

OUR TABLE.

THE world has for ages looked on in wonder at the rapidity with which the Isles of Britain have won their way to empire. Themselves scarce more than specks upon the measureless ocean which they sway, and comparatively insignificant as they appear, beside the continents of the old and new worlds, it would seem as if their language was itself the talisman of conquest, as the genius of their people is the spell to render conquest useful. With steady and unwavering speed, they have progressed in greatness, until, at the present day, we may look upon them as the nucleus around which the grandeur of the world is clustered, and from every clime the people point to England as to their home.

There is no more legitimate fountain of national prosperity than the colonization of new and fertile countries; and to this source is mainly attributable the unprecedented splendour to which the British empire has attained; and in proportion to the enlightenment, vigour and success of her colonial policy, will be the respect in which she is herself held among the nations of the earth. Independently of the markets which they form for the manufactures of the parent country, and the inexhaustible mines of wealth which they supply, in the natural and necessary produce of the earth, they will ever be immense fields for the industry of the surplus population of the metropolitan states, which, without some such outlet, would, long ere this, have been so overpeopled, that their inhabitants could not have existed in their own fertile but narrow isles. In addition to this, the colonists, looking upon themselves as part and parcel of the empire, retain through ages the pride of birth, which particularly belongs to those who can point to the long page of unsullied history, and say that their country and their fathers stand distinguished there; and these feelings, nursed from generation to generation among the young, grow with their growth and strengthen with their strength, ever preserving a phalanx of noble hearts, which, wherever a foeman dares to strike, are ready to assert the honour of their fatherland.

A liberal encouragement to emigration, as being necessary to the prosperity of her provinces, should never, then, be neglected by those who rule the colonial destinies of England, resting assured, as they may well do, that whatever outlay is so incurred, can never fail of securing a large return—it being, in fact, only extending, and rendering available, the Imperial dominions. It is even of comparatively little consequence how remote the colonies which may be so founded—for towns and cities will there spring into existence, and the wilderness will learn to “blossom as a rose.” Commerce will there find its way, and the parent state will derive from them all the benefits of an unshackled trade; and, by imparting to them her experience in arts and arms, they

will speedily become not unworthy scions of the mighty isles to which they must look for their nationality.

From emigration and colonization in general, we shall be forgiven, should we briefly turn to the American provinces, looking upon them as more especially lying within our legitimate sphere; and we would, in all sincerity, as far as our limited ability permits, impress alike upon government and people, the necessity of encouraging, by every means, the influx of a trustworthy and industrious population, whose energy alone is wanting to develop the immense capabilities of these extensive countries, and to change their weary wastes into gardens of bloom and beauty.

The magnificent seas which traverse the Canadas in particular, from the ocean to their remotest bounds, fit them alike for agricultural industry or commercial enterprise; and the myriads of acres of fertile lands, yet untouched, on their shores, are of themselves sufficient for all the uses of their inhabitants, however dense their population may in the course of ages become.

It is indeed too true, that the events of the last year are not calculated to add to the esteem in which the Canadas have hitherto been held. The outrages of which their frontiers have too often been the scene, are, we fear, sufficient to deter many from seeking in them that prosperity and happiness, which cannot be obtained unless they are secured from the intermeddling of their officious neighbours. This misfortune, however, can only have a very temporary influence upon their condition. It need not be denied, that until very lately, (perhaps until now) the statesmen of England have never attached their true importance to the Canadian provinces, and they have been often neglected among the manifold subjects which demanded the attention of the Imperial Government. But this can scarcely be the case in future. They have now been forced prominently forward, and the national honour demands that measures should be taken effectually to guard them against the encroachments of those, who, whether falsely deeming that we require their aid, or only aiming at enriching themselves by the spoils of the land, must be alike taught that we are the only judges of our own wants, as we are able and willing to defend ourselves from outrage and aggression; they must learn that **WE ARE FREE**, and that we know it; and that if, by a high sense of national and individual honour, the Canadian people have been so far preserved from being betrayed into revenging the injuries and insults they have so grievously felt, they must not calculate upon a continuance of such lofty forbearance—holding themselves, as our injured countrymen may now do, wherever the aggressors are really known, at full liberty to visit those who wrong them with the most direct vengeance.