

portion of it will be built next summer. Hudson's Bay is to be connected with Winnipeg by rail and water communication. Charters for no less than four great lines to tap the Peace River district have been already granted; and the Saskatchewan and Assiniboine rivers are to have a numerous fleet of steamers navigating their waters by next summer (1881.)

It is quite evident, moreover, that the contemplated rapid completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway will induce the immediate construction of branch lines, tapping the fertile plains in every direction.

The climate of the fertile belt which we have described is much finer than that of the more eastern portions of the Continent; and in fact taking the whole year together is more genial than the older Provinces of Canada and many of the Eastern States of America. It is very happily situated for the benignant operations of atmospheric influences. From the South come up the warm currents of the Gulf of Mexico, which, gliding over the low water-shed of the Mississippi, continue to drop fatness in the valleys of the Red River and Winnipeg to the very mouth of the Saskatchewan. On the West again the country is equally favoured by what has been called by some writers, a freak of nature. A great dip or depression takes place in the Rocky Mountains, just at the boundary line (the 49th parallel,) and through this hollow pass, scooped out by nature, pour the balmy and fostering gales of the Pacific, which circulate all over the prairies and float down the Saskatchewan, at the mouth of which they meet and mingle with the Southern currents already mentioned, coming up from the Mississippi.

Both these radiations of tropical heat, the Southern and the Western from time to time encounter Northern winds, and being chilled by their contact condense into heavy clouds which precipitate themselves sometimes in torrents of rain, sometimes in light and refreshing showers over the whole region which composes the fertile belt of the Canadian North-west. Hence the moisture and teeming vegetation which characterize the whole of this country, which produces almost every crop and every