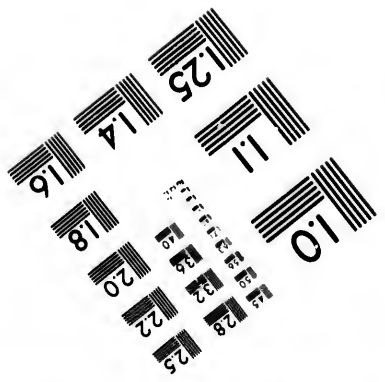
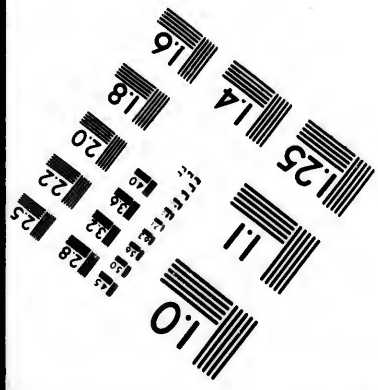
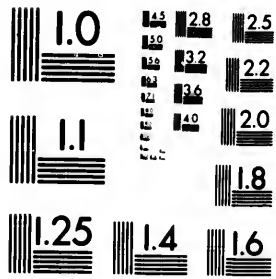


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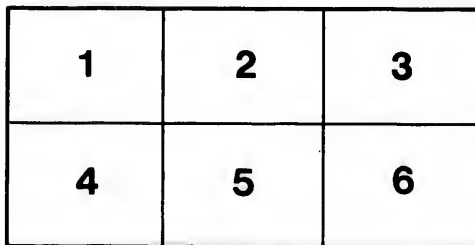
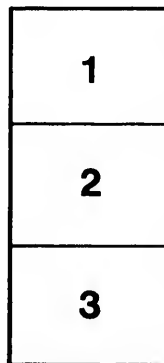
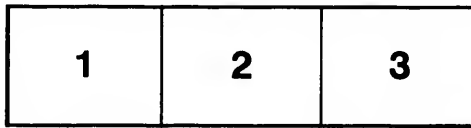
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DOMINION OF CANADA.

BY
C. H. EDEN, Esq.

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THE DOMINION OF CANADA.





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BY
CHARLES H. EDEN.

Enlarged and Corrected.

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THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

UNDER the above name is included a vast tract of country of about 3,528,705 square miles, or about half of the entire continent of North America. As at present constituted, it is composed of six provinces, namely, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, and British Columbia, together with the vast and but little known north-west territory. From its proximity to Great Britain, and its enormous natural resources, the Dominion ranks first in importance of our colonial possessions, and to enter into a minute account of each of the several provinces, their laws and internal economy, would occupy far more space than I have at my disposal. I trust, however, within the limits of this article, to convey to the reader a general idea on the subject, and if, by my means, he feels prompted to make further inquiries, I shall consider myself amply repaid.

Many attempts have been made to explain the

derivation and meaning of the name "Canada," but for the most part the conclusions arrived at have been unsatisfactory. That it is a slight corruption of the word "Kanata," signifying, in the Indian language, the "Place of Homes," seems the probable theory. The Dominion crosses the entire continent from east to west, stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific Oceans; whilst its extreme southern point reaches a little below the 42nd parallel of latitude. One of the chief physical features which it presents, and one that can hardly fail to impress itself at the first glance on the map, is the wonderful system of rivers and lakes which Canada possesses. These give her an incalculable advantage over less favoured countries. By means of the noble river St. Lawrence—so named from a French navigator entering it upon St. Laurent's Day—direct communication with the sea is obtained for an extent of 2384 miles, viz. from the Straits of Belle Isle to Fond-du-Lac, at the head of Lake Superior. Vessels drawing twenty feet of water can ascend the river to Montreal, which is little less than 1000 miles from Belle Isle. A short distance beyond, however, obstacles to free navigation commence, in the form of rapids, all of which have been successfully surmounted by ingenuity and engineering skill. These natural barriers, by confining the flow of the river and "backing up" its waters, cause them in parts to spread over a vast area, and hence originate the enormous lakes, or indeed they almost merit the name of inland seas, which are found in the interior. These obstructions

have been overcome by a system of canals, that connect for the whole distance the navigable portions of the river, and the total length of which is over seventy miles, having fifty-four locks, and a grade of $536\frac{1}{2}$ feet. By means of these canals, vessels of 400 tons can navigate the river between Montreal and the head of Lake Superior, a distance exceeding 1398 miles. Steamers proceeding in every direction, convey both passengers and merchandise to their destinations, and the boats of one company plying between Montreal and Toronto pass through the lovely scenery of the Thousand Islands, and on their return trip avoid the canals, and, running the rapids above Montreal, give additional interest to the journey.

Besides its river communication, Canada can boast of a complete railway system, the lines already completed being over 3000 miles in length. Of the several companies by whom these railways are worked, the Grand Trunk is the most extensive, having 1376 miles of road in complete working order, and extending from Rivière du Loup, 120 miles east of Quebec, to the western extremity of the Province of Ontario, where it is connected with the American railways. The Victoria Bridge, which spans the St. Lawrence at Montreal, forms part of this line, and is considered, with good reason, one of the greatest triumphs of modern engineering. It measures 9184 feet in span, has twenty-four arches, measuring 242 feet each in diameter, and one in the centre, which measures 330 feet.

The piers and abutments are of cut stone, and support, sixty feet above the highest water level, an enormous iron tube, at the entrance of which, at all hours of the day, may be seen entering and reappearing the vast number of cars which are constantly leaving Montreal for, and arriving from, the different localities with which her trade extends. The cost of building the Grand Trunk and its rolling stock, added to the sums expended to purchase the different branch roads which it now controls, amounts to 102,802,502 dols., and to further this enterprise the Government of the United Canadas (Quebec and Ontario) advanced the sum of 15,000,000 dols. In addition to those completed, there are in process of construction 1100 miles more, whilst charters have been obtained for 800 miles of railway not yet commenced, apart from the Colonial Pacific Railway, which is to be built within ten years, the length of which will be about 2500 miles.

Having given my readers so far nothing but generalities, I will now take the Province of Quebec, and enter far enough into detail to enable the intending emigrant to judge whether he thinks it adapted to him or not; and before doing so, let me endeavour to explain that that part of the country until lately known by the names of "Canada East," or "Lower Canada," is now called the "Province of Quebec;" whilst "Canada West," or "Upper Canada," is called the "Province of Ontario." These different names have been the cause of misleading many people, but

with the new nomenclature all ambiguity will fade away.

The city of Quebec, which was the cradle of the colony, was founded by Samuel de Champlain in 1608; and it is from that time that the French occupancy of the country dates. Incessant wars with the powerful Indian tribes by whom they were surrounded caused a considerable time to elapse before agriculture became of any importance, the early settlers directing their attention to the lucrative trades of peltry dealers and hunters; but upon the foundation of Montreal in 1642 new settlers arrived; and when, in 1663, the French monarch gave the colony a civil government adapted to its needs, the country began to develop itself. From that time dates the system of *seigniories*, which held its ground until its abolition by the Canadian Parliament in 1854. Under this, the land on each side of the St. Lawrence was divided into large tracts, which were granted to such settlers as by birth, military service, or some similar claim, were deemed worthy of such honour, but with this condition, that within a given time they should people their *seigniorie* with a given number of inhabitants, failing to comply with which the rights of the defaulters were annulled. That such a plan was admirably adapted to a new country is self-evident, for each proprietor became a self-interested colonization agent, and to maintain his own hold on the soil he had to induce fresh settlers or *censitaires* to come from France. The term *censitaire*

signifies the owner of a farm granted by the seignior, and the latter was obliged to give the land without the payment of ready money, but received instead a rent of two *sous* and a quart of wheat per superficial acre. On the farm changing hands, he also became entitled to one-twelfth of the purchase-money. Such was the state of the colony when the war of 1760 put an end to the French domination; and when, by the Treaty of Paris in 1763, it was ceded to England, it comprised a population of 70,000 French Canadians, but it was stipulated in that treaty, that the civil laws which had hitherto prevailed, and the institutions existing at the time, were to be maintained in their integrity. In 1791 a constitutional form of government was introduced, and Canada divided into two provinces; thus the French population in Lower Canada became the arbiters of their own destinies. The opening up of the rivers and lakes, the great increase of commerce, and the frequent mutations of property, all pointed out that the old seigniorial system, instead of being an advantage to the *ceusitaire*, had become a restraint and an obstacle to the amelioration of property, and it was accordingly swept away as above mentioned; three millions of dollars were voted to indemnify the seigneurs for the loss of their privileges; and of the old feudal rights, there only remains the primitive proprietary ground-rent (*rente foncière*), in consideration of which the land was originally ceded, and even this is redeemable at the will of the holder. In the year 1867, delegates

from all the British provinces met at Quebec, and adopted the project of Confederation, which has resulted in the Dominion of Canada of the present day.

