

AN ENGLISHMAN'S EXPERIENCE.

A word from a clergyman, who left Gloucestershire in the year 1862 for British North America, and who still, from choice, resides here, may not be uninteresting.

Having made up our minds early in the 60's to emigrate, we cast our eyes over the various Colonies that offered homes to the adventurous,—Australia, the Cape, New Zealand, and Canada; and after careful consideration, came to the conclusion, that the last was the most eligible, at least for our purpose, to bring up and start a family. Accordingly, having put myself in communication with the Bishop of Quebec, I received from him, and the Bishop of Montreal, (Bishops Mountain and Fulford) an appointment in Bishop's College, Lunenburg, P. Q. Five years after this, changes in the College staff having become necessary, I moved to Windsor, Nova Scotia, to take charge of the school in connection with King's College. The school building having been burnt down in 1871, changes were again made. After a residence of seven years in Halifax, N. S., a year or two in the valley of the Stewiacke, I finally settled in the Annapolis Valley. I give this short sketch of my sojourn in British North America to explain the opportunities I have had of forming an opinion of the Atlantic Provinces as fields for immigration. Upper Canada, the great North-West, the foot of the Rockies, British Columbia, and several other fields, every one in the mind of its special votary a fitting vestibule to a Happier Land, I have not visited, but am quite ready to accept a large residuum of their capabilities. A zealous advocate for emigration, I beg to differ from those persons who would begin with the western boundary of this great country for colonizing, as I would recommend for many reasons the taking up and settling the Provinces of the Atlantic seaboard first, and after them the adjacent western lands. Here, within easy reach by steam communication with the United States of America, the West India Islands, and Europe, there are excellent farms and farming lands inviting settlers. In the Province of Quebec are the Eastern Townships, with markets, climate, and soil defying superiority. Here are New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Nova Scotia, offering inducements to farmers and farm laborers not to be surpassed. There is not the space, certainly, for millions to occupy, but there is enough for many thousands of the right sort; the others had better stay where they are. It is of Nova Scotia as a field for the immigrant that I would speak, though many of my remarks would apply to the adjacent Provinces. First, then, we notice that in coming to this country, a farmer would in many points make a change hardly more marked than one from one county in England to another, not so great as from Scotland to England. He will find here as good, or better advantages than he left behind, in the way of society, churches, schools, medical attendance, and as is generally allowed, a much better climate for the productions of the earth, and for man. Second, if a farmer comes here and wishes to make a farm, he can buy land at a moderate price, say from £1 6s. to £2 per acre; or if to buy an improved farm, he will have no difficulty in arranging a purchase.

The Valleys on the Bay of Fundy deserve particular attention. Here, the tides are very high (from 40 to 70 feet), and at each ebb leave a deposit of mud about one-tenth of an inch thick, the best top-dressing that can be applied to arable or grass land. The dyked lands lowest down the streams have produced from 2 to 4 tons of hay for 100 years, with no other dressing than a ploughing up every 15 years, and a crop or two of oats taken off. This land commands a ready sale, at from £15 to £25 per acre! The Valley of the Annapolis in which I am living at present, offers many inducements; situated between the north and south mountains, it enjoys a more equable temperature than many parts. All the European fruits can be grown here in perfection. Our apples, which reach at present about 250,000 barrels a season, rank very high in Covent Garden and other English markets. Pears, plums, peaches, grapes, small fruits, and tomatoes, take a very high place. My tomatoes have been pronounced superior to those of Bermuda. I should add that this locality, and many others in this Province, are in daily steam communication with St. John, New Brunswick, and Halifax, N. S., tri-weekly with the best markets of the United States of America, and weekly with Liverpool and London, G. B. My great surprise is, that the lands I have glanced at in this communication have not been taken up before this. But so it is, and if I can be of any service to any practical farmers, who can bring sturdy arms, a good head, some enterprise, a good wife, and a few hundred pounds, I shall be very happy to do all I can to assist them, and can assure them that a very pleasant and independent life is before them. In return for heavy taxes, and the delight of an audit dinner twice a year, I will promise them a very small annual tax, self imposed, and the satisfaction of feeling, when they look around their comfortable homes, and well stocked yards and stables, that they are *THEIR OWN* Our stock is—good Horses; Horned Cattle—Grade Jerseys, Ayrshires, Devons, &c.; Sheep—Leicesters, Downs, &c.; Pigs—Aylesmeres, Berks, &c.

Intending emigrants should note what I have said with reference to the prospects in Nova Scotia, and act accordingly.

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MORALITY AND RELIGION IN THE MARITIME PROVINCES OF CANADA.

