

so intense that when the clergymen depicted the horrors of the infernal regions, they dared not speak of the fire that is not quenched, lest, in order to thaw themselves out, their hearers should rush incontinent to the lake of fire and brimstone. It was said that these holy men depicted the place of everlasting punishment as a cold, icy, glacial inferno, where the mercury was always solid—a place something like that terrible palace of ice in which, with fiendish cruelty, Catharine of Russia immured her unhappy victims. For mortal sins Winnipeg was the inferno where protracted punishment was meted out by a curious course of congelation; for venal offences the northern regions were selected, where the sinner would find his agony shortened. The doom of this land of the aurora borealis had been to be always cursed and governed by monopolists. As it was in the beginning so would it be to the end. The despotism of the muskrat hunters, who acted under the charter granted by the Second Charles, was not of so galling and grinding a nature as that of the muskrat hunters who acted under the charter granted by the Canadian Parliament. In the first, they had been scourged by whips in the second by scorpions. It was a land without wood or water, without trees to shelter the unhappy exiles from the scorching heat of summer or in winter from the fierce winds which swept and howled in their agony over this desolate land. It was a land where, owing to the early frosts in the fall and the late frosts in the spring, agricultural operations were uncertain and precarious. The only crop to be cultivated with any certainty was that of English and Canadian idiots. It was a first-class country for Esquimaux, Greenlanders, Mennonites and Icelanders. It was also a first-class country for other human beings to emigrate from. Well, in November last I was somewhat reluctantly induced to visit the crater of this extinct volcano, this debateable ground, this land scorched by speculation, scourged by grasshoppers speculators and syndicators, this paradise of projectors, promoters and prodigal sons. We had an exceedingly pleasant journey, and it was somewhere said that we travelled in a very humble and unpretentious fashion being desirous of realising the hardships which might attend the hardy settlers on their way to the land of the setting sun. If all who make that journey do it in as pleasant and as comfortable way as we did, they can have no reasonable ground for complaint. The weather was exceedingly fine, although the season was somewhat late. We passed through portions of many of the northern States of the Union, and so far as one could judge in the cars, we were forced to come to the conclusion that the soil of our own prairie country was superior to that of the United States. We also visited some of the large cities, among them the famous city of Chicago. Some years ago this city was described by a western poet in the following terms:—

" Oh, Sodom was some and Gomorrhah was great,  
And in Venice each man's an lago,  
But the towns of the plain were free from all stain,  
Compared with that of Chicago."

We did not see this wonderful wickedness, but we saw many proofs of the intelligence, wealth, ability and enterprise of the inhabitants of that marvellous city. We crossed the headwaters of many of the great rivers of the continent, the Mississippi, the Missouri, the Columbia, the St. Lawrence, the Saskatchewan, the Assiniboine, Red River and others. The weather was exceedingly fine, and for 14 days we carefully and minutely examined our magnificent heritage and the parts thereunto adjacent almost always at the rate of 40 miles, and sometimes at the rate of 60 miles an hour. Our view was consequently somewhat of the birds-eye character, but notwithstanding the hurried nature of our visit, we were able to take in many of the broader outlines and features of the country, and from information which we received from many gentlemen with whom we were acquainted we were enabled to arrive at certain conclusions with regard to its

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present position and future prospects. We spent a portion of two days in the famous city of Winnipeg, which, like all the Western States, is one of magnificent distances. Of the future growth and prosperity of the city, I think there can be no doubt. It is surrounded by an agricultural country which, when it passes out of the hands of speculators into those of actual settlers, will prove one of the richest in the world, and when its farmers adopt the system of mixed farming instead of confining themselves to one product, as at present, their success must be assured. This statement will apply to the North-West generally. The foundations of Winnipeg have been laid broad and deep, and many of its public and private edifices would be creditable to any city on the continent. When its waste places are filled up, it will be one of the foremost cities of the Dominion. It is the centre of a colossal railroad system, which of itself will secure its prosperity. It is inhabited by an active, energetic and enterprising people, who will learn wisdom and moderation in the future from lessons of the past. Our reception was of a most pleasing and kindly character. We had a most interesting and entertaining interview with His Grace Archbishop Taché, who gave us much information concerning the past history of the country, its present condition and future prospects. We had heard much from the representatives of the Farmers' Union of the despotism which was said to prevail in the syndicatorial regions. It was once said that the Government of Louis XIV was a despotism tempered by epigrams. It appeared to us that the despotism of His Majesty, Norquay I., was tempered by a public opinion still more lively and epigrammatic. Under our English system, Her Majesty's Attorney General is one of the most important functionaries. As justice constituted is the state, so the Attorney General is the special custodian and guardian of its interests. From time immemorial his function has been to see that no offender goes unwhipt of justice. Active and zealous in the discharge of his duties, this most kindly and genial gentleman, for such I believe him to be, performed this function not wisely but too well. A public meeting was held, and it was decided that sauce for the goose was sauce for the gander, and that what was good for the unhappy prisoner could not be bad for the Attorney General. You will remember that during the great French revolution a terrible cry arose in the streets of Paris of the aristocrats to the lamp post. Well, we were told that, on the day preceding our arrival, a great cry arose in the streets of Winnipeg, of the Attorney General *à la lanterne*. With a wise discretion, which proved the highest order of military ability, he made a strategical movement not unlike the famous retreat of Moreau from the Black Forest, from the land of the meteor flag to that of the stars and stripes, and by these means saved himself from an unpleasant exaltation. The next morning we left Winnipeg about 7 a.m. and reached Regina about 5 p.m. All this day we passed over a fine prairie country, and everything we saw was new to us who came from the older Provinces. The Bell farm is one of the modern agricultural marvels. We saw everywhere the tracks of the countless herds of buffaloes which once wandered over these vast solitudes; now their white skeletons dot the plains. Innumerable prairie chickens surround every wheat stack. The lakes and water-courses were literally teeming with geese and ducks and other wildfowl. On our return, we saw a herd of thousands of cattle with its attendant cowboys, on its way from Montana, to be shipped by the Canadian Pacific Railway to Chicago. The animals seemed in excellent condition. We saw many Indians who seemed to be well fed and clothed. We were told that they were gradually acquiring the arts of agriculture, and would soon be self-sustaining. Regina, like Brandon, Moose Jaw, Calgary, Medicine Hat, Portage la Prairie, and all the other cities of the plain, is surrounded by excellent land, admirably suited