The Province of Quebec has an area of about 134,402,800 acres of land, and the soil of a very large portion of this immense tract is exceedingly fertile and capable of high cultivation. Its population according to the last census, taken in April, 1871, was 1,191,505, of which number over 800,000 were of French origin. The population of British extraction is principally concentrated in the cities, in the southern portion of the eastern townships, and in the valley of Ottawa; while the French as a rule occupy the basin of the St. Lawrence. This diversity of race and language presents no impediment to the progress and well-being of the colony; for it excites in the bosoms of each portion of the community a healthy spirit of emulation, which never extends beyond generous rivalry. A French writer¹ of great merit thus sums up the inquiries instituted by him into the derivation of the Franco-American population:—"The people to whom these remarks relate sprang not, as many have believed, from a few adventurers or a handful of men whom hazard thrust forward, or a few aimless citizens enrolled by the State. Far from it: the immigration was a real transplanting of an integral

¹ *La France aux Colonies: Études sur le développement de la race Française hors de l'Europe.* Par E. Rameau. Paris, 1859.-

portion of the French nation,—the peasant, the soldier, the esquire and the seigneur; it was a colony in the Roman acceptation of the word, which carried the mother-land along with it. The substance of the people, or rather the vital powers of the race, represent a real infusion of the life-blood of the French peasantry into the heart of Canada; families sought after and grouped with a particular care, who transplanted with themselves the manners, the habits, and the idiosyncracies of their native cantons so faithfully as to astonish, even to-day, the traveller from France; disbanded soldiers, with their officers at their head, who settled on the land, under the protection of the old flag; these were the essential principles and original elements of the Canadian population."

When Canada became a British province French emigration almost entirely ceased, but since the establishment of some thirty families from Brittany, who were sent out at the expense of Miss Bernard—a project which met with the warmest approval both from the Government and the public—hopes are entertained that it will be renewed, and it certainly does seem the place best adapted for the evicted inhabitants of Alsace and Lorraine.

The climate of Canada is unquestionably remarkably healthy, and Europeans are enchanted with the change from the fog and moisture of their own continent to the brilliant skies and bracing cold of North America. When I speak

of the climate of Quebec, I must be understood to refer to the whole of Canada, for the main features are so exactly alike that giving a description of the seasons in each province would be mere recapitulation. The winter in Quebec is, however, of a little greater severity than in Ontario. Disease is unknown among the usual population, except that caused by inequality of diet, or imprudent exposure to atmospheric changes. The extreme dryness of the air is shown by the tin roofs of the houses remaining so long bright, and by a charge of powder remaining for weeks uncaked in a gun. Those who shudder at the idea of the thermometer falling below zero will be astonished to hear that where the annual quantity of snow has diminished owing to the clearing of the land, its loss is a source of positive regret to the farmers. The vigour which the soil acquires, enabling it to burst into luxuriant vegetation in the spring, is mainly due to the warmth retained in the earth by the snowy mantle with which it has been covered. Though the length of the winters shortens the period during which agricultural pursuits are carried on, this disadvantage is more than compensated in the facilities afforded by the snow-roads for conveying produce to the market. But perhaps the fact that fruit culture obtains in Canada to a very large extent will dissipate many erroneous ideas regarding the climate. The island of Montreal is distinguished for the size and quality of its apples; the isle of Orleans, below Quebec, has established a name for

its plums. Throughout Ontario maize and tomatoes ripen well, and in the southern parts peach-trees and grapes come to perfection in the open air; whilst hemp and flax are indigenous plants. The truth is that many people talk about the Canadian winter who know nothing whatever concerning the subject, except that it is very cold. The "muggy" damp of England is unknown; the air is highly exhilarating, the sky cloudless, and the absence of all sickness, flies, mosquitoes, and other nuisances, added to the pleasures of skating, sleighing, tobogganing,¹ and other amusements, combine to render it, not the most dreaded, but the most enjoyable season of the year. The summer is hot, but fever and ague, the scourge of the settlers in Illinois and other States of the Union, is unknown, and the steadiness and uniformity of the heat causes all grains and fruits to mature well and with certainty.

The soil of the Province of Quebec is admirably adapted to the production of wheat, which cereal was largely grown until the appearance of the wheat fly in 1845 made its cultivation so precarious that the farmers directed their attention to raising artificial grasses, and to the breeding of cattle. The name given in Europe to the fly which committed such havoc is *Cecidomyia tritici*, so called from its depredations on wheat, to which it is nearly as destructive as the famous and closely

¹ A pastime much in vogue amongst the Canadians. It may be briefly described, as sliding down a steep snow incline on a bark sleigh.

allied species, the Hessian fly. The perfect insect is one-tenth of an inch long, of an orange-red colour, with whitish wings, hairy on the edges, and black eyes; the females deposit their eggs in the centre of the corolla of the wheat flower, coming out in great numbers between seven and nine p.m. early in June, several laying on the same ear; the eggs are hatched in eight or ten days, and the larvæ, footless grubs, nearly one-eighth of an inch long when fully grown, feed upon the flower, rendering it abortive, and not upon the stem, like the Hessian fly; they are yellowish, with a sharp head, and have a quick, wriggling motion. They quit the ears by the first of August, descend about half an inch into the earth, and there remain through the winter. This plague appeared at the same time in Massachusetts and New York, and only vanished on being starved out by a change of crop or the substitution of late-sown spring wheat. The utter subversion of all the preconceived notions of agriculture was a great blow to the farmers, who looked back regretfully on the wheat crops which had hitherto supplied them with all the necessaries of life. Little by little, however, the new method was adopted, agricultural societies lending their aid to root up the old theory, and from that time commenced an augmentation and an amelioration in the agricultural products. Now the farms are sown with clover, hay, and grains adapted for forage, while in the meadows are seen numbers of cattle, as perfect in their breeding as careful

selection and the introduction of the best imported blood can make them. After some years, the fly having disappeared, the growth of wheat became again practicable, and the harvests of 1868 and 1869 showed most favourable results wherever it had been resumed ; but the system of herds and roots had become generally adopted, and most of the farmers still adhere to it, instead of reverting to the cultivation of wheat alone.

The great bulk of the population live by agriculture, manufacturing being almost entirely confined to the cities. The extent of the farms in the seigniories on the St. Lawrence is usually ninety arpents (the old French term for an acre, which is still retained in the Province of Quebec), and in the townships about 100 acres. This amount is amply sufficient to enable the industrious settler to live in moderate ease and comfort, to provide for his family whilst young, and to give them a fair start when the time arrives that they should quit the nest. The summer season is entirely taken up by the requirements of the farm, then the crops have to be sown, tended, and got in, the stock have to be looked to, and in fact nearly all that with us extends over the whole year is with the Quebec farmer compressed into seven or eight months. During the winter months, whilst the male portion of the family are cutting firewood, clearing fresh ground, attending the cattle (which at that time are always housed and stall-fed) and threshing out the autumn's grain, the female part are within doors, weaving from the wool of their own sheep

the rough cloth that supplies the family with clothing, making mittens, comforters, and gloves, and seeing to the thousand and one little things that the reader will understand for himself better than I can explain.

One great source of prosperity to the province has been the energy with which its Government has always seconded the efforts of its more adventurous sons, who, feeling cramped within the limits of a township, have boldly pushed their way into the interior, and opened out new tracts of country to the rapidly-increasing population. To men settling far away from any habited quarter, the first thing of which they stand in need, and the absence of which makes itself painfully felt, is a *good road*, by which they can at all seasons of the year communicate with the more civilized districts. Mindful of this, the Government with a promptitude and foresight which is beyond all praise, caused roads to be opened wherever colonization promised success. Between the years 1854 and 1870 no less a sum than one million and a-half of dollars has been expended by the Treasury in opening roads through the dense forests of the country; the total length of good communication thus obtained is nearly 4000 miles. It is needless to say that they have had their reward in the rapidity with which the land on either side of the roads has been occupied, and the increased prosperity of the province. In addition to the boon these undertakings have conferred upon the *settler*, they have been of the greatest advantage to the

newly-arrived emigrant, for they have furnished him with work, and thus enabled him to provide the necessaries of life, and to lay by a little money until he feels disposed to commence on his own account.

Nor have the efforts of the Government to people their waste lands ended with the construction of colonization roads. These were but a prelude to the greater undertaking of turning the province into a network of railways. Where in the world do they get the money from for such a gigantic work? I hear the reader say. Why, by borrowing—not money, that would never do—but an idea, from Norway, and making *wooden railways*, the total cost of which, inclusive of rolling stock and all fixtures, amounted to only 5000 dols. (1000*l.*) per mile, while an iron way would have cost six times that sum.

By the last report of the Commissioner of Crown Lands it would appear that the Government of Quebec are in a position to offer for colonization 6,400,000 acres of lands divided into farm lots, nearly half of which are accessible by means of good roads, and more than two-thirds of which are fit for settlement. The price of these lots varies from twenty to sixty cents (a cent is a halfpenny) per acre. The conditions of sale are precisely the same for the emigrant as for the colonist or settler, and the formalities required are very simple.

Whoever desires to purchase a lot of land should, either personally or by letter, apply to the agent

of the locality in which he contemplates settling, and deposit in his hands a fifth of the purchase-money. Upon doing this the agent will deliver to him a conditional act of sale, bearing his official signature.

The following are the principal conditions of the sale:—To pay one-fifth of the purchase-money at the date of sale, and the remainder in four equal annual instalments, with interest at six per cent. per year; to take possession of the land sold within six months from the date of sale, and to reside thereon, and occupy the same, either by himself or through others, for at least two years from the date of the said sale. In the course of the first four years the settler must clear and place under cultivation at least ten acres for every hundred acres held by him, and erect on his farm a habitable house of the dimensions at least of sixteen feet by twenty.

