

largest sea-going vessels can come, and now find a safe and commodious harbour, with every arrangement for their traffic purposes; and from this point a daily service of screw steamers of lighter draught will start, and deliver or collect cargoes for them from the river, or lake ports of the interior, while another line will keep Quebec in direct communication with the Lower Provinces on the Gulf. This, too, from the great facilities offered, will probably be the station of departure and arrival of the trans-Atlantic steamers, of which three distinct lines already connect the two countries together. These steamers are thronged even now with American travellers,* and when the communication with the Western States is fully opened up, we may easily imagine what the effect will be.

Mr. Wilson alludes briefly to the cities of Canada, and particularly Ottawa, the new capital, and proceeds:—

Between the shores of the Ottawa and Lake Huron lies a territory rich to profusion in mineral wealth, and vast forests which will afford for many years to come the source of profitable employment to the hardy labourer. As fast as the axe of the woodman levels the forest, the plough of the agricultural emigrant will turn up the soil, and rich harvests will be won for the supply of the extensive markets of the old and new worlds. But beyond this tract of timber and mineral lands, through which must shortly flow the waters of the Huron to mingle with those of the Ottawa, lie other lands yet unexplored, and unsubdued to the wants of civilization.

Across the inland sea of the Huron there are the Red River settlements, the very garden of the Hudson's Bay territory, over which monopoly and exclusion have so long thrown a veil of mystery,—but, from which, despite all restriction, there reach us rumours of rich and fertile lands, of abundant harvests, and of exhaustless wealth in the waters, the forests, and the mines. Still westward lies a vast tract of territory, the solitudes of which have been rarely disturbed, save by the trapper or the Indian hunters in pursuit of the wild animals for their furs. Century after century has passed over the regions watered by the noble Saskatchewan; the natural produce of the soil has decayed upon it year after year—the leaves of the dark forests have fallen in hundreds of succeeding autumns, and have enriched the plains to an extent with which even the most highly cultivated lands of old countries can bear no comparison. Nature has given not only a fruitful soil but a genial climate to these regions, and magnificent crops of golden grain of all kinds must reward the exertions of those pioneers of civilization, who, at no very distant day will awaken the slumbering echoes of this hitherto sealed land.

That this description is not overdrawn, Mr. Hind's recent Report† to the Government bears testimony. He tells us that the area of cultivable land of the first quality in the valley of the Red River, and its affluent, the Assiniboine, within British territory exceeds 1,200,000 acres, and that the land adapted for grazing in the same valley exceeds 3,000,000 acres; that all crops cultivated in Canada succeed well, and often show a yield far in advance of Canadian returns; and that the climate, which is a few degrees more extreme than at Toronto, is well adapted for all the operations of husbandry. Sir W. Logan, too, tells us of the favourable geological features of the Ottawa and Lake Huron district, while in the reports of his able assistant, Mr. Murray, we find tracts of hard wood lands, sure indications of agricultural fertility, being met with throughout the entire country.

It is in this region that the government allot the free grants of lands, which certainly offer great natural advantages to the hardy settler.

The report of another of Sir W. Logan's staff, Mr. Richardson has called public attention to Anticosti, an island in the Gulf at the mouth of the St. Lawrence river. This large island, 135 miles long by 35 to 40 miles in its widest parts, and containing about 1,500,000 acres, is up to the present time totally unoccupied,—its only inhabitants, few in number, being engaged in attending the lighthouses and in hunting pursuits. This state of things will not long remain, as, thanks to the Geological Survey, we now know that the surface of the island is admirably suited to agricultural purposes. “The

* Quebec to Liverpool.....	2,500 miles.
Portland to Liverpool.....	2,750 “
Boston to Liverpool.....	2,790 “
New York to Liverpool.....	2,980 “

† Report of the Canadian Red River Exploring Expedition, dated Feb. 22, 1858.