

had, the patient mother told me, somewhat lined her husband's face and altered the hue of his hair, but the energy was untouched. "No, sir, not nearly good enough for me. I'm going back to business; if the young ones like to try Canada by-and-by, well and good. I think I'll try the vicinity of Peckham Rye, now." And he did try it, and there, it is just possible, he may be to-day. This leads me to the old remark, how many people try farming in the Colonies who are utterly ignorant of the veriest rudiments of agriculture. But yet it was really pleasant to hear this middle-aged, stoutish gentleman's always smiling remarks on his failures, on the necessity for improved stock, roads, bridges, &c. Well, since then I have myself "done" a piece of Canada, where there is much excellent farming, much good stock rearing, much that is of a very go-ahead nature—where nearly all is of an interesting character; splendid water communication, river and canal; some good railroads and common roads; and where perfection as nearly as possible may be achieved at about the same time as its attainment is announced on this side of the Atlantic. We have had the advantage here of an early acquaintance with the Roman legionary-navvy, and also with Macadam; in some parts of Canada Macadam would be a blessing now—the Romans are matters of history, for the Canadians. In some parts of Canada the road contractor was of the same family as the nuisance-removal agency was (is?) in New York—Nature, to wit; in other parts the roads are in very good order, indeed very many of the adjacent holders take an immense deal of pride in keeping their share of the "pike" in a high state of solidity. Still there is much to contend with where there are heavy falls of snow, stiff frosts, rapid thaws, and burning suns following each other; and this remark holds good in the northern section of the United States. In Canada as elsewhere the farmer who would be successful must either be a farmer or have some acquaintance with agriculture, and plenty of pluck. With these essentials—some money and a good share of health in addition—he is bound to get on, I was about to add wherever he may locate himself, but there are certain spots where, I am informed, even the most energetic and talented cannot get on; and I should not wonder if this were quite as true of Canada as of any other land. The climate I much admired, the people I very much liked, and if certain among them—I do not think agriculturists can be included here—would not make haste to imitate some of the, to me, objectionable peculiarities of their cousins "over the border," why, it might be all the better for them and the rising generation. So far as I know, there is excellent school accommodation throughout the more settled parts of the Dominion, also plenty of churches. There is, further, a marked improvement also in the provision for the housing of man, and beast, and crops; and, altogether, one, I think, could get along very nicely in the new-old country of Canada.

Travelling southward our go-ahead cousins seem to repeat the Canadian story; sometimes cleanliness is left to look after itself, and wonderful makeshifts are fallen across by the inquiring. Farming in Massachusetts is well worth seeing; so, indeed, is that in all the New England States. Some of the roads in the Northern States I found "fearfully and wonderfully made;" others, from the

nature of the soil, were in capital order. Much more use, I think, is made of rail, river, and canal in the States by the agriculturist than with us, excepting, of course, where the farms are near to the towns. Close to New York, and over in New Jersey—when I was there—some of the roads were execrable; but then I think I have seen a few in England and Scotland nearly, if not quite, as bad. Planks often took the place of macadam, and when scuttling about I have found the best turnpike to be that through the fields, between the straight upstanding rows of the beautiful Maize. In the vicinity of all cities in the eastern States land both lets and sells at a high figure, and one has to leave the Atlantic seaboard far behind ere he can find a cheap and good settlement. Southward of Pennsylvania, on the eastern side of the continent, a somewhat different state of things obtains at present, and has ever since the dreadful civil war. I have got as far as Virginia, and do not intend to go farther south or west—that is the end of my tether. As there seems to be a great deal of inquiry about this section of the country some superficial notes may not be altogether out of place. I do not think the State will recover its former position for some time to come. Had it recovered, as some assert, lots of good land would not now be on sale at the low figures I have seen quoted. Doubtless, also, much of the land is worked out, and would have to be well stocked; and this means capital. I have also heard that in the vicinity of the Beautiful Valley there are even now to be found marauders, the dregs left by the war, who are given to "transporting capital." This may or may not be true; if it is, lots will be dear at any price where these gentry congregate. That the country is a beautiful one away toward the west is borne witness to by all who have visited the State in which Washington drew his first breath.

