

Perhaps a too great familiarity, as the copy book says, excites contempt. I had the fortune or misfortune to be born within hearing of the roar of Niagara; I saw that great cataract when so young that I do not remember any first impressions. I supposed the world was full of such places and, as a boy, passed on until my attention was attracted by the praises of strangers. Our children will weary with forty miles an hour on our Railroads, having had no experience of the bark canoe and the corduroy road, and they will daily gaze on the St. Lawrence, without being impressed with its surpassing volume.

To appreciate correctly our own position we should raise ourselves, if possible, beyond the influence of the smoke of our own City, survey impartially the operations which are going on round about us, and then determine whether we will set to work in earnest to improve our home, or at once change it and make room for more congenial spirits. One of the great causes of the rapid development of this continent is the fact that every man has had it in his power (from the cheapness of land and facilities of water communication) to gratify his whims as well as his necessities, and to pitch his tent in that precise spot where he desired to dwell. This deliberate choice of habitation is almost as much a duty as a privilege, for, if a man finds himself in the wrong place he becomes discontented, and with true human perverseness too often determines that that place shall not have the best of the bargain.

The next best thing to finding a ready-made paradise here on earth, is to make one out of such materials as present themselves, as the good wife does out of the humblest home. A man should not only be contented with his lot, but he should also make the most of it: and it is incumbent upon every one to investigate the resources of his homestead before he covets his neighbour's patrimony, else, like many over nice people, he may go through the bush and cut the crooked stick at last.