

PLEASANT HOURS

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK

ENLARGED SERIES.—VOL. IV.

TORONTO, APRIL 19, 1884.

No. 8.

PROVINCE OF MANITOBA.*

I.

THE Province of Manitoba is situated in the very centre of the continent, being midway between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans on the East and West, and the Arctic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico on the North and South.

sources, in the sinews of her material might, is peer of any power on the earth."

The summer mean temperature of Manitoba is 67° to 76°, which is about the same as the State of New York. But in winter the thermometer sinks to 30° and 40° and sometimes 50° below zero. The atmosphere, however, is very bright and dry, and the sensa-

The climate drawbacks are occasional storms and "blizzards," and there are sometimes summer frosts. But the liability to these is not greater than in many parts of Canada or the United States as far south as New York.

Very little snow falls on the prairies, the average depth being about eighteen inches, and buffaloes and the native horses graze out of doors all winter.

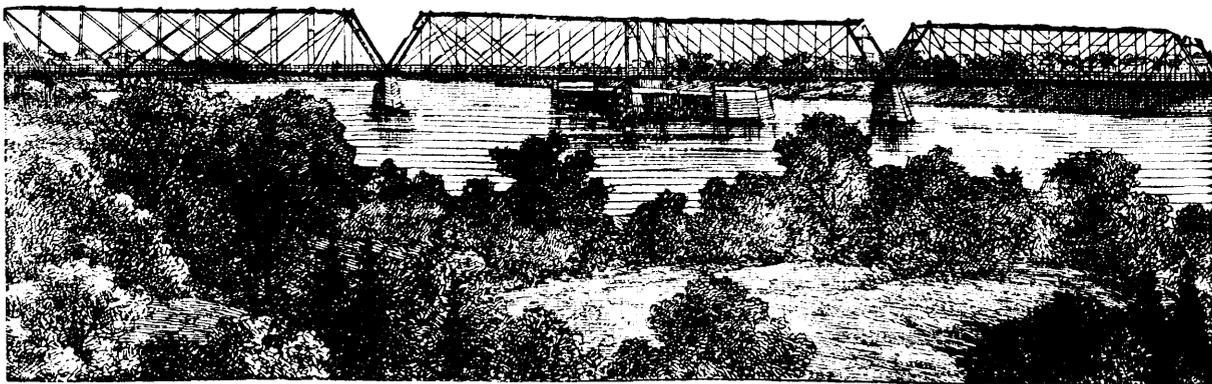
rich that it does not require the addition of manure for years after the first breaking of the prairie, and in particular places where the black loam is very deep, it is practically inexhaustible.

All the cereals grow and ripen in great abundance. Wheat is especially adapted both to the soil and climate. The wheat grown is very heavy, being



WINNIPEG IN 1882.

The southern frontier of Manitoba is a little to the south of Paris, and the line being continued would pass through the south of Germany. Manitoba has the same summer suns as that favoured portion of Europe. To use the eloquent words of Lord Dufferin: "Manitoba may be regarded as the keystone of that mighty arch of sister provinces which spans the continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Canada, the owner of half a continent, in the magnitude of her possessions, in the wealth of her re-



LOUISE BRIDGE, ACROSS RED RIVER, WINNIPEG.

tion of cold is not so unpleasant as that of a temperature at the freezing point in a humid atmosphere.

Manitoba and the North-West Territory of Canada are among the absolutely healthiest countries on the globe, and most pleasant to live in. There is no malaria, and there are no diseases arising out of, or peculiar to, either the province or the climate.

The snow goes away and ploughing begins from the 1st to the latter end of April, a fortnight earlier than in the Ottawa region.

The soil is a rich, deep, black mould or loam, resting on a deep and very tenacious clay subsoil. It is among the richest, if not the richest, soil in the world, and especially adapted to the growth of wheat. The soil is so

from 62 to 66 lbs. per bushel; the average yield, with fair farming, being 25 bushels to the acre. There are much larger yields reported, but there are also smaller, the latter being due to defective farming.

Potatoes and all kinds of field and garden roots grow to large size and in great abundance. Tomatoes and melons ripen in the open air. Hops and

flax are at home on the prairies. All the small fruits, such as currants, strawberries, raspberries, etc., are found in abundance. But it is not yet established that the country is adapted for the apple or pear. These fruits, however, do grow at St. Paul; and many think they will in Manitoba.

For grazing and cattle raising the facilities are unbounded. The prairie

* In consequence of the deep interest felt in this subject, we reprint a small part of an extensive series of articles on the North-West which appeared last year in the *Canadian Methodist Magazine*.—ED. PLEASANT HOURS.