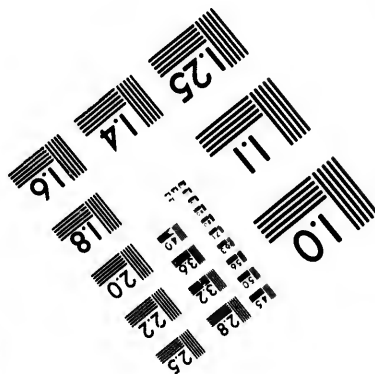
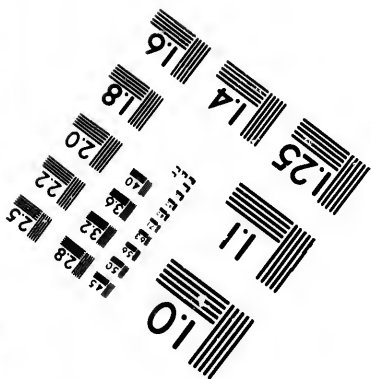
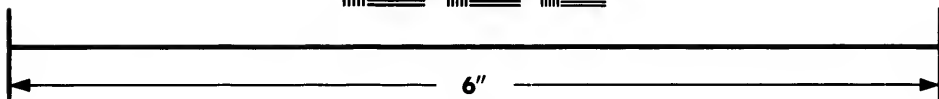
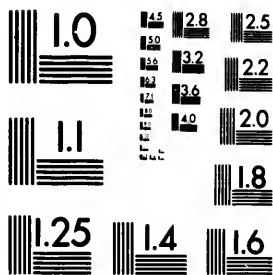


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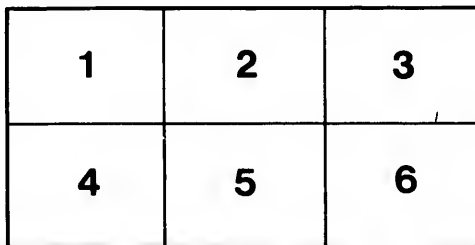
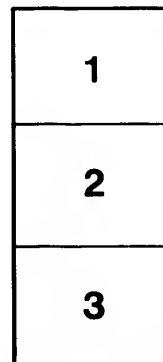
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SHORT ACCOUNT

OF

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DESIGNED CHIEFLY

FOR THE INFORMATION OF AGRICULTURIST
AND OTHER EMIGRANTS OF SMALL
CAPITAL,

BY
S. S. Hill

THE AUTHOR OF THE EMIGRANT'S INTRODUCTION TO AN ACQUAINTANCE
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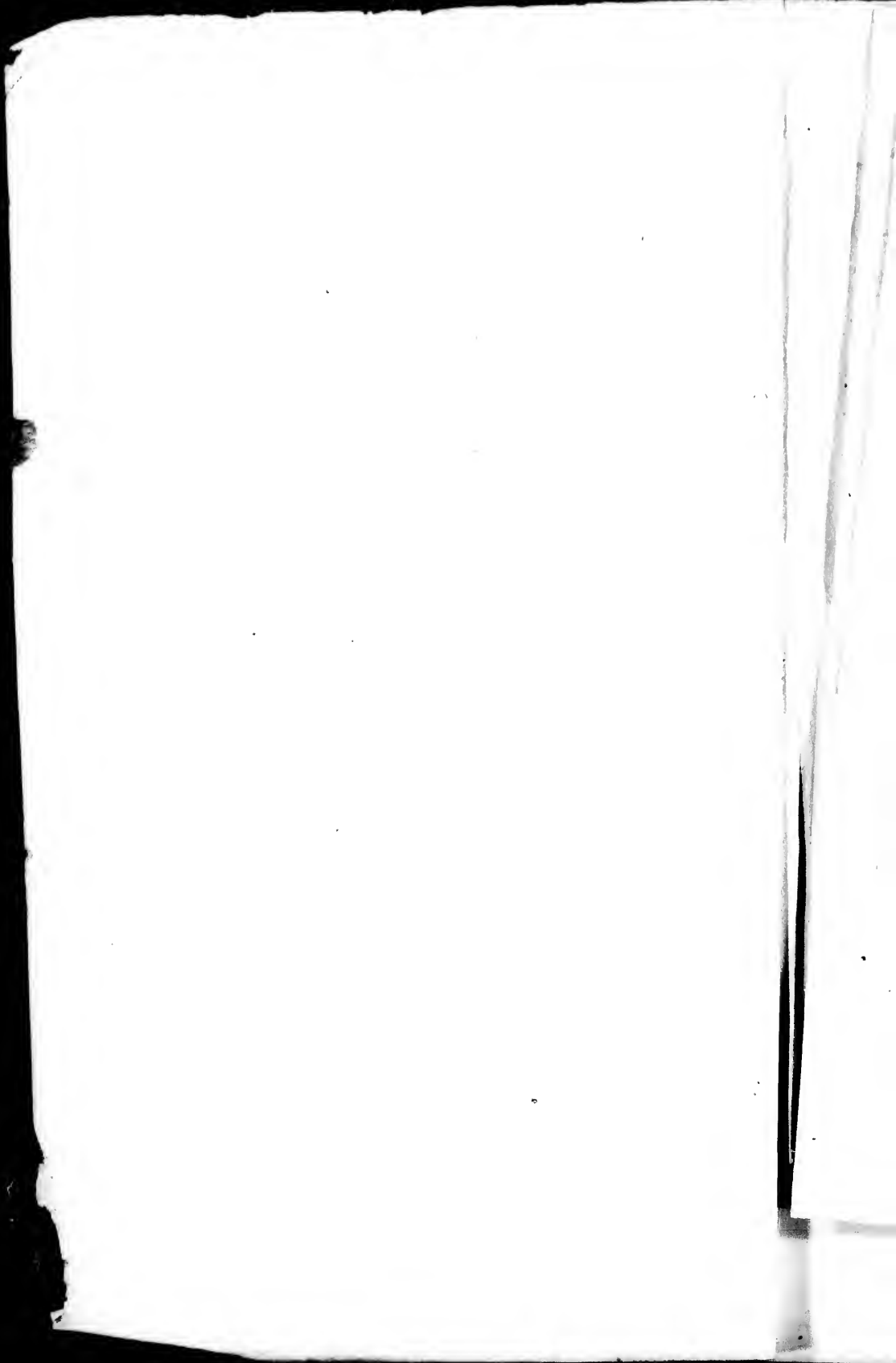
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A
SHORT ACCOUNT
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Great Nature spoke, observant man obey'd,
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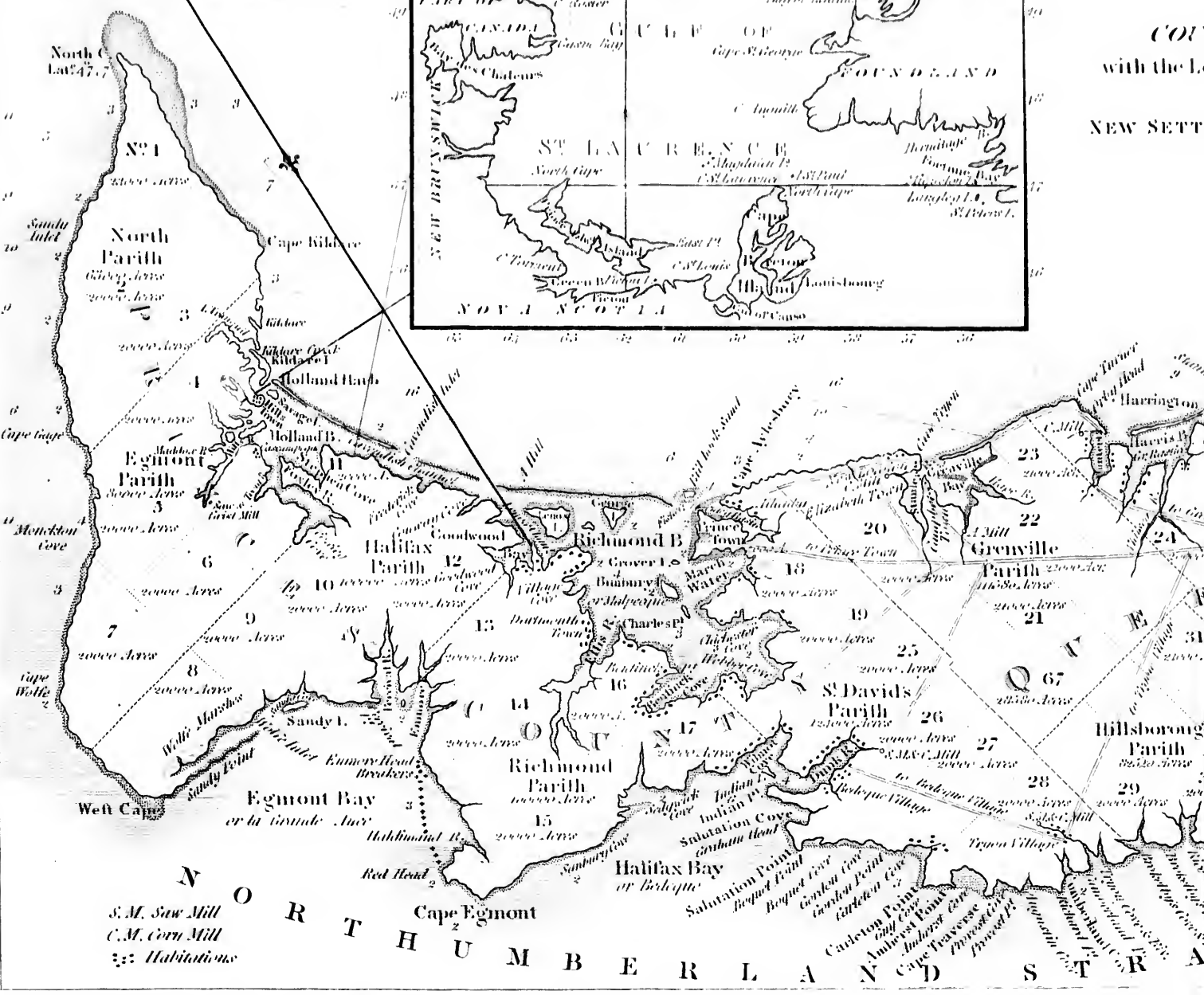
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Charlotte Town Com. & Pasture lots 2,000 Acres
 George Town DE & DE 2,000
 Prince Town DE & DE 2,000

Queens County 2,000 Acres
 Kings County 2,000
 Prince's County 2,000
 Contents of the Island 13,000 Acres



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PREFACE.

It has long been a matter of surprise to the greater part of those travellers who have visited the British provinces in America, that the Island of which I have undertaken to convey some description, should hitherto, in proportion to its relative importance with other parts of our colonial possessions, have been so little known in Great Britain. There has, however, been no want of publications containing valuable statements concerning its importance, whether in a commercial point of view, or in relation to the settlement of Emigrants from the United Kingdom. But the

better, and more full accounts, are to be obtained, only when accompanied by voluminous details respecting the sister provinces, or from books now rarely to be met with.

Nothing has been published concerning this Island, for the express use of Emigrants; nothing, in the execution of which, the mind of the writer has been steadily intent upon the interests of that class of persons best calculated to form a portion of its population: and it is to supply this deficiency, that I have undertaken to impart such information as seems to me best adapted to be useful to Emigrants in search of intelligence concerning the capabilities of the country and the facilities for settlement which it affords. I have ventured to state only such opinions respecting the prospects of the settlers, as a long residence in the colony has enabled me with confidence to offer.

In a former publication,* in which, it was a part of the design to draw a comparative view of the

* "The Emigrant's Introduction, &c."

condition of the several American colonies, in relation to the disposition, capital, and views of intending emigrants, I took occasion to point out Prince Edward Island, as one of those portions of these extensive countries more especially favored by situation and soil, and well adapted for the settlement of enterprising agriculturists. In the present instance, I am able to be more precise in the notice of such matters as may probably be of the first interest with the inquirer.

It may be necessary to inform or remind the reader, that the advantages this Island possesses over the Canadas as a place of settlement, are, chiefly, the greater salubrity of its atmosphere, and the facilities for commerce which it enjoys. It is more healthy than the greater part of Upper Canada, though not so mild in the winter season as the more favored portions of that province; and it is not exposed to such great extremes of heat and cold as the lower province. It possesses, too, a more peaceable and loyal population than Lower

Canada, where the French Canadians predominate ; and it has advantages over every part of our continental possessions in America, in being further removed from the chances of the depreciation of property, arising from the unsettled state of public affairs in Lower Canada.

With respect to *Emigration*, in so far as it may concern the reader, in relation to his condition, and as a matter of choice or necessity, I have in this instance made no further allusion to its good or evil consequences, than will be found in a few incidental remarks. The question could not be here fairly examined ; but it was necessary to notice the change of condition which most Emigrants will certainly experience, in a greater or less degree, depending, as regards those of the poorer classes, upon health and physical strength, and upon union and moral energy with those less dependent upon manual labor for their success. But should any reader of this Sketch, receive his first impressions concerning the nature of Emigration, from the casual

observations he may here meet with, and desire to find the subject more fully discussed, he may encounter a variety of arguments both for and against removal, according to the inquirer's condition and prospects here, and his adaptation to any one of the American colonies, in the Treatise to which reference has already been made.

From the indulgent reception with which that publication was favored by the periodical reviewers, to whom the author's acknowledgements are due; and from the consequent extensive circulation which it has obtained within those districts of the United Kingdom where emigration is more general, it may reasonably be believed, that there will be readers of this present sketch, who have been confirmed in their determination to emigrate, from the observations contained in the former treatise; and having chosen Prince Edward Island for the place of their destination, desire a more full account of that country. Should this in any instance be the case, I trust I may venture to hope, that the further

information respecting this fine colony now before the reader, will at least, be sufficient to satisfy the inquiries of Emigrants of that class whose prospects are here more fully examined.

