

EMIGRATION DEPARTMENT.

The space allotted for this department of our journal is so circumscribed, owing to the great importance of the several other topics which will necessarily engage our attention; that it might be thought by some an act of supererogation, on our part, to engage any portion of our paper with subjects we could not reasonably anticipate that the results from which would be fraught with any considerable perceptible good to the Agricultural community. We would however observe, that our object in occupying a portion of our columns with subjects of interest to the newly-arrived emigrant, and other classes of individuals who are comparative strangers to the natural and artificial resources of this noble Province, is partly a desire to draw the attention of the public to the importance of giving encouragement to a wholesome flow of emigration to our shores, and to establish, if possible, permanent profitable employment for the labouring classes, and to secure a safe investment for capital; and last, but not least, to endeavour, as far as in us lies, to bring this highly favoured portion of the British Empire into more general favourable notice, both at home and abroad. How far we shall be successful in accomplishing our purpose remains to be seen; but one thing is certain, unless some one makes the attempt, nothing will be done. The Canadian Press in general appears to be too much occupied in discussing subjects which have already engendered a vast amount of hatred and party spirit, and which so completely engross their columns, that the great productive interests of the country, in many instances, instead of progressing, are allowed to retrograde. To counteract this deleterious influence, which acts on the vitals of this infant Colony, we shall endeavour to set an example worthy of being followed by every well-wisher to this country.

Climate.—It has been said by some that the climate of Canada, especially the long winter, is prejudicial to its being a great Agricultural country. We would beg to controvert this statement. The few past years experience have given abundant proof of the vast importance of good winter roads to Agriculture, and in fact to every other branch of industry in the Province. For the past seven years, in every alternate year, there has been excellent sledding equal to artificial railroads, which has lasted for a period of fourteen weeks, and the intermediate years have been celebrated for the scarcity of snow upon the ground, and for mild humid weather. The seasons in which snow and frost were prevalent, every thing appeared lively, and the reverse was the case during those seasons which were noted for the opposite extreme. The present season up to the 20th inst., has been remarkable for its mildness and English-like climate, and all with whom we have conversed on the subject agreed with us, that about three months sharp frosty weather, with a covering of twelve or eighteen inches of snow upon the ground is decidedly the most suitable season for general business, and best

adapted to the peculiar circumstances of a new country.

It has been said, though not of late, that the climate was peculiarly trying upon the constitution of foreigners; but experience has proved the contrary to be the case. We find that inhabitants, old and young, native born and foreigners, enjoy as good general health as the people of any other country. Indeed, we have, over and over, heard the Europeans eulogize the climate of this colony by remarking, that bad colds, coughs, and consumptions are far less frequent than in Britain, an evidence of which they have cited to the circumstance, that where large congregations are assembled in this country for worship, or for any other purpose, where order and decorum are of requisite observance, the assemblage suffered little or no annoyance from the effects of coughing, when compared with similar meetings in the British Isles.

Soil and Products.—The soil of Canada is capable of producing, under good management, as many bushels per acre, of wheat, barley, oats, pease, potatoes, and turnips, as that of any other country. Numerous instances have come under our own observation, in which the crops, above enumerated, have yielded from fields averaging from five to ten acres each,—wheat, 45 bushels per acre; barley, 60; oats, 85; pease, 45; potatoes, 500; and turnips, 1000. A country that contains a breadth of territory sufficiently extensive to comfortably accommodate a population of some eight or ten millions of souls to be employed in agricultural pursuits—and the soil and climate of which is so peculiarly favourable for producing and maturing crops, that with good farm management, no country can be found that exceeds its average produce, from a given breadth of land. Certainly a country possessing such traits of character, is deserving of every attention, both by its own inhabitants, and the great nation to which it forms a part. That it will receive in future such attention, there can be no manner of doubt. The great thing necessary to be done, is for all interested parties, both at home and abroad, to unite in developing its resources. This must be accomplished mainly through the aid of the press, and by the agency of associations based on such broad and philanthropic principles, that our mixed population, composed of almost all parties, nations, and tongues, may unite cordially and zealously in the good work. In consequence of the newness of the country, and the indifference which has been manifested by the rich and well educated, in effecting improvements in rural pursuits, the products of the country are not as various as they otherwise would be; but we have good grounds for entertaining a hope that the agricultural products, for home consumption and exportation, will shortly be more varied; and also that greater encouragement will be given to manufacturers of coarse descriptions of fabrics, and to the working of the numerous minerals, which abound in this province.

Entertaining such a high opinion of the

country, and believing that no part of the continent of America presents to the view of intending emigrants, greater natural and artificial advantages, we shall, at all times, give evidence of much zeal in the cause of our country's welfare. In elucidating facts we shall always endeavour to keep within the bounds of truth and reason, and shall not knowingly give offence to any, nor give just grounds for the criticism of our learned contemporaries.

Without adding to this exposition of our views and intentions, we shall endeavour to confine ourselves, in future, strictly to the subject under discussion. We shall devote about two pages in each number to topics, which will have a relative bearing upon the subject of emigration.

COMMERCE AND RESOURCES OF BRITISH AMERICA.

(From Hunt's Merchants' Magazine.)

Upper and Lower Canada contained 270,718 inhabitants in 1806, 333,250 in 1816, and 530,450 in 1824.

The population of the four districts of Lower Canada, in 1831, was—

Quebec,	137,126
Montreal,	284,650
Three Rivers,	70,157
Gaspé,	9,508

Total, 501,438

The increase in the numbers of the people, by natural means, is rapid. The difference between the births and deaths, in the six years from 1831 to 1836, is equal to an average annual increase of 2 2-5 per cent. But this increase is importantly assisted by emigration. In the same six years, the number of emigrants from the United Kingdom, who landed at Quebec and Montreal, was 194,986. The greater part of these went forward to the Upper Province, and some of them probably crossed over to the United States; but, on the other hand, a number, probably greater than those of British emigrants who landed at ports in the United States, proceeded onward to Canada. During the six years, (1831 to 1836,) the number who landed at the Port of New-York, alone, was 169,354. The increase altogether, in the district of Quebec, Montreal, and Three Rivers, between 1831 and 1836, was 70,738. The population of the whole of Lower Canada, in the latter year, was supposed to exceed 600,000.

The population of Upper Canada, in 1831, had reached 296,544; making the numbers in the entire province, in that year, 797,982. In 1836, they were but little, if at all, below a million. At this time, (1843,) the Canadians have probably increased to 1,250,000, being about equal to the population of Denmark, exclusive of the duchies of Sleswick Holstein.

The trade of England with this part of her dominions is considerable. The exports exceed in value the return shipments, as must be the case while any considerable number of British subjects are emigrating thither. The custom-house accounts do not, indeed, state the full measure of this excess, since no entry is made of the greater part of the property taken with them by emigrants; and which, although the value may not be great in the individual cases, must amount to a considerable sum in the aggregate.

The total imports and exports of Canada, in 1839, was, imports £12,886,993; exports £7,844,411.