

empire - in its immense extent-its varied inhabitants-its abundant fertility-its diversified products, and felicitous position in every part of the globe. Is it reasonable to conclude that such an empire was the result of fortuitous circumstances--that it was the work of mere human skill and power—or that it was in obedience to the will of a supreme Being, who nurtured its youth, preserved it amidst the crash of surrounding nations, and even now indicates the great and glorious prospects that await its future well-doing. By recording the history of past ages—by examining the present position of the extraordinary empire which our colonies display, it is hoped that a deep reflection, and a solemn sense of the awful responsibility which so much dominion and power involves, will be awakened in the mind of every true Christian, who will be led to consider the uses to which that dominion and power can be applied, in furtherance of the trust for which it was confided to Britain. So long as that power and dominion be used for extending the doctrines of revelation-the light of the gospel and the precepts of Christianity—so long will that power remain to England : nought has she to fear from the hand of man ; the ruler of almost every nation in Europe was before unable to assail her ; and if she be firm in the only true principles which can confer happiness on an individual, or on a nation, her foes will melt like snow before the tropic sun —like flax before the burning brand.

CONDITION OF UPPER CANADA.

It appeared, for a great length of time, matter of extreme astonishment, that the French nation should have perched themselves among the northern snows of the American continent, and defended so long and obstinately their dominion in those regions. But although the French nation possessed a far better geographical knowledge of the territory in question, yet it was not so much the possession of Canada, as the control of the St. Lawrence, that induced them to make so formidable a struggle to retain their dominion in the western hemisphere. The French government freely spent its treasure in maintaining the colonies, while the English settlers toiled laboriously upon the barren sea-board, looking upon the interior, the “glorious west,” as only a refuge for agues, rattlesnakes, and Indians : the French explored the richness of the land, discovered that the St. Lawrence proceeded from a luxuriant country to the south-west, superior in climate and soil to the English sea-coast, and imagining, from its magnitude,

that it must extend to near the Pacific, they sent an expedition of discovery to follow the route by Lake Superior. The French government studied the geography of the country ; they saw the inexhaustible fisheries of Newfoundland, and the mighty Gulf of St. Lawrence below ; they saw the timber and the furs of the north-western interior above ; and that garden of the world, the south-west, compared to which all the country north-west of the Alleghanies is barren, unprofitable land—they saw that they could mock the power of England—that they could overawe her colonies, while they commanded one channel and *one* outlet. In fine, they knew well the vast importance to a great naval power of holding Canada, and controlling the St. Lawrence ; they saw that nature had traced on a gigantic scale the rugged outlines of a vast and powerful empire ; they looked on the majestic river, flowing from large internal seas, receiving into their respective bosoms numerous other noble rivers, issuing from the interior of a rich country, exquisite in beauty, and almost unparalleled in extent and available powers ; they traced the meanderings of this huge stream, and found it sweeping its course through 2000 miles, intersecting a country whose salubrious climate, prolific soil, vast mineral riches, and great agricultural capabilities, were inviting the skill, enterprise, industry, and capital of the agriculturist, mariner, miner, merchant, and labourer, and where industry could not fail to meet with sure and great reward.

But although these advantages were so evident and obvious to the French, it was long even after the conquest of Canada before the people of Great Britain were fully conscious of the jewel they possessed. Of Lower Canada they knew nothing beyond the banks of the St. Lawrence : of Upper Canada they were totally ignorant ; the whole country was associated in their minds with ice and snow, timber and furs, and as the battle-ground of hostile tribes of savage Indians. Not so, however, the inhabitants of the United States,—they knew that, in the same latitude, they possessed lands of unbounded fertility and great value, and they accordingly seized with avidity the offer made them by the governor of Canada, to occupy and settle its fertile domain.

The first correct information of the beautiful country lying between the majestic Ottawa and the three inland seas, Lakes Ontario, Erie, and Huron, was conveyed to the British people by those clear, quick-sighted, and gallant British officers who were in Canada, and who served during the American war ; they saw along the Niagara frontier fine farms, good orchards, excellent soil, healthy and agreeable climate, and lovely scenery, and they gave an impetus to emigration, by diffusing this information in their respective circles, But the most successful

efforts for the settlement of the country may be justly ascribed to the enterprise and exertions of the Canada Company, which, notwithstanding both the ignorance and prejudice that existed in the United Kingdom, purchased large tracts of excellent land in Upper Canada, and was incorporated by royal charter and act of parliament in 1826.*

The Canadas, united, form a territory of 360,000 square miles. In Lower Canada there is under cultivation about 2,500,000 acres of land ; occupied but not cultivated, about 5,300,000 ; not granted, and waste, 13,100,000 ; of lands surveyed in Upper Canada there are now 318 townships, or 20,988,000 acres, of which nearly 2,000,000 are in cultivation, and three-fourths located. The soil, although of almost every variety, is mostly fit for agricultural purposes, being rich and deep with the spoils of the forest, accumulating for centuries. In its physical aspect it is agreeably diversified, for whilst in the lower province, skirting the St. Lawrence, nature is witnessed on a scale of grandeur and sublimity, the upper province is generally level, presenting only rolling, undulating lands, gentle slopes, rich valleys, and fertile plains.

