

where he gives an account of a poor German family at Sparrow Lake, who were in great want. Now, there are few places, either in town or country, free from cases of extreme destitution, and it is not my present intention to inquire into the causes of such poverty, but I consider it unfair to write an account of a visit to a place, and then only to give the dark side. We have rich as well poor; we have the noble as well as the mean; those enjoying all the comforts of life, as well as a few who are not so highly favoured.

A lady once remarked, on hearing that I resided at Muskoka, that she thought that the people there were very poor, and also that they were so dirty that they would not wash the dishes, but got the cats and dogs to lick them clean.

Another person told me that he had conversed with a friend who saw a man returning from Muskoka, and he stated that he met a dog so weak with hunger that it could not bark; and it looked in his face as much as to say, "O take me with you out of this fearful place." While I would not hold out an inducement for all newly arrived immigrants to come to Muskoka, yet I believe that if the right class will only come, they will do well. Here each actual settler of 18 years of age and upwards will get 100 acres of land as a free grant from the Government; and if they have a little means, and are industrious, they will soon have comfortable homes, and become independent. We have three Paisley men in our township, all doing well; one of them owns 828 acres of excellent land.

The great mistake that some immigrants make is this: They settle down upon inferior lots on the road, and expend their means there in preference to going back a mile or two into the bush, where they might have good soil that would sustain their families. There is an abundance of good land in the Muskoka district; only let the settler make a wise selection. It is worthy of notice that the population of the district has doubled itself during the past year.

The Government has kindly given a grant of \$35,000 towards improving the navigation in this section, so that in spring, Locks will be built connecting Lake Rosseau with Lake Muskoka, so that the beautiful little steamer "Wenonah" (*i.e.* first-born) may be enabled to ply between the village of Gravenhurst on Lake Muskoka, and the village of Rosseau on Lake Rosseau, thereby precipitating the communication into the interior of this rapidly improving district.

A railway is about to be constructed between Washago and Gravenhurst, called the "Simcoe and Muskoka Railroad," thereby giving us direct railroad and water communication between Toronto and Bracebridge, the future county seat. For the information of intending immigrants, I might state that in winter the route is by Northern R. R. from Toronto to Barrie, thence to Bracebridge by mail stage, which goes daily on the arrival of the morning train.

Mr. Charles W. Lomnt, the Crown Land Agent, resides at Bracebridge.

Yours, very sincerely,

THOS. McMURRAY,
Rece of Draper.

CANADIAN FRUIT.

A resident of the Niagara District, in the Province of Ontario, who has recently visited England, writes the following communication to the Editor of the *Ontario Farmer*, an agricultural journal published monthly at Toronto:—

The fact that there is a large portion of Canada well adapted to fruit growing is becoming daily more manifest, and the good reputation of Canadian