

in colonizing a wilderness) seems indeed of a demoralizing tendency, sometimes depriving its followers of the inclination and even capability for consistent and steady industry. This will be more apparent from a view of the method in which a lumbering party is formed and conducted, and which we have borrowed from a cursory view of these provinces, by an intelligent and candid writer\*. These are composed of persons who are all either hired by a master lumberer, who pays them wages and finds them in provisions, or of individuals who enter into an understanding with each other to have a joint interest in the proceeds of their labour. The necessary supplies of provisions, clothing, &c. are generally obtained from the merchants on credit, in consideration of receiving the timber which the lumberers are to bring down the river the following summer. The stock deemed requisite for a lumbering party consists of axes, a cross-cut saw, cooking utensils, a cask of rum, tobacco and pipes, a sufficient quantity of biscuit, pork, beef, and fish, pease and pearl barley for soup, with a cask of molasses to sweeten a decoction usually made of shrubs or of the tops of the hemlock-tree, and taken as tea. Two or three yokes of oxen, with sufficient hay to feed them, are also required to haul the timber out of the woods.

“ When thus prepared, these people proceed up the rivers, with the provisions, &c. to the place fixed on for their winter establishment, which is selected as near a stream of water and in the midst of as much pine as possible. They commence by clearing away a few of the surrounding trees, and building a camp of round logs, the walls of which are seldom more than four or five feet high; the roof covered with birch bark or boards. A pit is dug under the camp to preserve any thing liable to injury from the frost. The fire is either at the middle or at one end; the smoke goes out through the roof; hay, straw, or fir-branches are spread across or along the whole breadth of the habitation, on which they all lie down together at night to sleep, with their feet next the fire. When the fire gets low, he who first awakes or feels himself cold springs up and throws on five or six billets, and in this way they manage to have a large fire all night. One person is hired as cook, whose duty is to have breakfast ready before daylight, at which time all the party rise, when

\* Historical and Descriptive Sketches of the Maritime Colonies of British America. By J. M'Gregor. London, 1828.

each man takes his morning or the indispensable dram of raw rum before breakfast. This meal consists of bread or occasionally potatoes, with boiled beef, pork, or fish, and tea sweetened with molasses. Dinner is usually the same, with pease-soup in place of tea, and the supper resembles the breakfast. These men are enormous eaters, and they also drink great quantities of rum, which they scarcely ever dilute. Immediately after breakfast they divide into three gangs, one of which cuts down the trees, another hews them, and the third is employed with the oxen in hauling the timber, either to one general road leading to the banks of the nearest stream, or at once to the stream itself. Fallen trees and other impediments in the way of the oxen are cut away with the axe.

“The whole winter is thus spent in unremitting labour. The snow covers the ground from two to three feet from the setting in of winter till April; and, in the middle of fir forests, often till the middle of May. When the snow begins to dissolve in April, the rivers swell, or, according to the lumberer's phrase, the freshets come down. At this time all the timber cut during the winter is thrown into the water, and floated down until the river becomes sufficiently wide to make one or more rafts. The water at this period is exceedingly cold, yet for weeks the lumberers are in it from morning till night, and it is seldom less than a month and a half from the time that floating the timber down the stream commences until the rafts are delivered to the merchants. No course of life can undermine the constitution more than that of a lumberer or raftsmen. The winter snow and frost, although severe, are nothing to endure in comparison with the extreme coldness of the snow water of the freshets, in which the lumberer is day after day wet up to the middle, and often immersed from head to foot. The very vitals are thus chilled and sapped; and the intense heat of the summer sun, a transition which almost immediately follows, must farther weaken and reduce the whole frame.