The sale is only considered perfect when the foregoing conditions have been fulfilled; and it is then ratified by means of letters-patent, which are granted to the settler free of charge. The letters-patent cannot in any case be granted before the expiration of the two years of occupancy, nor until the fulfilment of all the conditions previously mentioned, even though the purchase-money were fully paid in.

It is the duty of the agents to give information as to the quality of the different lots of land situated in their agencies, and to sell the said lots at the prices fixed by Government to the first pur-

chaser. Not more than 200 acres may be sold to the same person; the father of a family, however, may purchase lots for his sons.

Upon eight of the great colonization roads every male colonist and emigrant, being at least eighteen years of age, may obtain a free grant of 100 acres. The number of acres of land at present set aside to be disposed of in free grants is 84,050; but the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may increase the quantity if found necessary. Crown land agents, while there remains at their disposal any of these free lots, are bound to grant a permit of occupation for 100 acres to any person who claims the same, provided the applicant has attained the age required by law. Within a month from the date of this permit, the grantee should take possession of the lot ceded to him, under pain of losing all right thereto. Before the expiration of his fourth year of occupation, if he has built a habitable dwelling on his lot, and has under cultivation twelve acres of land, the grantee may take out letters-patent free of charge, upon which he becomes absolute proprietor of his farm.

The clearing of the wild lands, encouraged as it is by the Government and the earnest good will of the people, is yearly making the most astonishing progress. This can be better judged of by the following figures:—The census of 1851 fixed the number of acres under cultivation in the province at 3,605,157; that of 1861 at 4,804,325, showing in ten years an increase of 1,199,068 acres of land under cultivation. To-day, I may say, with-

out fear of contradiction, that the number of acres of cultivated land is double what it was in 1851.

Within the past few years the formation of societies to aid needy settlers has taken place in the older parishes, and here again the Government has come forward with assistance. During the session of 1868 the Parliament of the Province of Quebec passed a law authorizing the formation of Colonization Societies, which provided that, up to 300 dols., the first regularly-constituted Colonization Society in any county should receive an annual subsidy equal in amount to the sum paid in by its members. The law prescribes how the funds of these societies shall be expended. They are bound, among other things, to hasten the clearing of the Crown lands by the establishing of settlers thereon, and to attract to the province emigration from distant lands, and to direct the European emigrant or native settler to such places as may have been assigned to them by the Commissioner of Crown Lands, and to furnish them with seed, provisions, and implements of agriculture.

Also, with the view of protecting the settler against the reverses which in the beginning may overcome him in his new home, the Homestead Law, passed by the Legislature in 1868, provides that no mortgage shall be valid on the land granted to him; and further, that his farm shall not be liable to be sold judicially for any debts contracted by him previous to his entering upon it.

Immediately upon his occupancy of a lot of land, and for the ten years following the granting to him of his letters-patent, sundry articles, which are named, are exempted from seizure and sale by virtue of a writ of execution emanating from any court in the province. The list of things exempted is too long for insertion here, but includes bedding, clothing, domestic and cooking utensils, a gun, fuel, three months' provisions, two horses or draught oxen, four cows, six sheep, four pigs, eight hundred bundles of hay, other forage necessary for the support of these animals during the winter, and provender sufficient to fatten one pig, and to maintain three during the winter.

From the above the reader will see how careful the Government has been for the well-being of settlers.

Now let us turn to the emigrant himself, who is recommended to leave England about April or May, when he will arrive at a time when he is sure to find work, if he wants it. Unless he has friends whom he is going out to join, the agricultural labourer is not advised to start after the month of August. By arriving prior to the harvest, he is able to get employment at high wages, and the plan of hiring himself out for the first year is strongly recommended. The rate of wages differs but little in each province, and I shall therefore give the average towards the end of this article.

Let us now turn to Ontario. This province is situated to the north of the river St. Lawrence and of the great lakes, Ontario, Erie, Huron, and

Superior. It lies to the westward of the Province of Quebec, from which it is separated by the noble stream, the Ottawa. Its northerly and westerly boundaries are by no means well defined, so its area can only be given approximately, but it may be safely assumed at over 121,000 square miles, or almost exactly the size of Great Britain and Ireland. Its present population of over 1,620,851 is only one-fifth of the number it is probably capable of supporting, so there is still ample room for a large emigration. The natural advantages of Ontario are very great. The soil varies in different localities, but a very large proportion is of the very best description for agricultural purposes; its water communication by means of the great lakes is unsurpassed; in mineral wealth (excluding the one article, coal) it is equal to any part of the world, abounding as it does in iron, copper, lead, silver, marble, petroleum, salt, &c., &c. Its immense forests of pine timber are too well known to need any description. The great lakes abound with fish, and the forests with game.

From the Government pamphlet on the province, I extract the following, which will, in a few words, give the reader a clear idea of its capabilities and the attractions it presents:—

“No portion of the Dominion offers greater inducements to emigrants than does the Province of Ontario. Two facts may be prominently mentioned as indicating in a comprehensive way the class of people to which Ontario affords a good field for emigrating. These facts are: that Ontario is a

new country, and that (at present, at all events) it is essentially an agricultural one. The producing class, then, is that which the country needs. Men to clear the forest lands, to cultivate the soil, to raise live stock, to make clothes, to build houses, to make the ordinary household goods, and to open up communication from one part of the country to another by the construction of roads and railways. The classes most needed, consequently, are farmers, agricultural labourers, day labourers—who will turn their hands to anything, whether it be sawing and chopping firewood, working on the roads and railways, or loading and unloading vessels; building mechanics, such as bricklayers, stonemasons, carpenters, plumbers, painters, and glaziers; other mechanics, as cabinet makers, tinsmiths, blacksmiths; also tailors and shoemakers. Men to whom wages of four or five shillings a day are an object—and there are hundreds of thousands of such in the United Kingdom—will find Ontario just the place for them, because such wages can always be obtained as agricultural or day labourers, by those who are able and willing to work for them. It cannot be too strongly impressed upon the intending emigrant that of professional men, and of book-keepers, clerks, and others not directly engaged in the arts of production, Ontario has already enough and to spare. Of the female sex the class most in demand are household servants. These are always sure of immediate employment, at wages of from twenty to twenty-nine shillings a month, according to ability. There is also a considerable

demand for dressmakers, milliners, seamstresses and bonnet-makers, all of whom can obtain much better wages than they can at home."

Farmers possessing moderate means can readily purchase or lease suitable farms of from one to two hundred acres, more or less cleared and improved; and, by ordinary discretion and industry, can scarcely fail, if blessed with health and strength, very materially to improve their condition in a few years, and to afford their children, as they grow up, a favourable start in life. The price of land varies according to the situation and the improvements. Wild (that is, uncleared, or forest) land varies in price from 2s. to 40s. an acre, according to situation and soil. Cleared and improved farms can be had at prices ranging from 4l. to 10l. an acre. Of course the price will range much higher than this where buildings of an expensive character are on the land. The money can nearly always be paid in instalments, covering several years. The leasing of farms is an exception to the general rule, as most men desire to own the land they cultivate. In good localities, rents range from eight to twelve shillings an acre for cleared land. As a rule, emigrants possessing means would do well not to be in a hurry to purchase, but to get some experience before taking so important a step. Agricultural labourers would study their own interest by accepting employment as it may be offered on their arrival, and they will soon learn how to improve permanently their condition. Persons accustomed to the use of

mechanical tools, who intend turning their hands to farming, will often find such an acquisition of great convenience and value.

There is a prospect of the price of all kinds of labour being maintained, and even increased, as the province becomes settled, and its population and wealth increase. Men commencing as labourers, without any capital but strong arms and willing minds, seldom keep in that condition very long, but after a period of more or less duration they can, and do very generally, become employers of labour themselves. By far the greater number of our now well-to-do farmers commenced life with little or no capital. It is this moral certainty of rising in the social scale, when the proper means are employed, that brightens the hopes and stimulates the exertions of the needy settler.

When the extent and resources of Ontario (some of which are only beginning to be developed) are considered, with the salubrity of the climate, and the fact that it is within three weeks journey of the mother country, the greatly-increased attention which it is now receiving as a promising field for emigration is perfectly natural; and in proportion as correct information regarding its capabilities and the substantial inducements it holds out to industrious settlers is disseminated and understood, will be the amount of emigration to its shores.

In coming to Ontario, old country people will feel not much greater change than in going from one part of the United Kingdom to another. In

the older settled districts they will find themselves surrounded by appliances of comfort and civilization similar to those which they left in the old land; the means of educating their children universally diffused; religious privileges almost identically the same; the old national feeling for the land of their fathers loyally cherished; and an easy means of intercourse, both by steam and telegraph, with the central heart of the great British Empire, of which Canadians are proud to boast that their country forms an integral and no inconsiderable part.

Large tracts of uncleared land are still in the hands of the Government of Ontario, awaiting the advent of the settler. The price of such lands as are for sale varies with the situation. In the remote regions it is about tenpence per acre, but for the more accessible tracts, from 2s. to 15s. per acre. The regulations under which the lands are sold vary considerably according as they are of ordinary character, or specially valuable for their timber or minerals. The usual settlement duties required before a patent is issued for the lands occupied are, the building of a "habitable house," and twenty acres on a 200 acre lot to be cleared and under crop.

