

a dreary obstacle to settlement, there were valleys of great richness, and areas of the best land for agricultural purposes. But within the last ten years the gradually advancing waves of population have broken further and further into the interior, and it has been found that Ontario has not yet more than half developed her resources. It is indeed a province of which any Englishman may be proud. On every side he sees in railways and roads, and thriving towns and a busy trade, the proofs of a growing State; and should he visit the borders of settlement and see how rapidly civilization is encroaching on the ancient, undisturbed domain of the forest, he may be disposed to turn back contented, and say: "At length I have reached the borders of Empire."

But in sooth he has only made a stage. He is but one-third of the way across the great Dominion. At least 40 degrees of longitude intervene between him and the Western Pacific coast. It is this intermediate territory, of which it is impossible in any condensed relation to give an adequate idea, which has been handed over to the Dominion Government to govern, to develop, to populate, and to convert into an empire larger and, I think I may truthfully say, more vigorous and powerful than that of the United States. Starting from the boundaries of Ontario on our way across this tremendous territory, we come to a small square of it, which is a sort of midway station across the continent—the province of Manitoba. Compared with the province we have been considering this is like Lot's city, but a little one, containing only some 9,177,600 acres, all lying south of the latitude of London. The great prairie of middle America stretches up into this province, affording to the agriculturist fields of loam as rich as that of the Western States, but, from the position in which the province lies, in a climate which is superior. You may read in official publications the evidence of experienced farmers, who assert that the wheat and the root crops of this region excel anything they have ever seen in the best-cultivated districts of England or of any part of the American continent. Wheat weighing from 64 to 68 pounds to the bushel on