“To stimulate the organs in order to sustain the cold, these men swallow immoderate quantities of ardent spirits, and habits of drunkenness are the usual consequence. Their moral character, with few exceptions, is dishonest and worthless. Premature old age and shortness of days form the inevitable fate of a lumberer. After selling and delivering up their

rafts, they pass some weeks in indulgence, drinking, smoking, and dashing off in a long coat, flashy waistcoat and trousers, Wellington or Hessian boots, a handkerchief of many colours round the neck, a watch with a long chain and numberless brass seals, and an umbrella. Before winter they return again to the woods, and resume the pursuits of the preceding year. Some exceptions I have however known to this generally true character of the lumberers. Many young men of steady habits, who went from Prince Edward's Island and other places to Miramichi, for the express purpose of making money, have joined the lumbering parties for two or three years, and after saving their earnings returned and purchased lands, &c. on which they now live very comfortably." The backward state of the settlements on the banks of the Miramichi, and thence south-easterly across the country, may perhaps be in some degree referred to the terrific conflagration which in October, 1825, devastated a tract of country upwards of 300 miles in extent. It is not an uncommon thing for fires to be lighted in the woods, sometimes for the protection which the smoke affords from muskitoes and flies, and sometimes for the assistance it affords the lumberers in clearing the brushwood; and it appears that from some circumstance of this sort the woods on both sides of the north-west branch of the Miramichi and in the rear of Newcastle had for some time been on fire, without exciting either alarm or attention: but when once these fires are fostered by the wind to a certain extent, their fury becomes boundless; the rarefaction of the air produced by the heat occasions a rush of air from all quarters, which constitutes a hurricane, and thus they are urged on by an irresistible and still increasing power. The first indication of the approaching calamity received by the settlers was a tremendous roaring in the woods, succeeded by volumes of dense smoke that darkened the face of day: then burst forth the terrific element above the trees, stretching its flaming columns to the skies, and rolling forward with impetuous fury, till in an hour the towns of Douglas and Newcastle were enveloped in the dreadful vortex, which involved them with so unexpected a rapidity, that many of the ill-fated inhabitants contributed to the vast mound of ashes. A Miramichi paper of the 11th October, 1825, thus states the devastation:

"More than a hundred miles of the shores of the Miramichi are

laid waste, independent of the north-west branch, the Bartibog and the Nappan settlements. From one to two hundred people have perished within immediate observation, and thrice that number are miserably burnt or otherwise wounded; and at least two thousand of our fellow-creatures are left destitute of the means of subsistence, and thrown at present upon the humanity of the province of New Brunswick.

“ The number of lives that have been lost in the remote part of the woods, among the lumbering parties, cannot be ascertained for some time to come, for it is feared that few were left to tell the tale.

“ It is not in the power of language to describe the unparalleled scene of ruin and devastation which the parish of Newcastle at this moment presents; out of upwards of 250 houses and stores, fourteen of the least considerable only remain. The court-house, gaol, church, and barracks, Messrs. Gilmour, Rankin, and Co.’s, and Messrs. Wm. Abrahams and Co.’s establishments, with two ships on the stocks, are reduced to ashes.

“ The loss of property is incalculable; for the fire, borne upon the wings of a hurricane, rushed upon the wretched inhabitants with such inconceivable rapidity, that the preservation of their lives could be their only care. Among the vessels on the river a number were cast on shore, three of which, viz. the ships Concord of Whitby, and Canada of North Shields, together with the brig Jane of Alloa, were consumed; others were fortunately extinguished after the fire had attacked them.

“ At Douglas Town scarcely any kind of property escaped the ravages of the flames, which swept off the surface every thing coming in contact with them, leaving but time for the unfortunate inhabitants to fly to the shore; and there by means of boats, canoes, rafts of timber, timber-lop, or any article, however ill calculated for the purpose, they endeavoured to escape from the dreadful scene, and reach the town of Chatham, numbers of men, women, and children perishing in the attempt.

“ In some parts of the country the cattle have all been destroyed, or suffered greatly, and the very soil has been in many places parched and burnt up, and no article of provision to speak of has been rescued from the flames.

“ The hurricane raged with such dreadful violence that large bodies



of timber on fire, as also trees from the forest, and parts of the flaming houses and stores, were carried to the rivers with amazing velocity, to such an extent, and affecting the water in such a manner, as to occasion large quantities of salmon and other fish to resort to land, hundreds of which were scattered on the shores of the north and south-west branches.

“Chatham at present contains about 300 of the unfortunate sufferers, who have resorted to it for relief, and are receiving some partial assistance, and almost every hour brings with it, from the back settlements, burnt, wounded, or in a most abject state of distress; and it is reported that nearly two hundred bodies have been actually destroyed.”

