



THE MASSASSA FALLS, AND THE ENTRANCE INTO POCKOCK BASIN, OR ROLOBLO POOL.

### The Better Country.

BY LILIAN GREY.

NEVER a soul to care awaketh;  
Never a plaint of woe is heard;  
Never a moan from heart that breaketh,  
Or cry of a wounded bird.

Never a child its mother misses;  
Never white hands o'er a still heart laid;  
Never is dashed a cup of blisses,  
Or a debt of love unpaid.

Never a head with pain is throbbing;  
No eyes grow heavy with sea-salt tears;  
Never a voice is hoarse with sobbing,  
Or a soul beset with fears.

Never a storm that fair land sweepeth;  
Never doth frost its flowers blight;  
And yet its flock its loved lambs keepeth,  
Where gathers no chill of night.

No shoulder stoopeth its burden under;  
No hearts grow careless, estranged, and cold;  
No clasping hands shall drop asunder,  
Nor youthful forms grow old.

Blest country, fairer than mortal telling!  
Its wondrous pleasures like visions seem,  
And yet its hope in our hearts indwelling,  
Is the sum of our hope and dream.

We ne'er shall find it in long endeavour,  
By journeying east or journeying west;  
And if we are worthy to find it ever—  
Its Ruler, he knoweth best!

### This Canada of Ours.

An article of extraordinary interest on "Canada and its Resources" appears in the September number of the *Methuen Magazine*. A few passages grouped together may enable us to form a more vivid impression of the magnificent heritage we in the Dominion possess. Some of the statements sound more like the wonderful things of the Arabian nights than as a sober reality. We have become accustomed to the statement, that excluding Alaska, Canada is a larger country than the United States. But we form a new conception of the magnitude of Canadian territory when it is stated that it comprises nearly forty per cent. of the British Empire, that, including encircling and penetrating lakes, and the rivers of enormous size and length by which it is permeated, Canada claims more than one-half of the fresh water of the entire globe.

Magnitude is not all that we can boast of. The Dominion has largely developed resources. It is

not easy to credit facts in regard to the growth of commerce on the Great Lakes. Can it be possible that the tonnage and value of products which passed through the Sault Ste. Marie Canal, compressed within seven months of the season of navigation of 1889, equalled that which passed through the Suez Canal the entire year? "Here, in the northern part of North America, between two inland lakes, with only one shore of these developed, a commerce has been created which equals that between two oceans, whose traffic is almost as old as the universe, and contributions to which are made from every country of the globe."

The day is past for any one to speak of the northern territory with its vast area, as so many acres of snow and ice. Modern readers are better informed than the King of France who wasted no regrets on the country which he had ceded to the British crown. Still an impression prevails that a very large proportion of Canada, in consequence of unfavourable climatic conditions, must ever remain an inhospitable waste, valuable chiefly for its furs or perhaps for its fishing. But here we have the startling statement, made upon presumably reliable data, that Canada possesses a greater wheat-producing area than does the United States; that the soil of this wheat area is richer and will produce a higher average of better wheat than any other part of the continent or of the world, and that it is practically inexhaustible. This fact alone indicates a purpose of Providence that this northern territory should be the home of uncounted millions of people. Bread is the staff of life. Wheat-growing area is the natural homestead of the human race. Even the severity of the climate in the extreme north has its compensations. "What would be thought of a device that should provide a well-spring of moisture that should continually exude and feed the delicate tendrils of roots that the wheat plant sends unto the earth for sustenance?" Yet this is the very provision that nature makes. A frost line in the earth is full of force. Thawed out in the summer months, it supplies a needed and unfailing element of moisture.

But other conditions are favourable to the production of wheat, grains, and roots. "Climate is more the result of altitude than latitude." It is stated as a significant circumstance that while Europe has a mean elevation of 671 feet and North America of 748 feet, the Canadian portion of the continent has an altitude of only 300 feet. The falling off is shown from the fact that the great

rivers run to the north. Marine currents are said to be extremely favourable to Canada, as also the moderating influences of great bodies of fresh water.

But there is still another advantage in these northern wheat-fields of Canada; and that is that while these latitudes imply long winter days, they imply equally the longest days in summer. There is said to be an average of two hours more each day of sun during the period of growing wheat in Canada than in any other country capable of producing wheat to advantage. Thus conditions unite to make the northern wheat lands the most valuable on the continent or of the globe.

Reference is made to rivers and bays as a means of judging of the vast expanse of Canada; the St. John, N.B., five hundred miles in length, the largest river on the Atlantic Coast; the St. Lawrence, one of the noblest rivers in the world, with the Ottawa

as an affluent; the Winnipeg River in the centre of the continent, "one of nature's most delightful miracles;" the great Red River of the north, the equally great Assiniboine, and the noble Saskatchewan, "the gateway of the North-west;" and beyond the range of these, the Athabasca and the Mackenzie Rivers; while Frazer river flows through British Columbia.

In their forests, mines, fisheries, gateways of commerce, the valuable resources of the Lower Provinces are indicated. A few facts and statements only on this subject have been summarized. They abundantly illustrate the magnitude of Canada, and the magnificence of its varied resources. We close the perusal of such a paper with a deepening impression of the grand possibilities of Canada in all that pertains to the material greatness of a country. Our young men should think well of the advantages which the Dominion possesses, before crossing the lines to the more crowded communities of the United States.—*The Wesleyan*.

### Dying at Their Post.

WHEN Mount Vesuvius was pouring down its torrents of destruction upon the city of Pompeii, there was a sentinel whose post of duty was the chief entrance to the city. When, in the general panic, all who could, fled for their lives, he stood unmoved, and perished faithful to his high trust; and when sixteen centuries had rolled away, there his remains were found in full armour—a monument of fidelity to duty, a faithful soldier dying at his post.

And when, at a critical moment in the battle of Waterloo, a courier dashed into the presence of the Duke of Wellington, stating that unless the troops at an important point could be reinforced, they must soon yield, the duke sent back the words, "Stand firm!" "But we shall all perish," said the officer. "Stand firm!" again thundered out the iron duke. "You will find us there," said the officer as he galloped away, and the result proved the truth of the remark, for nearly every man of that brigade fell at his post.

ETERNITY is crying out to you louder and louder as you near its brink. Rise, be going! Count your resources; learn what you are not fit for, and give up wishing for it; learn what you can do, and do it with the energy of a man.