The climate of Canada, especially Upper Canada, may be said, briefly, to be colder in winter, warmer in summer, and always possessing a brighter, clearer, and drier atmosphere than Great Britain, and having far more settled weather; nevertheless, it is neither so much warmer in summer, nor so much colder in winter, as to prove disagreeable ; it is neither scorched by the sultry summers of the south, nor blasted by the biting winters of the north. The winter is enlivened by the exhilarating elasticity of its bright atmosphere, and the cheerful accompaniment of the merry sleigh ; and the summer solstice is generally attempered by agreeable breezes from the lakes and rivers. There is

* By the expenditure, zeal, judgment, and perseverance of this company, and by disseminating a correct description of the country, they introduced a good sound British emigration, that has alike added to its wealth, settlement, development of its resources, and stability. During the period of years this useful company has been directing its labours to the settlement of the province, they have sold more of the public lands by 114,000 acres than the commissioners of the crown and clergy lands conjointly ; they have been the means, by their settlement, of forming a new district, of which the town of Guelph, where they cut down the first tree on St. George's day, **1827**, is now the district town, and where property is so enhanced in value, as to have produced in town-lots more than £100 per acre; they have also formed an excellent harbour, at the mouth of the beautiful River Maitland, on Lake Huron, of immense promise to the future trade, travel, navigation, and commerce, which will necessarily come that route to Lake Ontario, a shorter distance by five or six hundred miles !

at least a difference of a month or six weeks' duration of winter between Quebec and the western extremity of Lake Ontario, the climate of which latter district is so balmy and genial, that cotton and indigo have been planted on a small scale with success, tobacco successfully cultivated, and the mulberry, for the purpose of making silk, thrives well. The climate of Upper Canada ought (it would be supposed) to be milder than it is, occupying as it does the same parallel of latitude as the south of France ; but it is conjectured that the following causes retard its change. The prevailing wind blowing over the large and extensive accumulations of ice near the pole, and traversing regions never thawed ; the multitude of lakes and rivers with which the whole continent of North America abounds, from the polar regions southward, which during winter have a thick coat of ice, and act as auxiliaries to the polar ice ; from the absence of ridges of mountains running east and west, and acting as a barrier, -in the eastern part of Asia a vast tract of country, extending from the north in an unbroken and elevated surface, is subject to the same evils from frosty northern winds ; the still vast and thick forests, and immense morasses which abound in them, further augment the tendency to cold ; and, lastly, the absence of artificial heat arising from a dense population, their forges, fires, factories, dwelling-houses, all of which affect the circumambient air to a considerable extent. Although it is very problematical whether a change of the climate to a great extent would either be serviceable or desirable, yet it appears that Canada has already relaxed some of its former rigours, and is in a state of continued mitigation. Since a portion of its forests have been cleared, its swamps drained, its villages and towns and settlements been established, the Indians inform us that the frosts have been less severe and frequent—that the snows fall in smaller quantity, and dissolve sooner—and that the inland navigation is far less obstructed with ice than formerly. Fourteen centuries ago the greater part of Germany was covered with a dense forest, the abode of the rein-deer and elk, now only to be seen in Lapland and Siberia ; and the Rhine and the Danube were frozen sufficiently solid to bear the passage of large armies, with their heavy cavalry ; all this has yielded to the destruction of the forest, the draining of the morasses, and the cultivation of the soil.

With regard to the effect of climate on agriculture, it may be said, that ploughing for spring crops generally commences the first week in April, and terminates in June, although instances are not infrequent of ploughing and sowing at the latter end of March ; and such was the mildness of the season in December, 1836, that a great deal of land

was ploughed in that month. Agricultural operations may be considered suspended from St. Andrew's Day (Nov. 30th) to St. Patrick's Day, (March 17th) the fall-wheat is generally sown by the 10th of October, although there is a case on record in the township of Ancaster, on a farm belonging to F. Suter, Esq., of wheat sown on the 5th of November, and producing a beautiful sample of seed-wheat in the following year. Indian corn, of which great crops are raised, is sown at the budding of the oak-leaf, the first week in June. The very choicest varieties and best descriptions of fruit have been imported from England, and have succeeded to admiration.