This fire extended as far northward as the Bay of Chaleurs, and south-eastward to Frederickton, to which town it communicated, destroying the governor's residence and about eighty other houses. The total loss of life could not be numbered at less than 500, whilst that of property defies calculation.

The colonists met this dire calamity in the true spirit of charity, lavishing on their suffering fellow-settlers every aid in their power, stimulated and encouraged by the example of the governor, Sir Howard Douglas, who immediately repaired to the spot, and assisted by a noble subscription raised in Great Britain, in the other British colonies, and in the United States.

The towns on the Miramichi have now nearly recovered from this devastation, and present as good an appearance as formerly; but the land will not soon recover from the loss of its timber, and the actual injury done it by such a combustion.

At Caraquette, near the western extremity of the Bay of Chaleurs, (so named by the French navigator Cartier, from the excessive heat he experienced there), there is a pleasant village, with a church, the inhabitants of which are descendants of the Acadians, with some admixture of Indian alloy. The land about it is good, but their principal subsistence is fishing. Along the eastern shore from Miramichi north to the Bay, the land is low, and but thinly settled, and ill cultivated, the inhabitants dividing their attention between agriculture, fishing, and hewing timber. The same remark will apply pretty generally to the whole northern shore of the province along the Bay of Chaleurs, and the Ristigouche. The small settlements along their banks having been

formerly principally engaged in fishing, but which they now seem disposed to abandon, for the sake of the timber trade.

An improvement which has been long in contemplation, which was strenuously urged by Colonel Cockburn, and is now in active progress, cannot but very materially assist the advancement of this county. This is the new road from Halifax to Canada, along the eastern portion of the province, from the head of the Bay of Fundy, through Westmoreland, on the bank of the Peticoudiac River, through the county of Northumberland to Chatham, across the smaller branch of the Miramichi, and thence by Newcastle and Bathurst, on the banks of the Ristigouche, till it joins the Kempt road at Matapediac, most desirable in every point of view, both as a shorter and safer communication between Halifax and Canada, and as establishing a line of communication through a chain of the most fertile settlements in the province of New Brunswick. There is not the slightest doubt that this important advantage will more than any thing contribute to the rapid improvement of the hitherto too much neglected county of Northumberland.

The population of this county at the time of the census in 1824, and by the most recent computation, together with that of all the other counties, is stated in the general population table below.

*Population of New Brunswick by Counties.*

COUNTIES.	No. of Parishes in each county.	Population.	Remarks.
York County . . .	10	10,972	Including the population of Frederickton. This county includes the population of the Islands of Campo Bello, Grand Manan, and the West Isles.
Charlotte ditto . .	9	9,267	
Sunbury ditto . . .	4	3,227	
Queen's ditto . . .	5	4,741	
King's ditto . . .	7	7,930	
St. John's ditto . .	3	12,907	Including the population of the city of St. John's, which amounts to 8,488 souls.
Westmoreland ditto .	8	9,303	
Gloucester ditto . .	5	15,829	
Kent ditto . . .	6		
Northumberland ditto .	7		
	64	74,176	Total in 1824.
		19,524	Increase since that year.
		93,700	Population of the province in 1831.

## CHAPTER X.

General Remarks—Soil—Climate—Roads—Produce—Agriculture—Population—Inhabitants—Religion—State of Learning—Trade—Exports and Imports—Lumbering—Revenue—Militia—Government—Tribunals.