As Quebec has its Free Grants, so also has Ontario. Anxious to promote the settlement of the yet uncleared districts, the Provincial Government has thrown open, upon the most liberal terms, a large tract of land, where persons may go and select for themselves the site of a future

home. Every head of a family can obtain, gratis, two hundred acres of land, and any person arrived at the age of eighteen may obtain one hundred acres in the Free Grant districts. This offer is made by the Government to all persons without distinction of sex, so that a large family, having several children in it of, or past eighteen years of age, may take up a large tract, and become in a few years, when the land is cleared and improved, joint possessors of a valuable and beautiful estate. The settlement duties are: to have fifteen acres on each grant of 100 acres cleared and under crop, of which at least two acres are to be cleared and cultivated annually for five years; to build a habitable house, at least sixteen by twenty feet in size; and to reside on the land at least six months in the year.

The following is a summary of this Act, as amended:—It authorizes the Lieutenant-Governor in Council to appropriate lands, not being mineral lands or pine timber lands, as free grants to actual settlers, under regulations to be made for that purpose; but such grants are confined to the lands in the Algoma and Nipissing Districts, and the lands between the Ottawa River and Georgian Bay to the west of a line drawn from a point opposite the south-east angle of the township of Palmerston, north-westerly along the western boundary line of other townships to the Ottawa River, and north of the northern boundaries of Osa, Olden, Kennebec, Kalador, Elzevir, Madoc, Marmora, Belmont, Dummer, Smith, Ennismore, Somerville, Laxton,

Carden, Rama, and the River Severn. No such grant is to be made to a person under eighteen, or for more than 200 acres. Failure to perform the settlement duties, which are detailed above, forfeits the location. The mines and minerals are reserved to the Crown. The settler may not cut any pine timber, except for fencing, building or other farm purposes, and in clearing for cultivation, until the issue of the patent; or if it be cut, the settler must pay timber dues to the Crown. The object of this reservation of timber is to protect the *bonâ fide* settler, and to ensure the actual settlement of the land. It is to prevent persons going upon it under pretence of settlement, but in reality for the purpose of stripping it of the timber, which is very valuable. It does not in any way interfere with the man who settles upon the land in good faith, as he is authorized to clear it as rapidly as his industry or means may permit; and after the patent issues all pine trees remaining on the land become his property absolutely. On the death of the locatee, the land vests in his widow during her widowhood, unless she prefers to accept her dower in it. The land cannot be alienated, except by will, nor mortgaged until the patent issues, nor within twenty years of the location, without consent of the wife, if living. Nor will it at any time be liable to be sold under execution for any debt contracted before or during the twenty years after the location, except for a mortgage or pledge given after the issue of the patent. It may be sold for taxes.

In order to make a successful settlement upon a free grant, the settler should have at the least from 40*l.* to 50*l.* after reaching his location. But it would be an act of wisdom in all such persons, on their arrival in the country, to deposit their money in a Savings' Bank, where it would draw from four to five per cent. interest, and go out for a year as agricultural labourers. The experience thus acquired will far more than compensate for the time lost. The settlers are always willing to help new comers. A house, such as is required by the Act, could be erected by contract for from 5*l.* to 8*l.*; but with the assistance which the settler would certainly receive from his neighbours, it might be erected for even less. Should it be desired to clear the land by hired labour or by contract, in order to bring it more rapidly into cultivation, the cost would be about fifteen dollars per acre. By far the best time of the year to go on a free grant is the month of September, which allows the settler to put up a house and get comfortably settled before the winter sets in.

I trust that now the reader has obtained a tolerably clear insight into the capabilities and the Land system of the two great provinces of the Dominion, and I now therefore pass on to the Labour question. The classes of labourers most in demand are the agricultural, agriculture being at present the chief interest of the Dominion. But there is also a very large demand for the classes of common, able-bodied labourers, arising from the numerous and extensive public works and buildings

everywhere in progress, and this demand will be largely increased by other large undertakings projected, notably the Canadian Pacific Railway, and the enlargements of the Canadian Canal system. The trades and handicrafts generally, which are, so to speak, of universal application, can also always absorb a large number of artisans and journeymen. There is everywhere in town and country a large demand for female domestic servants of good character. Children of either sex, respectably vouched for, and watched over upon their arrival, by the parties who bring them out, may be absorbed in considerable numbers. The various manufactures incident to a comparatively new country constitute an important and rapidly increasing branch of industry; and they cause a large demand for emigrant labour. The getting out of timber from the forests and its manufacture form a leading industry of the Dominion, but not one to be much relied on for newly-arrived emigrants, the various descriptions of labour which it requires being best performed by persons who have had special training in the country.

It may be here remarked that the classes who should *not* be induced to emigrate to Canada, unless upon the recommendation of private friends, and with a view to places specially available, are professional or literary men, and clerks and shopmen. As a rule there is a tendency towards an oversupply of applicants for these callings within the Dominion itself, and unknown or unfriended emi-

grants seeking employment in them might encounter painful disappointments.

With respect to the numbers of those for whom employment could be found, it is impossible to give any answer but this, *the number is practically unlimited.* The arrivals in 1871, and for some years previously, were quite insufficient to satisfy one-third of the labour demand, and more than treble of the ordinary yearly arrival of emigrants could be absorbed without making any glut in the labour market.

Regarding the probable wages that emigrants would earn on their arrival in Canada, an average taken from the reports of the several Dominion Emigration Agents, shows that the wages paid to agricultural and other labourers are from 24*l.* to 30*l.* per year with board and lodging, and from 50*l.* to 60*l.* without board and lodging; the latter plan, however, is but rarely pursued, by far the most common mode of engaging agricultural labourers being with board and lodging found. Skilled farm hands get from 30*l.* to 40*l.* a year with board and lodging, and common labourers from 5*s.* to 6*s.* 3*d.* a day. The wages of mechanics and skilled artisans vary according to circumstances, from 6*s.* to 16*s.* a day.

The wages of female servants vary from 16*s.* to 2*l.* a month with board and lodging. But there are cases in which higher wages are paid to servants, according to capacity, or as there may happen to be demand. Boys in situations get from 16*s.* to 2*l.* a month with board and lodging,

according to age and capacity. It may be stated in connexion with the rate of wages, that food is plentiful and cheap in Canada; and the Dominion is therefore a cheap country to live in.

The following are average prices:—4lb. loaf of white bread, 5*d.* to 5*d.*; salt butter, 9*d.* to 13*d.* per lb.; meat, 3½*d.*, 5*d.* to 6*d.* per lb.; cheese, 4½*d.* to 7½*d.* per lb.; potatoes, 1*s.* to 2*s.* per bushel; sugar (brown, but dry and superior quality), 4½*d.* to 5*d.* per lb.; tea, 2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* per lb.; eggs, 6*d.* to 9*d.* per dozen; milk, per quart, 2½*d.* to 3*d.*; beer, 2*d.* to 5*d.* per quart; tobacco, 1*s.* to 2*s.* per lb.; and other articles in proportion. The purchasing power of the dollar in Canada is much greater than in other parts of America, especially in those things which go to make the cost of living, and this fact should always be kept in mind in making comparisons between the rates of wages paid in Canada and the United States. It frequently happens that people leave Canada, attracted by the higher rate of wages paid in the United States, and return to the Dominion, where, although the sum received does not look so grand on paper, it more than compensates by going further.¹

In Canada, a large family, if brought up to habits of industry, is a source of strength rather than of weakness to the working man. There are very many thousands of persons throughout the Dominion who came there as labourers without any means, in fact almost in a state of pauperism,

¹ Vide "People's Magazine" for January, 1873, p. 57.

and tenant farmers with very little means, who have attained a state of comparative independence, being proprietors of their own farms, and having laid by sufficient means for their declining years, while they have educated their children and settled them in conditions of ease and plenty. In fact, the inducements to emigrate to Canada are not simply good wages and good living among kindred people, under the same flag, and in a naturally rich country, possessing a pleasant and healthy climate, but the confident prospect which the poorest may have of becoming a proprietor of the soil, earning competence for himself, and comfortably settling his children.

As regards political and social institutions, it may be stated, for the information of the reader, that the system of government is based on the principle of the responsibility of ministers to Parliament, in the same way as in the Imperial Government, and is held in the very highest esteem by the people, as being one of the freest and best ordered in the world. The franchise practically extends to every householder. The several provinces have Lieutenant-Governors, and systems of responsible Local Government, formed on that of the Dominion. The counties and townships have also their local governments or councils, which regulate the local taxation for roads, schools, and other municipal purposes.

The utmost religious liberty prevails in every part of the Dominion, and emigrants of every Christian denomination will find their own

churches, and ample opportunity for the practice of their faith.¹ There is neither State religion nor tithes, and all denominations receive equal protection from the law.

Means of education, from the highest to the lowest, abound everywhere in the Dominion.² The poor and middle classes can send their children to free schools, where an excellent education is given; and the road to the colleges and higher education is open to all; in short, in no country in the world is good education more generally diffused than in Canada.

I must not omit to state that partially cleared farms, with the necessary buildings erected thereon, may be purchased in almost any part of the Dominion, at very moderate prices, and on very easy terms of payment. This arises from a disposition very common all over America on the part of farmers to sell out old settlements and take up more extensive new ones. The facilities thus afforded are particularly advantageous to tenant-farmers, or farmers possessing small capital, who go to Canada, as from their previous training they are not so well adapted to the settlement of wild lands as persons brought up in the country.

