

ginian partridges, it may be observed, which abound in the Upper, are totally unknown in the Lower Province.

The soil is generally a fertile clay, which has hardly been yet brought, in any instance, to the test of what it may produce. It is generally occupied in small possessions, which continue, with the exception of some large seignories and church-lands, to fritter more and more away, from the absence of a check in the law of primogeniture, and a want of enterprise in the people, which might lead them to counteract this effect, by entering on new land. The population is chiefly French, and the religion Roman Catholic. The *habitans* are industrious, frugal, and contented; but their condition, to say the least, is almost stationary, and the habits or practices of their fathers are far too scrupulously revered. In person, they are rather good-looking, especially the men; and to view them clothed in their home-spun drugget frocks, with a physiognomy of absolute content, peering from under the large hood so well fitted for a Canadian winter, is to obtain an assurance of unquestionable happiness and comfort. The numerous orchards and abundance of fruit evince what steady and strong heat will produce, even with a winter of the most intense cold; and while this supply contributes in a considerable measure to the wealth of the people, it adds in no small degree, with the aid of the sugar maple, to the enjoyments of a board in all respects plenteously furnished. The fine Island of Montreal is covered with orchards, and in every quarter they present themselves in rich luxuriance.

Notwithstanding, however, of these, and the many advantages which approximation to the sea-coast holds out, I should certainly not consider Lower Canada likely to realize the hopes of British settlers.

To many, the difference of religion, and scarcity of Protestant churches, will prove a drawback. To many more, the preponderance of the French language, laws, and manners, will create a serious obstacle. Nor am I aware of any existing circumstances, in the Lower Province, which can be said to counterbalance these objections.

It is no doubt true, that many individual instances of prosperity are to be met with in Lower Canada, among agricultural settlers from Britain and Ireland; but these must be viewed as exceptions, and not followed as a rule.

Even the land measure will somewhat tend to embarrass a stranger, as it is the *arpent* (about one-fifth less than the En-