

In Lingwick we have a settlement of Highlanders from the Western Islands, about eighty families, whose numbers and wealth are steadily on the increase. At first these settlers had to encounter serious hardships and difficulties. They came to the country poor people, with almost nothing to fit them out for the laborious life of settlers. They, from time to time, however, obtained important assistance from their Protestant and Presbyterian brethren in this country. A faithful and devoted ordained Missionary of the Free Church was for some time stationed among them. Year after year they have been steadily advancing in prosperity. The helpless children have grown up to be strong and healthy men and women. New families have been formed, and new farms occupied. Although many of them are still poor, and find it difficult to get on, still the most part are unquestionably in comfortable circumstances, and every year is increasing their store. The Company very wisely allocated a piece of land for a Church and Manse, with a glebe for the Minister. We only wish they had been a little more liberal in this respect, and that their agent would at once grant a deed for the lots which have been acquired. A good frame Church and Manse have been built, and, with the exception of a small sum in process of liquidation, are free of debt. Although they have for some time been destitute of a fixed pastor, it is yet pleasing to know that, the elders have kept up meetings for prayer and mutual edification, both in the Church and in private houses. There are also four Sabbath Schools in the Township, conducted by the members of the Church, in which the young are thoroughly taught from the Word of God and the Shorter Catechism. There is a prospect that ere long a faithful pastor will be settled over this people.

Having had pleasant and profitable counsel with the esteemed elders of Lingwick, and having received at their hands most courteous hospitality, we were carried forward on our journey into still more uninhabited parts. Our destination was now the township of Winslow. In this district there are about 200 families of Highlanders, from the western islands of Scotland. They were sent out from the estate of the late Sir James Matheson. Land at nominal rates has been granted to them by Government. The land here is not so good as it is in some other sections of the country. There are rather too much of hill and dale and slaty limestone rock, with intrusive masses of granite and trap. Still the soil is fertile, and for the more hardy cereals, such as barley and oats, is very suitable, and in hay it yields an abundant crop. There are good streams suitable for water-power, on which, with little difficulty, mills may easily be erected to supply the wants of the settlers. The people of this place were chiefly employed as fishermen at home, and hence had very little acquaintance with agriculture. Knowing no language but Gaelic, their general education and culture was much restricted, and indeed almost neglected. For the most part they were also very poor, having brought nothing with them from home suitable for "roughing it in the bush." They were consequently exposed to many hardships and much suffering, from which they have not yet altogether escaped. Their previous habits of life did not fit them for the labor and perseverance required in the clearing of a new country, and for providing against the severe winters of Canada. They were not however left without sympathy or aid from their countrymen. Many generous hearts sympathised with their sufferings, and contributed valuable assistance to them in their time of need. The worst is we believe now passed. Much of their land is cleared. They have been able to gather in their harvests and to multiply their cattle, horses, and other domestic animals. The settlement may, in fact, be said to be in a flourishing condition. The most part of the people are gradually acquiring habits of agricultural industry. The rising generation are strong and active men and women, from whose exertions we may hope to see the district become one of the most flourishing in Canada East.