

fashioned to suit an endless variety of purposes. Even our cereals and fruits—though the political exigencies of the two countries seem, so far, to render their admission difficult—are tempting to you. Canada, as a wheat growing country compares favourably with Central Russia. Even before the valleys and plains of Manitoba and the North-West were open to us, the Richelieu, and other districts bordering many of the tributaries of the St. Lawrence, produced wheat of a whiter and finer description than that of Great Britain, as rich, almost, in gluten, as that grown on the shores of the Mediterranean, and in those districts, growing so rapidly, as to be in ear nine weeks after it had been sown. Even rice is found growing wild in our northern climate; and Indian corn (the maize), with its stalks abounding in sugar; while melons, pumpkins and squash, the products, it is supposed, exclusively of hot climates, grow luxuriantly all over the southern, western and central parts of the country.

The variegated forests and their great vigour and beauty may be taken as evidence of the humidity of the atmosphere and of the fertility of the soil. Everywhere is found a mixed forest in rich luxuriance; and plants with shrunken leaves, or trees with feeble stems will nowhere be found within our territory. At the north, it is true, you will find the leaves rolled, as it were, into pin-like form, so that they may intercept, but little, the oblique rays of the sun.

As are our vigorous forests, so are our inhabitants, in the qualities of health and vigour.

It would serve no purpose to speak of our warm days or our cold days; of our dry weather; or of our moist weather. Our climate is drier than is that of some countries; it is moister than is that of others; and it is colder than in most countries, yet would we not wish it warmer. It is warm—too warm sometimes for our comfort—for two months of our summer; but the heat is dry and easily borne, and we regret when the falling leaves of autumn remind us of its close.