But should there be any indifferent reader, I am not without hope, also, that this description of a portion of the colonial empire of Great Britain, which, amid other pursuits may have almost escaped his notice, will put him in possession of information that may in some way or other be made subservient to charitable purposes.

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CHAPTER I.

SITUATION—APPEARANCE OF THE COUNTRY—DIVISION
— QUEEN'S COUNTY—HILLSBOROUGH HARBOUR—
CHARLOTTE TOWN VICINITY—RUSTICO—TRACADIE.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND is one of those important Colonies which fell into the hands of the English upon the conquest of Canada, and were finally ceded to Great Britain by the treaty of Paris in 1763. It is situated on the South side of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and is separated from the continental provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, by a strait of from nine to thirty miles in breadth. It lies between the latitudes of 45 and 47 degrees North, and is about 130 miles in length, but varies from ten to thirty in breadth.

The appearance of the country from the water is extremely inviting. With the exception of some ridges of sand wastes, which front the bays on the North side, and form several fine harbours, the Island is entirely surrounded with red cliffs, varying from thirty to one hundred feet in height.

There are no mountains in the Island; but the country in the interior, is, in most parts, higher than upon the coast; and the scenery, as you approach the shore, presents all the varieties of cultivated and forest land, with the most luxuriant foliage to the very brink of the cliffs, or to the water's edge upon the rivers and bays.

The sand wastes which stretch across the bays upon the North side, show no signs of vegetation when viewed from the sea, and produce nothing but coarse grass and wild peas. They, however, commonly rise into hillocks of from twenty to eighty or ninety feet in height, and add greatly to the effect of the scenery, whether seen from the land or the sea.

The Coast of the Island is on every side indented with fine harbours, and the interior is intersected with rivers which meander through the richest natural forest in every district; while springs, and streams of the purest water, every where abound.

The Island is divided into three counties, which are called King's County, Queen's County, and Prince County; and subdivided into townships, sixty-seven in all. As the capital is situated in Queen's County, I shall proceed first, to particularize the localities of that division, with the advantage which it affords to the classes of emigrants for whose use these remarks are more especially intended.

Near the centre of this county and of the Island, is situated Hillsborough Bay, which is capacious, and safe for ships of any burden. At the head of this bay lies

an inner harbour, which is a well sheltered basin of about three miles in breadth, formed by the junction of the Hillsborough, York, and Elliot Rivers, which empty their waters by the same channel of about half a mile in breadth, into the outer harbour. At the confluence of the rivers Hillsborough and York, upon a point of gradually rising ground, skirted by red cliffs from about twenty to thirty or forty feet in height, is situated Charlotte Town.

Charlotte Town is the seat of the Government, and contains about three thousand inhabitants. It is admirably planned, and laid out in streets running at right angles, with several squares, but is only yet partially built. It is divided into hundreds, and subdivided into half-acre lots, to each of which is attached a pasture lot of twelve acres. The public buildings consist of, a court-house, which is used also by the two branches of the legislature, of a college for the education of youth, and a gaol. There is also an Episcopalian Church, a Scotch Church, and a Methodist and a Catholic Chapel. The houses are generally built of wood, and painted straw colour or white; but several brick houses have lately been erected, which give a more substantial and English air to the town, and contribute to its security from fire.

Many of the houses have gardens; and as there is a total absence of the mean and dirty habitations which not unfrequently skirt the whole water boundary of European towns situated upon rivers, the view of the capital is extremely agreeable; neither is our impres-

sion effaced, when we come to walk through its broad and cheerful streets. We are not shocked by the evidences of indigence, nor offended by the ostentations display of luxury and vanity. But of those features which characterize the social intercourse of the inhabitants, it will be necessary to offer a remark or two in a subsequent page.

The vicinity of the capital, is rarely exceeded in the richness and varied beauty of its scenery. Upon a beautiful site on the west side, and within a mile of the town, stands the new government house; and on the opposite banks in every direction around the basin, the eye rests upon gently rising grounds, covered to the very brink of the cliffs with the most luxuriant natural forest, interrupted only by the occasional intervention of cultivated plots, with the certain indications of prosperity and plenty.

Around the town the country is well cleared for several miles. The principal roads are the St. Peter's, and the Malpee or Prince Town Road. The St. Peter's road is settled on both sides, to the distance of twelve or fourteen miles; and stretching towards the East point of the Island, it connects the most distant settlements of King's County with the capital. The Prince Town Road is settled also for nine or ten miles; and running to the westward, leads to the most remote settlements of Prince County. The next in importance is the George Town Road. It commences opposite the capital, and leads to George Town and all the settlements in that direction. Besides these,

there are new branch roads yearly opening in all these directions, as the settlements increase in number and importance.

Upon the Malpee or Prince Town Road, and the St. Peter's Road, and upon the banks of the two rivers which skirt the capital, there are several agreeable seats upon a moderate scale of outlay, occupied by the more wealthy inhabitants. Thus, the vicinity of the town affords rides and walks such as the most enthusiastic admirers of nature in her softer beauties could choose to frequent; and presents at the same time, the evidences of increasing wealth, and a state of moral advancement, not exceeded in any country whatsoever.

The Hillsborough or East River, is the largest of the three fine rivers which empty themselves into Hillsborough Bay. It takes its rise about twenty-two miles north-east of Charlotte Town, and in its course, receives the waters of many tributary streams. The scenery upon this river, during the summer and autumn months, is extremely picturesque; and the lands upon its banks are highly fertile, and rapidly settling with an industrious population.

The York river takes its rise about twelve miles North of Charlotte Town. The country through which it flows is highly fertile, and the lands upon its banks are fast settling.

The Elliot or West River, takes its rise about fifteen miles above its confluence with the Rivers Hillsborough and York. Like the Hillsborough, it is the

receptacle of many inferior streams, and its banks are highly picturesque.

Upon the East side of Hillsborough Bay lie the harbours of Orwall Bay and Pownal Bay. These are chiefly settled with Highlanders. The townships Nos. 49, 50 and 57, which embrace their vicinity, contain, together, a population of about three thousand souls.

Queen's County is divided into twenty-three townships, each of which contains about twenty thousand acres. It has, besides the Hillsborough Harbour, three safe, but less capacious havens on the North side of the Island. The largest of these is called Grenville Bay, or New London. This harbour admits vessels drawing about twelve feet of water, and is the receptacle of several streams, the banks of which, as well as their vicinity, are in general settled with British emigrants or people of British origin. A valuable trade with Newfoundland and the West Indies has been commenced at this port, which, by opening a new market, has contributed to the prosperity of the settlements in its vicinity.

The New London townships, Nos. 20, and 21, contain, together, a population of about sixteen hundred souls.

The Harbour and Settlements of Harris Bay or Grand and Little Rustico, are next in importance to those of New London. The harbour is inferior to that of New London, as it does not admit vessels drawing

more than nine or ten feet of water. The lands that front the bay, were very early settled by Acadian French, who still occupy the most convenient situations for New Settlers. Rustico is a sort of head quarters of the Acadians, and the residence of the Chief French Catholic Priest. They have here a large chapel, and have made considerable clearances; but they are not an industrious race; and withal, have such strong prejudices against change, deeming every improvement to be useless innovation, that they cannot be considered a thriving people. They divide their time between fishing and farming, and do not succeed well in either. They are in fact a careless and light-hearted people, with the improvidence of Indians, ever preferring the passing enjoyments of the hour, to the solid pursuits of industry; so that, reckoning saints' days, on every one of which they make holyday, and the time they occupy in shooting and other amusements, they probably lose about a fifth of the year. They have, however, plenty, and they desire no more; so that, however we may regret their peculiarities, or compassionate their backward condition, we cannot fail to admire their cheerful manners and their contented dispositions.

The townships of Grand and Little Rustico, Nos. 23, 24, and part of 33 and 34, contain together a population of about two thousand souls.

The harbour of Bedford Bay, or Tracadie, is inferior in size to that of Rustico, with about the same depth of

water upon the bar. The inhabitants are here chiefly Highlanders or the descendants of Highlanders, and pursue agriculture as their chief avocation.

The townships Nos. 35 and 36, which embrace Traeadie and its vicinity, contain together a population of about fifteen hundred souls.

CHAPTER II.

KING'S COUNTY — DIVISION — THREE RIVERS — MURRAY HARBOUR — ST. PETER'S — SAVAGE HARBOUR.

KING'S COUNTY, is the Eastern grand division of the Island. It contains twenty-one townships, the improvements upon some of which, it will be necessary to particularize in noticing the several settlements, in the same manner as has been done in the above description of the localities of Queen's County.

The Bay of Three Rivers, or George Town, is formed by the junction of the three rivers, Montague, Cardigan and Brudnelle. Between the Islands of Panmure and Boughton, there is a safe passage, admitting vessels of any burden. Upon a conveniently situated point of land, between the river Cardigan and the united waters of the Brudnelle and the Montague, is placed the county town, which is called George Town. George Town is laid out in town lots, in the same manner as the capital, but has at present but few inhabitants.

It is however, conveniently situated, and the buildings are fast increasing.

The fronts of the rivers and the vicinity, are rapidly settling with British emigrants or people of British extraction, who, like those of all the thriving settlements in the Island, are for the most part occupied in agricultural pursuits. Three Rivers possess the advantage of having long established ship yards, in which many fine vessels have been built. This is important to the settlers, in creating a market within their reach, which is at all times available for the disposal of the produce of their farms. This harbour is conveniently situated for carrying on the cod fishery of the North side of the Island. It has advantages over every other harbour, in its position for leaving the Gulf of St. Lawrence in the autumn, and in closing later at that season, and, opening earlier in the spring.

The townships Nos. 51, 52, 53, 54, 59 and 61, which embrace the broad bounds of Three Rivers and its vicinity, contain together a population of about sixteen hundred souls.

Besides the bay of Three Rivers, there are in this county, several other navigable harbours for the smaller class of square rigged vessels, or schooners adapted to the trade with Halifax and Newfoundland. Of these, Murray harbour is the principal.

Murray Harbour, lies between Three Rivers and Bear Cape. It has all the advantages of position enjoyed by the settlers at Three Rivers; but it is a bar

harbour, and does not admit vessels drawing above ten or eleven feet of water.

The inhabitants of the vicinity of Murray Harbour, are, for the most part, of British descent. Many of them were attracted here by the ship-building establishments and the trade of the port. Some good farmers, have, however, lately come among the earlier settlers, and great improvement in the system of cultivating the land has been of course the result.

The townships of Murray Harbour, Nos. 63 and 64, contain together a population of about nine hundred souls.

The Harbour of St. Peters, is situated on the North side of the Island. It is a bar harbour, and only admits schooners adapted to the trade carried on with Halifax and Newfoundland, and for the fisheries.

The Townships of St. Peters, Nos. 39, 40, and 41, contain together a population of about sixteen hundred souls.

Savage Harbour, in the same vicinity, is only navigable for boats. The townships, Nos. 37 and 38, which embrace its vicinity, contain together a population of about nine hundred souls.

Souris, Rollo Bay, Fortune Bay, Howe Bay, and Broughton Bay, have their several settlements, consisting for the most part of Highlanders, or the descendants of that hardy race.

The townships, which embrace the settlements upon these bays, Nos. 55, 56, 43, 44 and 45, contain together a population of nearly three thousand souls.

The townships of 46 and 47 in this vicinity, contain a population of about twelve hundred souls; and are in course of settlement, and in a rapidly improving condition.

While enlarging upon these practical statistics, I am quite aware that such details cannot but be tedious to any reader, who might not belong to one of those classes to whom the following pages are especially addressed, and who might not also anticipate having a personal concern in some interest upon which these particulars bear.

But a whole county yet remains to be in the same manner described; and I must intreat the reader who contemplates making this fine Island his home, to lend his attention to a few more details.

CHAPTER III.

PRINCE COUNTY—DIVISION—FEATURES OF THE COUNTRY
RICHMOND BAY—PRINCE TOWN—BEDEQUE—TRYON
—CASCUMPEC—KILDARE—LITTLE TIGNICHE—GREAT
TIGNICHE—MIMINEGICHE.

PRINCE COUNTY, is the western grand division of the Island, and contains twenty-three townships.

The most remarkable natural feature of this county, is the extensive harbour of Richmond Bay. Richmond Bay is a broad and deep indent of the sea, completely fortified from external danger by a long range of sand hillocks. It has two entrances at its south eastern extremity, and it contains several fine Islands, the principal of which are, Lenox or Indian Island, George Island, and Bunbury Island. It has also several rivers, of which, Ellis or the Grand River, and Goodwood River, are the principal.

The two entrances into the bay are divided by a sand island, called Fishery Island, about five or six miles in circumference. On the inner side of this

island, there is a deep cove, which is annually frequented by herrings in incredible abundance, and is unquestionably the best station for the herring fishery, that can be found in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The herring season is generally towards the end of May: it lasts about ten or twelve days. During this time, Fishery Cove is crowded with boats; and the scene, rather resembles what is more common in the western islands of Scotland, than any thing we are accustomed to see in a new country. This fishery is a great advantage to the settlements around Richmond Bay and to the west, and affords, at a very trifling expense, a wholesome article of diet for the year.

Near the entrance of Richmond Bay is situated the county town, called Prince Town. It is laid out upon a peninsula formed by Darnley Basin and the March water. It has at present so few inhabitants as not to be worthy of notice on that account. The vicinity, including the whole of the peninsula, however, the banks of Darnley Basin, and the first five miles of the Charlotte Town road, is well settled with a mixed industrious population, of which, the descendants of the earlier emigrants from Scotland predominate.

Prince town is not so well situated with regard to its harbour, as are Charlotte Town and George Town. Small vessels only, can approach the shore, and these cannot come within half a mile of the town, and have but indifferent shelter. Darnley Basin, only admits vessels of about eight feet draught of water.

The townships of the vicinity of Prince Town, No. 18

and 19, contain together a population of about one thousand five hundred souls.

There are very extensive clearances at the head of the bay, formerly occupied by the Acadians, and called the French village. The present generation, however, have combined their capital, and purchased lands on the opposite side of the island, on the shore of Halifax or Bedeque Bay, and the former clearances are in the hands of British descendants. The present settlement of the Acadians is called Muscouche.

