

for hope and the grounds for fear inclines decidedly to the favourable side. Winnipeg, if it is to remain the chief centre of this vast grain region, stands no bad chance of becoming a Northern Chicago. Already she illustrates by her improvements that union of all the appliances of civilized invention with the virgin fertility of the wilderness which has been reserved for the railway age, and her Press shows that her intellectual development is not likely to lag behind her material prosperity. Nearly fifty thousand immigrants went into the North-West last year. The prospect in the main is unquestionably fair: this seems to be the real fact, to go beyond which is worse than useless. Mere mischief is done by word-painters, with their overcoloured delineations. If the settler is told beforehand that he is going to a land of perfect happiness, where there is no difficulty to be encountered, he is sure to be disappointed, and his disappointment will find a voice. Even the British rustic has sense enough to trust the genuine utterance of a single man of his own class more than the rodomontades of any number of touters. In a speech appended to our "Annual Register," the Governor-General draws what may be called an after-dinner picture of the North-West, pouring scorn on the spiritless and skulking few who have turned away unsuccessful from a land which, according to His Excellency, presents not a single disadvantage, being covered with a network of wood, containing plenty of coal, having by nature admirable drainage, with perfectly wholesome water, and combining all the accommodation which a good settler can desire, with a rate of wages for builders equal to the pay of a colonel in the British army. The unhappy objects of His Excellency's denunciation, if they dared to lift their eyes to angry Jove, might plead that the hardships bravely borne by the denizens of the drawing-room at Rideau, or even by a tourist of quality travelling over the summer prairie in a Railway President's Palace Car, were an imperfect measure of those encountered by a poor settler with his family under canvas in a bracing and invigorating temperature of forty below zero.

Of the immigration, the bulk, as from the first seemed probable, is Canadian or American, much the larger portion, so far,