But it is now time that I made some mention of the other provinces composing the Dominion of Canada, and as Nova Scotia lies nearest to our

¹ This of course does not apply to the outlying and sparsely populated districts.

² The same remark holds good here also

own shores, and is moreover the eastern terminus of the Intercolonial Railway, I shall briefly treat of her prospects and future, premising that from the vast mineral and other resources contained within her boundaries, and the growing scarcity of these articles in England, much attention is now being directed towards her shores.

The province consists of the Peninsula of Nova Scotia, a tract of land about three hundred miles long, and from fifty to one hundred miles wide, trending E.N.E., and connected with New Brunswick by an isthmus about eight miles wide on its north side, between the Bay of Fundy and Northumberland Cape; and of the island of Cape Breton, which lies at the east extremity of the peninsula, and is separated from it by the gut of Canso. It contains about 10,000,000 acres, one-fifth of which consists of lakes and small rivers. Of the whole extent about one-half is fit for cultivation, and although the sea coast is rugged and rock bound, the interior is beautiful and fertile. All the counties have a frontage to the sea, and hence both farming and shipbuilding are carried on together. Fruits, such as apples, pears, quinces, &c., are easily cultivated, and grains or root crops do well. Indian corn will also ripen, but this produce is not recommended to a new comer. The Government holds forth the following advantages in a pamphlet issued under its supervision. For gentlemen of means who wish to retire from business, no more beautiful, healthy, or desirable place can be found in America. Game is tolerably abundant—wood-

cock, snipe, partridge, plover, and duck shooting are excellent; moose, deer, foxes, and hares afford good sport, and there is capital trout fishing amongst the lakes and mountains. The province contains thousands of lakes and small streams, and no part of the country is more than thirty or forty miles away from salt water, where may be found the best sea fishing in the world. Salmon, cod, halibut, haddock, mackerel, and herring are abundant, and the shallow waters team with large lobsters, which are often sold in Halifax market for a shilling per dozen.

In the way of minerals the province possesses coal, iron, and gold, whilst copper, tin, and lead ores have also been discovered in small quantities. The Chief Commissioner for Mines and Works reports that the gold mines have been worked steadily, and in many cases profitably, but he regrets that there are a number of mines which have been proved capable of being worked at a profit, that have been allowed to remain idle. I merely mention this, for this paper does not profess to touch on gold digging, and I therefore go on to the same gentleman's report on coal; a subject which cannot fail to be of interest to us all. "It is gratifying to be enabled to state that there has been a satisfactory increase over that of last year in the products of the collieries in each of the coal mining centres. In Cumberland County there was an increase this year over the coal mined last year of 3500 tons; in Picton of 19,000 tons; and in Cape Breton of 15,000

tons, and this increase, it is significant to note, was obtained during an unusually short working season, which was brought to an end sooner than is customary, by the closing of navigation very suddenly and early." The quantity of coal raised in the year 1871 (the very latest returns obtainable) was 673,242 tons. The average number of persons employed was 2469; and the total steam power 3000 horses. To us English, who are accustomed to glance at figures revealing an output of millions of tons, these small sums will doubtless appear insignificant; but even whilst I write this, the Great Eastern is speeding across the broad Atlantic, bringing in her giant frame 15,000 tons of Nova Scotian coals, to warm and gladden us during the coming winter; and as the straw thrown upwards indicates the course of the unseen air-current, so does the venture on which the mighty vessel is engaged show the direction towards which shivering England turns her eyes for relief, and but little prescience is needed to foretell the important position to which her mineral treasures will eventually raise Nova Scotia.

This province, according to the census of 1871, contained a population of 387,804, which is steadily increasing. The climate is at least as healthy as any in the world; the summer warmer and the winter somewhat colder than England. In Halifax and the eastern counties the mercury seldom rises in summer above 86 degrees in the shade, and in winter it is not often down to

zero. In the interior—say in the Annapolis Valley—the winter is about the same, but the summer is considerably warmer, although, owing to the dryness of the atmosphere, the heat is not oppressive.

Wild lands may be obtained from the Government for about 1s. 9d. per acre, but they are in most cases thickly timbered. It takes six or seven years to cut down the trees, eradicate the stumps from the land, and bring it under cultivation, and the emigrant should bear in mind that it is really more profitable to purchase five acres already under the plough, than one hundred of such uncleared forest land. The inhabitants of the province engage in agriculture, mining, commerce, fishing, and shipbuilding. During the fiscal year terminating on the 30th June 1872, the number of vessels built in Nova Scotia was 146, of an average of over 300 tons each. The following communication was received from the Provincial Secretary in 1872:—“A good class of farmers, who have sufficient means wherewith to purchase small farms already under cultivation, would do well in the western parts of the province. Fruit growers in particular could make money; *but this is no place for paupers.* What is required is more capital and industry, and there is a good opening for the expenditure and employment of both. In Halifax (the principal town) female servants are at present in demand, and a number of good cooks who could come well recommended would command from 20s. to 25s. sterling per month.”

The next province proceeding west is New Brunswick (which, with Nova Scotia, constitutes what are commonly called in the Dominion the Maritime Provinces). It is 190 miles long by 150 broad, and contains over seventeen millions of acres, of which thirteen millions are cultivated, and over 730,000 under improvement. The population at the last census was 285,777, and has probably increased since by fifty or sixty thousand.

The climate is exceedingly healthy and favourable for agricultural operations. Professor Johnson states that the average yield per acre in New Brunswick is greater than in the State of New York or Ohio. Wheat averages 20 bushels per acre; barley, 29; oats, 34; rye, 9½; buckwheat, 14; Indian corn, 25; potatoes, 90; turnips, 88; and hay, 1¾ tons.

The Government do not in terms offer free grants of lands to settlers, but they give what is very nearly the same thing. All male persons, eighteen years of age and upwards, can select, from tracts laid out and surveyed for settlement, such quantity as they may require for themselves and their children. There are no free grants, but for 20 dols. (4*l.*) they can procure 100 acres, subject to the conditions that the settlers shall take possession of the same and commence improving the land; and the 20 dols. so paid shall be expended in the construction of roads and bridges in the neighbourhood; or he may, instead of paying the price named, perform works on the road to the value of

10 dols. a year, for a period of three years, which is to be considered an equivalent for a money payment. He is required to build a house of not less dimensions than 16 by 20 feet, reside therein, and clear and cultivate ten acres within three years; and when these conditions are complied with, a grant under the great seal of the province is issued, vesting the land in him and his heirs. There is a further provision, that should the means of the settler be limited, he may, from time to time, and for reasonable periods, absent himself from his farm, in order to procure the means of support for himself and family, without forfeiting his claim.

There has not hitherto been any vigorous emigration policy pursued. But there are indications that greater efforts will be made to secure emigration in the future. Any poor man who is willing to work is sure to get on in New Brunswick. The province is for the most part heavily timbered; and lumbering, or the preparation of timber for the market, is one of the great industries, giving employment to a considerable part of the population, especially in the winter. Shipbuilding is also carried on to a considerable extent, though the increasing demand for iron ships has in some measure crippled this industry. The number of vessels built in the last fiscal year was 108, averaging over 308 tons each. The Emigration Agent at St. John's reports:—"During the past season there has been a great demand for all kinds of labour; and masons, carpenters,

plasterers, joiners, and all other branches of mechanics, have had steady employment and good wages. In regard to agricultural labourers, so great has been the demand, that farmers who were unable to procure them have suffered much loss, both for want of hands to plant and to reap the harvest. Our great want, however, is that class known at home as small farmers. We have abundance of good land to offer them, and all they require to give them a start is a small sum of money. If they do not desire to settle on the Government lands, there are always chances to purchase, at reasonable prices, partially improved farms, with log and framed houses, where they can locate themselves and at once commence farming operations. There is every prospect of an increased demand for labour during the coming year, and for all the branches of mechanics already named, and to all such as may decide to make New Brunswick their home, there is every prospect of securing, not only a comfortable living, but by industry and sobriety attaining to affluence." The mining resources of the province are extensive, but they have not hitherto been much developed. The fisheries are rich and valuable, and are among the finest in the world.

Prince Edward Island, which is situated in the southern part of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, deserves some little notice, for it is now *de facto* an integral portion of the Dominion, the Act for its incorporation having passed the Legislature. It is separated from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick

by the Strait of Northumberland, the width of the strait varying from nine to thirty miles. The island is about 130 miles long, and from 10 to 31 miles broad, its area being 2134 miles, or 1,365,760 acres. The navigation of this strait is closed by ice about the middle of December, and is resumed about the end of April or the beginning of May, and during this time, mails and passengers are conveyed across in ice boats. Charlottetown, the capital, is situated at the confluence of the York and Hillsborough rivers, and contains nearly 10,000 inhabitants. The soil is remarkable for its fertility, being nearly all cultivable land. It is formed for the most part of a rich layer of vegetable matter, above a bright loam resting upon stiff clay and sandstone. All kinds of grains and vegetables grown in Britain ripen in great perfection, and during the ten years ending in 1871, when the last census was taken, a great improvement was shown in the agricultural condition of the colony. The land not cultivable consists of soft spongy turf, or a deep layer of wet black mould, which may prove valuable for fuel. The difficulties connected with the land tenure have stood much in the way of the advancement of Prince Edward Island. Into these I cannot here enter, but by an Act passed in 1868 facilities are offered to those desirous of settling on the public wilderness lands. Amongst other privileges they are allowed eighteen years to pay for their farms, the first eight years free, the purchase money then to bear 5 per cent. interest, to be payable in ten annual instalments. The population

in 1871 was 94,021, having doubled itself in the last thirty years, and, strange to say, this increase is from its own resources, for there has been a falling off in the number of the population of other countries.¹

The free school system was established in 1853. There are now 357 district schools, with 15,000 children on the roll, of whom 9000 are in average daily attendance; there are fifteen grammar schools and one college, tuition free in all but the college, with the exception of a small fee for fuel. A railway is now in process of construction to extend the whole length of the island, and is expected to be in operation by the end of 1873. The latest return states: "Labourers are in great demand from the 1st of May to the 1st of December."