Township No. 17, which embraces the greater part of the old, and the whole of the new settlements, contain a population of about one thousand souls.

The townships No. 16, and 14, which include all the settlements upon the Ellis or Grand River, contain together, a population of about nine hundred souls, of which nine tenths are of highland descent. Townships 13 and 12, which take in the settlements upon the Goodwood River, contain together about five hundred souls.

Besides the harbour of Richmond Bay, there are also in this county, those of Bedeque and Cascumpec.

Bedeque is situated upon the south side of the island. It is chiefly occupied by the descendants of Loyalists, who settled in the island after the American revolutionary war. The timber trade of Bedeque was once considerable; but happily for the interests of a better pursuit, little, or no more, of the staple of that branch of commerce remains.

The townships Nos. 25 and 26, which embrace the

greater part of the settlements of this vicinity, contain together a population of about one thousand souls.

Eastward of Bedeque, upon the south shore, without the advantage of a harbour, lies the beautiful settlement of Tryon Village on township 23, containing a population of about eleven hundred souls.

We now come to the settlements of the most western district, the principal of which is that of Casumpec. Casumpec includes all the settlements upon Holland or Casumpec Bay. This fine bay is defended from the sea by a range of picturesque sand hillocks. It has a bar at its entrance; but admits vessels drawing about fifteen feet of water, and possesses all the essentials of a safe and convenient haven. Within the bar, between the sand islands which form the entrance to the inner harbour, lies a flat, upon which there is about thirteen feet of water: so that the larger vessels usually fill up their cargoes in the outer harbour.

Having past the sand islands, as you enter, you sail up the inner harbour, which is about a mile and a half in breadth, surrounded by the richest natural forest, but not without the indications of the existenee of civilized man. Upon the left hand, lies a beautiful island called Savage Island, bordered with red cliffs and grassy banks, and entirely covered with a graceful mixture of the most luxuriant forest trees, among which, the beech and maple predominate. Upon the right hand, as you proceed, the land bends round in a crescent shape, and forms, with Savage Island on the

opposite side, a tranquil harbour, a little less than a mile in breadth, and about three miles in length. The land which makes the west side of the harbour, is a peninsula formed by Hehester River. Upon this peninsula, establishments have for many years existed; and a large farm, with all its appurtenances of barns and out-houses, and the tall forest around, present to the eye, a scene not surpassed in beauty, or in its indications of the capability of maintaining a thickly settled population, by any thing to be met with in America.

At the extremity of the peninsula, store-houses have been built, and a trade, both with this country and Halifax has been sometimes carried on, but not yet to the extent that the resources of the district warrant. The land forms a natural wharf, and ships moor against the beach and make a stage to the shore.

Cascumpee Bay, is about five miles in breadth. It receives the waters of several rivers, of which the principal are, Hill River and the Foxley River. Hill River, penetrates about seven miles into the country in a westerly direction. It is a winding and beautiful stream, sometimes appearing like a lake, and always presenting the most luxuriant foliage to the very water's edge or the brink of the cliffs, but often without any indication of its vicinity to any fixed human habitation. The land generally rising as it recedes from the river side, presents, evidences of the continuity of a fertile soil, and the promises of future abundance.

Foxley River stretches to the south-west about nine miles into the interior, and flows through a country abundantly fertile, but from its generally level character, less picturesque than the banks of the Hill River.

The settlements of Cascumpee lie at the head of the bay, and upon the smaller rivers near the port. The inhabitants are chiefly Acadians, but there are some British. The Acadian settlement fronts the bay, occupying the ground between the entrances of Hill River and Foxley River. Here the settlers have erected a chapel, commanding a view of the whole bay and of the sand islands, which, rising into seven conical hills, called the Seven Sisters, add variety to the scenery, in relieving the prospect of the eternal forest.

The Acadians, as before observed, are too much given to holy-day-making, to thrive among the industrious settlers of British origin; and the effect of this is more apparent here than at Rustico. Instead of adding fishing to their better occupation of farming, the Cascumpee Acadians, have been engaged in what is called lumbering; that is, felling and manufacturing timber; and they have experienced the worst effects of that demoralizing pursuit.

The British settlers of Cascumpee are more thriving, especially some few who have attended exclusively to the cultivation of their farms.

The harbour of Cascumpee is the best station in the Gulf of St. Lawrence for cod fishing establishments. Herrings, in the month of May enter the harbour in

prodigious shoals, and are easily taken in sufficient quantity to supply the wants of the settlers; but they, sometimes, do not shoal here, which renders a full supply for the purposes of commerce uncertain.* But the cove of Fishery Island before mentioned, at the mouth of Richmond Bay, the great rendezvous of the herrings, is so near, that when they fail at Casumpec, they may be followed there, about ten days later in the season, without any danger of disappointment. But more will be said on the importance of these fisheries, when we come to speak of the prospective commerce of the Island.

This description of Casumpec, may be thought somewhat more particular than the wild and uncultivated tracts of that district might seem to demand. But that its fertile lands remain more unpeopled than those of other districts of the island, is alone a sufficient reason for their more particular notice. The settlements of Casumpec, are destined to be the richest agricultural portion of the island. Its port too, will probably be the principal place for the debarkation of emigrants for the time to come. But were there none of these reasons, it might be pardoned as we excuse the inscription upon a grave stone, which stops the traveller to inform him of some

* I have witnessed the catch of five hundred barrels in the twenty-four hours, with four boats navigated by twelve men: and, as many thousand barrels might have been taken before the season was over, had preparations been made for curing them.

humour or scene in which the mind of the inanimate clay beneath, when living, most delighted. It is the record of a spirit departed from the deep but cheerful solitudes, where it rejoiced in extreme youth, and, wandering amidst the forests, dreamed of flourishing towns and peopled villages, which every creek and every grove foretold—a spirit, departed for ever from the scenes where, and where only, it ever felt the full pleasure of existence, without weariness and the desire of change.

About four miles north of Cascumpec Bay, is situated Kildare, a settlement consisting of farms along the sea shore. This settlement and its vicinity, possess the advantage of an annual deposit of marine manure. The sea, every spring, throws up as much kelp, as to cover the shores from Kildare River to Cape Kildare, two or three feet in depth; and this valuable commodity remains untouched, except by four or five farmers at whose very doors it is deposited, until carried to sea again by the currents and flood-tides, or melted by the heat of the sun.

The townships Nos. 4, 5, and 6, include the settlements of Cascumpec and Kildare. They, as yet, contain together no more than about five hundred souls.

About ten miles north of Kildare lie Little Tigniche and Great Tigniche. These settlements are situated upon two ponds or small lakes, both of which have outlets into the sea; but the largest and most northern only, will admit even boats adapted for fishing. Little Tigniche, is, however, the resort of fish of a species

resembling the herring, and called alewives or gasperaux. They are taken by the settlers in great quantities.

These two settlements are wholly peopled by Acadians, whose condition is a remarkable instance of the advantage of closely following one pursuit. They have attended exclusively to farming, and, although, a people wedded to prejudices the most opposed to improvement, and having no knowledge of agriculture but the practice of their forefathers, nor desiring more; and who, moreover, spend one fifth of the year in holiday making, they are yet in a condition superior to that of their neighbours of the same origin, and may therefore, be said to flourish. They have abundance of every necessary of life, and are contented and happy.

There are two ponds of the same description on the Western coast, called Great Miminegiche and Little Miminegiche. They are settled by Acadian French also, with a few emigrant Irish families. They are frequented also by the alewives in the same abundance as Little Tigniche.

The townships of these settlements, Nos. 1 and 2, contain together a population of about 800 souls.

On the south coast of this district lies Egmont Bay, the shores of which abound with rich salt marshes, which afford a valuable aid to the agricultural settlers in their vicinity.

The townships upon Egmont Bay, are 8, 9, and 10.

The entire population of the island is about forty thousand souls.

CHAPTER IV.

CLIMATE—SOIL—NATIVE PRODUCTIONS.

THE climate of Prince Edward Island is highly favorable to the pursuits of agriculture and the health of the inhabitants. It differs from that of England in the winter more than at any other season. The unwholesome and damp chills of an English winter are unknown in the Island; and the diseases which a moist atmosphere originates, are uncommon at any time. The cold is more severe, and endures for a longer period; so that for about four months, all agricultural pursuits, properly so called, are of necessity suspended. But this is not of so much moment as to materially effect those interests which are connected with the soil; for the winter is both shorter and less severe in the Island, than in those counties on the Baltic which export agricultural produce, and whose inhabitants, are for the most part engaged in the rural occupations. The days too are considerably longer at that season in the Island, than in those countries.

which is material, both as to health and to labor. I shall briefly describe the peculiarities of each season, beginning with that which differs the most from the corresponding season in Britain.

After a serene and usually dry October, the weather begins to get more unsteady in the early part of November, and sometimes a sharp frost, with showers of snow, takes place before the middle of that month; but when this occurs, the October weather returns again, and commonly lasts about ten days or a fortnight. This short interval is called the "Indian Summer." When it occurs, the frost does not generally set in before the beginning of December; but the cold weather more commonly begins about the 20th November, and gradually increases, until the ground resists the plough, which is ordinarily about the second week in December. The cold now increases rapidly, and the ground becomes covered with snow; and about Christmas, the frost is as intense as that experienced during the severest winters in England.

During the months of January and February, the weather is usually steady, with the thermometer very frequently below zero of Fahrenheit. But sometimes a thaw takes place, and, by laying the ground bare of its winter covering, occasions great inconveniences. The travelling is suspended, or becomes difficult, the roads being rendered unfit for either sledge or wheel carriages; and the hauling of firewood, which the farmer usually accomplishes at that

season, is prevented. The meadows are sometimes injured too by the exposure of the land to the frost, should it become very severe before another fall of snow.

During this season, the farmer occupies his time in thrashing out his grain, preparing new fences for the spring, building new out-houses, adding to his dwelling house, and hauling his firing for the year. The weather is not so cold as to interfere with any outdoor occupations, and the length of day at the winter solstice, by reason of the difference of latitude, is about an hour longer at Charlotte Town than at London.

March, as in Europe, is a windy month, and is throughout very changeable. About the close of this month, the snow rapidly melts, and the ice in the rivers and bays gets rotten and dangerous to pass; and wholly disappears, except in a late season, about the second week in April. Strong southerly winds now commence, and the last vestiges of frost speedily vanish. Ploughing generally commences about the third week of this month; and before the middle of the next, unless the season be unusually late, the greater part of the seed is committed to the ground.

The spring is short; and during the month of May, the mean temperature is little lower than is common during the same month in England, though there are occasionally very cold and raw easterly winds. But toward the end of this month, steady weather is generally established.

In the beginning of June, the summer bursts forth ;

and the natural forest, presenting to the eye every variety of vegetation, and filling the air with the fragrant perfumes of the native herbs of the island, gives abundant evidence of the fertility of the soil; and at the same time affords an opportunity for the lovers of nature to gratify their enthusiasm, or indulge their taste for contemplative enjoyment.

The brilliancy of a summer night in the vicinity of the bays, cannot be surpassed by that which the finest climates under heaven exhibit. The wind is usually still, and the smooth surface of the water reflects the splendid lights of the firmament; and wherever the current runs, the fishes are heard sporting in the stream; and on the shore, whole acres are sometimes illuminated by the fire-flies, which emit flashes of light as they sport in the air; and now and then a torch is seen displayed at the bow of the canoe of some Indian engaged in spearing the eels.

From this time, until the middle or the end of September, the climate resembles that of the southern coast of England. The thermometer, occasionally, during calm weather, shows a greater degree of heat than we experience in this country; but the sea breeze seldom fails to lower the temperature, by the time the sun reaches the zenith, so that no inconvenience thence arises. But during the prevalence of the south-west winds, throughout the greater part of July, August, and September, the thermometer stands pretty steadily at from 75 to 80 degrees of Fahrenheit during the mid-

hours of the day ; and, at night, the air is soft, wholesome, and agreeable.

The hay harvest commences about the middle of July ; and the white crops are usually cut between the middle and the last of August.

About the middle of September, the evenings begin to get cool, and the autumn properly commences. Nothing can exceed the beauty or the healthiness of this season of the year. The atmosphere is exceedingly rarified, and the deep azure of the clear sky reflects a darker shade upon the waters ; while the forests, as they change from the rich green of summer to the thousand autumnal tints which the variety of their kinds exhibit, present scenery unsurpassed in beauty or in the hopes of future plenty which they inspire. by any thing to be met with in the old or new world.

The *Aurora Borealis*, though common at all times of the year, is, during the early part of autumn, more splendid than at any other season. It sometimes appears like the reflection of the lights of this great metropolis upon the sky when seen from a distance upon a clear night ; but it often covers the whole compass of heaven, and in red, blue, green, and yellow streams, illumines the wide expanse ; and changing its colours as it continually flashes across the firmament, presents a spectacle unrivalled by any other phenomenon which nature any where displays.

Prince Edward Island, is entirely free from those fogs which infest the surrounding countries of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Cape Breton. This re-

markable exemption from the visits of that enemy to personal comfort, I have elsewhere endeavoured to account for.* It is not among the least of the advantages which the island enjoys over the provinces in its vicinity, and over the eastern states of the Union. The air is always clear and salubrious; and the climate at all seasons, is much healthier than that of the greater part of Upper Canada, or of any part of the United States.

The intermittent fevers of Upper Canada and the United States, with several other diseases incident to the latter, are of very rare occurrence, or entirely unknown in the island: nor does any endemic disorder whatever here exist. There is no country where the peasantry enjoy better health, or where more instances of longevity occur. I believe, though I am not able in this instance to speak from actual investigation, that more people in this island attain the age of a hundred, than in any other part of America.

