

Palliser and Dr. Hector; and I would add my testimony to the fertility of its soil and the extent of its resources. It is peculiarly well adapted for settlement, rich prairies which are ready for the plough, being interspersed with woods, which would furnish timber for building and fencing. The climate is the climate of Canada; the spring, however, according to Dr. Hector, setting in a month earlier than it does on the shores of Lake Superior. Grain of all kinds grows here with the greatest luxuriance, and the root crops are certainly finer than any I have ever seen in England. The pasturage is almost endless in extent, and so nourishing, that the horses we turned out in the snow at the commencement of the winter, and then thin and in wretched condition, when brought up in the following spring, were exceedingly fat, and fit to set out at once on the journey before them.

Coal beds of large size exist on the Saskatchewan, Battle, and Pembina Rivers. Clay-ironstone, in large quantities, was discovered by Dr. Hector; and miners were engaged in washing gold in the river above Edmonton during our stay there. Yet this glorious country—estimated, I believe, by Dr. Hector at 40,000,000 of acres of the richest soil—is, from its isolated position, and the obstructions put in the way of settlement by the governing power hitherto, left utterly neglected and useless, except for the support of a few Indians and the *employés* of the Hudson's Bay Company. Could communication be established with Canada and British Columbia, this district would I imagine become one of the most valuable portions of the British possessions. The latter country—rich in mineral wealth—would draw thence the supplies of cattle and grain which she is now compelled to obtain from California; and the unfortunate farmer, who has been misled by erroneous representations into struggling against the sterile and unkindly soil, almost universal on the western side of the mountains, would find to the east of them the real land of Goshen he had been taught to expect elsewhere. At Edmonton we remained three weeks, in order to rest our horses and make final preparations