

some of those less profitable traits which stamp the Highlander as more at home in wielding the claymore, or extracting mountain-dew, than in guiding the ploughshare, to slow but certain results. The farms are but indifferently improved, considering the advantages they have enjoyed; and much valuable time is expended in the depths of the forest, in a demi-savage life, cutting and preparing timber for the lumber-merchant, which, if steadily devoted to the cultivation of the land, would certainly be attended with infinitely greater benefit, both in a physical and moral point of view.

Very conflicting opinions exist in Canada regarding the lumber-trade, and the subject was frequently discussed at this period, from the late proposal of ministers to lower the duties upon Baltic timber. It is certain that a large circulation is occasioned by the trade, perhaps a million Sterling, in one way or another, and that it employs, during winter, many who may gain perhaps £20 for their winter labour when nothing else could be done. It benefits the farmer, too, by bringing a market for produce to his door. So far, all looks well; but there is no doubt, that those engaged in preparing timber for this trade being exposed to many hardships, acquire loose and debauched habits, which generally demoralize; and that, in fact, no steady industrious characters are now willing to engage in it. In regard to the merchant, I have reason to believe that the lumber-trade is by no means profitable, and that many merchants are anxious to back out as soon as they can. There can be no doubt, in any case, that if the trade is to be extinguished, it must be done in a gradual manner, and that any alteration of duties which would suddenly annihilate it, must be followed by very painful and hazardous consequences to the colony.

To go minutely into the statistics of even the banks of the river, would far exceed the limits to which I must necessarily restrict myself. Suffice it to say, that a constant succession of eligible situations present themselves for estates and farms. I was much pleased with the Matilda district, and consider it capable of great improvement. The soil is a fine mellow sandy loam, sometimes perhaps rather light, but admirably adapted for turnip