The fertility of the soil of Prince Edward Island, is sufficiently indicated by its natural productions. The whole face of the country, with inconsiderable exceptions, is, or was originally, covered with forest trees of the richest foliage, and of great variety in their kinds. The general character of the soil is that of an unctuous loamy mould. In some parts, the proportions of sand prevail over its more fertile properties, and in others, a rich marly loam predominates,

* See the Emigrant's Introduction to the British American Colonies, &c. page 207.

without approaching to the character of the heavy clay soils in Great Britain. Its peculiar properties are generally known by its original productions; and where maple of its several kinds, and beech and black birch, intermixed with the larger species of the fir tribe, prevail and attain the greatest perfection, they are justly considered conclusive evidence of the superior quality of the soil.

Sometimes the forests are open, and the trees so far apart, that you may ride through the country without roads; but they are generally too much mixed with trees of a smaller growth, or the way is obstructed by wind-falls, or they have too much underwood to permit the traveller to make a straight course, even on foot. But, the more obstruction to the first efforts at cultivation that we meet, the more certain we may be, that we have chosen a soil that will soon repay the capital and labor we apply to subdue it to the purposes of profitable increase. The ground, is every where easily worked. Sometimes the settlers plough with a pair of bullocks or one horse; and it is rarely necessary to use more than two light horses or two pair of bullocks. The sub-soil is in some places a stiff clay, very well adapted for making bricks; and in others, it is a solid bed of sand stone, which is very easily worked when first dug, and which becomes hard by exposure to the air. This renders it admirably adapted for building, though I believe, there is but one house that is worthy of notice, constructed of it, at present in the island.

There are some districts, but they are not extensive, where the soil is very sandy, and hardly at present, worth cultivating. The lands of this description, in their wild state, are indicated by their productions, which are usually scrubby spruces and other species of firs of stunted growth.

There are also swampy lands of considerable extent in some of the districts; but as no attempt has been made to bring these into cultivation, we can only conjecture from the natural grass they produce wherever they are not over-run with spruces and thick bushes, that they will, as the population increases, be found easily convertible into good pasture lands.

A few observations upon the native productions of the island, may not improperly precede, what it will be necessary to say of the produce of the cultivated districts.

The predominant tree of the forest, is the common beech. This tree attains its perfection upon the best lands: it is a clean and useful wood, and is much used in ship building, being found to be very durable under water.

Birch, ranks next to beech, as to the quantity which the native forest produces. There are several species of this genus, but the two principal, are, the black and the white. The black birch attains to a much larger size than the beech, and is a useful wood in ship building, cabinet making, and mill machinery.

The white birch does not grow very large, and except for fire-wood, is of no use to the settlers. The

Indians, however, construct their canoes of the bark of this tree.

There are several kinds of maple which attain to a large size. The principal, is the rock or bird's-eye-maple. Some of this is annually sent to England, where it is used for cabinet work. It is about the color of satin-wood, but being spotted with marks resembling birds-eyes, from which it receives its name, it is a much handsomer wood; but it will not be much esteemed until it becomes more scarce.

The sap of the maple tree produces sugar, which is manufactured by the older settlers, especially the Acadians and those of highland descent, but is rarely sold; and the more recent English settlers value their time too highly, to employ it in the manufacture of an article, which is but a poor substitute for what the produce of their farms will well enable them to purchase.

Elm and oak are found in the island, but the trees of these species are not numerous, nor is their timber valuable. The same with the willow, ash, poplar, and several others.

There are great varieties of the fir tribe, the principal of which, is the yellow pine. This tree grows to an enormous size, and was formerly very plentiful in the island; but except in the district of Cascumpec in Prince County, it has been nearly all cut down and exported.

The hemlock or hemlock fir is a valuable wood, and grows to a size, nearly equal to that of the pine. It is

exported as lathwood, and used in the country for flooring and wainscoting, but is not durable when exposed to the weather. It is used also for the foundation of wharfs always under water, and its bark is valuable for tanning leather.

There are several kinds of spruce, of which, the black is the most valuable. It is used for spars for large vessels, and for the masts of the smaller, and also for the top-sides and decks of ships.

The white cedar is common in the district of Casumpee, and from its durability is valuable for shingles for exportation to the West Indies.

There are several wild fruits indigenous, and very plentiful in the island. The more esteemed, are the cranberry, the strawberry, and the raspberry. The common American cranberry is well known in this country; but the sort which the island produces is superior to any to be found on the continent. Strawberries are plentiful, but they are small, and inferior in flavor to the garden strawberry of this country. The Raspberries, however, which are exceedingly abundant, are not inferior to those which are produced by the most careful cultivation at home. Where the woods have been burnt, or the land cleared and left uncultivated, they are found in great quantities; and they are common in all parts of the island by the road side.

Besides these, there are wild cherries, blue-berries or whortle berries, and currants and gooseberries. The wild cherries, have, as a medicine, powerful as-

tringent qualities. The blue-berries are a very agreeable fruit ; but the wild currants and gooseberries are scarcely eatable, though the trees of both kinds imported from England, especially of the currants, whether black, white, or red, produce the most delicious fruit in great abundance.

There are great quantities of, what in the island is usually called, sarsaparilla ; but some of it brought to this country was pronounced by a medical gentleman of eminence, to be a plant unknown to him, and certainly not sarsaparilla. It has, however, medicinal virtues, and is used by the Indians to cure what they call a sore chest, in other words, a severe cold.

CHAPTER V.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIONS—MANURES—GARDEN VEGETABLES—STOCK.

I SHALL now proceed to speak of those productions of the country which recompense human industry, and which bear a nearer affinity to the interests of the greater portion of such capitalists as may contemplate transferring their property, and industrious efforts to this colony.

None of the farinaceous and necessary vegetable productions of the soil of Great Britain, yield a more bountiful return for the labors of the agriculturists at home, than those of the same kind, with less skill and less labor in their cultivation, produce in Prince Edward Island; and some, among those which may be considered necessaries, exceed the average returns of their kind in England; while others, to be classed among the luxuries of the table, are produced with less care, and attain to greater perfection in the island, than in any part of England.

Summer wheat, whether red or white, is at present the great object of the farmer's attention, and yields a

bountiful return. Vegetation is much more rapid in the island than in England; and corn committed to the ground about the first or second week in May, is usually reaped before the middle of September. The average increase of the wheat crop, it is difficult to discover, as the farmers rarely know the size of their fields, or how much they sow upon any single acre, but have a very erroneous method of estimating the fertility of the soil by the increase upon what they sow. But according to the best calculations I could make, without a thorough practical knowledge of the subject, the average production of the lands, of at least the western districts, under fair cultivation, would not seem to be overrated at from eighteen to twenty-two bushels an acre; but it is stated by many to be much higher. And this too, it should be remembered, is the produce of spring wheat upon a soil as yet imperfectly known. That of autumn wheat, would probably much exceed this; but it has not been fairly tried, owing to a prevalent opinion that the winters are too severe to admit its general production, notwithstanding it has been successfully cultivated in several instances. Some German settlers, will probably before long, put the island farmers in the way of overcoming the difficulties hitherto experienced in raising this more productive species of corn.

Barley and oats, are the next objects of the farmer's attention. These grow luxuriantly, especially the latter, the average produce of which is certainly not over estimated at forty-five bushels of forty pound's

weight an acre. Barley, probably averages about thirty-five bushels.

Potatoes yield abundantly, under very indifferent cultivation; they are of excellent quality, and well known in the neighbouring provinces. The average produce is variously stated. Upon new land, manured by the ashes of the timber burnt upon it, they will sometimes yield from three hundred and fifty to four hundred bushels an acre, allowing for the waste spaces occasioned by the stumps still standing; but three hundred piled Winchester bushels, is by no means an over estimate for an average crop upon land under the plough, and fairly cultivated.

The average produce of barley, oats, and potatoes, in Prince Edward Island, very much exceeds that of the best lands in the United States.

Rye and buck wheat produce abundant crops, but they are not much cultivated.

Hops grow better here than in any part of Britain, and they are, as far as yet tried, which has not been extensively, a certain crop; which, should it so prove to be, will give the hop growers in the island, a material advantage over the producers in England. There is not, at present, much consumption for them, and they have not yet been exported.

Some flax is raised in the highland and Acadian settlements, but only for domestic use. The women manufacture it, and employ it to make their husband's shirts, and for necessary household purposes. Hemp will also grow, but it is not cultivated.

Maize or Indian corn, is sometimes sown, but it does not equal that grown in more southern countries. It is not often ground to flour, but when boiled in its green state, it is a delicious vegetable, and from experience I can confidently recommend it as an exceedingly wholesome article of diet.

Turnips do well, especially the Swedish. Of the other kinds, the yellow is considered the sweetest and is the most prolific. Turnips should be sown about the end of July. They are subject to be cut off by the fly as in England; but a Glostershire farmer used to sow them on a farm at Cascumpee, three days before the change of the moon, which affords time, as it would seem, for them to get their defence against the mischievous insect, before it recovers from a change which it appears to undergoe at that period.* English farmers will probably know whether the emigrant agriculturist was indebted to his cunning, or to chance, for his success; which, however, was unfailling, after this precaution was practised. Parsnips also grow well in the island.

The rotation of crops, is usually, wheat with hay seed, after potatoes, where the land is not remarkably rich; but on the better soils, the farmers generally take another white crop after the wheat, and sometimes two,

* This may appear startling, but natural science is every day discovering causes and effects which have hitherto been unsuspected; and in many instances, modern discovery has led to the revival and establishment of facts which were believed by our ancestors, but have since been held unworthy the attention of philosophers.

before they lay it down to meadow, or put it again in green crops, or employ manure.

The grass most commonly used in the country, is the timothy. It is usually sown mixed with cow grass, which is a perennial red clover. This mixture, with the thick rich native white clover, which the land every where spontaneously produces, forms a most luxuriant meadow, and yields under favorable circumstances about three tons per acre.

As there can be nothing of more importance to the agriculturist than the means of fertilizing his land, so there is no country where the manures, not dependent upon the husbandman's economy, are more abundant, or more easily obtained; and this, as it need not be added, is a matter of especial importance to those settlers who begin their labours with the axe. If they are near a river, two or three should unite and keep a skow or flat-bottom barge, which they would find greatly facilitate their means of obtaining the rich animal and vegetable deposits of the rivers and bays.

The richest and most durable of the marine manures, is the muscle mud. It consists of decayed muscles and shells mixed with mud, and is found in many of the rivers. It is said to prolong its fertilizing effects when ploughed into the ground, for twelve or fourteen years, and even for five and twenty or thirty, where the soil is best adapted to retain it. The kelp weed has been mentioned, in speaking of Kildare and Cascumpec.

Within all the bays and rivers of the country, there are larger or less deposits of a kind of sea weed, known by the name of eel grass. This is very inferior to kelp or muscle mud, and has been so badly managed, and so little appreciated, that some even think that it produces or encourages the growth of couch-grass, but this is palpably an error. It might just as well be said, that it produces any other weed that is common to the land of a prejudiced and slovenly husbandman. If it be collected in the spring, (and in this case the new grass is the best), and made a compost of, with a fair mixture of stable manure; or, if that which is half decomposed, and within the harbours (of which there is abundance in every stage of decay) be collected early in the autumn, and spread a foot deep or more, over the byre and stable yards, it will become an excellent manure for either the white or green crops of the following season. In truth, the value of the marine deposits, as independent manures, is not half known, nor will their worth be fully appreciated, until more agricultural capitalists take up their residence in the country.

Beans and peas yield well, but I do not know their average produce per acre. Those cultivated in the gardens are superior to any grown in England.

All the vegetables common to our English gardens do well in the island; and most of those that are produced in this country, by the aid only of artificial heat, or the most careful culture, such as cucumbers, asparagus, and melons, attain perfection in the open air in

the island, without the application of much horticultural skill.

The ordinary fruits of the table, such as apples, pears, cherries, plums, grow well, but are not yet much cultivated. Currants of all kinds, and gooseberries, as before observed, produce abundantly. Strawberries and raspberries are too plentiful in the woods to be worth cultivating in the gardens. With the more delicate fruits which we rear in this country, such as grapes, nectarines, peaches, some experiments are now making.

After this list of the spontaneous and artificial productions of the soil of the island, some observations upon the stock naturally follow: I shall then make a few remarks upon the methods of farming practised by the first and the later settlers in the colony.

From the time of the French, who were in possession of the island up to the year 1759, until the administration of Governor Ready, between the years 1824 and 1830, little change had been made in the stock of horses, black cattle, hogs or sheep, so that the greater part of the stock is still of the original breed.

The horses are in general small, but strong, hardy, docile and patient of fatigue, and moreover, long-lived. They will draw greater weights; and when taken directly from pasture, will perform longer journeys than English horses, swimming rapid rivers of sometimes a mile in breadth. They are also sociable animals. The most sagacious, when bred at a distance from the populous settlements, will, in the summer time, if far from home, follow you for miles

in the woods in spite of every obstruction. They dread being alone in the forest at any time. When you travel in the winter behind a young horse, and are for some time silent, the animal will begin to fear he is alone : he will first stop and attempt to look round, but being prevented seeing by his blinkers, he will run and stop again ; and after attempting to turn, which he cannot do on account of the snow on each side of the narrow sleigh road, he will start off again, with the action and speed of a scared deer. But the instant you speak, the affrighted animal will stand still, and then resume his ordinary pace, resembling, alike in his confidence and his timidity, a higher order of being degraded to the same dependence, and sometimes worse treated, in the south, than the beasts of burden in a land unpolluted by the anomalies of social order and the debasing influence of slavery. Horses are supposed on these occasions to scent a bear, an animal for which they have no great predilection ; but bears are seldom seen near the roads, and at this season they lie under the snow. It appears to be the love of society, and the sense of dependence, that gives the horse so strong a distaste for the solitude of the woods.

Governor Ready brought a thorough-bred horse, and a mare to the colony, since which, several others have been imported ; so that the breed of both farm and pleasure horses is greatly improved.

The black cattle of the island are smaller than those of England. The ordinary weight of an ox raised in

the more cultivated districts, may be about eight hundred weight without hide and tallow. The beef is however tender when the bullocks are not too much worked, as is often the case among the Acadian and highland settlers, and those who begin to cultivate the land without sufficient capital to enable them to purchase a horse.

