

CHAPTER II.

Climate—Topographical Features—The Soil of New Brunswick—Views of Professor Sheldon and Mr. Sparrow on the Province.

CLIMATE.

New Brunswick possesses a climate of exceptional healthfulness and there is no country in the world that is more free from epidemic diseases or where people live to a greater age than in this province. The most northerly portion of New Brunswick is two degrees south of the most southerly portion of England, and the northern line of New Brunswick is almost a degree south of the latitude of Paris. The city of St. John is in the same latitude as Milan and Venice. The climate, however, differs very considerably from that of western Europe and especially from that of the British Islands. It is what might be described as a continental climate, with characteristics similar to those of eastern Europe. The climate of the British Islands is tempered by the Gulf Stream, which flows across the Atlantic and spreads along the shores of Great Britain and Ireland and of northern Europe. This gives the British Islands a mildness of temperature which they would not otherwise possess, but it also gives them a degree of humidity, which causes vegetation to be of slow growth. The British Islands are less subject to heat and cold than New Brunswick, but they are also incapable of producing many kinds of fruits and vegetables which grow in New Brunswick. The climate of most of New Brunswick is free from humidity, so that the heat and cold are