

rivers of great length." More than two-thirds of 65,000 square miles are at once available for the purposes of agriculture.

Climate.—Captain Palisser says, "Throughout this region of country the climate seems to preserve the same character, although it passes through very different latitudes its form being doubtless determined by the curves of the isothermal line." Mr. Taylor remarks, "It has a climate not exceeding in severity that of many portions of Canada and the Eastern States. Mr. A. J. Russell, of Ottawa, who is said to be a surveyor of great experience, remarks that, "The depth of snow at Lake Temiscaming is less than at Quebec, and becomes less as you approach the Lake of the Woods."

Access.—Captain Blakeston, another co-explorer with Captain Palisser, says: "Taking either branch of the Saskatchewan River, it is navigable for boats from Lake Winnipeg to near the base of the Rocky Mountains, a distance of 1200 miles. I am glad to say I was fortunate enough to travel on it from its mouth to Fort Edmondston, 1000 miles up, at a time of year when I saw the water at its lowest." This will show that the natural lines of communication and inner access are quite easy. The lines of access from without, for emigrants, for instance, and they are what requires most consideration, are not quite satisfactory. The Report says: "The direct route from England via York Factory, and also that from Canada via Lake Superior, are tedious, difficult, and expensive for the generality of settlers." This is the purport of the answer given by Captain Palisser to the question as to what means of access were in existence for British emigrants to reach the settlement. But then it is said that Captain Palisser, not having had the opportunity of examining and reporting upon some routes, his answer must be taken with a qualification. Later surveys have shown that a direct road from Thunder Bay to Dog Lake, which would then be within a half a day's drive from Lake Superior, instead of taking nearly five days to reach it, as it did by former roads, will considerably remove the disadvantages of access complained of by Captain Palisser. Mr. A. J. Russell says, "That a direct line drawn from Montreal to Fort Garry, on Red River, will lie along the Upper Ottawa, strike the mouth of the Montreal River, will strike the more northerly point of Lake Superior and the north part of the Lake of the Woods. This line would be 400 miles shorter to Fort Garry than any line south of the great lakes. By a direct route, Montreal is distant from Fort Garry 1,400 miles." It will thus be seen that the three great essentials are to be found, and we may, therefore, safely presume that, in acquiring the North Western Territory we shall not pay too dearly for our "whistle."—*Ottawa Citizen.*

5. THE U.E. LOYALISTS AND THEIR HISTORY.

It is now nearly a hundred years since the settlement of the British Provinces was commenced by a body of men who yet await a Macaulay or Motley to record their sacrifices and their virtues. Since they went to their reward, a great revolution has passed over the minds of men. Men shout exultantly that this is the age of the Steamboat, the Telegraph, the Railway, this is the age of enlightenment, of progress. If it was not useless to attempt to stem the current, one might point out the fact that this also is the age of Mormonism, of Spiritualism, of Cæsarism, of Democratic Centralism, all diseases of the most advanced nations. As for the selfishness of the age who can doubt it? England blandly preaches Free Trade as the panacea of all ills, after having conclusively proved at home that it is to her special advantage; the United States are endeavouring to make a Japan of their gifted country; and last of all the susceptibilities of that most uneconomic people the Irish are now being extensively utilised to the support of long-headed compatriots and in struggles for power among strangers.

So amid the blowing of steam-whistles and the din of congratulation of this nineteenth century the actions of our forefathers are well nigh forgotten. A well-known United States writer looks across the Niagara River "to a land without a history." Another speaks of Canada "as a country without a destiny which will do well if it keep up with the progress of civilization." English M. P.'s sometimes favour our country with a casual notice at the end of one of their chapters on the United States. The wonder with such men seems to be why these colonies did not rebel with the others, and why they can possibly desire to remain connected with the British Crown? Yet we who are born and bred here look back with pride upon the history of our country; for a more stainless record of self-sacrificing loyalty exists not on the page of history. In one month of 1783, 12,000 souls sailed from New York for the various remaining colonies of the British Crown. These were not of the poorer classes, such could have stayed, but all had lands, houses, property which they left behind them at the call of duty and honour, and which were divided among the victors. Massachusetts, now so solicitous for the slave, had small sympathy for the thousands of her own white citizens who adhered to conscientious