The milk, butter, and cheese, are inferior to what we are accustomed to get in England; but as new stock has of late years been imported, this source of the agriculturist's profits will yearly improve.

As to sheep, they were until very lately, with the exception of a few about the capital, a miserable sample. They are, however, as far as breeding is concerned, as it is obvious to farmers, more easily improved by importations than any other stock; and as great attention has been given to their improvement by the agricultural society, whose efforts for the general interests of the country it will be necessary to notice in a future page, there is no question about the result. They are indeed, at this time, nearly double the size the sheep of the island were twenty years ago, and produce a proportionate quantity of wool.

The swine of the country are suffered to run too much at large to thrive well. Some farmers, have however, attended to the breed of them; and, pork may be obtained of as good quality in the Charlotte Town market, as in most parts of England. Some hogs of a large breed were some years ago imported, but I do not know whether they were found profitable to raise.

But at an hotel in Charlotte Town, the ear of a pig whose carcase weighed nine hundred pounds, was put on the table as a side dish; and mine host, who himself fed the animal, informed his guests, that it was not properly fattened when he killed it, and that he should be able to kill a much larger in a few weeks.

Domestic fowls, and also geese and ducks, are raised with great ease in the country, and are plentiful. Turkeys, however, for which the climate seems well adapted, since the wild species are abundant in Canada, have not yet been raised in great plenty in any part of the Island.

Both the methods of cultivation and the breeding of stock, with every other interest connected with agriculture, are in a rapidly improving condition. Before the administration of Governor Ready, little enterprise existed in the country. The island had for a series of years been a prey to mis-government and party dissensions, and every thing which concerned its best interests was at a stand; but this officer, by the example which he set in the cultivation of the soil, and the importation of stock, threw open the legitimate sources of the most profitable pursuits, and pointed out the natural channels of the future wealth of an island, situated in the vicinity of countries possessing a less congenial climate and less fertile soil.

The first great effort towards the improvement of these important interests, was the establishment of an agricultural society, which was founded under the auspices of the governor in the year 1826. This was

speedily followed by the institution of branch societies, and the rise of a spirit of inquiry, which will ere long, develop the great natural resources of the country. Through the means of these societies, stock of various descriptions, new seed, and improved implements have been imported; and trials of skill in ploughing, and in the cultivation of the several articles of produce most desirable to improve, have been instituted, and rewards given for the best samples; and these are expedients of which the utility is well known.

CHAPTER VI.

NATIVE ANIMALS OF THE FOREST—FISHES—INSECTS.

THE more remarkable of the native animals, greatly contributed, in the early settlement of the island, to its commerce, as well as the supply of some of the necessary articles of winter clothing to its inhabitants. Among these, the bears, foxes, otters, martins, minks, were the most useful. There are still bears enough found in the country to supply the wants of the settlers, but not enough to commit more mischief than now and then to carry away a pig or a sheep. They are by no means either so savage or so numerous as to be an object of dread to the most timid; and as a price is now set upon their devoted heads, those that remain will soon disappear.

The red fox-skin is still an article of commerce. Foxes are chiefly shot or trapped by the Indians, and their skins exported to England by the resident merchants. There are silver grey and black foxes to be met with, but they are very scarce.

Seals, and sea-cows, (the walrus) were formerly numerous upon the north coast of the island. The sea-cows have now quite abandoned the country, though the seals still frequent the coast and the rivers in the spring and autumn. They afford materials for the mooccasins worn for shoes by the Indians and some of the older settlers in winter; and oil, though not in sufficient quantity to supply the wants of the inhabitants. The seacows are now supposed to rarely leave the northern shores of the Gulf; but the seals are very numerous about the Magdalen Islands, which lie near the north coast of Prince Edward Island; and they are sometimes taken in considerable numbers by the Acadians of Rustico, who, as before observed, are more employed in the fisheries than any of the other settlers.

The wild birds of the island are numerous. Those most esteemed for the table, and which afford the best sport, are, the geese, brant or barnacle, and the black duck. These all migrate, with many others, and visit the island in spring and autumn. Partridges are also in great plenty; but they are too tame to afford any sport. The curlew, snipe, plover, and a variety of birds of their kind, are also numerous. Wild pigeons are likewise plentiful in summer.

The fishes of the island are delicate in flavor, and plentiful. The cod, herrings, and alewife or gasperaux are objects of commerce, and will therefore claim further attention under that head. The cod, is too abundant to be much esteemed for the table.

Herrings are plentiful in spring, and to be obtained in autumn. They are larger than the herrings in the European seas, and are equal to any in flavor.

Alewives are plentiful in spring; but they are not esteemed for the table: they are a dry and insipid fish.

Salmon are scarce. They are, I believe, only taken in the Morel River, which falls into St. Peter's Bay on the north side of the island.

The mackerel, are larger than those upon the English coast, and they are exceedingly abundant.

Trout of the finest description abound in almost every stream, but they are very improperly taken at all seasons.

Eels were formerly very plentiful in the island, but they are now comparatively scarce. They most abound, wherever the bottom of the river is a mixture of mud and sand. Here they embed themselves about a foot deep. They are taken chiefly by the Indians, who pierce the mud with a spear by day, or attract them when they leave their retreats at night, by a flambeau placed at the bow of their canoes.

Smelt are plentiful, as are many species of flat-fish, none of which are much esteemed.

Oysters and lobsters are the only good shell-fish to be got in the island. The oysters are extremely good, and of several sorts. There are two opinions respecting their flavor. Some think them very superior to the English oysters, while others think them inferior. Some kinds are very large, but none are gross. The largest are usually the shape of half a horse shoe, and not much smaller than one of the largest size.

As to lobsters, the best description of their abundance that can be given, is, to say, that they are on that, and on that account only, despised by the older settlers. They should never be permitted to appear at dinner, and should not be eaten for breakfast or supper above once a week. After many years observance of this rule, I left the island with as powerful a relish for them as ever. They are in great plenty in the harbours, but the best are caught at sea. When brought to the wharf at Charlotte Town, (for I do not know whether they are ever carried to the market), the boys who usually catch them, sell them for a halfpenny or a penny a piece.

There are no poisonous reptiles in the island, but there are some harmless snakes, and some musical frogs. The frogs are numerous in the swamps and ponds. They lie in a dormant state under the ice during the winter, and in the spring, when the sun reanimates all around them, they also feel his genial ray, and lift up their voices in general chorus, to the annoyance of some and the amusement of others. But for my part, I would not miss their evening chant for the finest morning concert that London affords.—But this, of course, is matter of taste. Strangers sometimes mistake their harmonious strains for the notes of some unknown bird; but they are more like those of the colian harp than any thing else I remember.

But if there are no dangerous reptiles there are several troublesome insects. The musquito or common gnat, the black-fly or gallinipper as it is very ap-

propriately called in Newfoundland, and the sand-fly, are all that are worth naming. These are exceedingly annoying in the woods during the months of July and August. The first is found wherever the forest exists, but the other two are only met with in particular situations. Charlotte Town, is however, free from all: nor indeed, are any to be found where the woods are cleared away; and none are so troublesome in the island as upon the continent.

CHAPTER VII.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS, AND PROSPECTIVE COMMERCE.

THE commerce of the island consists in the export of its productions to Great Britain, the West Indies, and the neighbouring provinces, and in the import of such necessary articles as the mother country or the sister colonies can supply. The sources of production have been various, and often so unprofitable, that there has hitherto been some difficulty in making the exports balance the necessary imports, from which has arisen a scarcity of money. The improvements in agriculture, and the increase of industry and capital, have, however, since the better administration, of the government of the colony, opened the channels of commerce, most natural to a fertile land; and the yearly increase of the produce of the soil, warrants the assumption, that the island will soon export more than will cover its necessary importations.

The exports to England formerly consisted chiefly

of timber. But this is the very worst branch of trade that a rural population could be called upon to support. It begets dissolute habits, and is a nursery of moral depravity. It has diverted the agriculturist from his more steady pursuits; and if it has sometimes been a great source of profit to a few, it has only accumulated what has been speedily dissipated; and it has in numerous instances been the ruin of those previously in easy or affluent circumstances; and thus the western districts of the island, where it still lingers, and which, beyond question, comprise the most fertile portion of the country, are less populous and less improved than the middle and eastern.

As the timber trade declined, ship building increased. This has proved a more profitable source of production, and furnished a valuable export to Great Britain. The reason of the dissimilarity of these pursuits is obvious. The timber was felled or manufactured by farmers, who not only neglected a better pursuit during the months of winter in which they generally worked, but who were often called upon to complete their contracts or perform some incidental labor during seed time or harvest, to their irreparable loss. Ships are built by a class of men, who, except in rare instances follow no other occupation; and thus the principle of just division of labor, not being violated, both the farmer and the ship builder acquire the legitimate profits of their distinct avocations, while their combined labors contribute to the general welfare of the colony.

The exceptions to this due distribution of labor, for the most part occur among the earlier settlers, especially the Acadians, who acquired the art of ship building and the taste together, during the period that system was "out of joint" in Europe, and men's minds were more set upon "cutting foreign throats" than in seeking out the best channels for the exertion of steady industry. The farmers, if such they may be called, at that time, built many small vessels and sold them, usually, in Newfoundland, at apparently large profits. But many better ship builders are now established at various parts of the island, and a number of snips from one hundred and fifty to five hundred tons, and some still larger, have been at different times constructed and sold in England, or employed in the trade of the colony.

Corn has also been exported to England, but in no great quantity; and if it has not been a source of profit, this has doubtless been owing more to bad management than to any other cause; for a sample fetched, on one occasion, the highest price at Mark Lane. But as the population of the island increases, it will be necessary to export more produce than will balance the wants of the settlers in the productions of the West India islands; and they will do well, by the strictest regulations, to insure the shipment of corn to this country, of a quality to command remunerating prices.

Pot-ash ought long ago to have been exported to England. It was at one time, though it is not now so

much in demand as formerly, the most valuable export from Canada, and the staple of its production, the beech tree, is super-abundant in the island.

The returns from Great Britain, are made in manufactured articles of every description, with salt, tea, wine, iron, and all such other necessaries and luxuries as a new country does not produce.

The exports to Newfoundland, have usually been more profitable than those to Great Britain. They have chiefly consisted of boards sawn at water mills in the island, shingles, which are (if the expression may be allowed) a kind of wooden slates, the best of which, are made of white cedar, and staves, spars, beef, pork, oats, hay, and many vessels for the grand fisheries of that island. The returns from Newfoundland have been usually made in West India produce.

The exports to the West Indies, have been much the same as those to Newfoundland, with the addition of dryed cod-fish and salted herrings, and alewives or gasperaux; and the returns have commonly been, in rum, sugar, and molasses. This trade has not been long open, but is greatly on the increase.

The intercourse with Miramichi and Halifax, has been extremely valuable, and might be made much more so, did the island merchants take care to keep the balance of trade in their favor.

There was once a considerable export of furs from the island; but as this branch of trade must decrease as population increases, it is not worthy of particular

notice in this brief review of such interests only, as nearly concern those who may contemplate residing in the colony.

But the two grand branches of prospective commerce are as yet in their infancy: the cod fisheries, and the export trade in corn. They await the further ingress of British capital and enterprise. But as the country is every day becoming better known, and the emigration and establishment of settlers with the means of turning the soil of the island and its rich fisheries to profitable account is yearly increasing, labor and capital, in due proportions, will ere long, call forth the natural capabilities of the country, to the advantage of every interest connected with its welfare.

CHAPTER VIII.

INHABITANTS—RELIGIOUS SECTS—EDUCATION.

AFTER the topographical outline at the beginning of this sketch, and what has been said of the trade and agriculture of the island, it is necessary to say but little concerning the origin, character, and proper avocations of its inhabitants. The settlers are chiefly English and Scotch, with an inconsiderable number of Irish, and American loyalists; and there are four settlements of Acadian French, which probably do not together contain above four thousand souls.

A remnant of the native Americans still inhabit the island, and may amount to between fifty and sixty families in all. Their chief settlement is upon Lenox or Indian Island, in Richmond Bay. Here they have a Catholic chapel, near which their chief usually resides. They are of the Micmac tribe which was formerly conquered by the Mohawks. They inherit

less of the energy, but not less of the independent spirit, of their ancestors, than the Indians of the tribes better known in Canada. All that need be here added concerning them is, that they form no obstacle to the progress of the settlers, before the effects of whose industry, they are perceptibly dwindling away; for notwithstanding their conversion to Christianity, and the penury of sustenance which they sometimes endure, they cannot be induced to cultivate the ground; and as the settlements increase, their means of subsistence must of course diminish. They understand but little of the nature of religion, and are supposed to be restrained from those excesses into which, the want which they suffer would drive any other people, more by their native pride, than by the influence of Christian precepts.

The churches or religious sects which predominate among the English and the descendants of English, are, the Church of England and the Methodists; and those which are ascendant among the natives or the descendants of the natives of Scotland, not including all the Highlanders, are, the Presbyterians and Seceders. Some of the Highlanders, the Irish, and the Acadian French, profess the Romish faith. But to the credit of the settlers in general, it may be added, that great goodwill subsists between those of the most adverse creeds. The clergy, generally, are estimable and enlightened men, and well disposed to encourage those feelings, which all who profess Christianity are bound to entertain. In fact, there is no such thing as a religious

party among the settlers; and a moral man, or in other words, a Christian in practice, is never asked to what church or sect he belongs, as though the forms by which he should offer up his devotions could make him a better or worse citizen, or more honest or dishonest man. Such at least is the feeling and the practice of a large majority of the people of Prince Edward Island.*

* The sight of two teachers of Christianity, who give opposite or different readings to passages of scripture upon which we found the most seemingly important religious doctrines and principles, inspires some such feelings as struck the able chronicler of the sayings of the literary Goliath of the last age, when he first saw the two eminent politicians in the extremes of party, Mr. Wilks, and the giant critic his great idol, *tête-à-tête* in discourse. It presented to his mind, the happy days foretold in scripture, when the lion shall lie down with the kid. There is surely no true religion without respect for the opinion of just men, however opposite their sentiments, in apparently the most material points. At least, we find this emphatically enjoined by the greatest of the apostles, however men may read, who love to excite and exercise their passions, instead of employing their nobler reason, in the examination of the sacred text, and in the practice of their religious forms and addresses to the Father of all. "Above all these things," says saint Paul, "put on Charity, which is the bond of perfectness." Col. iii. 14.

