

REVIEWS.

Winnipeg and to various other places over the Prairie Province.

The author evidently made good use of his time, and came home with note books well filled and much valuable material, drawn from a great variety of sources, all which have been well digested and arranged in this neat octavo. Full particulars as to the route and modes of travel are given. Lithographic maps accompany the volume, and show the various settlements, the region surrounding Manitoba, and the Dawson route. One of the fourteen chapters of the book gives an interesting description of Winnipeg, said to contain about 6,000 souls. Another gives a full account of the grasshoppers, the terrible Rocky Mountain locusts—*Coloptenus spretus*—which occasionally come from the dry and arid plains of the western United States territory, to pay the Manitobans an unwelcome visit. The sixth chapter contains a varied sketch of the Indians and half-breeds, and of Indian treaties. The history of the old fur companies and the great Hudson's Bay Company is also clearly drawn. The eighth chapter, devoted to climate, productions and prospects of the country, exhibits, in the most convincing manner, the fertility and importance of the great Fertile Belt, and its superiority to the lands of the United States west and south of our Red River.

As a lawyer, Mr. Hamilton is well qualified to tell us of the courts and civil institutions now on trial in the North Land. The late constitutional change, which abolished the upper house of the local legislature, is described. We quote as follows:—

"The appearance of this little Legislature, especially in its first session, was such as tended to amuse spectators accustomed to more august gatherings of the people's representatives. Ancient English forms and precedents were followed as far as circumstances permitted; but there were, among the members of mixed blood, some more accustomed to the chase of the bison

than to following orators through labyrinths of argument. The favourite dress of one, of taste akin to Garibaldi, was a red flannel shirt and moccasins. When Mr. Archibald first appeared in glorious array, to take his gubernatorial seat in the Legislative Council Chamber, an astonished legislator ejaculated: "*Tiens! Ce n'est pas un homme; c'est un faisan doré.*" We find the spirit of Ontario in the statute book and judicature, as well as in the forms of the Legislature. This is the more apparent since Lieutenant-Governor Archibald left the Province and the present Chief Justice was appointed.

The Ontario lawyer finds himself at home in the Courts of Manitoba. English law, as to civil rights, has been introduced by local enactment as it stood in 1870. The law as to criminal offences is that of the Dominion. The Court of Queen's Bench—Chief Justice Hon. E. B. Wood, Justices McKeagney and Betournay, who, as other Canadian Judges, hold office by appointment of the Governor-General in Council, and during good behaviour—holds its sessions thrice a year in Winnipeg, having legal and equitable, civil and criminal jurisdiction in all matters. In regard to costs, civil cases are divided into a higher and lower scale. Through the over-ruling influence of the Chief Justice, the code to which he was in practice accustomed, as set out in the Ontario Common Law Procedure Act and the General Orders of the Ontario Court of Chancery, has been adopted. Mr. Cary, a cultivated gentleman, is at once Prothonotary, Master in Chancery, Clerk of Records, and Interpreter of the Court. The judges sit separately, exercising original jurisdiction, and *in banco* together on appeals, &c. The Province is divided into several judicial districts, in which county courts are held by the judges named, as occasion arises. The Chief Justice practically acts as Chancellor. He complains that he has not enough work to occupy his time. The bar has some able representatives."

In another part of the volume a report is given of the *causes celebres* tried at York and Quebec in 1818, and which arose out of the troubles between the contending fur companies. The author has, with the aid of the late Colonel Gagy, traced the DeReinhard case to its conclusion in the pardon of that cruel murderer by order of King George IV. As important legal points were raised at this trial, and will be again opened at the