

ization. This admirable Society has for object the free distribution of books and papers to poor colonists, who, isolated on the great prairies, have no other recreation in their hours of rest than brooding, often with bitter regret, over past days. To such as these, gifts of literature, even of the simplest nature, prompted by kind hearts, must indeed be an inestimable boon.

The climate of the above mentioned districts is salubrious and the soil is of excellent quality, well suited for cultivation, thoroughly irrigated and within easy reach of market centres. But, in spite of the untiring efforts of colonization agents, these advantages are not sufficiently well-known in other countries. The testimony and experience of many might be quoted on this important point, but I will be content with repeating here what Monsieur l'Abbé Dugas once wrote in an interesting pamphlet on Manitoba, but which might be applied equally to any corner of our beautiful country. "I do not say that Manitoba is the promised land," he writes, "but I do say that it is a fertile land, where it is undoubtedly true that the intelligent and industrious farmer can literally make rivers of milk to flow."

Experience bears out this testimony. Those who seek to depreciate Manitoba by making known only its drawbacks, resemble a man who dwells on the faults of his neighbour only, and fails to note his good qualities. Voltaire spoke contemptuously of Canada, and advised the King of France to rid himself of those "few acres of snow." To-day the "acres of snow" have become one of the finest countries in the world. Even those places most favoured by nature have their drawbacks. The Garden of Eden has been closed since the fall of Adam, and there is no use hoping to re-discover it in Manitoba. But there, as elsewhere, there are compensations; what is lost on the one hand is gained on the other. In this country every one must work; this is no idlers' paradise. Nevertheless, a position of independence and comfort is more quickly and easily attained here than in most other parts of the world.

The easy circumstances in which the people live, compared with the slight amount of labour exacted from them, impressed me more than anything else during the twenty-two years I passed in Manitoba. A man, being on one occasion reproached with losing his time, answered: "Sir, were we to work here as they do in other places, we should get rich much too fast." I repeat that what Monsieur l'Abbé Dugas wrote of Manitoba, may justly be applied