Those who remember the summer and autumn we have just passed through, almost without sunshine, clear sky, dry atmosphere, or genial warmth, will be curious to contrast the late unpropitious season with that of Upper Canada. Dr. Craigie, of Ancaster, a very scientific gentleman, formerly of Scotland, and now residing in that part of Upper Canada, west of Lake Ontario, keeps a regular meteorological register, and, from the accuracy of his instruments, and their being unexposed to the effects of direct radiation, the comparison may be strictly depended upon, and must prove highly interesting. The period of observation was 9 A.M. and 9 P.M. For AUGUST, the mean range of the thermometer was : Morning 65. 9., Evening 65.8. ; barometer, M. 29. 112., E. 29. 167. — SEPTEMBER, thermometer, M. 57. 266., E. 56. 833. ; barometer, M. 29. 013., E. 29, 017. -OCTOBER, thermometer, M. 53. 55., E. 54. 16.; barometer, M. 29. 185., E. 29.205.

The great waters of this mighty continent next command our attention. Of the gigantic St. Lawrence, and its majestic estuary, we have already spoken ; but that, grand, commanding, and important as it is, is not the only one that demands our notice, and excites our admiration. The Ottawa, or Grand River, which mingles its waters with the St. Lawrence, near Montreal, traverses an immense extent of fertile territory ; vast quantities of lumber are annually floated on its surface for exportation, its settlement is rapidly progressing, and a survey has been made to ascertain the practicability of connecting it by navigation with Lake Huron. The township of Torbolton, by the Chaudiere Lake, has been settled by naval gentlemen and others, and, in addition to the unrivalled combination of scenery of hill and vale, lake and river, beautiful cascades and gentle streams, the extent of cleared and cultivated land, reclaimed from the surrounding forest, and the neat habitations placed in the centre of their improvements, clearly denote that they have surmounted all the difficulties which beset the man who, as a settler, encounters the forest of Canada, and that they have arrived

at that stage where they may realize all those pleasures, and that genuine independence, which flow from living on their own properties, for which they pay no rent, no taxes, and at the same time have those properties secured to them and theirs by the beat of earthly guarantees, the faith of the British constitution.

From the vast extent of the lumber-trade, carried on on this noble river, Fitzroy Harbour, on the Chaudiere Lake has rapidly improved, containing many mills, stores, taverns, and houses, with all the appearance of still increasing business and prosperity. On journeying upwards from the chats, through that portion of the river called the Lake of the Chats, the progress of settlement is equally striking and cheering ; new settlements forming, old ones extending and improving. The lake itself, a lovely sheet of water, clear, gracefully retiring in little bays, sprinkled with woody islets, and crowned with beautiful banks, furnish some delightful situations for settlement, and many wealthy and enterprising gentlemen have taken up their abodes in this picturesque situation. Above the lake, especially on the margin of the different tributary streams which fall in on the south or Upper Canada side of the Ottawa, many settlers have occupied the unsurveyed lands, and formed thriving and prosperous settlements. On the Bouchere and Madawaska rivers, and on the lakes and rivers lying between the Bouchere and Zelumet, many families have located and formed settlements ; and upwards of one hundred miles from its mouth, on the Gattineau River, which falls in on the Lower Canada side of the Ottawa, there are many farmers, having lands in the highest state of cultivation. The connection of the Ottawa and St. Lawrence, by means of the Rideau canal, has not only thrown open a vast extent of interior country, containing every element of national wealth, but has also afforded a safe, easy, expeditious communication between Kingston and Montreal, of vast moment in the transit of goods and passengers from Great Britain.

The Bay of Quinte is another object equally beautiful, interesting, and important. It runs parallel with Lake Ontario eighty miles, and is separated from it by the Prince Edward District. It is bounded on each side by a rich, fertile, well-settled country, proverbial for the great exuberance of its crops of wheat and other grain. There are numerous towns, of great importance in population and trade, viz. Bath, Fredericksburg, Adolphustown, Napanee Village, Shannon Villa, the Mouth of the Trent, Belleville, the Carrying Place, Sophiasburg, Hallowell, with many intermediate settlements worthy of notice. Many important rivers and streams fall into this interesting bay, possessing countless hydraulic powers, with a country on either side abounding with mineral