In estimating correctly the value, importance, and greatness of an Empire, or a section thereof, there should be reckoned in the account, not only its natural resources, its commerce, and its manufacturing advantages, but also the intellectual, moral and religious condition of its people. National as well as individual greatness is always associated with moral excellence; and, therefore, the integrity, industry, mental and moral devo-

lopment of the inhabitants of a country add more than anything else to its welfare, power and stability.

The standard of morals in Canada is high, it having been established, and continuing to be influenced by the teachings of Christianity; the Christian code of morals being everywhere recognized by the people. No Government can exist without having something to do with the regulation of external morality and religion, hence we find incorporated in our Federal and Provincial Statutes, carefully prepared laws for the prevention and punishment of Sabbath-breaking, profanity, murder, theft, false swearing, &c. We realize that Atheistic ideas interfere with the exercise of all rule and authority, and that recognition of the Divine Government and man's accountability to its administrator, is an essential feature in all rightly constructed human governments.

Many things were sanctioned among the ancient Greeks and Romans, which the Christian laws condemn as highly injurious to society, and the pages of history abound with admonitory lessons respecting the direful results of corrupt morals on national prosperity and existence.

We have profited by these solemn voices of antiquity, and have learned to shun those evils, which, unchecked, lead to ruin.

As may be supposed, the moral and religious status of the people in the colonies closely resembles that of their fellow-subjects in the Mother Country, but the child sometimes outstrips the parent in moral and religious progress, and we think this remark applicable in regard to the British Colonies of North America.

Without invidious comparison, or an attempt to measure ourselves by others, we will briefly notice some of the leading moral and religious characteristics of the inhabitants of the Maritime Provinces, especially Nova Scotia.

LOYALTY.

In the wide and scattered realms of Queen Victoria, there cannot be found a more intelligent, ardent and consistent loyalty to the British Crown and British Institutions than exists in these Provinces. Occasionally, we hear the desire expressed for the independence of Canada, or for annexation to the United States of America, but it generally comes from men who have been inoculated with democratic ideas, or those who have failed to realize success in worldly things. The attachment to the Mother Country can never die out, so long as such National Societies as exist in our midst continue to flourish. The warm and cordial welcome extended to Englishmen, Scotchmen, and Irishmen, respectively, by the St. George's, St. Andrew's, and St. Patrick's Societies, may be taken as an earnest of our continued interest in all that pertains to the welfare of those living in the Fatherland. The flag which is displayed from the staffs of our public and private buildings, and at the masthead of our splendid mercantile marine is the same old flag "which has braved a thousand years the battle and the breeze." Long may it continue to wave in this happy and peaceful land of plenty.

PATRIOTISM.

The patriotism of our people was recently evidenced during the rebellion of the Metis in the North-West Territories of the Dominion. At a call to arms, several regiments of volunteer militia declared their willingness to act in quelling the disturbance, and the Halifax contingent received on its return from service an enthusiastic public ovation in appreciation of the self-sacrifice displayed by its members.

LAW-ABIDING.

The people here generally are a law-abiding people. Lynch law is unknown, and civil liberty is as much a right of the poor as of the rich. This arises—1st, from the existence of good laws; 2nd, from their judicious enforcement. Almost every wrong may be redressed, if the proper means be adopted. One element of human happiness on earth is realized by all in this country, an undisturbed feeling of security in reference to person and property.

EDUCATION.

Realizing that ignorance never contributes to the welfare of a people, the cause of education receives marked attention and generous support. Free schools are everywhere in successful operation, so that the young, generally, are obtaining a good elementary education. Higher institutions of learning are also found in sufficient numbers to supply the need of those desiring an Academic course; while in our secular and denominational colleges, facilities are afforded for acquiring that more complete education essential to professional and scientific men.

RELIGIOUS ADVANTAGES.

These Provinces are highly favored in being supplied with Christian ministers of all denominations, who are for the most part zealous in the cause which they have espoused, and who compare favorably with their brethren elsewhere, both as regards talent and efficiency. There are about four hundred Protestant and ninety Roman Catholic Clergymen in Nova Scotia, the former being nearly equally divided among Presbyterians, Anglicans, Baptists, and Methodists. The morals and piety of the people is in a large measure due to the untiring efforts of these denominational leaders. By the laws of the land, religious liberty is guaranteed alike to all denominations, and as no State aid is granted, the members of each are called upon for the support of their respective clergy, &c.

TEMPERANCE.

The great moderate movement in Temperance has made, if not rapid, yet very extensive strides in these Provinces. The energetic "Order of Sons," "Zealous Good Templars," and other organizations for the promotion of the Temperance cause, have not toiled in vain; public opinion in regard to the nature and use of alcoholic drinks, having, during the last decade, undergone a marked change.