

## PREFACE.

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THE RIGHT HON. W. E. GLADSTONE, in a late number of the *Nineteenth Century*, called Canada "Those huge ice-bound deserts of North America." The chief geographies of the United States, formerly used in the public schools of Canada, describe the entire continent west and north-west of Lake Superior as,

"Like Greenland, a cold, barren country, thinly inhabited by Esquimaux and other savages, and the soil so rocky and thin that only moss, shrubs and a few stunted trees can be grown upon it." This description is accompanied with cartoons of Esquimaux in snow-huts defending themselves with bone spears against huge bears, or standing on polar ice attacking walrus and seals.

One map, published by American immigration agents, cuts off 20 degrees of the best part of the North-west, representing it as part of the Pacific Ocean.

In *Johnson's Universal Cyclopædia* (4 vols., 7,000 pp., New York, 1879,) edited by Frederick A. P. Barnard, S.T.D., LL.D., L.H.D., M.N.A.S., president of Columbia College and thirty-five other A.M.'s, LL.D.s, &c., four presidents of colleges, "ex-presidents" and Prof. Henry, secretary of the Smithsonian Institute, it is stated that "The northern portion of the Dominion will undoubtedly be doomed to eternal (?) sterility on account of the severity of the climate." To show what is meant by the northern portion of the Dominion the cyclopedists say in the next sentence, "The country on the lower Saskatchewan and on the Red River, it is believed, will be long among the most fertile regions of the Dominion." The best part of that country is north of the lower Saskatchewan and up to 700 miles north of it.

James Croll, of the Geological Survey of Scotland, in his *Climate and Time* (London 1875), says: "The July temperature of Glasgow is 61°, while in Labrador on the same latitude and places to the west [how far west?] it is only 49°. Glasgow, during that month is 3° above the normal temperature, while America [how much of America?] is 9° below." (p. 72.) The most western locality given by Croll is Cumberland House (lat. 54° 30', long. 103°.) Croll leaves the impression that the climates of the entire north-west in the latitudes named are like Labrador.

*The Globe Encyclopedia*, by J. M. Ross, LL.D., senior master of English language and literature, High School, Edinburgh (6 vols. Ed. 1876) contains half a dozen statements under the article Canada, all of which are wholly untrue or gross misrepresentations.

"Among the chief obstacles" says the Encyclopedist "of the agriculturist, are the periodical plagues of grass-hoppers and mosquitoes, the length of the winter, the want of means of communication, the presence of ague-breeding-swamps, and the inundation of rivers on the melting of the snow. The