

or lonely traveller of other and dearer scenes far away in Eastern climes,—scenes of early youth and childhood, which, in all probability, he shall never see again. Full many a time does he shed a tear over the memory of the past, as the fond associations of other days arise in fancy before him,

Were we to select the northern route, we should proceed across the plains from Winnipeg City to Fort Ellice, which is situated at the junction of the Assiniboine and Qu'Appelle rivers. This fort is built of timber, surrounded by a deep trench and *chevaux de frise*, like almost every other fort in the North-west. The only stone forts in this immense region are Stone Fort and Fort Garry, in the Red River Settlement. There are bastions at the angles of the fortifications of all the forts, and the walls are pierced so as to facilitate the use of the rifle, if attacked by the Indians. Proceeding over the Touchwood Hills, the next depot is Fort Carlton. The scenery along the route is agreeably diversified. The countless lakes, rivers, groves, birds, and wild animals, are sources of never-failing interest. The undulations of the country are exceedingly agreeable to the eye, without being inconvenient to the traveller. Proceeding by the Redberry Lake, the next station worthy of note is Fort Pitt, which is beautifully situated on the north branch of the Saskatchewan. The next station of importance after leaving Fort Pitt is Fort Edmonton,—the pride of the Saskatchewan. It is situated close to an immense forest, on the confines of one of the most magnificent plains in America, where the prairie and forest literally kiss each other. It possesses hundreds of sites well adapted for mills and factories, whilst its coal-beds rival those of Brazil or Nova Scotia. This useful mineral frequently protrudes along the banks of rivers and elsewhere in seams more than eight feet in thickness. Travellers cook their provisions with it, and the Hudson Bay officials use no other fuel. In the Red-River country, except along the banks of the rivers, the tall prairie grass is sole monarch of the treeless plains, but in the Saskatchewan the

districts between the rivers are frequently adorned with groves of poplar, beech, fir, and white oak. It is worthy of remark, that wheresoever there are groves there are springs of living waters, and *vice versa*. There are many salt lakes in these immense regions; and as a rule their shores are totally devoid of trees and shrubs. Prairie chickens, swans, sandhill cranes, geese, ducks, and pigeons abound on the Saskatchewan. The country is well stocked with elks, moose, deer, and caribou. Buffalo roam in countless thousands over the plains, and are still, as in days gone by, the hope and dependence of the red man; so that there is no scarcity of game. Wild fruits are also very abundant.

The Hudson Bay officials at Fort Edmonton (and elsewhere) are very unkind, ungenerous, and inhospitable. They look upon every emigrant and traveller as their enemy, and seldom fail to treat him as such. The prices of goods at this fort are very high,—flour \$50 a barrel, tea \$1.50 and sugar 60 cents a pound, and all other necessaries are proportionally dear.

Leaving Fort Edmonton, we should proceed by lake St. Anne, the Pembina, McLeod, and Athabasca rivers to Jasper House. After recruiting for a day or two, we should ascend the mountains to Cow's Lake, and descend thence to Moose Lake, which is a mere expansion of the Fraser River. Proceeding thence by Tête Jeune Cache, Traverse, and Lake La Hache to the famous Cariboo waggon-road, we could ascend by it to the gold mines or descend to the Fraser. Proceeding along the banks of this river, or across the country, to the town of Yale, we could descend thence by steamer to the Pacific Ocean *via* New Westminster; distance from Jasper House, about 700 miles.

We have now traversed the great Saskatchewan and the "land of gold." We stand on the genial shores of the Pacific seas. Looking back in fancy over the wide prairies of the Saskatchewan, we feel inclined to make a few additional remarks concerning it. Its rivers possess beautiful pebbly beds, and are all fordable. Rising