I now pass on to the Island of Newfoundland, which commands the entrance to the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and possesses a sea board of nearly two thousand miles. It is situated geographically between latitude 46 37' N and 51 37' N and longitude 51 40' W and 59 31' W. The climate is salubrious, the summer heat being moderate, and the winter cold not excessive, the thermometer seldom falling to zero. The interior of the island has as yet been little explored, and but little knowledge of it is to be had, for the few roads that exist are made along the coast and lead only from one settlement to another. The interior is supposed to abound in lakes, called by the inhabit-

¹ Year Book for Canada 1873. Page 183.

ants ponds, but as a geological survey, recently begun, is now in progress, much more definite information must before long be available. A copper mine is being worked at Tilt Cove in Notre Dame Bay, nickel has been found in payable quantities, and coal, lead, and silver have been discovered. The census of the colony does not furnish any estimate of the cultivated and uncultivated land, and there is no other source from which it can be procured. It is confidently asserted by those who know the island well, that the southern and eastern coasts although presenting a bare and uninviting appearance, offer many desirable spots for cultivation, whilst the western shore abounds in extensive valleys of rich fertile land. But fishing forms the sole employment for the population, and therefore, the people are dispersed along the coast, their houses not being more than a mile or two from the sea anywhere, except in the peninsula of Avalon, where a few villages are scattered in the interior. The whole prosperity of the colony depends on the fisheries, and whilst the small population of about 130,000 exports on an average somewhere about one million pounds worth of the products of the sea, they are always verging on poverty, as a general rule. One reason for this, is the manner in which the fishing vessels are fitted out. The merchant of Newfoundland is the exporter of the staple, and the supplier of the means of catching and curing the fish, and this has led to the credit and supply system so baneful to any country. Under this system the

fisherman finds his prospective voyage mortgaged to the merchant, who has probably not only fitted him out for the venture, but fed him and his family during the preceding winter. In a bad season the fisherman, burdened with debt, not unfrequently abandons the voyage and secretly sells what he has caught in order to provide for the coming winter. In a good year the profit to the merchant is very great, as he himself fixes the price he is to pay, at a rate to cover all his risks, but in a bad year his losses are proportionately heavy, and experience has shown that the disadvantages more than overbalance the advantages of the system.

Seal fishing is one of the most important interests of the island. Of these animals there are several kinds, the harp and the hooded seal being the most plentiful, and of these the former, though smallest, is most valuable. The crews of sailing vessels are paid no wages, but receive one half of the catch, which they are free to dispose of to the highest purchaser. They pay no proportion to the outfit, except about twenty or thirty shillings berth money. The allowance on board of the steamers is one third, but no berth money is charged. The master, or skipper, is paid from sixpence to sevenpence for each seal and an exceptionally good year may produce from six to seven hundred thousand seals, though the average is between three and five hundred thousand.

Cod fishing also employs a large number of hands, fish to the amount of 4,000,000 dols. having been exported in 1870.

Education is within reach of all classes, the Government grants to the district schools being liberal. The greater part of trade being effected by barter, the amount of coin in circulation is not known, but it is conjectured to be from 80,000*l.* to 100,000*l.* The latest report is from the Colonial Secretary, in which he says, "This colony has very little demand for labour, except during the fishing season, which may be said to last from May to October. During that period every able-bodied operative is fully employed, and it is upon the success or otherwise of that fishery that the condition of the people during the winter in a great measure depends, as, unfortunately, there is very little to be had by the people in the shape of employment during the winter, there being but very few manufactories or other sources of employment at those times when the fishery cannot be prosecuted. Agriculture is progressively increasing."

As there is no emigration to Newfoundland, it is unnecessary to say more about the disposal of Crown Lands in that colony, than that it is sold by auction at 2*s.* an acre, and that after it has been exposed to auction it may be purchased by private sale at the contract price. By a recent Act, however, the Governor in Council may by his licence authorize a settler to occupy fifty acres for five years without rent; at the end of which time, if two acres of land have been cultivated, the settler will receive a grant in fee of the land on payment of 5*s.* Newfoundland is at present a

separate colony, but there is no doubt that a very short time will see it embraced within the Dominion.

I shall next call attention to the Island of Anticosti, which has recently been purchased by "The Anticosti Company (limited), incorporated by Act of Parliament, assented to on the 14th June 1872, for the purpose of carrying on all operations necessary to develop the vast resources in agriculture, forests, fisheries, coal, peat, plumbago, saltsprings, marl, slate, limestone, sandstone, grindstone, marble and other economic substances and mineral deposits which abound on it."

The island is situated in the river and Gulf of St. Lawrence about 425 miles below Quebec, and is 140 miles long and 35 wide at the centre, where it is broadest, from which centre it gradually narrows as it extends east and west. It contains upwards of 3750 square miles, or about 2,460,000 acres.

During the spring of 1873, the Company will proceed to divide the island into twenty counties, subdivided into five townships each, making in all 100 the latter of about 24,500 acres each; and to lay out a colonization road between Ellis Bay on the western and Fox Bay on the eastern end. Towns are to be surveyed and laid out at these points first, and the chief place of business is to be established at Ellis Bay.

The island contains, according to Sir William E. Logan's report, upwards of 1,000,000 acres of agricultural land of a similar nature to the best

soils of Canada West and of the Genesee County, New York State; and farming lots of 100 acres or more will be located thereon. Mr. Couper the Canadian Naturalist says, "The island has a southern aspect, lying in sunshine from sunrise to nearly sunset, and this serves to make it a quick vegetable and cereal producing land. All garden vegetables and fruits and most of the cereals can be raised in abundance."

Fishing and curing stations will be erected at suitable localities, and the magnificent fisheries of the coast and rivers will be developed and worked on the most approved methods. These fisheries are entitled to be classed among the most valuable in America, and comprise whale, seal, cod, mackerel, salmon, &c., as well as shell fish. Seals are very plentiful, and may be caught in thousands in the bays and sheltered places on the coast all the year round. Even now with the scanty and primitive means used by the fishermen, the returns of the fishings as given by the department of marine fisheries, are much larger in comparison than any of the other and more extensive fishing districts in the Gulf.

Meeting and school-houses will be built at central points when needed, and competent teachers appointed in charge of these. When the several permanent improvements are somewhat advanced, the company will take the necessary steps for bringing the advantages of the island under the notice of the emigrating population of Northern Europe, and will likewise make an appropriation

in behalf of emigration commensurate with its importance; and every facility will be provided that may tend to the thorough settlement and colonization of the island, and to the comfort of the settlers.

The climate is exceedingly healthy, and the atmosphere clear, pure, and bracing, and rarely subject to fogs. In a paper read before the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec, Mr. Roche says, "When Anticosti shall be properly known and occupied it will probably become the resort of many of those who now seek health or recreation at the less bracing and less interesting watering places upon the main shores of the river. And of the salubrity of the climate there can be no doubt, for all who have resided there describe it as being the most healthy place in the world. The first Seigneur (to whom it was granted in 1680 for services rendered to the Crown of France) used to reside every summer upon the island, and it is supposed that he was buried there."

All lots will be sold (not leased) to the settlers at moderate rates, and a complete *registered title in fee simple* will be given by the company; while the purchase price will be payable in annual instalments, extending over ten or any less number of years, as may be desired by settlers, and interest will *not* be charged during the first five years. The settlers will be, as at present, free from taxation.

I bring this to the notice of intending emigrants, for it seems to me that the scheme is a

good one, and will eventually offer great inducements to such persons of our surplus population as have been brought up near the sea, for they will find ample means of indulging their inclinations, whether they lean towards the capture and curing of fish, the cultivation of the soil, or the procuring and selling of the valuable timber, with which the island is thickly covered.

To the west of the province of Ontario lies the recently created province of Manitoba, which was received into the Confederation by Act of Dominion Parliament, 1870. It contains an area of over nine millions of acres, equal to 360 townships of 23,040 acres each, with a reserve of 1,400,000 acres, and these figures are exclusive of a very liberal allowance for roads. The population by the census of 1871 was 11,945, but this number is daily increasing.