productions, lying dormant only for want of capital to improve them, and which alone is required for a full development of the numerous resources of this splendid district. The great rivers which intersect this portion of the country are the Napanee, the Salmon, the Moira, the Crow Rivers, and the Trent. On looking at the map of Upper Canada, it will be perceived what a chain of waters run in a continuous link between Lake Huron down to the Bay of Quinte, by way of Lake Simcoe and the long, meandering, and beautiful river Trent. It was an object of the deepest solicitude with General Lord Seaton (when Sir John Colborne, and Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada) to ascertain the expense of effecting this internal navigation, so important in every point of view to the present and future national and social interests of Canada. The grand essential to the onward progress of Upper Canada, and the full development of her abundant resources, consists in having the "face" of the country as well as the "borders" well stocked with the busy multitude; and then it may be presaged that the strength of the land, now crowned with noble forests, and rich in every variety of soil for the purposes of agriculture, will replenish the markets of the old and new world. As the frontier becomes drained, resort must be had to the interior; and as the lands which lie on the immediate shores of lakes Ontario and Erie, and the banks of the mighty St. Lawrence, are unable to supply the increasing demands of foreign markets, the back settlements will be looked to with greater interest. There is to be found inexhaustible wealth; the country covered with one vast almost interminable forest, yielding the best timber in the Western World; the soil adapted to the cultivation of grain; and the settlers, who are thinly scattered about the country, are an industrious, hardy race of people; so that it is of immense moment that the channels, which nature has so liberally furnished to facilitate their exertions, and transport the teeming fruits of a virgin soil, should first be rendered available, as well to assist their infant beginnings as to reinforce their numbers. The front of this splendid district presents the natural outlet for the rich abundance of the back country; and it will serve as a port of exit to the heart of the province, by means of the natural channel of the Trent, and the formation of other artificial ones where required. The wealth of Great Britain is seen accumulating in her interior agricultural and manufacturing districts, until it is poured into the great metropolis and the sea-port towns. The case will be much the same with Canada, as soon as its amazing resources are developed by British emigration, capital, and labour. The Home District, so justly renowned for its agricultural riches, is not celebrated

for any river of magnitude, but it abounds with small streams, employed for sawing lumber and manufacturing flour ; as the Rouge, the Credit, the Humber, the Etobicoke, the Nottawasaga, &c. &c. In the Gore and Niagara districts, the Grand river runs through a rich and beautiful country, taking its rise at the back of the Canada Company's land, beyond the township of Woolwich, and falling into Lake Erie above the outlet of the Welland canal. It sends off several branches ; on one of which, the Speed, the flourishing island of Guelph is situated. The large and rapidly-increasing town of Brantford, named after the chief of the Six-nation Indians, Joseph Brant, is built on this river, now made navigable from Lake Erie to within a short distance of Brantford, passing through the centre of the conceded and flourishing settlements purchased from the Indians, and settled principally by persons from Ireland and Scotland. The township of Cayuga, first brought into market in 1832, assumes now the appearance of a well-settled district, the clearings are extensive, the habitations of the settlers good, the site of a large town has been fixed, numerous village lots sold, a solid and excellent bridge thrown over the river, a church and school-house been erected, and there is every prospect of continued advancement in prosperity. The river Thames, abounding in beautiful scenery, traverses the London and Western districts, passing through a rich and fertile country, and falling into Lake St. Clair, forty miles below Chatham, to which it is navigable, and where steam-boats touch. On this fine stream the town of London is built, and the splendid settlement of Woodstock is immediately contiguous to it. Many fine creeks empty themselves into Lake Erie, on the Canadian side, on which numerous mills have been erected for the accommodation of the many settlers in that flourishing district. The great and little Bear Creek, and the rivers Bayfield, Aux Sables, and Maitland are in this section of country.

From want of a geological survey of the province, the extent of its hidden wealth is not ascertained ; but from the researches and statements of Major Bonnycastle and others, and from numerous specimens of the rocks lying between lakes Ontario and Huron, it would appear that the whole section of Canada (including the space bounded by the south bank of the Severn river, Lake Simcoe, Yonge Street, Lake Ontario, the Niagara river, lakes Erie and Huron) appears to come under that geological division in which minerals of utility may be expected. Among these, coal, iron, lead, zinc, copper, antimony, mineral oil, sulphur, pipe-clay, potter's-clay, porcelain-clay, limestone, gypsum, and sand-stone will be the most prominent. The whole country is one continued display of that section of rocks which pass so