convictions, different from those of the mob. If Yankee school-masters are tarred and feathered in the South, it was she who taught such intolerance. It was she who had the wicked pre-eminence in persecuting all whom the mob called Tories, in burning their houses, in smoking them in closed rooms, in waylaying and insulting them, in imprisoning clergymen who would not pray for Congress, in turning into the woods old and infirm men and women, who, having feared God and honoured the king in their youth, would revile neither in their old age. South Carolina and Virginia followed hard in the footsteps of their Northern sister in this cruel persecution. If the descendants of Lee and Washington feel the confiscation of their lands a hardship, let them call to mind how many of their forefathers acquired them.

If the old families of Shelburne, of Yarmouth, of St. John, of Cornwall, of Toronto, would relate their stories, it would be seen whether we had a history. The foundations of these Colonies were laid with self-sacrifice, with tears, and with blood. Other men entered into the labours of our forefathers, while they commenced anew in the wilderness, and the fabric grew steadily by their industry and the sweat of their brow. They have gone to their long home, and their children are told that their manifest destiny is absorption into the Southern republic!

Nor is this republic the same as that which our forefathers repudiated? It has changed, and for the worse. The influx of foreigners has radically altered it. It seems strange that the assertion so confidently made of the success of Republican principles should pass current unchallenged, while the events of the past four years stand out in all their reddened horror. If such is success, what can failure be? Not a thread, not a vestige of the principles of the Revolution remains; but the principles of our exiled forefathers glow yet in the hearts of their children.

And our destiny is to transmit these principles to our children. The meaning of the word loyalty, which the United States rediscovered of late, has always been known to us. It is not found in the pages of Mill or of Malthus, but neither are the virtues of religion, of charity, or of duty. It is covertly sneered at by philosophers, but the existence of these colonies and their determination to abide by the old ideas in their proposed Confederation is a standing proof that our fathers have not made their sacrifices in vain. The events of the past four years have more than justified their course. The most philosophic of Union writers (Dr. Brownson) in denouncing secession is obliged to admit that the rebellion of the 13 colonies was unjustifiable. Every Union argument proves the same thesis. The sacred right of revolution was lauded to the skies by every United States writer until within the last 4 years. JEFFERSON maintained that there should be a revolution every 19 years, because no one generation had a right to bind its successors. But now all is changed, and our ancestors are justified by the lips of their enemies. While Confederation under the Crown proves that the old land marks are not forgotten at least on this side of the water.—*Montreal Gazette.*

III. Papers on Practical Education.

1. SUGGESTIONS ON TEACHING GRAMMAR.

But the children of the poor, who do not mix in good society, and who are constantly hearing the rules of the English tongue violated, cannot have the same advantage as the rich. Will, however, the little syntax that can be taught to them ever alter their mode of speech? Will, in short, the technical teaching of grammar influence them? No; there must be a more potent means employed. Let scholars early be corrected when they speak incorrectly, and let them constantly read the best specimens of the English language—the best productions of the masters of English prose. Our new style of reading books will do more for the children in the schools than all the rules of syntax they can ever learn. But even yet our modern reading books afford reading expressed in only fifth-rate English, instead of presenting to us the best pieces of the best writers. Scott is harsh at times and tedious, and is becoming less and less read; still his works would afford pleasing and correct extracts. Then there is Goldsmith's beautiful prose. Seldom, if ever, has there arisen an author whose writings possess the sweetness, the clearness, and the flow of Dr. Goldsmith. Whether you examine his *Citizen of the World*, beautiful for all time, or his *Vicar of Wakefield* or his *Essays*, you cannot, if only on account of their charming style, cease to admire his wonderful genius. Whole passages of a cheerful, happy cast, and full of feeling, might be culled from Goldsmith's works and put into reading books for the upper classes in our schools. Washington Irving, again, the Addison of America, is a charming, elegant, and correct writer. His *Sketch Book* alone would furnish several sweet little passages. Charles Dickens is also a charming, and, when he pleases, a careful and