

with the key-stone of the arch, to which you may easily ascend. I have named it the "Giants' Hole," from its resemblance to a cave so named on the Clifton rocks. Entering this **from** the outside rock, you may, through internal vaults and passages, arrive at the south-western gallery of the tunnel : I attempted the passage, but retreated—the place was too **perpendicularly** precipitate for my lamed and jaded limbs. I met the more adventurous of the party, however, on their exit in the south-western gallery : this gallery (quite distinct from the fine galleries before mentioned) has also a peculiar and distinguished columnar character, being composed of lofty and gigantic pillared **stalactitæ**.

But it is time to return to the refectory ; and observe the sun's rays **reflected** from the water on the many-coloured **stalactitæ** on the roof, **By** throwing a pebble in the pool, you produce a magical effect, all the **colours** of the rainbow blending in

**The ceaseless dance of flickering colour'd light
Chequering the dripping roof and aged walls.**

Take the torches, and blue lights and rockets, and at midnight revisit the gallery of tombs and statues. The young and active will ascend the marble gallery opposite. The ascent, perilous even by day, is by torch-light dangerous in the extreme. Ensnare yourself behind **Laocoön** or Polyphemus : the rockets, however well aimed, cannot reach you here; and in this light-sometimes blue, sometimes lurid, by fits and starts **illuminating** the dark masses of rock, and statue, and **stalactitæ**, leaving others in stagnant gloom—in this light the spectacle is indeed sublime ; but your rapture is mingled with terror when looking at your companions, whom the extinguishment of a torch, a single false step, or a slip on the marble, would hurl into the chasm below.

But, by the rear of the gallery, creeping among the hundred stalactite pillars and arches, repair to the dormitory,—though some will remain watching for the moon's rising, conceiving the tunnel to be privileged like "fair **Melrose**" in this respect :

**Unmuffle, ye faint stars, and thou, fair moon,
Stoop thy pale visage through an amber cloud,
And disinherit Chaos that reigns here
In double night of darkness and of shade.**

And of a truth, when the moon does rise you are rewarded. Observe the effect on the dark green foliage of those lofty swamp oaks, that surpass the rocks in height ; how each leaf is individualized, **And then** the dim, uncertain, gloomy light and shadow—here penetrating, there not

reaching ; each near recess “softly embosoming the timid **light**,” and the distant rendered darker by the contrast.

The dimensions of the tunnel, for which I am indebted to Mr. Davidson, are as follows :—

	FEET.
The length from the northern arch, or entrance, to the southern arch, or exit (measured)	~20
The breadth of the northern arch, or entrance (measured)	230
The pitch of the northern arch (measured) ,	55
From pitch to summit of rock (measured)	17
Extreme height at centre of tunnel (not measured; about	100
The breadth of southern arch, or exit (measured)	117
Where the space of the earth extends and is prolonged, in the south-eastern gallery (not measured) but about . .	200
Pitch of the southern arch, or exit (measured)	72
From pitch to summit of rock (measured)	loo

Compare these dimensions with those of **Fingal’s** celebrated basaltic cave at **Staffa** :—

	FEET. IN.
The length from the farthest of the basalt pillars in the cave, which from the shore form a canal to the cave, 121 feet 6 inches: from the commencement of the vault to the end of the cave, 250 feet	376 6
The breadth of its entrance	53 7
Of the interior	20 0
The height of the vault at the entrance of the cave	117 6
Of ditto at the interior end	70 0

The roof of the cave of Okey Hole, on the south side of **Mendip** (the most famous among the natural caverns or grottoes of **England**), is, in its highest part, but forty-eight feet; but in many particular places it is so low that a man must stoop to get along. The breadth is not less various than the height, for in some places it is from five-and-twenty to thirty feet wide, and in others not more than one or two feet.

It thus appears that the extent and height of the tunnel are beyond comparison greater than either of these celebrated places. There are parts greatly resembling the Wellington cave ; but in size and magnificence there is about the same proportion as between a parish church and Westminster Abbey, or a poet’s garet and Windsor Castle.