HAVING thus cursorily traversed the several departments of this province in detail, we will proceed to a few general remarks on its resources and capabilities. We use the term cursorily, because, when all the information we have given is compared with the immense extent of the domain, it may appear meager and unsatisfactory; but throughout this vast expanse of territory, the resting places (if we may use the term), or particular points requiring local description are comparatively so few, as to give to any account of it a vague and sketchy appearance. Great as is its extent, and almost incalculable as are its resources, so small a portion of the former has been appropriated, and so little of the latter called into action, that it may almost yet be termed a vast wilderness. Enough however has been seen, and done, and acted on, to convince us of its immense value as a possession, of the advantages it enjoys as a field of colonization, and the probabilities of its becoming as fruitful, populous, wealthy, and happy a portion of the British Empire, as any that art, perseverance, industry, and policy have rescued from the dominion of desolation and barbarism. New Brunswick, after all that has been hitherto done towards reclaiming and settling it, may still be considered as a vast forest; but then it is a forest possessing such advantages, its present wild luxuriance bearing such strong testimony to its fertility, its great extent of coast and abundance of harbours so inviting to commerce, its multiplicity of navigable streams affording ready access to its very heart, furnishing such facilities of intercourse, and its intersection in every direction by chains of settlement and civilization, giving at once an earnest of what may be done and an assistance to the doing of it, as may convince all those who have the hardihood to tax the productiveness of nature for subsistence, and to subdue her ruggedness to the sagacity and

industry of man, that nowhere can a more profuse reward, a more certain and profitable result, be promised to their perseverance. The immense tracts of country covered by forest trees may, to those who have been used to the beaten paths of society and civilization, convey an appalling idea of gloomy desolation, but yet they possess such features of romantic grandeur and picturesque beauty, as cannot fail to raise in every mind at all tinctured with the love of Nature's charms, emotions of the liveliest admiration and delight. We cannot present this effect to the reader more agreeably than by the following vivid description, from the pen of a writer, to whom we have in the course of this work been before obliged. "The magnificent splendour of the forests of North America is peculiar to that vast country. In Europe, in Asia, in Africa, and even in South America, the primeval trees, how much soever their magnitude may arrest admiration, do not grow up in the promiscuous style which prevails in the great general character of the North American woods. Many varieties of the pine, intermingled with birch, maple, beech, oak, and other numerous tribes, branch luxuriantly over the banks of lakes and rivers, extend in stately grandeur over the plains, and stretch proudly up to the very summits of the mountains.

"It is impossible to exaggerate the autumnal beauty of these forests; nothing under heaven can be compared to it. Two or three frosty nights in the decline of autumn transform the boundless verdure of a whole empire into brilliant scarlet, rich violet, every possible shade of blue and brown, vivid crimson, and rich yellow. The fir tribes alone maintain their unchangeable dark green; all others, on mountains or in valleys, burst into the most glorious vegetable beauty, and exhibit the most splendid and the most enchanting panorama on earth\*." These very forests too furnish the first and most practicable source of wealth to the settler; for though they must needs be felled before he can apply himself to the only certain and permanent source of subsistence, the actual tillage of the ground, the valuable timber they afford, is the most tempting, because the earliest available fund of remuneration. It has another recommendation too, it is a fund almost inexhaustible; for

\* Historical and Descriptive Sketches, &c. J. M'Gregor. *Vide ante.*

centuries has the axe of the woodman pursued its prostrating course in the woods of America, and for ages it may yet do so, and millions, yet unborn, carry on the work before these worlds of timber shall be removed, or even thinned.

But little would this advantage avail either the settler, the merchant, or the mother country, unless these immense tracts of woodland were traversed by some ready means of transporting their valuable produce. Were there no means of conveying this produce from place to place, and most of all to the seaboard, but by land carriage, then must it flourish or rot on its native soil, for human industry could not remove it, but by an expense far exceeding even its important value. But, as has been observed, that one great characteristic of the American countries is the number of streams by which they are, in all directions, traversed and intersected, so have we seen that, in this grand advantage, the province of New Brunswick liberally participates. Almost entirely bounded by water, salt or fresh, we have also found its various counties irrigated and connected by spacious and navigable lakes and rivers; insomuch, that throughout its vast extent there are very few leagues destitute of the advantage of water carriage. A recapitulation of the rivers would here be needless; all the principal have been named, and their courses described in our topographical sketch of the various counties by which they are traversed. And though agriculture has as yet extended itself over a comparatively small portion of this province, the success which has attended it in all places where it has been perseveringly pursued, furnishes adequate data of the capabilities of the soil; and did these require confirmation, not only does the quality of the timber now growing attest the fertile properties of the land; but explorations, made for the express purpose of ascertaining its value, concur in representing that there are few, very few tracts of land in the province unconvertible to the very highest purposes of productive science. On this head we have much pleasure in referring to extracts from the valuable, intelligent, and accurate report, so diligently collected by Colonel Cockburn, for the information of the colonial department of the British government, to be found in our Appendix, and from which it appears that many interior parts of the country as yet but very thinly settled, and

others, before unexplored, offer the most tempting capabilities to the operations of agriculture.

