

great and commanding emporium of trade and commerce. On a fair field, then, it is tolerably evident that, in these respects, this Province possesses natural advantages, which ought to enable her, not only to hold her ground, but to distance those around her in the race of competition. We have but to view the present, and look back into the past, to find to our discomfort that this is not so. There are coal and iron ore, but capital has been slow in gathering round it, and realising their capabilities. Considered partially, we may be called a prosperous people. There is great wealth in the city of Halifax—greater, it is said, than in any other city of its size in British America. But we must not conceal from ourselves that this wealth is, after all, in the hands of the few. Our farmers are for the most part poor, and sometimes find it difficult to command a ready market for their produce. Our fishermen are not in a better condition; and our mechanics do not always find it easy to secure employment all the year round. Our manufactories are few and on a stunted scale; so that openings for young men and women are so rare, that year by year witnesses hundreds, or perhaps thousands, of both sexes, seeking for profitable employment in a foreign country, and compelled to sever the ties of kindred and home, and become the denizens of another State. This is not a satisfactory state of things; and above all, unsatisfactory that such should be the case with a Province which is not yet half settled, which has only five millions of its thirteen millions of acres of land even granted by its Government. It requires no argument to satisfy reasoning and reflecting people, that with its soil and teeming natural resources, both by land and water, this might not be, that it ought not to be. It is sad that so much of the bone and sinew of the land should be drained off by the pressure of necessity, to form a part, and no unimportant part, of the bone and sinew of a rival State. Our farmers and fishermen, our mechanics, and even our professional men, would prefer to keep their sons and daughters within their own borders if they could. But they cannot, and the stream of youthful emigrants, seeking to better their fortune in the neighbouring Republic, knows no diminution. These are facts which every eye can see that chooses to look for them, and if we retain our present political isolation, they will continue to be facts in spite of us.