The education of youth, is a prime object of legislative care; and the scholastic institutions of the country are upon the most respectable footing. There is a national college at Charlotte Town; and there are minor establishments in the county towns, and in almost every district.

CHAPTER IX.

GOVERNMENT—LAWS AND COURTS OF LAW.

THE constitution, and the institutions of government, in Prince Edward Island, do not essentially differ from those we enjoy at home. The constitution is formed upon the model of that of the mother country, all power being vested, in a governor, council, and house of assembly. The governor represents the sovereign of Great Britain, the council, the members of which are individually styled honorable, represents the House of Lords of the Imperial Parliament, and the house of assembly, stands in the place of the British House of Commons. The members of the council are usually nominated by the governor, and appointed by the *mandamus* of the sovereign; and the members of the House of Assembly, are elected after the same forms as the members of the British House of Commons. The council sit also in an executive capacity. They then represent the privy council, at home, and act as advisers of the governor, who cannot exercise the

more material functions of government, without their advice and consent.

The laws of England, which existed before the colony possessed a representative constitution, are at present in force; but such acts as now pass through the British Parliament, do not extend to the colony, unless so intended and so expressed. The laws of the parent state, are explained or modified by the island legislature, as the circumstances of the country require; and this is especially necessary in the penal code; for crime, so often the offspring of want, is more rare in the island than at home, and does not need the same examples of severity that may be necessary in a populous country. The whole poor law code, also, would be inapplicable to a country which has not, nor cannot have, any poor, except the aged and sick; and it must be but in rare instances, that these have no relations upon whom they have stronger claims than upon the public.

Besides the statute law, and common law of England, the colonists have a statute book of their own, to which every session of the legislature materially adds. All laws, however, respecting real property, require the assent of the sovereign—a wholesome precaution against the consequences of the inexperience of the members of the Colonial Parliament, which is sometimes apparent in their legislative proceedings.

The administration of justice, and the procedure and forms of the courts of law, are the same as those of England. The governor is chancellor, and the chief

justice presides over the supreme court, which includes all the courts of common law at home. The chief justice, and the attorney-general, are appointed by the sovereign, but the high sheriff is appointed by the governor. Barristers, and Solicitors and Attorneys, are not distinct as in this country, and once admitted, they practise, and in all the courts.

There are also county courts, and justices of the peace throughout the island. The latter take cognizance of small debts, and have the same duties to perform as the magistrates in England.

CHAPTER X.

AGRICULTURIST EMIGRANTS—PRICE OF LAND AND TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF LEASING—PROSPECTS OF NEW SETTLERS.

THE reader is perhaps now in possession of sufficient information concerning Prince Edward Island and the condition of its inhabitants, to enable him to judge of the prospects generally which that colony holds out to industrious individuals of limited capital; I shall therefore proceed to such observations as may seem best calculated to assist him in applying the information he has acquired to his own particular objects of enterprise, supposing them to relate to the cultivation of the soil, to trade, or to the exercise of his genius in the mechanical arts.

Of all those who emigrate, the agriculturist will experience the greatest change, and in the majority of instances the most solid benefit. Yet it is certain that more emigrants of this class return, than of any other. But the reason of this is, that more agriculturists than persons of any other class engage in the undertak-

ing, without previously acquainting themselves with the true condition of the country to which they embark ; and some, as they muse o'er their lonely track, dream of landing in a country so totally different from that which they find on their arrival, that they at once get dispirited, and if they are able, return. The sight of a tall forest, encircling sometimes a single farm, and the stumps of the trees up to the doors of the ill-constructed dwellings of many of the settlers, who seem to know no more of the theory or practice of agriculture than of architecture, quite disheartens them. In some cases, the English farmer goes alone ; and lands, perhaps, where the settlers are from a different part of the United Kingdom, and probably speak a different dialect ; or they may be of foreign extraction, and of a different religious sect ; and although he is not an alien in *their* eyes, they to him are as strangers. But all this, arises in a great measure, from the want of a better system of emigration. These distinctions, will, however, in effect vanish, if he remains till he discovers, that they neither separate him from the great British family of which he was born and bred a member, nor deprive him of the substantial blessings of our free institutions, nor of the prospects of the profitable application of his capital and industry. He will not have landed among a people with whom he has no common interest and feelings. Nevertheless, if this situation is so disheartening as to cause some to abandon their objects, it is an evil that all should attempt to avoid ; and the best means of doing this, is to go—

not alone—but in company. Let several associate and unite their interests and efforts, or at least embark together and take up their residence in the same settlement.*

And now, if the agriculturist reader will lend his attention for a moment, we will suppose his situation, as an emigrant in the prime of life, with a small capital: and let us see what prospect there may be of his turning this to profitable account in Prince Edward Island. You may then compare the condition in which it may there place you, with that which your utmost expectations and the favors of fortune might realize at home.

We will suppose that you arrive at Charlotte Town early in the season. Here you will find the agents of the greater part of the proprietors, a list of whose names are appended to this account of the colony. You will now be able to inspect such lands as are for sale, make the necessary inquiries, select your allotment, and make your purchase judiciously. The price of land, you will find vary from five shillings to twenty shillings per acre. This difference arises more from difference of situation, than from any so great disparity in the quality of the arable lands of the island.

The terms and conditions upon which you will be able to purchase are as follows:—

You will be put in possession of the land for which you agree, upon paying one quarter part of the purchase-money, and coming under an agreement to pay

* More practical hints on this subject may be found in the Emigrant's Introduction, page 277.

the annual interest of five per cent for the remainder, until the total amount be paid off. Upon payment of one half the sum agreed upon, you will be entitled to a deed in fee simple. The remaining half of your purchase-money must be paid in five equal instalments; and in case of the failure of payment, the landlord, by the terms of the agreement will have a right to sell your lot, satisfy his demand, returning you what balance may remain in his hands.

If you should prefer leasing, or be under the necessity so to do, you may take a lease on the following terms, with the right to purchase at any time during the continuance of the term. The term will be:—for sixty-one years certain, or the longest of three lives, or, for ninety-nine years upon a scale of rent as follows:—

First and second year.....	No rent.
Third year.....	0 3 per acre.
Fourth year.....	0 6 ditto.
Fifth year.....	0 9 ditto.
Sixth year.....	1 0 ditto.

To continue for the remainder of the term at one shilling per acre, unless purchased according to the above terms.

The rents may be paid either in money, or the produce of the land at the market price; or in labor, when convenient to both landlord and tenant.

In order to facilitate the calculation concerning the results of good management, we will suppose that you

have a capital of £400 and that you prefer purchasing to leasing; and having chosen a favorable situation, give the highest price stated in the above scale, with ten pounds for your log-house habitation. You are now then the proprietor of a hundred acres of land, fertile indeed, but which, without labor quite apart from that of ordinary tillage, would remain, for agricultural purposes eternally unproductive.

Your first object will be, to remove the timber that obstructs cultivation. In order to facilitate this, you are strongly recommended to carry out a farm servant, if you can obtain one for six months at forty shillings a month with lodgings and provisions, or thirty shillings a month for the year. The price you will otherwise pay in the country will be about seventy shillings an acre, for cutting down, chopping up, and burning and fencing; and we will in this calculation allow this to be your outlay, and suppose that you have in other respects managed judiciously; and that you have ten acres prepared for seed at the expense of £40; and to simplify the estimate, we will consider the whole to be sown with wheat, and grass and clover to succeed. In spite of perhaps a fifth of the ground to be deducted on account of the stumps standing, this will yield about sixteen bushels an acre, which being valued at the fair average price of four shillings and sixpence a bushel amounts to £36. Thus, your very first crop will return you the proper expense of clearing the land. The expenses of putting

in the seed and gathering in the harvest we do not at present take into account.

It is especially necessary to let the first year's clearance bear one, two, or even three crops of hay before it is again broken up, as the want of fodder for stock is more felt than any other inconvenience, upon commencing in the woods.

But not to go into the most minute calculations, we may perhaps state the agriculturist's whole outlay and his returns, and improved solid possession, two years, after his arrival, provided he be industrious during the first winter, for there is less danger of the second, somewhat as follows :

ORIGINAL PURCHASE-MONEY AND OUTLAY FOR
TWO YEARS.

Purchase-money 100 acres land	£100
Clearing 30 acres at £4	120
Two years provision for a small family and servant	50
Tools	5
Seeds	10
One horse	12
One pair bullocks	16
Two cows	12
Twelve sheep	9
Swine	5
House	10
Barn and byre	5
Total outlay	£357

VALUE OF PROPERTY AFTER TWO YEARS, AND
RECEIPTS DURING THAT PERIOD.

Seventy acres in wood.....	£ 70
Thirty ditto cleared land, valued at 10s. per acre less than clearing and first cost together	141
First year's crop	36
Second ditto wheat off 20 acres	72
Trinothy and cow-grass off 10 acres, 20 tons at £2..	40
Original stock	54
Manure	10
Tools	5
House	10
Burn and byre	8
	£146
Original purchase-money and total outlay	337
	89

Such calculations, are however, it must be confessed, no more than a general guide to an average result. Things are omitted on both sides, and others perhaps differ very much from what will in individual cases be the results of experiment. How uncertain, for instance, must be any calculation of the expenses of a family for two years. The number of which it is composed is not so material as the regard or disregard paid to economy. Some will very prudently lay in their winter's stock of provisions before prices augment, while others will not only neglect this, but reject the ordinary provisions of a new settlement; and some must have luxuries that no calculation could estimate correctly. These matters must therefore rest upon the emigrant himself. It is enough, that he

here sees what he *may* accomplish by prudence and activity, with the above capital, in the two first and most trying years he may expect to encounter in establishing his fortunes in the new world.

If the above calculation comes any thing near the truth, the farmer, after two years, is about one fourth richer than when he left home: but what is more than this, he has overcome all the real difficulties of a new country, and is in a fair way of much more rapidly improving his property. Moreover, he has a sum in hand to dispose of, as experience, which is "better than precious stones," and "richer than gold," may point out as the most advantageous for the future welfare of his increasing family.

Should you indeed, instead of the above sum, be able to carry with you twice or three times that amount, you may advantageously employ a part of it in the purchase of wild lands upon speculation; but this is by no means recommended to the smaller capitalists, nor indeed to any, before they have acquired some experience and settled themselves for life.

Many persons emigrate with the determination of becoming agriculturists, who have not been accustomed to labor, and have no experience in farming. Their want of experience will not in such case be of the disadvantage they may at first dread, but their want of the habit of manual labor will materially affect their success upon a new farm. All such persons therefore, should they be able, I am disposed to recommend, to purchase a hundred acres of land with some improve-

ment upon it. This may be almost always accomplished, as many of the older settlers prefer new land, and are ready to sell their improvements at a much less price than land as well improved, without the use of your own hands, will cost you. A very good farm with thirty acres cleared, and a house with two apartments, may sometimes be purchased for 150 or £200, according to the condition in which it may be at the time. Thus much for the prospects of the agriculturists, and of such as contemplate engaging in that generous occupation.

The country is well adapted for the retreat of persons of small income and increasing family. Several independent gentlemen, well acquainted with society in its more advanced stages, have lately taken up their abode in the island, and made their knowledge useful in effecting improvement in its existing institutions. Any remarks concerning the change of condition which emigrants of this class will experience, do not properly belong to the present inquiry: but it may be observed in passing, that all, or the greater part, of the necessaries of life, are cheaper in the island than in England; and that, there are no direct taxes for the support of government, nor taxes of any kind, except some trifling imposts, too inconsiderable to be taken into any, except the most minute, calculations.

At Charlotte Town, the seat of the government, and the residence of the greater part of the settlers of independent incomes, the society is superior to that which we usually meet with in towns in Great Britain

of six times the population of the Capital of the Island.

It is not necessary to enter into minute estimates of the prospective profits of the various branches of business which are open to the tradesman who may carry out a limited capital with the intention of following his former pursuits. The difference of *his* situation, and that of the agriculturist, is obvious. The agriculturist, enters upon, at least if he purchase new land, an entirely new system, to effect ultimately the results of his former occupations; whereas, the tradesman or storekeeper, changes but the scene of his exertions, and perhaps the articles in which he has been accustomed to deal; or he deals in a more general assortment. The most material variation in his mode of transacting business, will arise from the necessity of taking, to a certain extent, his payments in the produce of the soil instead of money, owing to the present scarcity of the circulating medium, for reasons already assigned. This, however, is not attended with the inconvenience that might at first appear, as he may either export it himself, or dispose of it to those engaged in the inter-colonial commerce before mentioned.

Many storekeepers have been very successful in Charlotte Town; but none should make arrangements for establishing themselves in business there, before they have visited the country. They should first ascertain the exact nature and extent of the trade of the island; and they may then with more confidence

order their merchandize from this country, and enter with less risk into their new speculations.

As to persons who may contemplate engaging in ship-building, they are strongly recommended not to calculate upon being able to embark advantageously in that branch of business, unless they have previously made some engagement with the agents of one of the resident merchants, or one of the proprietors of land, residing in England. It has not, hitherto, been a very profitable employment to individuals engaged in it: although it has, as before stated, produced a valuable article of export from the colony; but it is to be hoped that it will ere long be attended with more advantage to all who embark in it. None of the other mechanic arts, seem at present to afford certain and constant employment for any considerable capital, although Charlotte Town and some of the settlements offer very fair prospects to joiners, masons, saddlers, brick-makers, and tanners; and they are not overstocked with wheelwrights, blacksmiths, shoemakers, tailors; nor indeed, with artisans of any kind who find employment in our English towns.

