

"The width of country in which this winter climate maintains is limited. Up in Manitoba, in the Canadian Dominion, is a wholly different condition. The excellent line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, as projected, was changed for the worse to the south, in the vain hope to get away from frosts in July and August. *The climate of Manitoba consists of seven months of Arctic winter and five months of cold weather.* And Manitoba is a country of spring floods which drown out all the farms in all the valleys. Her principal river has the peculiarity of running from the south in the United States straight north. The mouth of the Red River is frozen solid when the head and middle of the stream are broken up and running swiftly under the southern spring warmth. The ice dams at and around Winnipeg in a vast obstruction like a mountain barrier. The water sets back and covers all the surrounding country, drowning stock, floating away dwellings, buildings and fences, and driving the farmers off to the tops of hills to save their lives. So it is with Canada's rivers which flow from the west eastward, tributaries to this Red River. They all rise in the Rocky Mountains. The temperature of the foothills of this range being warmer than the open plains of water-soaked Manitoba, all these streams in spring commence running ice at the head before they open at the mouth. The consequence is floods, which annually desolate Manitoba and keep the people who have been coaxed into it anxious, poor and sick. 'Tis a pity that Canada is so cold and so subject to be annually drowned out; for it has a belt of wheat land extending to the Rocky Mountains as rich as any land south of the International boundary line."

It is related that a pedler who once turned local preacher, gave his last advice to his son in these words:—"Honesty is the best policy; I know, for I have tried both, my son." It may probably happen that the Land and Railway Corporations in whose interest the above grossly overdone libel was written and published, may in the end come to perceive the truth in respect to it conveyed by the pedler's confession. The facts pertaining to the climate, the products, the rivers, and the soil of Manitoba and the Canadian North-West, are, fortunately for the object of this reply, both broad and well ascertained; and they are moreover within the personal knowledge of thousands of men, whose evidence can be obtained. But for the purpose of these pages it will be enough to appeal to the testimony of a few witnesses, whose statements will everywhere be received and believed.

First, however, it is well to say that the latitude, namely, the 49th parallel which is the southern frontier of Manitoba and the Canadian North-West, if extended due east across the Atlantic Ocean, would strike Europe a little to the south of Paris; and the country has the summer suns of Europe at and above that latitude, with, however, a lower winter temperature, as marked by the thermometer, of which some further particulars will be hereinafter given.

It may be mentioned as a specific fact, that the summer warmth of Manitoba is sufficient to ripen the tomato, the melon and Indian