From a pamphlet by Mr. Thomas Spence, Clerk of the Legislative Council of Manitoba, approved of by a joint Committee of the Legislature, I extract some statements on the capabilities and resources of the Province:—"The soil is an alluvial, black, argillaceous mould, rich in organic deposit, and resting on a depth of from two to four feet, on a tenacious clay soil. The measures of heat are ample for the development of Indian corn, considerably improving westward. Wheat is the leading staple of the upper belt of the temperate zone. The limestone sub-strata of this region, with its rich, deep, calcareous loam and retentive clay sub-soil, are always associated with

a rich wheat development, while its hot and humid summers fulfil all the climatological conditions of a first-rate wheat country. Some fields at Red River have been known to produce twenty successive crops of wheat without fallow or manure, the yield frequently being fifty to sixty bushels to the acre." Forty bushels is set down as the average crop, while Minnesota only gives half that number, and Wisconsin less. This is spring wheat, for winter wheat has not been tried, though Mr. Spence is of opinion that it can be successfully grown. He says, "the success of winter wheat depends peculiarly in having a moderate and sure covering of light snow, not condensed by thaws, and packed close by warm winds. These are the decided characteristics of our winters." All the other subordinate cereals, such as oats, barley, rye, &c., flourish equally well, barley in particular yielding an enormous return, with a weight of from fifty to fifty-five pounds a bushel. Potatoes, turnips, cabbages, pumpkins, and cucumbers are also at home in this province, and indeed, from Mr. Spence's report, there seems no limit to the prodigality of the soil.

For raising cattle and horses, Manitoba is equal to Illinois, for sheep-farming, superior. The richness and luxuriance of the native grasses, the wide range of pasturage, and the remarkable dryness and healthfulness of the winter, make the province peculiarly fitted for stock-raising and wool-growing. Since the introduction of sheep forty years ago into Red River, no case of disease attacking

them has been heard of. Well-fed ewes give fleeces of from two to three and a-half pounds, and wethers six to eight pounds, of wool of good quality.

The liability to frosts is not greater than in many parts of Ontario, and the peculiar dryness of the atmosphere allows a much lower range of the temperature than in moister climates, without causing any injury to vegetation. From the vast size of the province it has many varieties of climate, and is subject to sudden changes, but the crops are sure, and the quality good. The winter is milder towards the west. The Saskatchewan Valley has the climate of Ontario, with one-third less mean depth of snow. Buffaloes winter on the prairie grasses as far north as Lake Athabasca, and the horses of the settlers run at large and grow fat on the herbage they pick up in the woods and bottoms.

The summer mean temperature is higher than that of Illinois, Northern New York, or Ontario. The average snowfall is about six inches a month, which descends in small quantities, and is rarely blown into drifts. With the new year comes the extreme cold of the winter, the mercury ranging from fifteen to forty below zero, for a few days; but this severity is much softened by the brilliancy of the sun and the stillness of the air. The atmosphere is dry, with bright, cloudless days, and serene starlight nights, and this dryness, combined with the absence of fog or mist, renders the climate one of great salubrity. The schools are

excellent, and there are twenty-three churches of different denominations.

As a rule, the early spring is the best time for emigration, and June is the best month for breaking up the wild prairie land. Potatoes may be dropped into the furrow, and covered by the plough with the tough sod, and turnip seeds sown and lightly covered. The emigrant should take with him a supply of provisions, and the cattle he may require. Settlers can obtain free grants of 160 acres on the following conditions:—

Any person who is the head of a family, or who has attained the age of twenty-one years, is (since May 1st, 1871,) entitled to be entered for one quarter section, or a less quantity, of unappropriated land, for the purpose of securing a homestead right therein. Persons owning and occupying lands may be entered for contiguous lands, but the whole extent of land, including that previously occupied, is not to exceed 160 acres.

The applicant, after three years continuous residence from the time of entering into possession of the land (of which fact he will be required to make an affidavit), and paying a fee of 10 dols. to the land officer, will be entitled to receive a patent, free. In case of death, the widow or children of the settler, or other heirs and devisees, may receive the patent after the three years' residence. Any settler who abandons the land entered upon for more than six months, loses his claim.

Land may also be absolutely purchased from the Government at one dollar per acre; and any

person who has entered upon lands with a view to procure a homestead right, may get the patent at any time before the expiration of three years residence, by paying one dollar an acre for them, if for any purpose he wants the patent before that time. Ordinary settlers, however, will of course acquire the homestead right free, by virtue of three years' settlement.

Such is a brief description of the new Province of Manitoba, the future granary of the world. The Canadian Pacific Railway, which passes through its heart, will before long throw its fertile acres open to all comers, and a splendid future lies before it. There is one thing that I should strongly recommend to all such persons as may think of settling in Manitoba, or any portion of the North-West Territory, viz., to cause themselves and their belongings to be vaccinated before proceeding thither. Healthy as the climate undeniably is, and free as it may be called from epidemics, there is one scourge that now and again sweeps over this sparsely-inhabited land, slaying indiscriminately the wandering Blackfoot and the white trapper. The ravages of small-pox in the North-West Territory are perfectly appalling, but if the emigrant takes the ordinary precaution of being vaccinated, he may go on his way with confidence and safety.

Winnipeg, the capital of Manitoba, has not at present much more than the dimensions of a large village; but it is already beginning to receive an emigration, as well from the older provinces of

the Dominion as the United States and Europe, and it will therefore soon become a considerable town. Navigation is about to be opened by steamboat between the Red River and the head waters of the Saskatchewan above Fort Edmonton, near the base of the Rocky Mountains, a distance of over a thousand miles as the crow flies, through prairie land of unsurpassed richness. The route to Manitoba, from Thunder Bay to Fort Garry, has been very greatly improved, and the Canadian Government convey emigrants between these points for 15 dols.; the weight of luggage is, however, limited to 450 lbs. per individual, and no package must exceed 150 lbs. for convenience of transport over the portages. This tract of country to the east of the Rocky Mountains contains, under the surface of its rich prairie land, one of the largest coal-fields in the world, which in some places on the river banks crops out of the ground. This is a physical feature the importance of which can hardly be over-estimated when regarding the future prospects of the Dominion. The rivers which run east from the Rocky Mountains are rich in gold deposits; and in fact mineral wealth of almost every kind is found in this region.

Beyond the limits of Manitoba there lies a vast, unorganized territory, stretching westerly to the Rocky Mountains, and comprising an area of about two millions¹ of square miles. The northern por-

¹ Six hundred thousand square miles of this enormous tract, are possessed of great mining and agricultural resources. Year Book for Canada 1872, page 174.

tion of this enormous extent of surface will probably continue to remain in its present condition of hunting and fishing grounds, except that valuable mineral deposits may be found and worked; but a superficies of this territory equal in extent to several of the great empires of the earth is available for cultivation, and it contains not only the richest, but the largest extent of unbroken wheat-growing land in the world.

The climate and physical conditions for the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway are much more favourable than those at any other point across the Continent of North America, for the distances are shorter, the elevation of the tableland much lower, and the passes through the Rocky Mountains very much easier than at any other point farther south; and it is this combination of advantageous circumstances which robs the gigantic scheme of half its difficulty, and will attract numbers of settlers from all parts of the Continent as well as from the Old World.

British Columbia, which includes Vancouver's Island, forms the Pacific seaboard of the Dominion, and completes the chain of provinces between the two seas. Its total area is 220,000 square miles, and it has a coast-line of about 500 miles, with innumerable bays, harbours, and inlets. The principal harbours on Vancouver's Island are Victoria, Esquimault, Nanaimo, and Barclay Sound, and of these Esquimault is by far the best; whilst there are many navigable inlets on the mainland, the

particulars of which I am unable, for want of space, to give here.

As an agricultural country, British Columbia has been much underrated, for it contains many arable tracts of great extent, some of which, however, would require artificial irrigation before they could be permanently settled with advantage. Between the Thompson and Fraser Rivers, there is an immense tract of arable and grazing land, covered with bunch grass, on which the cattle and horses live all winter, and this grass is reported to possess more nutritive qualities than the celebrated blue grass and clover of Virginia.

The forest lands are of great extent, and the timber most valuable, whilst their proximity to navigable waters adds enormously to their commercial value. It would be tedious to mention the different varieties of trees, but I may mention one, the Douglas pine, which exists in almost inexhaustible quantities on both the mainland and Vancouver's Island. The value of this single species may be imagined, when I say that it yields spars from 90 to 100 feet in length, can often be obtained 150 feet free from knots, and has squared forty-five inches to ninety feet! It is supposed to be the strongest fir or pine in existence, and if splintered by a gale, an incredibly small portion of the trunk will withstand the leverage of the whole tree. The timber contains a great deal of resin, is exceedingly durable, and the bark, which is eight inches thick, makes admirable fuel.

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The mineral wealth of this province is enormous, and, merely mentioning the existence of gold, silver, and copper, I pass on to its most valuable deposit, coal. Bituminous coal is found on Vancouver's Island in several places, especially along the east coast, and is of fair quality, superior to the Scotch, but not equal to the Welsh. The Dunsemuir coal at Departure Bay is pronounced, however, to be better for steaming purposes than Newcastle, and should this prove to be the case, the excellent harbour at Departure Bay will enable it to be shipped with the utmost facility. The bituminous coal on the Nicola River, 160 miles inland, is said to be superior to that of the coast. Anthracite coal, very superior in quality, is found on Queen Charlotte's Island, and the whole western coast of Vancouver's Island shows traces of this mineral. At Departure Bay there are quarries of very fine sandstone, from which blocks fifty feet long by eight in diameter are obtained. As yet the manufactories are few in number, but water-power is everywhere abundant.