Perhaps the shores of the Bay of Fundy being bold, rugged, and rocky, offer fewer inducements to tillage than any other part of the country; but this is abundantly compensated by their mineral products (though not extensive), and more especially by their harbours and their fisheries; the latter forming a valuable article both of subsistence and of commerce, whilst the former necessarily make this tract of country the entrepôt of a very considerable proportion of the trade of the whole province.

The climate of this country, though to Europeans it may appear severe and dreary, seems to occasion no important disadvantages either to health or the pursuits of husbandry. It would be superfluous here to re-argue the causes of the atmosphere in certain latitudes of America being colder than in the same parallels of latitude in Europe; in our remarks on the climate of the Canadas were mentioned the opinions of men of science on the subject; but we may notice that the climate of New Brunswick has been gradually ameliorating for some years past, as the thermometrical tables will show; the excesses both of heat and cold having considerably moderated. In 1816 the weather was excessive, and it has been gradually improving since that time.

To inquire further than we have done into the causes of this change would perhaps exceed our capacity, as it certainly would the room we could spare for such an investigation in the present work. The clearing of land indubitably tends to moderate the excess of cold, as observation has abundantly proved; and this perhaps by exposing the surface of the earth to the beneficial action of the sun's rays; but this operation has not been carried on in New Brunswick to a sufficient extent to account for any general alteration in the climate of the province. The seasons correspond nearly with those in England; that is to say, the hottest month is July, and the coldest January, the thermometer in the former month rarely reaching much above 90°, nor in the latter lower than from 10° to 20° below zero; though these are not given as the actual maximum and minimum, so much as a mean of its general range. The winter commences with November, in which month snow usually falls and the streams freeze, nor are they relaxed from this bondage till April. December, however, is often

a month of moderate cold, and by no means unpleasant. The weather in April is apt to be dull and heavy, but in May the spring advances with an astonishing rapidity to the luxuriant fertility and glowing fervour of summer. The very rapid transition from one season to the other in America has elsewhere been adverted to, and the consequent sudden progress of vegetation which occasions the soil to engender and to yield luxuriantly all its valuable products within a space which to European husbandmen would seem almost impossible. It is the fact, however, that the seasons here rarely fail by reason of any extreme of the weather. Frosts occasionally occur throughout the summer months; and in those of spring and autumn the change from cold to heat, and *vice versa*, are frequently both sudden and excessive. This is attributable to the variation of the wind, and the different effects it has, according to the quarter from which it blows, and the tracts it may have traversed. Neither these sudden changes, however, nor the extremes which the opposite seasons include, ever seem to involve any consequences hostile to the health of natives or Europeans.

The length of the winter in a country so peculiarly situated as this is not without its advantages. In many of the least-thickly settled tracts the winter snow-roads are more practicable, and afford better access than is to be obtained at any other time, whilst the ice on the streams affords a facile means of communication, of which in the season the postman to Canada avails himself. Without the length and intensity of the winter, too, the lumberer would scarcely be able to carry on his laborious pursuit. The excessive heat, no less than the immense multitude of flies and other vermin with which the woods swarm in the summer, would render it almost impossible for him to endure the fatigue and suffering, nor could he transport his manufacture through the forest with a tenth part of the facility which snow roads afford; the melting of the snow in spring, if the timber be favourably placed, often serving to float it to the nearest navigable stream. This leads us to speak of the roads, and it must be admitted that they are an advantage for which New Brunswick is not at the present period remarkable; indeed in a country so thinly settled it is scarcely possible that they should be maintained in any degree of perfection; but perhaps a greater drawback on their efficiency than the



