

tree, every curve of the meandering brook, is associated with and recalls the image of some loved companion of early days, long parted with in the struggles of life, but still dear to memory. What though affection may mislead the judgment? What though these pictures are seen through a poetic mirage that affects his vision only—still a thousand times rather would I see this error than the other. We can pardon a mistake of the head for which the heart is accountable, but it is impossible to have compassion for the pitiful meanness which is ashamed of its country. Everybody despises the poltroon who seeks to raise himself by disparaging the land he lives in.

But it is gratifying to feel that our Province requires from its sons no devotion which is not amply justified by its character and capabilities. No Province in the Dominion has a greater variety of industrial resources. None has its resources, whatever they may be, in a position so available.

The sea which surrounds us on all sides, except where a narrow neck of land connects us with the continent, indents our coasts with bays and harbors, extending far inland and bringing every part of the Province within a few miles of navigable water. This, of itself, determines to a large extent the maritime character of our industry. From the forests scattered along the shores of these inland waters—forests which would have grown and perished but for the facilities which the waters afford—are fashioned the ships which form so important a feature in the business of our people—ships whose sails whiten every sea, and whose earnings create an ever recurring stream of wealth pouring into the towns and villages of our sea girt Province. Then, again, in many parts of the country, vast deposits of coal jut out on the sea-board, presenting in the position the most favorable for distribution and exportation of that commodity, which more than any other in these Northern latitudes, is indispensable for comfort, but which, indispensable though it be, is found in no other Province or State on the Atlantic sea-board.

Then, again, the seas which line our shores afford an enormous area from which our people gather a crop, never requiring to be sown, yet always ready, in the proper season to be reaped—a crop which, in the year just past, besides furnishing directly a large amount of food for our own people, gave us an export worth three and a half millions (\$3,500,000) to send abroad to be exchanged for the productions of other countries, making freights for our ships and employment for our seamen. In a country thus rejoicing in the elements which create and sustain a maritime population it is pleasing to feel that our people have had the energy to use their privileges. We can, with just pride, point to the fact that Nova Scotia is at this moment, in proportion to population, the largest ship-owning country in the world.

I have not alluded to our gold mines, because I do not attach, and I never have attached, any considerable importance to this interest. There are few countries whose gold mines have been of much value to them, beyond the attraction they offer to the roving and adventurous, who become a really useful population only when their energies are directed to other and less hazardous pursuits. But the great industry which remains is the one to which your attention is more immedi-

ately invited by the Exhibition of to-day. The men who live by the land in Nova Scotia far outnumber those who live by the sea. 50,000 men are returned in the census of 1871 as cultivators of the soil, while the combined numbers of those who go down to the sea in ships, and of those who spread their nets for fish, do not exceed 19,000, the seamen counting about eleven thousand, and the fishermen about eight thousand; the farmers, therefore, are more than twice, nearly three times, as numerous as the aggregate of both the other classes together.

If they do not figure so largely in the table of exports, it is because the productions of the farm are largely consumed on the farm, or, at all events, within the Province. It is only by looking at the returns of the census that we can measure the fair relative proportion which subsists between the products of the other industries in which our people are engaged, and of those of the 50,000 families occupied in cultivating the soil. Applying this test with as much accuracy as the defects of the tables in the census of 1861 will permit, we find that in actual value the product of the soil in 1860, the year before, was three times as much as the product of the fisheries of the same year, and this, too, without taking into account the increase of live stock—an element the importance of which will be obvious when it is considered that the returns show we had in that year an amount of live stock worth in all over eleven millions of dollars.

So that, while our farmers are vastly more numerous than our fishermen, it is pleasing to find that, man for man, they each year add more to the actual production of what sustains life than even that valuable part of the population which gives us the means of importing each year three and a half millions worth of foreign produce.

It is a happy peculiarity of the Province,—it is a peculiarity which will always preserve it from the wide-spread disaster which occasionally befalls some countries, that we are not dependent for subsistence upon any one single branch of industry. We are large ship-owners, and yet, when freights are low, the country bears the depression without great suffering. We are extensively engaged in the mining and exporting of coal, and still when a paralysis of industry among our neighbors suddenly deprives us of our best market, we feel the depression, but it does not assume the proportions of a calamity. A failure in the fishery largely diminishes our power of exportation and consequently our capacity to buy and pay for the productions of other countries, and still we have borne, and can bear, that misfortune without general suffering. Even though our mainstay, the products of the soil, or some of them, should fail in any year, we are not altogether prostrate. The reason is, that with the variety of our industries, there are always some, generally the greater part, which succeed, and these can share the burthen which would paralyse a single industry, if it fell entirely upon it. We are in this respect favored beyond countries with a single resource.

I spent two years administering the affairs of one of the best agricultural Provinces in the world. There the vast prairie stretches out in every direction as far as the eye can reach. A soil of the richest mould, deposited during a long series of ages, in the bottoms of lakes from which the waters have receded, contains the elements of fertility in unbound-

ed profusion. There the immigrant, the moment he sets foot on the ground, finds a farm prepared for him such as no amount of toil, no exercise of skill, no expenditure of money, could enable him to create here, even on a limited scale. I do not stay to detail the drawbacks of this splendid possession; I do not dwell on the difficulties with which the settler in that country has to contend, and which are dark shades on the picture of which I give you only the bright colors. It is enough to say that the Great God who controls the universe never showers all His blessings on one country, and never exempts even the most favored portions of His creation from the difficulties and troubles with which the lot of humanity is beset. I allude to the Prairie Province now only to show the disadvantage incident to a country whose resources, however great, are such as create but a single industry.

Some two months ago the newspapers reported the invasion of that Province by a plague of grasshoppers; happily they passed over without doing much harm, but I can well recall the time when a similar invasion took place while I was there. A thick cloud, darkish grey, half transparent, overshadowed the land. It could be seen moving steadily in one direction, and, from its lower strata, myriads of these tiny insects descended to the ground, clothing it with a moving mass of chirruping, ravenous vermin, which devoured every green thing before them. When I looked at the desolation which followed in their wake I was able to appreciate the perils to which a people of one industry are exposed, who might see the fruits of the labor of a year disappear in a day. They had no seas to supply them with fish, no forests to be shaped into ships; no coals to be exchanged for bread, no commerce; no manufactures. Looking at this picture, how thankful we ought to be that we live in a country blessed by a variety of industry. Truly the "lines have fallen to us in pleasant places." We should never forget that it is to the diversity of her occupations that Nova Scotia is largely indebted for the steadiness and permanence of her progress.

It is not long since the idea prevailed—that whatever else might succeed in Nova Scotia, Agriculture had but a slender chance. I can easily understand how such impressions might have prevailed among those who formed their opinions from the forbidding features of our "iron bound" coasts. Suppose a native of the Prairie Province to come here and see the labor it takes to bring our land to the condition in which he finds his ready to his hand? suppose him to witness, as I did, the other day, on the other side of the harbor, the process of hewing a garden out of the solid rock, he would raise his hands and eyes in amazement at the folly which would stay in Nova Scotia, while whole Provinces were inviting settlement with not a rock to obstruct their cultivation. But his judgment would be wrong in many ways. In the first place, he would be wrong in taking that part of the rocky coast, to which I have referred, to be any fair specimen of the Province, and, even laying aside that view for the moment, I may say that the little garden made with much toil and expense is one of the varied resources on which the owner relies for his livelihood, and with the other means open to him in a country situate like ours, he probably possesses as many of the comforts and luxuries which make life enjoyable, and certainly