

stantly changing tariffs, varieties of currency, and local codes of commercial and other laws, as there are Provinces. It need scarcely be said that these are great impediments to trade between the different sections of British America; and, as a natural consequence of that, the foreign trade of the country, as a whole, is not so vigorous as it would be if commercial intercourse between its various parts was entirely untrammelled. It is difficult to remove these restrictions so long as the Provinces remain separate and mutually independent. Yet, owing mainly to the various hindrances to intercolonial trade already mentioned, that trade is comparatively so inconsiderable that each of these Provinces actually effects very much larger exchanges with the United States than it does with all the other Provinces combined. There may not appear anything very monstrous, or ruinous, in this; but it is certainly not the favorable picture of its commerce which British North America ought to be able to show. It would unquestionably be very much improved upon, were all barriers to commercial intercourse between its various parts removed; and a very large portion—perhaps the largest portion—of the profits of Colonial trade which now find their way into the pockets of United States dealers, might, without resorting to any factitious means to divert them therefrom, be retained by the British Americans themselves; for it happens that these Colonies are so circumstanced, with regard to geographical position and resources, as to be each, in a great measure, the complement of the others.

A few illustrations may be mentioned. Upper Canada and the Far West, where the Red River Settlement already forms the nucleus of what will no doubt be, one day, a dense population, seem calculated to be *par excellence* the granary of British America; whilst it seems probable that the Maritime Provinces will always be in a position to receive a large share of the surplus breadstuffs of the West. Canada will be a great timber producing country at a time when Novascotia, Prince Edward Island, and perhaps New Brunswick, will be importers of that article; whilst the immense fertile plains of the Saskatchewan country, being nearly devoid of timber, will, when colonized, always afford a market for that product. Novascotia and New Brunswick, but particularly the former, abound in coal, a substance which is not to be found in Canada at all. The Maritime Provinces and Lower Canada also contain immense deposits of iron—unsurpassed by any in the world—copper, and other mineral substances which are generally found wanting in the country farther west. Again, the great staple export of Novascotia and Newfoundland, is fish, the greater portion of which is sent to the West Indies and South America. With free