

a host of small farmers, who could never so effectively plead their cause to the Government. But, on the other hand, the labourers engaged during the severe winter, at high pay, to fell and transport the timber to the coast, became invariably a drunken and improvident set. Another serious mischief accrued to the colony from this traffic: as often as the new settlers reached the tracts from which the wood had been removed, they found, instead of a cleared region, ready for cultivation, a dense copsewood or vigorous undergrowth of young trees, far more expensive to deal with than the original forest, and, what was worse, all the best kinds of timber, fit for farm buildings and other uses, had been taken away, having been carefully selected for exportation to Great Britain. So that, while the English are submitting to pay an enhanced price for timber inferior in quality to that of Norway, the majority of the colonists, for whom the sacrifices are made, feel no gratitude for the boon. On the contrary, they complain of a monopoly that enriches a few timber merchants, at the expense of the more regular and steady progress of agriculture.

After my visit to the district of Windsor, Cape Blomidon, and Minudie, I went by Amherst to the Cobequid Hills, the nucleus of which consists of granite. Their outline, though rounded and not picturesque, formed a striking contrast to that of the low, long, flat-topped and uniform ridges, with straight intervening valleys, into which the Cumberland coal-field near Minudie is divided. On the highest part of the Cobequid Hills, we crossed a fine wild forest covering the granite, and then, on the southern flanks of those hills, I observed clay-slate cut through by