To the highest point we ascended (and we certainly climbed to within forty feet of the summit of the roof) : we found driftwood, proving that the waters had at some previous time risen to that height (unless, indeed, the wood had drifted through the fissures or caverns in the roof, which I deem impossible—at least **I** could not discover them). **Petrified** bones of wallabies and wombats, and petrified dung, may be found

in great quantities. Petrified wood is also abundant. I knocked off the best specimen from the back of **Niobe's** head (stealing her hair). I brought, however, but few specimens ; for who would carry away a brick in illustration of Babylon the Great ? I complain certainly of this cave being called a tunnel. It is rather suggestive of some pettifogging work of **man**, than one of the grandest operations of nature. And if it would not be robbing the discoverer of his immortality, and I stood sponsor to the spot, it should be called "the Wombat Caverns of the **Burrangilong**."

The Freemasons might hold a grand lodge here ; but I should dissuade **teetotallers** from coming-the water (unless amply mixed with brandy) being of such a petrifying quality as would inevitably turn their stomachs into **stalactite**. I would recommend all your other readers, who may possess curiosity, taste, and leisure, to make a pilgrimage to this **sublimest** and most fantastic of Nature's freaks.

SLAVE COMPENSATION.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SUM OF £20,000,000, VOTED TO THE PLANTERS AS COMPENSATION.

	Aver. Value : for Slave from Number 1822 to 1830, of Slaves.			Relative Value of the Slaves.			Share of the £20,000,000 to each Colony.							
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.					
Bermuda ..	21	4	11½	4,203	3	114,527	7	5½	50,584	7	0½	41.		
Bahamas ..	29	18	9½	9,705		290,573	15	3	5	128,340	7	5½	47	
Jamaica ..	44	15	2½	311,922		13,951,139	2	3	6	1,611,927	5	10½	58	
Honduras ..	20	4	73	1,920		230,844	0	0		101,958	19	7½	92	
Virgin Islands	31	16	1½	5,192		165,143	9	2		72,940	8	5½	76	
Antigua ..	32	12	10	29,377		964,198	8	10½		425,866	7	0½	13	
Montserrat ..	36	17	10½	6,355		234,466	8	0½		103,558	18	5	38	
Nevis	39	3	11½	8,722		341,893	6	3½		151,001	2	11½	35	
St. Christopher's	36	9	10½	20,660		750,840	7	1		331,630	10	73	82	
Dominica ..	43	8	7½	14,384		624,715	2	0		275,923	12	8½	30	
Barbados ...	47	1	3½	82,807		3,897,276	19	0		1,721,345	19	7	57	
Grenada ..	59	6	0	23,536		1,395,684	16	0		616,444	17	7	03	
St. Vincent ..	58	6	8	22,997		1,341,491	13	4		592,508	18	0	93	
Tobago ..	45	12	0½	11,621		529,941	16	23		234,064	4	11½	55	
St. Lucia ..	56	18	7	13,348		759,890	10	4		335,627	15	11½	19	
Trinidad ..	105	4	5½	22,359		2,352,655	18	0½		1,039,119	1	36	11	
British Guiana	114	11	5½	84,915		9,729,047	13	5½		4,297,117	10	6½	30	
Cape Good Hope	73	9	11	38,427		2,824,224	7	9		1,247,400	0	7½	76	
Mauritius ..	69	14	3	65,613		4,783,183	15	3		2,112,632	10	11½	06	
						780,993	45,281,738	15	10		120,000,000	0	0	
													Deficient fractions 08	

THE OTTAWA COUNTRY, IN WESTERN CANADA.

FROM the general features of this portion of the Canadian territory, it may be confidently looked to as forming a suitable resort 'for a very considerable population. A country within the temperate zone, in general level or moderately undulating, minutely watered, and naturally covered with a heavy forest growth, cannot be otherwise than generally habitable. The dense forests of Canada may not be considered by strangers as among its natural advantages, but they decidedly are so. A dense forest growth of the sort prevalent in this country is at once a sign of fertility and a feeder of it. The various kinds of timber are of numberless uses ; and the surrounding forests shelter the rude cabin of the new settler **from** the edge of the winter blast, while they amply supply the fuel for his hearth. Open countries have their disadvantages in the way of settlement, even in mild climates; but Canada, with her severe winter, and without her forest covering, would be a dreary, inhospitable region, and still harder of access, at least to the poor man.

The great abundance of pine timber in this part of Canada has probably occasioned or strengthened the not uncommon opinion of its inferiority as an agricultural country. The red pine does generally, 'though not invariably, grow on poor, scanty soils ; but this sort of **timber** is chiefly confined to the more remote and elevated parts, and even there to particular ranges. The white pine is of more general growth, found on all **sorts** of land, and therefore is no indication of inferiority of soil. The best white pine timber is generally intermixed with the hard wood kinds, in good light lands very desirable for cultivation.