The other branch of business which holds out expectations for the successful employment of capital, is, the hitherto neglected fisheries. The fisheries are by their nature unlimited. They supply an article of food for which the world is a market; and wherever established, they stimulate rural industry, or favor the manufacturing interests. Unlike the frequent results of

speculations in the productions of art, increasing supply, here begets only emulation, not destructive competition.

Cod is so plentiful upon the coast at some seasons, that they may be caught at the very harbours' mouths in great quantities, in, from four to six fathoms of water. This occurs in the spring, at which season, they may be taken in seines, sometimes even within the harbours. At other seasons, when they leave the immediate vicinity of the harbours, they are to be taken in equal quantities, in much shallower water than that in which they are found on the banks and coasts of Newfoundland. Towards autumn, they approach the shores again; and it is worthy of remark, that the fishing craft upon these coasts, may keep the sea longer than vessels of the same burden are able to do upon the coast of Newfoundland, by reason of the gulf affording more shelter during the stormy weather at this season, than the open Atlantic, which washes the shores of Newfoundland.

The island is indisputably the best fishing station in the seas of North America; and the harbours on the north side, are the most conveniently situated for the successful prosecution of this lucrative and important pursuit. The only reasons that can be given for the neglect of so obvious an advantage, are, the want of capital among those interested in the welfare of the colony, and the accidental ignorance of capitalists established in the other provinces, of the advantages the shores of this Island possess. But so much capital is

now engaged in developing the best natural resources of the colony, and in its general improvement, that this rich mine of wealth will be no longer neglected.

But since so little has been hitherto done, no exact idea can be given to the British fisherman, of the modes of securing his profits which he will have to adopt. The principle upon which the connection between the operator and the capitalist has been hitherto generally managed, is such as obviates the necessity of wages. The capitalist supplies the boats and outfit, and receives a share of green or uncured fish, in certain proportions depending upon the condition and size of the boat and the proportionate number of hands which she may happen to carry.

This is an equitable method of dealing, and the only one that will succeed in the country at present. And as the staple of this valuable branch of commerce is in abundance, the capitalist need not fear the absence of the fisherman, nor the fisherman the want of the capitalist's necessary assistance.

The larger capitalist, needs no information that could be comprised within the limits of this sketch: but as the fisheries of the island, are calculated to become the source of a branch of commerce, not open to the larger capitalists only, but which will always afford profitable employment, under good management, to a limited capital, I shall venture to give a single hint, some attention to which, may possibly remove the chief obstacle that might frustrate the smaller capitalist's endeavours; and as I know of no other

impediment, his success would seem to depend upon the removal of this single apparent objection.

The life of a fisherman, as is well known, is not so luxurions as that of a farmer; and, as fishermen in Prince Edward Island, will spend much of their time among the farmers during the winter, there is danger of their changing their proper pursuit, to follow the cultivation of the land. That this inconvenience may be easily overcome by the larger capitalist, cannot be doubted. He has more command over his men, and the means of speedily replacing them. I should say, however, that no one ought to engage in this speculation, unless his capital be large, without making such arrangements at home, as to insure his being able to recruit his numbers, lost by desertion, or increase them as his business may enlarge. How the provisions to effect this should be made, must depend in a great measure upon the customs of the part of the kingdom from which the fishermen are obtained. It is obvious, that the system of indenture is not applicable to the method of conducting the fisheries of the Island; and this method, as has been said, seems to be the only one, that in the present state of the country, it would be advisable to adopt. With the knowledge of this assumed obstacle to his success, the capitalist may be able to make better arrangements, than one not practically acquainted with the details of the business either at home or abroad, could suggest.

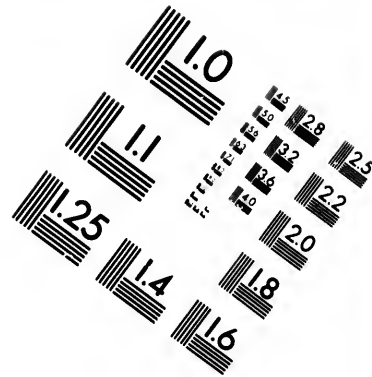
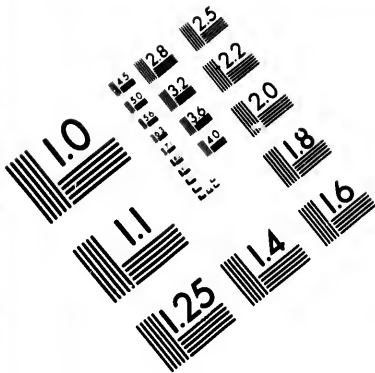
Herrings are taken in incredible quantities in so short an interval, that the farmers themselves may

engage in catching them, with advantage, especially at Cascumpee, where they come ten days earlier than at any other harbour, though they are not here so certain or so plentiful as at Richmond or Malpee Bay. They usually spawn in the harbours on the north side of the Island at the time the frost is breaking up the ground, and before a plough can be employed; so that, no season could be more favorable for taking them. At this time, all who keep boats, rush to the fishing ground, which is always within the harbour; and a boat with three hands, carrying thirty or forty barrels, may be sometimes loaded four or five times during the twenty-four hours. Two or three parties accustomed to the fisheries of the North of Britain might, by uniting their capital, establish themselves, and carry on the herring fishery with great advantage, either at Richmond Bay or Cascumpee.

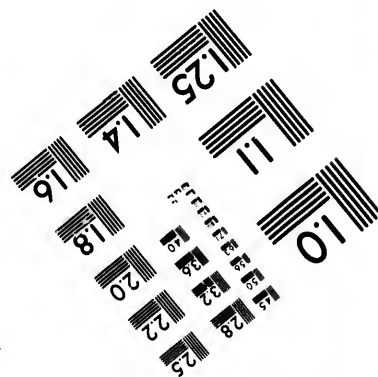
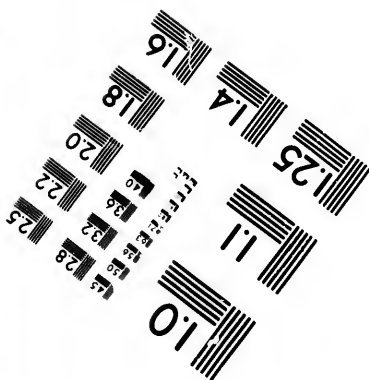
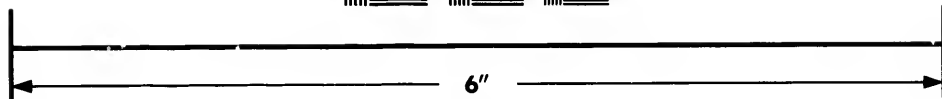
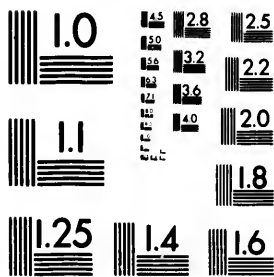
The alewives or gasperaux, before mentioned as frequenting the ponds of Tignish and Mininegish, are, for home consumption inferior to the herrings; but they are superior for the West India Market, as being less expensive to cure, and, from being a leaner fish, less liable to spoil on the voyage.

Although these pages are especially addressed to one class of future inquirers concerning the prospects which this colony offers, I would not lose the opportunity of making a few observations respecting the views of the more numerous class of working-men adapted to succeed in the country. Their interests are closely connected with the interests of those who are





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most likely to read these remarks; and the present, may be a favorable opportunity of communicating to many uninstructed but worthy working-men, such information as may assist their endeavours to reach a colony, where they would benefit more by the change, than persons of any other class whatsoever, who at any time emigrate.

Of their prospects it may be said, that their is no probability of their encountering any thing like real distress, provided they are industrious. The wages of working-men in the trades and arts above mentioned, are higher than in England, while almost every necessary of humble life is considerably cheaper. The following is a list of a few articles, with the ordinary prices in the Charlotte Town market. Beef *2d.* to *4d.*; Mutton $2\frac{1}{2}d$ to *4d.*; Veal *3d.* to *5d.*; Pork $2\frac{1}{2}d$. to *5d.*; Turkeys, *2s. 6d.*; Geese, *2s.*; Ducks, *6d.* to *1s. 3d.* each; Fowls *6d.* to *9d.*; Butter *9d.* to *1s.*; Cheese, *6d.* to *1s.*; Partridges, *6d.*; A Cod Fish of 12lbs. *6d.*; Flour, *2d.* to *3d.* per lb.; Potatoes, *10d.* to *1s.* per bushel; Rum, *3s.* to *5s. 6d.*; Tea, *4s. 6d.* to *5s. 6d.*; Sugar, *4d.* to *8d.*

But the demand for labor, by the nature of mechanic employments and commerce, is more limited in these departments of industry, than in the cultivation of the ground; and a working artisan, may possibly want employment for some time. It is not therefore recommended to any such inquirer, to embark for the purpose of following his accustomed employment, without some provision for immediate necessity, or some pre-

vious engagement. But should any one, having no family, proceed without taking this precaution, he may yet find other occupation, especially if he should know any thing of farming, or be able to use the axe in felling trees, the chief requisite to effect which, is muscular strength. In this case, he may maintain himself until he is able to obtain employment in his own proper vocation. Should any one with a family, however, incautiously emigrate without an engagement, he may not find arrangements of this temporary kind so easy to make, at least, unless he should be at some distance from the capital, where every species of assistance and variety of labor connected with a new farm is more in demand, and usually to be obtained, with at any rate, sufficient remuneration to keep a working artisan with a family, until he is able to engage in his original business.

Farm servants will experience less difficulty; and at whatever part of the island they may land, few instances will occur, where they will not be able to obtain immediate employment, whether with or without family; and this, without making account of the assistance or facilities sometimes afforded by the proprietors of the soil, to the poorer classes, bringing written characters with them, or being known to emigrants already settled. All therefore, who emigrate to the Island, without capital, will find their advantage in landing in one of the outports in preference to Charlotte Town.

The wages of laborers, is from £2 10s. to £3 10s..

being provided with board and lodgings, which is customary in the country parts, where wages are rarely paid by the day. But in Charlotte Town, where daily wages are more common, the working man may generally get from 3*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.* 6*d.* a day, finding his own board and lodging.

Every emigrant will meet a welcome wherever he may land; and the poor man, if he be industrious, will experience the assistance of the older settlers, in his efforts to establish himself with a view to his future independence. And this great end and object of all labor, a provident man, with a family, especially if he have two or three sons, who will be treasures more valuable to him than gold, will in many cases be able to effect, the summer succeeding that in which he may have emigrated. He will sometimes have leisure during the winter months to work at clearing his own land, if it be near that of the settler with whom he may be engaged; and by that means, get a crop in upon his own farm, sometimes before he has been fifteen months in the country.

The capitalist, and any other who should happen to peruse these pages, may safely answer the interrogations of persons of the poorer classes, by acquainting them with the remarks herein contained: and they ought to afford them, all such other full information as they themselves may be able to acquire. Moreover, it should be the business of the more intelligent emigrants, to protect the credulous among the uninstructed classes, from the interested attempts made to induce

them to choose one of the foreign republican states to settle in, in preference to the British Provinces, which offer much surer rewards for industry and good conduct. There is generally a superabundance of laborers in the larger towns of the United States; and in the western settlements, where only, a poor man can obtain such land as he may get in every district in the provinces, the people are too coarse in their manners, and too subtle and sharp, to assimilate with, or give a fair chance of success to, settlers from among the plain honest peasantry of this country.*

* English laborers are apt to be deceived in their estimate of wages given in the United States, by the difference of the British and United States money. The method of reckoning in the United States, is by dollars and cents. The cent is a copper coin of nearly the same value as an English half-penny, and there is a silver coin of the value of $12\frac{1}{2}$ cents or $\frac{1}{2}$ of a dollar, which in some parts is called a shilling. Thus, if you hear of 8s. a day wages in the United States, you are not to suppose you will get 8 twelve-pences, but 8 pieces of the value of about $6\frac{1}{2}$, which is about the average wages of the colonies. And this is all you will get in a country heavily taxed, and where most articles are, of course, much dearer than in the British colonies. If you choose indeed to engage in canal making, through unhealthy swamps, where the banks of the canals, as far as they go, are strewed with the graves of the Irish, you may get higher wages. But should you be among the few who survive the hardships those who engage in this labor for want of the means or capacity of discovering the difference between a slave and a free man, you will be fortunate. If temporary gain entices you to the United States, you will be a mere slave: if full inquiry induces you, as it most probably will, to emigrate to a British province, you will be free and respected, and may soon be independent.

The greater part of the laborers who go to the United States, remain in their former condition of life, for many years, or for the remainder of their days. Whereas, in Prince Edward Island, it is a rare thing to find a man dependent upon daily wages for his support, after the third or fourth year of his sojourn in the country. This must not, however, be supposed to apply to domestic servants, either men or women; but persons of this class, are not recommended to emigrate without a previous engagement. Women servants are more in demand than men servants. Young women should go out under unexceptionable protection; and every mistress who takes a girl of a marriageable age, should take another a little younger to supply her place within a twelve month, if necessary; which will be much less barbarous than binding a young woman to unnatural and unnecessary celibacy. "Vows to every purpose must not hold," and wicked resolutions and thoughtless promises made in England are "polluted offerings," and will hardly be regarded in the colonies.

I cannot omit the mention of another strong reason or two against emigration to the United States. It may assist the intelligent reader, in affording his best advice to uninstructed persons contemplating emigration. The first I shall mention, is partly a matter of feeling, and partly a matter which turns upon the choice of honor or dishonor; the second is altogether a matter of interest.

And first, I would impress upon the attention of every British subject, the inconveniences he may ex-

perience from alienating himself from the country of his birth; and this he must do, before he can become a citizen of the United States. He must foreswear his country, and make oath, that he will take up arms against Great Britain in case of war. After which, he must be content to wait seven years before he will be entrusted with a vote; and before that time, the probability is, that he will be tired of the states, and, like the majority of his countrymen withdrawn from the protection of their national flag, be quietly settled in one of the provinces, and, happily, once more under the protection of the laws he has been accustomed to venerate from principle as well as from grateful associations; and where he will, as soon as he shall become a forty shilling freeholder or leaseholder, have the right of voting for a representative in the colonial parliament.

