

INTRODUCTION.

It is fully understood, by the *few* who have studied the resources of the Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, that they possess all the elements necessary to their elevation in the scale of nations: *a healthy climate; an excellent soil for agricultural purposes; inexhaustible forests of valuable timber, accessible by an extensive sea-board, and by navigable rivers; immense mineral resources, and an unparalleled coast and river fishery*;—all of which, when developed, are highly calculated to enable the inhabitants of these Provinces to compete with those of any other country, of equal extent, on the American continent. And the little colony of Prince Edward Island, although it may not abound with minerals, is invaluable in all the other advantages above referred to.

One of the principal reasons for so little having been done, commensurate with this extent of resources and capability for developement, is the ignorance, in a great measure, even of the colonists themselves, but more especially of the inhabitants of the mother country—that source to which the colonists look for aid—of the true character of these Provinces. When a body of men, possessing such facilities for knowledge as “the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland,” would give to the youth of Great Britain and America a book on geography, so recent as 1849, stating that the chief rivers of New Brunswick are the Saint John, the *Shubenacadie*, and the *Annapolis*; and that the inhabitants employ themselves, during the winter season, in rolling logs down the banks, and taking them to Halifax in the spring,—it is no wonder that it was asked, probably taking this geography as a guide, “How far it was from Halifax to Nova Scotia?” It is not unfrequent to find, in perusing descriptions of those colonies by the press of Great Britain, that the whole of them, 35,000,000 acres, are included in that of Canada.

It is almost impossible to advance in the scale of general improvement, without more than ordinary efforts. In this age of panoramic representation, it will not do merely to imagine the existence of resources, without making them, as well as their worth, both known and appreciated. They must be placed, in miniature, on the tables of those numerous exhibitions of national products and artistic industry, which are now going hand in hand with increased commercial skill and intellectual improvement.

The details necessary to a real knowledge of these Provinces should be taught in our schools and literary institutions, in order to be properly understood at home. A cheap work, detailing their capabilities, is required to be circulated in the mother country, so that a portion of her super-abundant population might be induced to take up their residence in this extensive portion of her dominions. How much, it may be asked, have these colonies done to elevate their character in any respect. At that ever-memorable exhibition of the industry of all nations, held in London, when almost every country stood forth in bold relief to the world, Nova Scotia, it is true, presented a partial exhibition of her resources, for which she got her share of