ; besides holding a place in the public esteem and enjoying a measure of its patronage which give promise of growing strength and service for the future.

This city contains four Theological Institutions—to which a fifth will probably soon be added—where a considerable number of young men are preparing for the ministry among the different denominations.

In Lower Canada the Directory [p. 553] reports 641 clergymen ; being one to 1190 of the population.

All, I presume, whatever their difference of opinion in regard to some points, will admit that during the period which has passed under review, no small improvement has taken place in our laws, our civil arrangements, and in the understanding and application of the principles of government. Things are now placed to such an extent in the hands of the people that, if they fail to move on in harmony with their notions of propriety, they will find it difficult to discover parties other than themselves on whom to throw the blame. Our Municipal Institutions are, we believe, working well on the whole—improving the country, while they are at the same time, by the duties to which they call them, giving the people the consciousness of power and teaching them so to use it as to promote the general prosperity and ensure peace and general satisfaction.

Other topics will suggest themselves to you of which note might be taken, perhaps ought to be ; but we must hasten to a close.

In the face of the facts above adduced, what is to be thought, Ladies and Gentlemen, of the depreciatory comparisons so often made

between ourselves and our neighbours as to rate of progress ? They are, in my opinion, as erroneous as in their operation they are calculated to be mischievous. The impression which forced itself most strongly on my mind during the journey to which I have referred elsewhere, was the striking coincidence in appearance (with the exception of prairie in place of forest) and condition between these States and Canada West. They are progressing rapidly ; but so are we. New towns present themselves on every hand ; small, it is true, many of them ; yet destined to be large ere long. Thus too it is with us. With theirs our Towns compare very favourably ; so do our rural districts. My belief is that a Canadian farmer would return from such a tour as I made somewhat disposed to boast ; that he would say our cultivation is at least as good as that of the West ; and our farm houses as good, and provided as comfortably.

In the progress of our neighbours I rejoice ; and would be happy, instead of wishing it retarded, to see it accelerated. This would gratify me, not merely for their sake and for the sake of the world, but for our own. We have an interest in their growth, which operates as a spur and encouragement to us. To a young country like this it is an advantage which cannot easily be rated too high, to have an intelligent, energetic people along side of us, whose experience, whether successful or otherwise, we can turn to account.

The good qualities which we all recognise in our neighbours form an additional reason for the cultivation of a spirit of respect and kindness towards them. Add to this our oneness in origin, in language, and in whatever is most important in thought and feeling ; and the cherishing of any other spirit will be seen to be, not a simple impropriety, but an offence, a crime. God, moreover, seems to have marked out one high and honourable destiny for us—the privilege of showing on one of the most splendid of theatres, what christianity and freedom and intelligence can do for men ; and of realizing their united blessings in proportion to the fidelity with which we fulfill the trust committed to us. What is good among them let us imitate : but let us act with discrimination ; and not like children, hold their cake and rattle to be better than our own, and brawl for them, merely because they are theirs.

The time you have been already detained, forbids my dwelling on the Prospects of our noble country, however inviting the theme. My belief is that it is destined, at no distant day, to hold a high and honourable place among the nations ; and to exert an influence, wide and powerful, on the world's well-being.

Of these anticipations we have an earnest in the progress we have been contemplating ; as we have a pledge for them in her extent and natural advantages, and in the character of her people and her institutions ; taken in connection with the correcter views beginning to be entertained in relation to her, and the apparent plans of the infinitely wise and gracious Sovereign of the universe.

A few words on some of these points, with a practical suggestion or two, and we close.

According to Bouchette (vol. i. pp. 64, 182), Canada contains an area of 346,863 square miles—Lower Canada 205,863, and Upper Canada 141,000, an extent about six times that of England and Wales. Surely here we have ample room and verge enough—space to expand till we become, so far as numbers can make us, a mighty nation.

The writers whom I have had opportunity of consulting, speak, with one consent, in high terms of the agricultural capabilities of our country.

Howison declares the "soil" of Upper Canada to be "in general excellent, and likewise of easy cultivation ;" (247)—points out its superiour adaptation to the production of fruit (246) and flowers (281) ; and affirms its capability, under proper culture, of yielding crops very much superior both in quantity and quality to those obtained while he was resident in it (248). The "climate" he describes as being, "in the westerly parts of the Province particularly, alike healthful and agreeable." (242). He looks also with confidence for its improvement as the land becomes cleared (242–247). In respect to the prospects of emigrants, he expresses himself as follows :—After relating that he had "resided eight months in the most populous and extensive new settlement in the Province, and daily witnessed the increasing prosperity of thousands of people, most of whom had been forced from their native land by poverty," he continues : "No one who emigrates to Upper Canada with rational views, will be disappointed. The country is becoming more