

A P P E N D I X.

A.—REPORT TO THE NEW YORK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

"There is in the heart of North America a distinct subdivision, of which Lake Winipeg may be regarded as the centre. This subdivision, like the valley of the Mississippi, is distinguished for the fertility of its soil, and for the extent and gentle slope of its great plains, watered by rivers of great length, and admirably adapted for steam navigation. It has a climate not exceeding in severity that of many portions of Canada and the Eastern States. It will in all respects compare favourably with some of the most densely peopled portions of the continent of Europe. In other words, it is admirably adapted to become the seat of a numerous, hardy, and prosperous community. It has an area equal to eight or ten first-class American States. Its great river, the Saskatchewan, carries a navigable water-line to the very base of the Rocky Mountains. It is not at all improbable that the valley of this river may yet offer the best route for a railroad to the Pacific. The navigable waters of this great subdivision interlock with those of the Mississippi."

B.—EXTRACT FROM A PAPER READ AT THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, MARCH 9TH, 1868.

ROAD THROUGH BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The Colony of British Columbia is to a great extent occupied by two ranges of mountains, running N.N.W, but gradually diverging from each other towards the north, where they enclose a vast plain, of which more will be said hereafter. That on the east side bears the name of the Rocky Mountains, and the other that of the Cascade or Coast range. They have one feature in common, which is, that their eastern edge rises in both cases abruptly from an elevated plain; and in the Rocky Mountains the highest crest or ridge is also on that side; whereas the descent on the western slope, though greater, is extended over a wider distance, and, therefore, in general more moderate.

The Main crest of the Rocky Mountains, several of the peaks of which rise to a height of 16,000 feet, forms the eastern limit of the Colony, and runs from its S.E. corner at the Boundary line, in a N.N.W. direction, to beyond the Northern limit of the Colony, in lat. 60°. I say the main crest, because what generally bears the name of the Rocky Mountains is composed in British Columbia of three distinct ranges, divided from each other by rivers and deep depressions, and having each its own crest or ridge. Of these, the two western ones, though less elevated, are chiefly composed of metamorphic rocks, and, therefore, generally speaking, more distorted and abrupt than the rounded granitic peaks and domes of the main crest. The whole forms a triple fence as it were to the colony, or one vast sea of mountains, averaging from 150 to 160 miles wide.

The Middle range, which as before said, is somewhat lower than the main one, and which takes the names of the Purcell, Selkirk, and Malton