

fabulous as the price assigned to it ; and though some of the fish that were enumerated are scarce or extinct, our rivers and our seas still contain the elements of untold wealth, while the coal mines alluded to by the " Proprietary " have recently fulfilled the golden visions in which their possessor appears to have vainly indulged.

In 1860, however, an unexpected event once more attracted the attention of the world to Nova Scotia and its resources. The startling announcement that gold mines had been discovered in a colony situated, not like Australia, at the antipodes, but within a few days' sail of Britain, led the scientific world, as well as the public generally, to make enquiries as to the climate and capabilities of this province.

Unfortunately the latest information respecting it was the most unfavorable and the least reliable of all the descriptions that have ever been given of Nova Scotia.

The gratification felt by us at the visit of the Prince of Wales, was succeeded by a feeling of annoyance at the malicious misrepresentations and abuse of the province and its inhabitants, that appeared in the columns of the *London Times*. It was apparent that its description of Nova Scotia must have been prepared before the writer had arrived among us ; and we all felt that it embodied and exaggerated all the prejudices that had so long prevailed, and which were not the less injurious for being unfounded. To answer these attacks was of course a useless undertaking. The world was not likely to listen to any explanation or defence, and all that we could say would have been unavailing to remove the impression that loyalty was the only redeeming trait in a colony, the inhabitants of which were unaccustomed not only to the luxuries, but also to many of the comforts of civilization.

Probably at no time in the history of the Province were its inhabitants more sensible of the injustice that was done to its climate and its resources, or more desirous of availing themselves of any opportunity of protesting against these misrepresentations. Fortunately an unexpected opportunity was afforded us of doing tardy justice to Nova Scotia. The Imperial Commissioners for the International Exhibition sent to the Colonial governments in March, 1861, an invitation to have their respective provinces represented, and with scarcely an exception it was gladly accepted, and heartily responded to. It is to be regretted that the notice was issued almost a year too late, and that Nova Scotia, like most of her sister colonies, was somewhat tardy in commencing to prepare for an undertaking for which ample time was peculiarly required. On August 6th, 1861, a