I would by no means omit to notice the fact that there are extensive tracts within the region of the Ottawa fit for little else but pasturage or hay cultivation ; but it is equally true that there are not less extensive ranges generally suitable for **tillage**. In the Eastern world such a country would be designated as a fertile one ; but in this hemisphere, where immense and still richer wastes to the westward compete with Canada for settlement, we must speak with more circumspection. Taking a comparative glance of the nature at the Ottawa region, it may be observed that it is at least equal in fertility to various divisions on the eastern side of the Continent, which are as yet the densest seats of population ; that with regard to other great portions of Canada, it is certainly not inferior to that lying to the eastward, if we consider the northern limit of Eastern Canada to extend to the sources of the

St. Lawrence streams ; and I certainly see no reason to acknowledge the superiority even of Western Canada over the Ottawa country, if the dividing line between them is considered to be along the heights separating the waters of the Ottawa, and those of the Upper St. Lawrence and Lake Ontario.

I shall proceed to notice the different sections of the Ottawa country more particularly. The first tract which naturally strikes our attention is that including the south shore of the river, on the lower part of its course, and which, **from** its chief focus of trade, may be distinguished as the **Bytown** tract. In alluding to this section, **I** shall consider it to extend about two hundred miles up the Ottawa to the upper **Allumettes** Lake, the country being nearly uniform in its nature as far as that locality. This extensive range is a most eligible site for population, as much so, probably, as any other equally extensive range in Canada, its vaunted Western Peninsula not excepted. I need hardly say it is decidedly superior to the country immediately opposite, including the St. Lawrence and lower part of Lake Ontario, around and behind Kingston.

The lands throughout the **Bytown** tract are in general level or gently sloping ; abrupt heights or even hills of any elevation being extremely rare. There is a great diversity of soil, but almost everywhere it is fit for, and worthy of the **plough**. In some parts, especially, of the Dalhousie district, there are extensive level tracts of almost inexhaustible strength of soil, though such lands are doubtless less common than in the Western districts. I am not, however, inclined to attach so much importance as some persons to exuberant fertility of soil, in discussing the natural merits of different quarters. It is evident from practical results that agricultural operations, on the whole, are not more successful on the plains of rich heavy soil, than in the undulating and **lighter** lands more prevalent in the Ottawa district, which are easier to clear and to cultivate, and suitable for a greater variety of produce. It is almost invariably found that the latter description of the country is the healthiest and best watered, and in these essential points the general range of the Ottawa country is not surpassed, if equalled, by any other section of Canada. The tract now alluded to is traversed by several considerable tributaries of the Ottawa, and having generally a gradual declivity to the main river, these tributaries and their branches present numerous sites for machinery, Though thus well watered, when compared with other settled districts, the **Bytown** tract is yet the worst watered portion of the Ottawa region, the smaller streams being less commonly supported with natural reservoirs than in the more northern **parts**.

In a sketch of this kind it is needless to attempt more minuteness of description, particularly with regard to the most frequented districts of **the** Ottawa. I shall continue the liberty (it may be superfluous) of interrupting my information with a few such remarks as the local facts in review may suggest.

The **Bytown** tract is the chief seat of the present Ottawa population. The progress of settlement has not been rapid, but has been steadily progressive. The parent settlements of Perth and Richmond, planted far in the forest, have gradually expanded, filling up the vacancy towards the **St.** Lawrence settlements, and spreading a hundred miles or more up **the** valley of the Ottawa. The town of Perth is now a respectable-looking place, with, I believe, about three thousand inhabitants ; its younger **neighbour Bytown**, the offspring of the Rideau improvements, numbers, it is said, **5,000** or upwards, and has all the appearance of improvement even in these dull times. There is far, however, **from** being a dense population in the more advanced parts of this neighbourhood ; but settlement is gradually thickening and improving, as well as expanding. I would advise those who, with the late Lord Sydenham, seem to look upon no part of Canada but its western extremity as a desirable resort **for** emigrants, to take a personal survey of the Dalhousie and **Bathurst** districts ; to examine the townships between **Bytown** and Perth, or the more northern range on the Mississippi River. I question if a better improved and cultivated tract, for its **years**, can be shown in these **colonies**.

