

'Nay, nay, I fell not out of Heaven,
None gave me my saintly white;
It slowly grew from the blackness
Down in the dreary night.
From the verge of the silent river
I won my glory and grace;
White souls *fall* not, O! my poet;
They *rise* to the highest place.'

[Selected.]

CORRESPONDENCE.

MESSRS EDITORS:—As the seventeenth volume of the Encyclopædia Britannica containing subjects between initial letters MOT—ORM has lately been placed upon the shelves of the College Library one naturally is anxious to know what is said about our own province. 'Twas a matter of surprise, I assure you, to find that the article on Nova Scotia was written by a gentleman (George Stewart, jun., Editor of the 'Chronicle,' Quebec) from a distant part of the Dominion. If reliableness is a feature worth striving after (and assuredly it is in a work of this character) then, those persons residing in a country, provided they have the requisite literary ability, are surely more likely to be able to compile a trustworthy account of the geography, history, and trade relations of that country than one resident at a distance and who of necessity must obtain his information second-hand. This, I apprehend, will account for the numerous errors, particularly in the geographical description, which are found in the article. For instance in naming the islands, Boulardarie, between the Great and Little Bras d'Or Lakes, although the largest and most fertile, and having a population of 2000 is omitted altogether. But a more curious and certainly more misleading error is in the description of the Bras d'Or Lake itself. In naming the principal inlets it is omitted, but finds a place in the outline of the *fresh-water* lakes. It is evident that the term 'Lake' in Bras d'Or Lake has led our author to suppose that the body of water is fresh, whereas it has two channels of water connecting it with the Atlantic, one of which is at its narrowest part two miles in width. But this is not all in this connection. After describing it as 'an imprisoned sea, 50 miles long and of great depth,' we are

told that 'it expands into several streams.' As well say that the Mediterranean 'expands' into the Tiber. The relative volumes of the waters compared is about the same, and the absurdity just as palpable.

Before the railroad from Halifax to Windsor was thought of, a canal from the head of Bedford Basin to Cobequid Bay was projected. Some labor was actually performed, but the work was shortly abandoned. This has apparently misled the writer, for under the heading '*communication*' he says:—'There are two canals in the province, one from Halifax to Cobequid Bay, and the other the St. Peter's.' Railway mileage at the present time he places at 600, whereas 500 would be nearer the truth. It will be a matter of surprise to Nova Scotians to learn that wolves are to be found among the native wild animals. A comparison of different portions of the article reveals incongruities. For example:—'In 1881, the exports of mining produce amounted to \$676,878.' Under the caption of *geology* the statement is made that 'in 1882 the collieries produced 1,365,811 tons of coal, consumed principally in Quebec, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island and the United States.' Without taking into account gold production to the value of \$350,000 and the 42,135 tons of iron ore mined in the same year, the greater part of which was exported, and without speaking of the manganese and gypsum exports from Windsor and vicinity, it will be readily seen that 'the exports of mining produce' amount more nearly to a sum double that first mentioned. The difference of a year, 1881 in the one case and 1882 in the other, does not invalidate the comparison as our mining industries maintain a nearly uniform production.

It is not my purpose to point out all the mistakes as that would take too much space. I will, however, quote a couple of sentences from the historical sketch of the province by way of illustrating the author's style:—'But the French settlers who enjoyed privileges as neutrals, still embraced a considerable portion of the population, and, with their allies, the Indians, proved exceedingly troublesome to the English. They were finally expelled, and in 1758 a constitution was granted to Nova Scotia.' What relevancy the second member of the second sentence has to the first member it is difficult to determine.