

and lies on a level but dry bottom between the Assiniboine, which here joins the Red River from the west, and the main stream. The Pembina branch railway joins the main line from Selkirk, about two miles apparently below the junction of the river, where it crosses the river by a fine iron bridge, which, when completed, will have accommodation for wagon and foot as well as railway passengers. Between the river and the railway depot is abundant room for the Canadian Pacific freight houses and shops of the future. The railroad with the two rivers forms an irregular quadrangle embracing the city on three sides. From the station to Fort Garry, the old Hudson Bay trading post, stretches Main Street, nearly two miles long and lined for the greater part of its course with business blocks, many of them brick and of very imposing appearance. The city slopes off irregularly to the river and prairie on either side in residence streets, that look raw enough for the present, but promise well for the future.

The whole city has a new unfinished look, like the stage of a theatre behind the curtain when a scene is being shifted. The old picturesque landmarks are in course of obliteration, and the new city that is growing up on their ruins has not taken definite form. Fort Garry, the most conspicuous feature in the old town, has been enveloped by new buildings, and the old wall surrounding it has been torn down to furnish material for the foundations of brick blocks. Fine steam mills have arisen on the plateau below, and a substantial iron wagon bridge is spanning the Assiniboine at the very gates of the fort. The prairie west of the fort is taking shape as the popular residence section, and many fine brick dwellings are rising upon the bank of the river and the adjoining plain. All the residence part of the city presents an air of thrift and prosperity, and there is a notable absence of squalid shanties. The public buildings and recent business blocks are solidly built of brick. The only part of the city that retains anything of its ancient aspect is the French Catholic suburb of St. Boniface, across the Red River from the main town. This is the episcopal residence of Bishop Tache, whose authority extends over the whole Northwest, the seat of St. Boniface college, and several associated religious and educational institutions.