The history of this settlement might **afford** a practical confutation of the **fanciful** theories now in vogue, and too much acted upon, respecting the necessity of legislating with a view to the attraction of capital to the colonies; of arranging the disposal of the public lands so as to give peculiar **encouragement** to a hoped-for influx of wealthy settlers, by limiting the settlement of **labouring** people in order to render **labour** abundant and cheap. Rut the capitalist has always been a rare bird **in** the backwoods of Canada, and I doubt will remain so, in spite of Mr. Wakefield's charming or temptation, as Mr. **Buller** has it. **Twenty-six** years ago, the Dalhousie and **Bathurst** districts were **an** unvaried forest; the **influx** of private capital had been trifling ; and even the human materials of the first improvements here were of a sorry nature : **old** soldiers and weavers composed a large portion of them, and potato farmers nearly made up the list : the result is before us. The complete improvement of the Ottawa range of country, to the upper shores of Lake Huron, is no longer an undertaking to be projected ; it is already far in progress, by the **extension** of its own population. It lies indeed

between the Imperial and Provincial Governments, whether this important Colonial station is to be rendered available for the surplus population of the United Kingdom in present times ; and whether the obvious new entrance in this direction to a vast accession of commerce is to be unlocked now, or some ten or fifteen years hence.

The pioneers of the Ottawa country are now mainly its own offspring, inured **from** infancy to its **difficulties** ; not a very polished race, of course, but comparatively **free** from the boorishness or the **folly** too common with the original settlers ; and with respect to qualifications as new settlers, each of the rising race is equal to an average half-dozen of their forerunners. It is highly satisfactory to observe that there is a general inclination among the youth of these parts to establish themselves within the limits of the Ottawa region, under all discouragements-in spite of the natural **difficulties** of the country, unsmoothed by **public** aid, and notwithstanding the positive restraint which Government sees fit to apply to legal settlement.

There are two newspapers published within the district-the *Bytown Gazette*, at **Bytown**, and the *Ottawa Advocate*, at Aylmer. It is rather a strange anomaly, and showing the chequered course of life, that we should have to record in our present number the death of the editor and proprietor of one paper, and the marriage of the other. To the talented pen of Dr. Bridges,' editor of the *Ottawa Advocate*, we **are** indebted for the greater portion of the information **furnished** in this article.

Timber **despatched** from the **Chaudiere** Falls for the Quebec market in the last three years :—

	Red Pine.	W. Pine.	Oak and Elm.
1841 pieces	100.243 . .	91.637 . .	36.295
1842 „	169.406 . .	72.274 . .	3.229
1843 „	115.521 . .	41.811 . . .	3.549

Population of the Ottawa district, deduced from the returns to the House of Assembly :—

In 1823	2,560
1826	3,009
1827	3,133
1828	3,732
1830	4,456
1832	5,293
1833	6,348
1835	7,044

RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT IN BRITISH NORTH
AMERICA.

To the Editor of "*Simmonds's Colonial Magazine.*" •

New Brunswick, Dec. 26, 1843.

SIR,-I was happy to perceive the announcement of your intention to issue a periodical **in London** having for its object the **diffusion** of information relative to Colonial **affairs**, which for the next two or three years will occupy more of public attention in England than probably is at present imagined, and **from which** very important consequences will ensue, not only to the North American Colonies, but, perhaps, to the Empire at large.

I shall, therefore, instead of troubling you at present with **anything** descriptive of the physical condition of this and the neighbouring province of Nova Scotia, (over both of which I have repeatedly travelled,) make a few observations relative to the political transactions of these colonies, **in** which a struggle is going on for the development and maintenance of the principles of what is termed "responsible government ;" **and** which must be met by enlarged and liberal views on your side of the Atlantic, if these provinces are to be retained **in** their allegiance by the only legitimate **means—affection** and attachment to the Parent state.

In Canada, as you will have learnt before the receipt of this letter, **the** Governor-General has **differed** with the members of the Executive **Council**, with whom he **does** not seem to have been on cordial terms from the time of his arrival, and who *have* at length resigned "in consequence of his systematically **endeavouring** to dispose of the patronage of the Crown without consulting his responsible advisers;" His Excellency himself alleging, that **the** object of those **gentlemen** was to make **out** of it political capital, and expressing **his repugnance to carry on** the government by means of a party; while, on the other hand, an **attempt** to conduct the affairs of *Nova Scotia* by what is termed a "coalition cabinet" has been equally unsuccessful, three members of the

• The Editor wishes it to be understood that he does not identify himself with the views and opinions of all his correspondents, In this letter, for instance, there are many sentiments expressed in which he does not coincide.