The climate varies according to the locality, depending in a great measure upon the vicinity of the mountains and the level. The low portions near the sea and on Vancouver's Island have a moderate climate, with a general range of from 20 in winter to 80 in summer. The spring is short, lasting from the beginning of March to the early part of May, and the prevailing weather is fine and mild, alternated with occasional rain and squalls. Farming operations may be usually com-

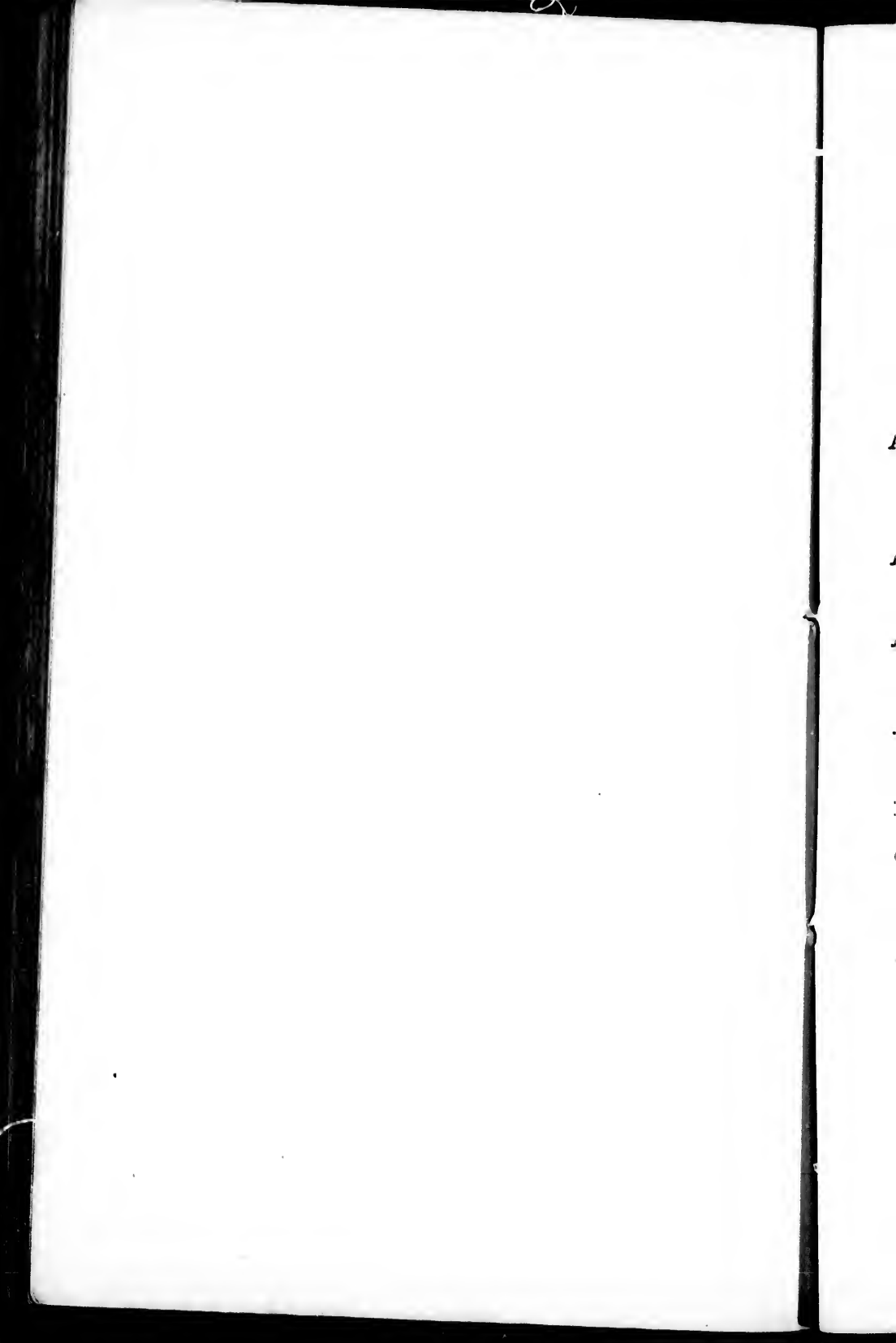
menced at the beginning or middle of March, the "March winds" being seldom severely felt. The summers are dry, with occasional showers, and the heat is tempered by the regular land and sea breezes. The crops are usually sown, reared, cut, and housed with fine weather. The autumn is marked by cold, moist winds, fogs, and frequent rain, all of which increase with the approach of winter, and last until the return of spring. Snow neither falls heavily, nor lies long, and the frosts are not severe, the ice seldom exceeding an inch in thickness. The climate may be perhaps described as a dry and warm summer, and a wet and open winter.

The population, according to the census of 1871, was 10,586, exclusive of Indians, who are estimated at from thirty to fifty thousand souls. British Columbia has not hitherto made rapid progress in the development of wealth and population, mainly because communication with it has been so difficult; but the probability is that, with the favourable conditions it possesses, and the connexion it has made with the Dominion, it will be, in the not distant future, the home of a large population and of great wealth.

I fear the patience of my readers will be exhausted by this matter-of-fact description of the various provinces, but where the subject is so large and the space so limited, it is apparent that only information can be conveyed; and simple information, uninterspersed with anecdote, is apt to prove *dry* reading. Although such items as

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wages and the prices of provisions must vary considerably at times, I have in all cases taken the mean, and never quoted extremes; thus I trust that those items will be near the mark for some years to come. From hard-earned experience, I have arrived at this conclusion, "A really steady man is likely to get on anywhere, but a really steady man will get on in *spite of himself* in the colonies;" so if any of my readers feel disposed to try their luck beyond seas, I trust they will allow me to wish them "God speed" and a rapid realization of their best hopes.



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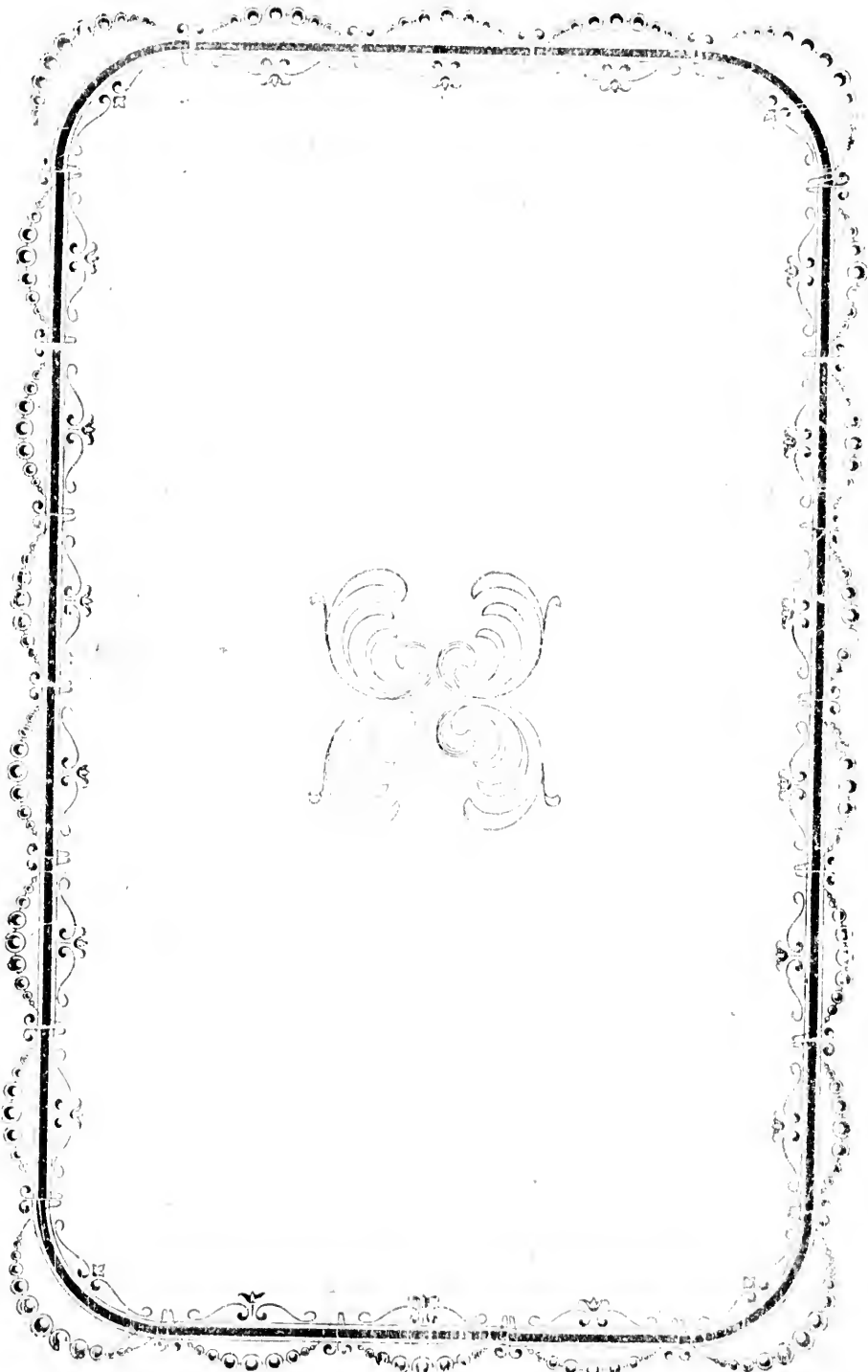
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