

Intending Settlers.

BRACEBRIDGE, September 6th, 1893.
To the Editor of the Catholic Register.

DEAR SIR—Permit me to say a few words through the columns of your valuable paper for the benefit of those of our people who are inclined to settle and make a home for themselves in this Northern Country. The attention of outsiders is already directed towards the Free Grant Lands, as well as to farms partly cleared, to be had at a reasonable figure in the districts of Muskoka and Parry Sound. Years ago, when the craze came for the North-West, hundreds of the old settlers having farms and good clearings left all to seek their fortune in a more congenial climate, without taking into consideration that to the farmer here one bushel of wheat is worth three in the North-West, and so on as regards other produce. Here the settler has the best of water and timber at his command for every available purpose, free of cost; there, I am informed, in many places the water is not fit for ordinary use, and many of the poor settlers in winter time have to go twenty-five miles for a stick of firewood, besides running the risk of being overtaken by a blizzard.

It is not at all to my present purpose to decry the great farming country of the North-West, but it must be admitted that we have many advantages which they can never expect to have; and uneasy and dissatisfied settlers leaving this country for there or elsewhere should weigh well the pros and cons before taking the final step which they may have afterwards reason to regret, as I learn many have regretted leaving their comfortable homes, and in proof of this, several are coming back day after day, and many more would come back if they could, like the prodigal son, glad to be admitted once more to their father's house.

Of course in days gone by, this country to new settlers presented many and formidable difficulties. Then all was a vast wilderness with little or no hopes of the country being opened up—straggling paths here and there trodden by the wild deer and wolf, were the only guide, the backwoodsman had to find his way through the dense forest, while he cautiously picked his steps and stood prepared at any moment to grapple with his swarthy enemy, the Indian. But now all is changed. The wild man of the woods is no longer to be seen in his savage state; the zigzag foot-paths are replaced by serviceable roads in every direction; and the anorting of the iron horse has long since put to flight the wild deer and wolf. This country, considering all its drawbacks since then, has been fairly opened up, though not so well as it should be, and the present time to intending settlers affords a golden opportunity of filling up the vacant farms and lots scattered over the Parry Sound and Muskoka districts.

Muskoka, too, as a summer resort, is fast becoming the favorite spot for pleasure-seekers, as the thousands that pass over every summer its beautiful chain of lakes, dotted here and there with innumerable and thickly wooded islands testify. Here in his little boat, or in the lonely wood beside some rippling stream, the happy tourist loves to indulge in his favorite sport as he casts his line to fish for bass, pickerel or speckled trout. It is not necessary for me to dwell on the wild yet picturesque scenery encircling the Muskoka Lakes, for that has been described over and over by pens more worthy, then to do it justice, neither is it my intention to introduce sightseers to these parts, for they come to go again; but I write to encourage any of our people who are not as yet in a settled home and thinking of bettering their present condition—in a word, for those who are anxious and ambitious enough and having sufficient determination to crown their future labour with success and make a home for themselves and families, which in their advanced age they can claim as their own. To afford further information to such as those, in my next letter shall go more into details.

Apologizing for the length of this letter, I remain, dear sir, yours truly,
T. F. FLEMING, Priest.

Huron Pioneers.

Sheriff Gibbons and ex Warden Girvin, were entered by the Huron Pioneers, at Point Farm, Goderich. A large number sat round the festive board, interesting speeches were made by J. T. Garrow, M.P.P., Sheriff Gibbons, and others. At the close, cheers were given by the company for the Sheriff and his brother pioneers.

Mr. R. J. Kelly, B.L. has been appointed Revising Barrister for Cork.

Mr. Henry Irving, who landed at Quebec recently to begin a protracted American theatrical tour, will furnish to the September Forum an article on "My Four Favorite Parts." The four favorite parts are Hamlet, Iago, Richard III. and Lear, concerning each of which the great tragedian will offer some particularly engaging and illuminative criticism. Many play-goers will wonder that Mr. Irving should not have included the part of Mathias in "The Bells"—one of his great successes.



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