Executive Council there having resigned their seats, and **the** offices of Solicitor-General and Collector of the Excise, which two of them held,

It will be impossible to form a correct judgment of the points at issue here without understanding something of the state of society in these colonies, where an official faction have monopolised all offices and appointments since their formation, and who have strenuously opposed the introduction of responsible government, or, finding it introduced, have used every effort to prevent its being carried out effectually.

Of the influence and arrogance of this party, a person unacquainted with the Colonies can form no adequate estimate ; and every Governor who has attempted to carry out measures of general utility has been thwarted and obstructed by them in such a manner as to render his efforts perfectly nugatory. In every country in this and the **neighbour-**ing province of Nova Scotia, and so far as I am acquainted with Canada, the same is the case there ; one or two families in each country **monopolise** all office for themselves, or bestow it upon *their* dependants and supporters, rendering the claim of prerogative a perfect farce. So long as **a** man succumbs and acts in accordance with the views of these people, or aids them at an election, he may expect in return some one of the numerous local situations which the Governor has ostensibly at his disposal. Should he become restive, however, their countenance is withdrawn, and it is needless to expect any of the crumbs of **govern-**ment patronage.

The result of this state of things is, that most of the members of the Legislative Council, the Sheriffs, Clerks of the Peace, Registrars, Supervisors of Roads, Magistrates, Militia Officers, **&c.**, all belong to the “ family compact ” party, as it is termed, and act in subservience to their views. Any proceeding, therefore, which would render such appointments subject to the opinions of the members of the Executive Council, formed as it must now be in accordance with public sentiments, and having the confidence of the representatives of the people, must naturally meet with the violent opposition of a party who have hitherto profited by Colonial misrule.

There is another feature in irresponsible government that is to them equally obnoxious, and which must ultimately prove destructive of this improper ascendancy ; and that is the circumstance of the government of the country being conducted by heads of departments who must resign **office** with their seats at the Council Board, as has been the case recently in Canada and Nova Scotia. Hitherto, in the Colonies, office has been considered as a sort of heir-loom. The grandfather held a public situation, and brought up his son to succeed him ; and he again

bestowed it upon his child, without any regard to ability or competency, **and** to the great dissatisfaction of the Colonists generally, who thus found themselves excluded from all honorary or pecuniary distinction.

There is another class of persons which in all commercial places⁷ exercises a very great influence, particularly upon the public press, to which their advertising patronage is an object, which prevents that from being the true criterion of public sentiment; and that is the mercantile portion of a community. This may be attributed, among other reasons, to the fact, that with the exception of the comparatively short time during which the Whigs held **office** in England, the Government of the day, comprised as it was of the Tory party, fostered the timber trade of these colonies at the expense of the people of Great Britain, and, **as** its protection depended on the breath of the British ministry, made Tories of the objects of their mistaken indulgence.

Now what is the position of a Governor arriving and assuming the government of one of these colonies? In the first place, he generally partakes of the political principles of the ministry who appoint him. On his reaching the colony, he is brought into immediate contact, both social and official, with the party of whom I have been speaking. He meets with them at his table, - he associates with **them** at their own; he **belongs**, in fact, to the little coterie which they everywhere form; and if he makes a tour through the country, for the most part stops at the residence of persons of the same stamp. Unless, therefore, he should **be** a man of great discernment and equal firmness, he cannot resist the influence with which he is thus surrounded: or if he attempt to act for himself, he disturbs a hornet's nest, and ultimately has to surrender at **discretion**.

This has been most fully exemplified since the arrival of Sir William **Cole** brooke in this province. He attempted to introduce several measures that would have proved decidedly beneficial, and which no **patriotic** or public-spirited man who rightly understood them would oppose. Among other objects, he was desirous of establishing municipal institutions, or rather that the government might have the power of **incorporating** and giving the inhabitants of different districts or counties **who** might apply for it, the right of assessing themselves, and the ability to expend the money so raised. But such a **clamour** was created **against** his Excellency, - and none were more noisy than persons holding office under the government, - that no further attempt will be made to **carry** any of those measures which were at one time pronounced to be productive of so much public good,

But to return from this digression. It will be perceived that **the**