

being watered. And the London *Illustrated News*, on the occasion of Prince Arthur's visit to the lake region, comforts its English readers by the assurance that "Canada has plenty of bearskins and deerskins to clothe her own children and the Queen's son, too." Even the most serious and authoritative of publications make similar singular mistakes. Chamber's Encyclopædia, for example, in its article on North America, says that the basin of the St. Lawrence, *i.e.*, of the Great Lakes and the River, is, in winter, not only relatively, but absolutely, the coldest portion of the continent, its low level constituting a depression into which flows the cold, and, therefore, heavy, air of the interior of the continent. Unfortunately for this theory the basin is in general much milder on the same parallels of latitude than the Mississippi Valley. And, notwithstanding that December, January and February have been known to pass with the water constantly lapping the innermost wharfs of Toronto Bay, "Encyclopædia Britannica," in a tabular statement, unable to conceive the final opening of navigation in the harbor occurring one year so early as January, sets down the opening as taking place in June! It is refreshing to turn from these arctic pictures to the impressions of America given in one of the great London monthly reviews by an Englishman who at St. Paul is assured that the date palm flourishes in the Red River Valley in Northern Minnesota, so very close to Manitoba, as that former gateway to our prairies, St. Vincent. These wrong ideas prevalent as to the Canadian climate have been exceedingly detrimental to the country, and probably have done more to retard immigration, especially of well-to-do agricul-

turists, than all other causes combined.

Many Canadians, too, influenced by foreign misconceptions so often expressed, underrate the relative merits of our seasons when compared with those of northern and central Europe. This wrong impression of the comparative length of the summer is aided by the fact that in the most thickly-inhabited portions of old Canada, such as southern and eastern Ontario, fall wheat harvest is generally over in July, and all cereals, excepting maize, are garnered but little if any later. Partly, too, the very considerable and sensible difference in temperature between May and June, and between August and September aids this error, though May in several Canadian localities is as warm as the English June.

Then, too, both at home and abroad, the impression made by a cursory glance at the maps of the two hemispheres tends to the disadvantage of Canada. The Gulf of Mexico, in the minds of most, is associated with the latitudes of the Mediterranean. New Orleans is contemplated as being in about the same latitude as Marseilles or Nice, and Algiers and Morocco as Cuba. The general absence in North America, through occasional severe winter frosts extending as far south as the Gulf of Mexico, of certain characteristic trees of southern latitudes further confirms this impression. Hence we have "Far north Canada," and hence, too, even southern Ontario is mentally removed far up into the latitudes of north Germany and the south of England, and prejudged adversely whenever the length and generous warmth of its summers are thought of in relation to those of France, Austria, south Germany, and even