

wail of the helpless orphan; while before their very doors stalks the *millionnaire* who has fattened on the blood of the soldiers, and the vices of the rulers. Not only in their own country and ours; but in the land of their sires: the land of the free—the land over whose sons that flag has waved which has “braved a thousand years the battle and the breeze”—misery and want have entered the cabins of happiness and plenty. The honest man, the delicate factory girl, the stay of a widowed mother, are now begging their bread, because a score or two of men must rise to greatness on a gigantic hecatomb of the bones of millions of their fellows. We must draw a veil over this great sacrifice, for it is horrible to look upon. We can only hope that the year 1863 will not pass away without a change for the better in both hemispheres. With regard to ourself, we have lived through the end of the old year, and the beginning of the new: have lived through the criticisms of friend and enemies, and while thanking our patrons for their generous support, feel much pleasure in wishing them all a **HAPPY NEW YEAR.**

A. Wallace

The Iron Mines of the St. Maurice Territory :

THEIR DISCOVERY, THE PROGRESS OF THEIR DEVELOPEMENT, AND THEIR PRESENT CONDITION.

I

IN introducing to the readers of the *British Canadian Review* the subject of the discovery, progress of developement, and present condition of the iron mines of the St. Maurice territory, an apology need scarcely be offered for bringing before the Canadian public, historical facts relating to a locality early known and appreciated by the pioneers of civilization in Lower Canada. While thus compiling the data which have been handed down to us by Canadian historians, regarding the early discovery and subsequent developement of the mineral resources of this vast territory, it will, perhaps, be interesting to note the various stages of progress and temporary decay, through which the St. Maurice iron mines have passed, as well as the present condition of iron mining in central Lower Canada.

While the colonization of wild lands, improvements in agriculture, and various other important questions of national interest are daily