

faces of moist volumes of the atmosphere of different temperatures intermingling, by which a portion of that moisture is deposited in the form of rain ; then such volumes of different temperatures are much more likely to be produced from standing forests and wooded swamps, than from a country entirely open and affording a free circulation of temperature in its atmosphere,—hence the annual average of rain may be also decreased.

As stated above, a country covered with forest,—as a great portion of North America is, the clearing of this is the first and absolutely necessary operation in agriculture, and the only general improvement for a long time to come, at least until the dry lands are cleared and used for cultivation, and leaving the moist and marshy land untouched for direct farming purposes.—Again when the first are occupied by a dense population, draining the other will follow as the next improvement, this being in all countries only practised when the dry land becomes scarce, and much increased in value, or in very moist climates in which it is required on the dry lands to prevent them from being chilled by overmoisture.—Also whenever draining becomes a general practice and use in a country, it is obvious that it will be most effective in accelerating the surface waters to the main streams and rivers, and often so rapidly during heavy and continued rains, as to cause sometimes calamitous inundations in their courses.—Consequently a general system of agricultural draining, around those great lakes, would be a considerable means of adding to the supply of water, which first would certainly be much diminished, by the increased evaporation caused by the first clearing of the land. But such a system cannot be expected to be in operation to have such general effect for ages yet to come, while the clearing of the forest on the shores of Lakes Ontario, Erie and Huron will proceed every year with a geometrically progressive pace.—Hence every succeeding year will the evaporative power be many times increased over those clearances, and the supply to the lakes diminished, which is now become very visible in 1848, and which will continue as a certain result of the opposite tendency of the rains and evaporation over this portion of country.

So far in the above, I have endeavoured to expose the natural