But if there be any who look upon nationality as nothing, an argument of another kind, may touch them more nearly. The people of the United States, are taxed nearly twenty times higher than the British colonists. They pay to the general government, duties upon importations, of, from 25 to 50 per cent; and wherever you settle you will have the direct taxes of the particular state government to pay also. Whereas, in the British Provinces, generally, there is only an *ad valorem* duty upon importations, of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent without any direct taxes whatsoever. This is an express and unambiguous argument, which ought of itself, in every case, to deter the unwary from entertaining the intention of settling in the United States.

CHAPTER XI.

EMIGRATION—HINTS ON ARRANGEMENT FOR EMBARKATION AND CAUTIONS.

As this is not an essay on emigration, but rather a guide to such persons as are supposed to be best adapted to the condition of Prince Edward Island, as well on account of their own interests as of the general interests of the colony, it would be to travel out of the bounds which the design comprehends, and it would occupy more pages than the prescribed limits allow, to enter into arguments, for or against emigration. Should any reader, however, receive his first impressions of the subject from these pages, I am disposed to recommend him to go back to the elementary treatise referred to in the preface; and let him not forget, that both interest and feeling should be consulted before he determines to emigrate; but having so determined, should his views and his means of carrying them into effect, be such as are here supposed to peculiarly adapt him to settle in Prince Edward

Island, the above account of that colony, will I trust be found to contain sufficient information to leave a just impression of the more important matters which concern his future interests: I shall therefore conclude, by a few observations concerning the disposal of his moveable as well as personal property, and his arrangements for embarkation.

You are not likely to land very far from the spot on which you will ultimately settle, as would be the case, were you going to Canada or the United States. You are therefore recommended, provided you are within a moderate distance from the port at which you intend to embark, to carry with you all such of your moveables as are not very cumbersome and of little value; and above all, the implements of your profession.

And while you are packing your furniture, you may with much advantage, put up with them, any rare seeds, especially of the grass and clover kind, that you should find it convenient to procure. Small quantities of various kinds of garden seeds it is also desirable to take. Such of any kind, as you may not use, you may easily exchange for something that will be of more use to you.

The tools and implements most necessary to the agriculturist settler during the earlier part of his labours, are the following. One or two spades, shovels, hoes, and sithes and sickles made strong in the back, the iron work of a plough and harrow, and if his means will allow it, a chaff-cutter and a winnowing machine, and some cart and some

plough harness. To these he may add a gig harness, if he should have one by him, as he will probably keep a cariole or sleigh, for which, with a little alteration, it will suit very well. But he must not forget, that the island horses are smaller than those of the middle size in England. Take also two hammers, two planes, six gouges, six socket-chisels, six augers of different sizes not exceeding one and half inch, two dozen grinlets of different sizes, a cross-cut saw, two or three pair of door hinges and door latches.

Every emigrant will do well to carry at least two years supply of both light and warm clothing, and also warm bedding. All which is not intended to be used on the voyage, should be carefully packed in wooden chests or trunks, none of which should weigh more than a hundred and twelve pounds, and it would be better that none exceeded half that weight.

Before you embark, you should deposit your money at the principal bank within your reach, and take an acknowledgment, with a letter of credit to draw as you may require it; and for your bills on England you will get from 35 to 40 per cent premium. The currency of the country is at 10 per cent less value than sterling. Thus for a hundred pound bill on England, you will receive a hundred and eleven pounds two shillings and two pence half penny, which, with the premium will make upward of one hundred and fifty pounds currency. You need not carry above a few pounds more money with you than is sufficient to pay, your expenses to and at the port of embarkation,

and for your passage, of the cost of which, the following is an estimate.

IN THE CABIN.

For a grown person finding himself in provisions, which no one should do	..£10
Children ditto from	2 to 5
For a grown person being found in provisions by the captain	15 to 20
Children ditto	5 to 12

IN THE STEERAGE.

Where passengers generally do, and always ought, to find their own provisions.

For a grown person	£2 to 3
Children	1 to 2

The proper season to begin your inquiries concerning embarkation, is about the month of February or March. This will afford you time to make your arrangements to suit convenience, or remove any obstacles arising from the distance you may have to travel. Having made such dispositions concerning your property as above advised, and obtained the date of the ship's positive departure, be sure to be punctual; and on your arrival, present yourself to the captain, who will accommodate you according to which of the above arrangements you may be prepared to make.

You are now supposed to be on ship-board, I shall, therefore, give one or two hints respecting your management upon the voyage, both with regard to your sea-stock, and to your comfort in some other respects.

You should calculate upon being at least six weeks at sea, although the average passage is less than five; and remember, that, the ship, as is the term, finds you in nothing, except water, which will every day be served out to you in the proportion of five gallons a week. This you must make serve for drinking, cooking, and washing. You can, however, use salt water to boil either salt beef, fish, or potatoes; and you may use it for washing, in all cases where soap is not necessary.

But with respect to your provisions, you must regulate the quantity, in proportion to the number you happen to be in family, remembering, that children are great eaters, especially at sea, and are often very wasteful. Let the substantial and chief articles of your stock be, salt beef or pork, salt fish, biscuit, and potatoes; and you should take also, some flour or oatmeal, some suet corned, a little rice, sago, and arrowroot, for puddings, tea, or coffee if you prefer it, and can drink it better without milk, sugar, butter, cheese, eggs packed in salt or lime, and a few delicacies to be at hand in case of illness, such as jam, jelly, prunes, spices, and wine or brandy.

With respect to your cooking, time for meals, your berths, and other arrangements respecting family comfort, they will depend so much upon the order kept in the ship, that all that need be said is, that you should keep as many culinary and table utensils open for use, and as much of necessary bedding, as will render you quite independent of the ship or your fellow passengers.

Cooking is most easily managed, by two or three families uniting for their general accommodation.

And now with respect to the disposal of your time. In speaking of providing necessaries, a longer period has been mentioned than it is needful to reckon upon in reference to pastimes; I shall therefore advise you to calculate upon being about three weeks in want of some amusement, without which, the voyage will be extremely tedious. The average passage is about a month, the first week of which, you will probably be sea sick, and too unwell to enjoy any thing but your bed, which, the less you keep, however, the better. After this, you will enjoy plenty of health, good spirits, and leisure; and a portion of your spare time, you are recommended to employ in entertaining reading; and perhaps you will find no books so well adapted for this purpose, as the Spectator, some of the monthly periodicals, and any of the Waverly novels. The Bible, it can hardly be supposed you will be without; or, that you will be disposed to keep the sabbath less holy at sea than on shore.

There is yet a caution that it may be useful to give you. It may concern, not only your comfort at the outset, but perhaps during the whole passage: and should you think it unnecessary, you may be reminded, that it proceeds from observation. It is this: never dispute any internal arrangements made by the captain for the general accommodation of the passengers; nor interfere in any way with the duty or concerns of any officer or seaman on board. And do not attempt

to engage any of the officers or seamen in conversation, however curious you may be concerning what is now passing before your eyes, and is novel to your experience; nor say one word more to any one employed in the duties of the ship, than is positively upon business, until you are at least clear of the land. The want of attention to a little propriety on these points has often led to disagreement and discomfort throughout the passage. But when you have left the land, and the wind is fair, and the vessel is dashing through the water with the top-gallant-sails and royals flying aloft, you will find *all hands* in good humour, and you will then have an opportunity of inquiring into the mysteries of the unfathomed deep, and of suggesting such alterations in the regulations below, as circumstances may have rendered necessary, and all agree to recommend.

You may now be supposed to have arrived. You are at length then in a country, where, being blessed with health, your success and future happiness, will depend, not partially, but wholly, upon your own industry and conduct; and where, your station in society will be determined, not so much by the amount of capital you carried with you, as by your character and consequent success. You are, moreover, in a country, where want is almost unknown, and among a people, not inferior to any of us at home, in true British feeling, loyalty, and attachment to the lawful sovereign of this great empire. And, the mere external difference in your daily experience—that the forest is around you, and the axe

as much in requisition as the plough—will, as soon as the change in your manner of life becomes familiar to you, weigh nothing, in comparison with the solid advantages you have acquired, in the more profitable employment of your capital, and the enlargement of every rational enjoyment.

You perhaps left a farm, for which you paid a high rent and heavy taxes, and in the working of which, you enjoyed no advantage that you have lost, except that of the rate of wages, which you will find higher where you now are. But, you must remember, that you now pay your men no more than the value of what you receive in return. Thus, the want of charges upon the land, has enabled you to pay your men better, and allowed them to look forward to their own independence; and the increase of the single item of wages in the farmer's expenditure, bears no comparison with the advantages you experience in the absence or diminution of rent; to say nothing of *taxes, poor's-rates, and tythes, of which there are none in Prince Edward Island.*

Until now, you never, perhaps, had the advantage of a freehold possession. If you were not a tenant at will, you were, perhaps, but a lessee, in which character you could know nothing of the enjoyment of a real estate, to which every stroke of the axe, and every stump taken up, adds a value that it can never lose. And all this you have acquired for a few temporary privations, which, summed together, bear no comparison to a year of anxiety, such as the agriculturist

lessee of small capital is constantly called upon to endure at home.

One word more of advice respecting your future comfort will suffice. Carry with you such books as may store your mind with all the solid information in your power to acquire; and do not omit to take a good history of England, and such books on natural history and agriculture, as upon inquiry, you may find the most highly recommended. Be solicitous about the education, not only of your own children, but also, of those of your fellow-settlers. Encourage the poorer classes of emigrants that yearly plant themselves around you. Show them the progress of your improvements, and exhort them to be industrious, and to abstain from habits of intemperance; for they, whatever may be their present condition, are destined, like yourself, to occupy a superior station in society, to that which they filled when at home. And thus I bid you farewell; with the sincere and earnest hope, that you may enjoy all the prosperity and happiness Prince Edward Island promises, and your resolution and perseverance may merit.

THE END.

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APPENDIX.

*List of Several of the Proprietors of Land in Prince
Edward Island.*

Earl of Selkirk, St. Mary's Isle, Kirkcudbright—Earl of Westmorland, London—Marquis of Queensberry, same—Viscount Melville, Melville Castle, Edinburghshire—Lord James Townsend—Sir George Seymour, Hampton Court—Sir James Montgomery and Brothers, Stobo Castle Peebleshire—Sir Edward Walsh, Ireland—Sir T. S. Sorrell—Lady Wood, Prince Edward Island—The Honorable Samuel Cunard, Halifax, Nova Scotia—The Honorable Joseph Cunard, Miramichi—Lawrence Sullivan, Esq., War Office, London—Andrew Colvile, Esq., Fenchurch Buildings, London—The heirs of the late Alderman Winchester, London—C. Worrell, Esq., Prince Edward Island—David Stewart, Esq., Great Russell Street, London—Robert Stewart, Esq., same—R. B. Stewart, Esq., same—John Hill, Esq., Exmouth, Devon—Edward Banks, Esq., Gateshead—T. H. Brooking, Esq., Broad Street, London—George Young, Esq., Halifax, Nova Scotia—Thomas Todd, Esq., London—J. C. Compton, Esq., Prince Edward Island—A. Thornton Todd, Esq. —

William Cundall, Esq. Prince Edward Island—David Rennie & Brothers, Edinburgh—J. Hodges Winslow, Esq., Trellick, near Monmouth—Messrs. Thompson, Belfast, Ireland—Col. J. F. Holland, Prince Edward Island—Geo. Irving, Esq., same—Donald, McDonald, Esq., same—Rev. John McDonald, same—Roderick McDonald, Esq., 30th Regiment—H. W. Hemsworth, Esq., Shropham Hall—Rev. T. H. Langdon, Clarence Crescent, Windsor.

The ships of the Honorable Samuel Cunard of Halifax, and the Honorable Joseph Cunard of Miramichi, proprietors of land, above mentioned, sail to, or land passengers at, Prince Edward Island.

The following is a list of the agents of these gentlemen at some of the ports of the United Kingdom.

London, Duncan Brothers, Token-house Yard.
 Liverpool, Anderson Garrow & Co.
 Glasgow, W. H. Dobie.
 Leith, John Dryden & Co.
 Annan, J. Richardson.
 Dundee, James Keiller, Junr.
 Hull, Holderness and Chelton.
 ——— N. Monday.
 Newcastle, Stephen Lowry.
 Sunderland, William Briggs.
 Bristol, W. Cross & Son.
 Plymouth, Hawker & Co.
 Dublin, William Carson.
 Limerick, James Harvey & Co.
 Cove of Cork, James Scott & Co.

Waterford, Danl. Carregan.
Belfast, Thos. G. Folingsby.
Wexford, Francis Harper.
Cockermouth, W. & G. Cape.
Dundalk, Pat. Jemings.
Satlevats, J. & H. Richie.
Carlisle, Thos. Walker, & Co.
South Shields, Bell & Marshal.
Whitehaven, Wm. Jackson.
Irvine, John Wright & Co.
Grangemouth, Danl. Robertson.
Perth, James Mount.
Tralee, John Donovan.
Drogheda, Boylon.
Menai Bridge, R. Davis & Co.
Holyhead, William Owen.
Lancaster, William Davis.
Ayr, Cowan & Sloans.
Chester, Thomas Dixon & Co.
Falmouth, Wm. Broad and Co.
Gloucester, Price, Washbourne & Price.
Aberdeen, Geo. Thompson, Junr.
Garstang, W. & M. Lewtas.
Cardiff, W. Watson & Co.
Amlwch, Trewick Brothers.
New Ross, John Gallovan & Co.
Neath, Grainger & Evans.
Greenock, Alan Ker & Co.
Bridport, Kennway & Co.
Newry, L. Ledlie & Co.
Stockton-on-Tees, G. W. Todd.