rapidly from the older secondary to the newer primitive or transition family, and, from the fossils usually found, may, without any great violation of geognostical principles, be termed of the transition age, embracing the carboniferous formation of the American writers, including argillite, in which will be found clay-slate, wacke-slate, roofing slate, and glazed-slate, and in which will be discovered anthracite or mineral coal, and marine animal relics, and traces of reeds and ferns in abundance, well and distinctly preserved. Next in the quartzoze rocks of this family, this region contains grey wacke-slate, a fine cleavable rock, and "mill-stone" grit and grey rubble, These are good quarry stones, and one of their distinguishing marks is sometimes a red colour. With this family is the calcareous or lime-stone division ; also the calcareous sand-stone, an excellent coarse building-material, and when passing into coarse horn-stone, as at Fort Erie, a most excellent and durable material for piers, wharves, canals, or any building much exposed to water or weather. The rock abounds in organic remains, furnishing the most beautiful specimens of the madrapores, corallines, &c. of a former state of the world, and is quarried from the Thames, near Brantford, to Fort Erie, and perhaps in all the unexplored country north-east of the Thames. Superb specimens of *madrapora truncata* have been found near Brantford, and those curious fossil remains, which look so exactly like honeycombs, found on the shores of Lake Erie, but which are really the work of marine animals of an unknown age, are from this rock. The newer grey wacke and the old red sand-stone are so closely allied to these families of rocks, as not to be traceable in this part of Upper Canada as separate and distinct formations. But then they indicate another order of things ; for wherever they are found, they embrace the saliferous or salt formation, and the carboniferous or really vegetable coal formation — two of the most useful minerals to man. From appearances, it seems very clear that the whole of Upper Canada, west of Toronto and Lake Simcoe, and bounded by Huron and Erie, is the country of salt and coal. The bituminous slate, accompanying the coal and indicating its neighbourhood, may be known by its dark colour, almost black, by its easily dividing into thin tables, by its emitting the peculiar odour of bitumen when rubbed with a piece of sharp iron, and when placed on a hot stove or the fire, by its leaving a brown powder and trace where it is scratched, and by its burning more or less easily, as also by its being full of impressions of leaves of succulent plants, which are like a shield in shape, and have wavy lines, divided into three distinct parts within the borders of the shield. These fossils have been called trilobites by some writers ; but

they do not resemble those marine insect-remains found at Cobourg, in the dark limestone, any further than in outline, and are really the fossils of the coal shale. The greatest deposit of this shale is in the township of Collingwood, in Nottawassaga Bay, where it covers the country, and extends to the Manitoulin islands, at the New Indian settlement there, called Manitou-a-warming, being very abundant. It is also found in digging wells at Whitby and Hamilton, and some specimens may be picked up at Toronto on the beach, after a storm, wherein the fossil impressions of leaves are brightly gilt with iron pyrites.

On the shores of Huron, near Penetanguishine, and extending far along the north shore of the Lake, the primary, or older transition rocks, appear ; but from the report of the exploring party that went out with that able geologist, Captain Baddeley, it would seem that any thing in the rocks of this now metalliferous granitic family will not be available. There is no doubt but there is great abundance of the two kinds of coal, mineral or anthracite, fit for the founder, the smith, the steam-boat, and close stoves ; and the vegetable coal for general fuel. Lead, salt, and iron have been discovered ; and it is supposed that zinc is to be found in abundance. In the sand rock of the Niagara ridge, in the township of Clinton, Mr. Lee has discovered a most valuable lead mine, which he has obtained an act of parliament to work, and the shares of which he purposes disposing of in England. Rich lead ore has been found in the township of Fitzroy, and copper ore in some of the townships on the St. Lawrence. Alum slate (*schistus aluminus*) has been met with in great abundance in the township of Gloucester. Very fine marble has been discovered at Fitzroy Harbour, when digging a foundation ; it was under a bed of tough blue clay, at the depth of more than 12 feet. The rock lies flat, without any dip, and the surface perfectly smooth and solid. The colour is of a deep ash grey, variegated with beautiful white veins, and appears from its texture to be well adapted for ornamental work. White marble is in abundance near the lake of Marmora; in the neighbourhood of Gananoque, a beautifully variegated marble of green and yellow ; and in the vicinity of Kingston, there is an immense bed of black and also of grey marble. Many medicinal springs have been discovered, especially the Caledonia, in the Ottawa district, and, from the astounding cures they have effected, bid fair to eclipse any on the American continent, Salt springs have been found in various parts of the province, particularly in the Midland, Gore, London, and Niagara districts.

Upper Canada is divided into districts—these districts into counties—these counties into townships. The principal towns and villages in the