paucity of population and traffic, is the abundance of water conveyance in summer and the practicability of the ice and snow in the winter, which, by diminishing the necessity of a regular land carriage, of course decreases the incitement to provide it. The principal roads have been noticed as they occurred in our survey; that from St. John's to Frederickton, and thence to Lower Canada, following the course of St. John's river, is the most important; but during the spring and fall this is often scarcely passable. The new road from Halifax to Quebec, along the eastern side of the province, crossing the Miramichi, is in great progress, and the earnestness with which Colonel Cockburn has dwelt upon its advantages will no doubt hasten its completion. This will be a most valuable improvement, affording a regular and certain means of communication between Nova Scotia, the advancing settlements on the Peticoudiac, and the rapidly-improving tract of country between it and the flourishing settlements on the Miramichi, thence through the County of Northumberland to the Ristigouche, across Gaspé to the St. Lawrence, and so to Quebec. As the settlements advance, however, which they are rapidly doing, the construction of roads must necessarily keep pace with them.

The principal produce of this vast country, as we have already seen, is timber, which, in every part, except on the immediate coast, exists in almost inexhaustible profusion. It consists chiefly of pines, firs, spruce, hemlock, birch, beech, maple, ash, elm, and poplar; oak is also found, but by no means in so plentiful a degree as the other woods before-mentioned. Of these the most valuable for commercial purposes is undoubtedly the pine.

The soil seems favourable to the production of most of those grains, fruits, and vegetables which are in general request in Europe; together with maize, or Indian corn, in America always, from its being so extraordinarily prolific, a favourite article of culture. The soil, of which we are scarcely enabled to give a correct geological description, has been found in all those parts yet subjected to tillage favourable to the production of wheat, rye, oats, barley, beans, peas, buckwheat, and flax. To these may be added the ordinary esculent roots of Europe, such as turnips, carrots, parsnips, onions, beet, radishes; with domestic vegetables, as cabbages, salads, cauliflowers, peas, &c. not omitting that in-

valuable root the potatoe, which here yields as bountiful an increase as in any country in which its advantages have yet been introduced. The islands, islets, and slips of interval near the beds, of streams afford good pasture and abundance of hay, which render the rearing of live stock easy and profitable. Botanical investigation, we believe, has not yet been pursued to the length of producing a catalogue of the various plants and grapes indigenous to the soil; but white and red clover, timothy, lucerne, browntop, saintfoin, and others, ordinarily grow in this country and produce satisfactory crops.

Apples, plums, cherries, currants, gooseberries, strawberries, raspberries, and cranberries are plentiful, and form the ordinary produce of gardens; some grapes, of small size but good flavour, are also produced; whilst hazel nuts, beech nuts, and butter nuts abound in the woodlands, and falling on the ground after the great frosts in large quantities, furnish a seasonable assistance towards the fattening of hogs. There are, besides, a variety of wild plants of trifling value, which it would be here superfluous to enumerate, especially without a scientific classification.

The animals found in this country differ but little from those which characterize the united states. The moose deer, or elk, has been nearly extinguished by the avidity with which it was pursued by the early settlers for the sake of its skin. Bears, foxes, wolves, cariboo, sables, racoons, the minks, squirrel, weasel, musk rat, wild cat, and that valuable animal the beaver, are also natives of the soil, and though not abundant, are not extinct.

The ordinary domestic fowls of Europe, such as turkeys, geese, ducks, fowls, are here reared with every facility; whilst partridges, wild geese, and ducks and pigeons, furnish objects for the sportsman. Crows, owls, and swans are also found, with many small birds, offering no peculiarities worthy of description.

The rivers abound with salmon, shad, eels, trout, perch, chub, and smelt; and the harbours, coasts, and adjacent fishing-ponds supply large quantities of cod, haddock, mackerel, and herrings.

