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old woods" stood, with sombre aspect, we have now at least, one fine city, with a multitude of towns, villages, and rural settlements, all presenting a most smiling and prosperous appearance; and still, the woods are falling to make room for the cultivation of the various vegetable productions, necessary for the support of animal life.

Our forefathers, when they would visit distant settlements for business (pleasure was out of the question), were obliged to travel for the most part, on foot, often without even the convenience of roads, trudging over uneven paths, or finding their way by "blazed" trees, and either carrying heavy loads upon their backs, or pushing and paddling them up streams in canoes. We now have a country intersected, in all directions, with excellent common roads, together with over 100 miles of railway, affording easy and comfortable facilities for travelling from settlement to settlement either on business or pleasure—the labour being performed by the faithful horse, or the gigantic power of steam.

Seldom could the early settlers hear

"Any kind endearing report,"

from the far-off homes of their youth, and even after a letter, containing such earnestly desired intelligence was received in Halifax, it was weeks, often months in reaching its destination in some back settlement. Now we can hear from the land which we call by the endearing name of "home," almost weekly, while in a day or two communications go from one end of the country to the other.

Few vessels (except in the time of war) ever either visited our shores or sailed from them, in those early times. Now stately ships glide gracefully and "floating palaces", propelled by steam power, speed swiftly into and out of the sparkling waters of our commodious harbours, over which the bark canoe of the red man was formerly paddled, by his own hand.

Seldom could our forefathers hear the truths of the ever blessed gospel of Christ, enunciated by a minister of that gospel. In order to hear the word of God they were obliged frequently to travel many miles, through the forest, and upon such wretched roads and paths as have already been described. We can hear those precious truths which are designed to lead souls to heaven, at least every sabbath. *They* were often ready to perish for lack of the heavenly manna and the waters of eternal life: *we* "sit at a full board", and enjoy the "fullness of the gospel feast."

The invaluable blessings of learning were almost entirely beyond the reach of our forefathers; but now the pure streams which emanate from a sound and philosophical system of education, are flowing abundantly through the land, and all can drink of their refreshing waters. Oh! when we contrast our condition with that of those who preceded us on this portion of the world's great stage of action, in regard to the "means of grace" and the blessings of education, let us thank God from hearts swelling with gratitude, that "the lines are fallen to us in pleasant places, yea, that we have a goodly heritage." At the same time let us awaken to a full sense of the weight of responsibility which these precious privileges impose upon us, and let us take care to improve them to the glory of God and the good of our own souls, that they prove not so many "ponderous weights," to sink us into the lowest depth of perdition.