In order to get at the climate of Virginia, I may here note that it is bounded on the north by Pennsylvania, north-east by Maryland, on the east by the Atlantic, and on the south by North Carolina and Tennessee. Its western boundary is formed by Kentucky and Ohio, and it lies between 36° 30' and 40° 43' N. lat. Its length is 370 miles, and it contains 64,000 square miles. The main traversing rivers are the now celebrated Appomattox, Cheat, Elizabeth, James, Mattaponi, Meherrin, Monongahela, Nottaway, Ohio, Pamunky, Potomac, Rappahannock, Roanoke, Staunton, and York; and through what was the Dismal Swamp there is, I believe, communication between Norfolk (Va.) and Elizabeth City in North Carolina. Then there is the well-known Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. More "waters" there are, but enough of that, after mentioning the Monongahela, which gave the name to what used to be considered an equivalent to "Kinahan's L.L." When I knew Virginia—and it is proper to remark that that is "some" years ago—its staple products were Wheat and Tobacco; its slaves were few in number; its "gentry" inhabitants of a very high class. However, that aside now—the slaves are slaves no longer, some of the "bravest and best" of their owners (to give them that name) found the soldier's grave—Virginia is divisible into four zones, with very distinguishing characteristics. The first zone extends (to put it roughly) from the Atlantic to the head of the tidewater at Fredericksburg, &c., and is low,

flat, "occasionally" fenny, when it is not sandy, the margins of the rivers covered with luxuriant, often rank vegetation. In autumn this section is extremely unhealthy. Division No. 2 extends from the head of the tidewater to the Blue Ridge. By the tidewater the land is level, higher up swelling, near the mountains abrupt and broken. The soil is of very unequal quality—though very often "well taken in hand." Reaching the mountains the climate is fine, the inhabitants robust, the scenery highly picturesque, and limestone is "struck," and in the vicinity good coal is found. To return to the zones: the third is the valley between the Blue Ridge, and the North and Alleghany mountains—a valley extending from the Potomac right across the State, to North Carolina and Tennessee. The soil is a good mould on a bed of limestone. There are odds and ends of awkward looking mountains in the valley, but there are immense beds of iron ore, &c., nearly all the way down—a valuable mineral region indeed. The crops in this zone were Indian Corn, Wheat, Rye, Oats, Buckwheat, Hemp, Timothy-grass, Clover, and almost "everything in reason." Zone No. 4 extends from the Alleghany to the Ohio—a country somewhat wild and broken, but containing iron, lead, coal, salt, &c. Randolph County has long been celebrated for its grazing qualities, linked with its beautiful streams. To give an idea of the natural beauties of this State would take pages of this journal; I dare not do more than mention the Natural Bridge, the Springs, Caverns, &c. The junction of the Shenandoah and the Potomac where once they seem to have been dammed up by the Blue Ridge, is a sight, like that of the Falls of Niagara, "once seen, never to be forgotten." Education was formerly much neglected in this State, though now, I believe, it has some half a dozen colleges, and sundry efforts are being made to extend the blessings of the three R's right throughout. There cannot, I think, be a doubt that both State and Federal taxation are as high in Virginia as in the other States; but at the same time I am persuaded that so liberally does Nature there respond to an intelligently expressed "call," that the tax-gatherer, in the end, could nearly as readily be met south of "Mason and Dixon's line" as in close proximity to that other line which separates the Dominion from its neighbours.

Many friends have I had hailing from "Old Virginia"—good men and true. Some of them shouldered the rifle in defence of what they believed was a just cause and true, and surrendered their brave lives in defence thereof, and of a country which anything above the level of a cur would have fought and died for. Now, Englishmen are invited to "go over and take possession of the land"—that is, what there is to take possession of, on payment. It is for them to find out whether the part offered is worth "possessing" or not; this they can readily discover by sending into the land those capable of discriminating. *Dun Edin.*

In terms of the Act for encouragement of Agriculture, the annual general meeting of the Halifax County Agricultural Society was held on 2nd December. There were present of city members, Colonel Laurie, Messrs. Henry Yeomans, V. P., W. C. Silver, Treasurer; William Duffus,