

It is much to be lamented that this colony, one of the finest possessed by England, should have been utterly unknown to its Parent State, or even, in a great measure, to its own inhabitants. The rocky and sterile appearance of the south-eastern coast may create a prejudice in the minds of those who approach its shores for the first time, which would speedily be dispelled by a view of the fine intervale land of the St. John river, the fertile marshes surrounding the head of the Bay of Fundy, or the rich alluvial tracts bordering on the Restigouche river. A description of these districts, so well adapted for agricultural pursuits, will be found under the heads of the several counties to which they respectively belong; and we may pass over the rocky margin bounding the Province, to speak of the extensive forests covering a very large portion of the interior. Timber of every description is found in vast plenty, and in the most favorable situations for reaching a market. We cannot describe the forests of this Province better than by quoting Mr. Macgregor's description of the splendid appearance of the British North American forests: "In Europe, in Asia, in Africa, and even in South America, the primeval trees, how much soever their magnitude may arrest admiration, do not grow in the promiscuous style that prevails in the great general character of the North American woods. Many varieties of the pine, intermingled with birch, maple, beech, oak, and numerous other tribes, branch luxuriantly over the banks of lakes and rivers—extend in stately grandeur along the plains, and stretch proudly up to the very summits of the mountains. It is impossible to exaggerate the autumnal beauty of these forests; nothing under Heaven can be compared to its effulgent grandeur. Two or three frosty nights in the decline of autumn, transform the boundless verdure of a whole empire into every possible tint of brilliant scarlet, rich violet, every shade of blue and brown, vivid crimson and glittering yellow. The stern, inexorable fir tribes alone maintain their eternal sombre green. All others, in mountains or in valleys, burst into the most glorious vegetable beauty, and exhibit the most splendid and enchanting panorama on earth."

Along the high roads, on the banks of the numerous rivers, and on the sea-girt boundaries, the axe of the settler has been at work, and its results will be found under the separate heads into which the several subjects of this volume have been arranged.

Taking the Province throughout, it is generally level. In the principal part of it, bounding on the Bay of Fundy, and for twenty miles inland, there are a few hills of considerable size. At this distance from the shore the land becomes undulating, until beyond the Tobique, and from thence to the Canadian boundary, it may almost be considered as mountainous; but the hills are not of great height, nor the acclivities generally so steep as to preclude cultivation and pasturage to a considerable extent. As we return from the northward, there is almost an uninterrupted level, extending from the Restigouche to the Nova Scotia boundary, and forming a strong and decided contrast with the Bay of Fundy coast. Here, while the shore line presents the fertile corn field, the busy saw mill, and the frequent harbour, the interior is still, except where it has been ravaged by fire, a deep and almost unbroken forest. Along this coast, as fine wheat is produced as in any part of Britain, as was proved by the samples exhibited at the Provincial Industrial Exhibition in 1853, many of which weighed upwards of sixty pounds to the bushel. What a field is here presented to the industry of man, in his war upon the wilderness? What a scope for the employment

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