In a country whose productive capabilities have been so imperfectly called into action as have those of New Brunswick, the knowledge of its minerals must necessarily be far from complete. Unless some peculiar

circumstance directs the cupidity of man to the interior of the earth as a source of wealth, he will more naturally, and (always ultimately more profitably) confine his cares and researches to its surface; and though this province cannot be reckoned entirely unproductive as respects subterranean treasures, nothing has yet occurred to indicate such an abundance of any as may readily become a means of riches, or tempt the employment of labour and capital below ground. Scarcity of labour and of capital will generally check such speculations in a new country; and a forest of pines offers a more tempting field to a small adventurer than an uncertain vein of gold or of copper. The only mineral found here that has become an article of trade to any extent is gypsum, which is met with in large quantities all along the shores of the Bay of Fundy, and formed an important article of export to the United States. To this may perhaps be added grindstones, great numbers of which have been cut from quarries near the eastern extremity of the same bay and amongst the Shepody mountains, and have found a ready sale in the same market. Coals are found in considerable quantities in the neighbourhood of the Grand Lake, as has been before noticed, and the indications are such as to lead to the assurance that no scarcity of this valuable mineral can occur in this province. Limestone, of good quality, is also found in various parts, and many kinds of stone useful for buildings. Manganese likewise has been met with on the shores of the Bay of Fundy.

With regard to the state of agriculture in New Brunswick, there does not remain a great deal to be added to what has been before observed. The temptations offered by the lumber, timber, and fishing trades have too much diverted the minds of early settlers from the more certain mode of establishing their own wealth and independence, and advancing the interests of the colony. The cultivated lands lie principally on the margins of the great streams; and though they extend in some places backward to a distance of twenty or thirty miles, they form, we must say, an almost insignificant portion of the extent of the province. Their capabilities of production have been before noticed, and we believe that in no instance has any steady and persevering effort to render them productive been attended with loss or disappointment. It is true that many

of the early settlers, deficient in persevering industry, removed from one location to another, and some of them even to the United States; but the very spots so abandoned have, by the consistent application of subsequent occupants, become productive sources of comfort, if not of wealth. The process of clearing and reducing to tillage waste or forest lands we shall not here enter upon; and although the subject has been but slightly alluded to in other parts of the work, enough has been seen to show that the land of this province has scarcely ever refused an adequate remuneration to the consistent husbandman. The advancement of agriculture was much promoted throughout the province by the New Brunswick Agricultural Society, founded in 1825. From two to five bushels of wheat are usually sown per acre, and they produce on an average from twelve to twenty-four bushels. Rye, which is confined to the poorer lands, yields crops in about the same proportion. Oats are a favourite crop, sown about two to three bushels per acre, and yielding generally nearly thirty. Maize flourishes abundantly on the low rich watered soils, producing from forty to forty-five bushels per acre. Peas and beans also thrive on the lighter soils, but are not cultivated to any considerable amount; but on the newly-burnt lands, or those imperfectly cleared, the surest and most productive crop, yielding, in situations which can be applied to no other sort of cultivation, from 150 to 200 bushels per acre, and requiring no labour but that of the hoe, is the potatoe. The Swedish turnip has also been found a profitable crop on new lands, being generally sown broad-cast, and not by drills.

The number of the effective hands of the province, however, employed in the lumber trade and fisheries, renders the quantity of grain produced very inadequate to supply the demand; and till the importance and worth of agricultural pursuits are better appreciated in New Brunswick, grain, of which it might produce incalculable quantities, must be an article rather of import than of export.

The islands and low interval lands produce hay in great quantities, and almost spontaneously: horned cattle, which have been brought from America, are plentiful; horses are likewise numerous, and the breed has been of late years considerably improved by importations from Yorkshire and other northern parts of England. Sheep and swine prosper

very well, many good breeds of these existing in large numbers; and throughout Northumberland they pride themselves on their dairies.

The population of New Brunswick bears no proportion to its vast extent; but the ratio of its increase advances rapidly, as will be seen by the General Table, introduced in a subsequent chapter: in 1817, the population of the province amounted to about 35,000, in 1824 it had increased to 74,176, and it is now estimated at upwards of 93,700. How this population is distributed throughout the province will appear, in some measure, from the table in p. 138, and further from the statements from time to time made of the population of various towns and districts in our topographical survey.

These inhabitants are composed of six different classes. The Indians, or aboriginal natives, comprise the following nations, who are enumerated by the Baron de la Houtan as natives of the Old Nova Scotia (including New Brunswick), the Abenakie, Micmac, Canabas, Mahingans, Opéngans, Soccokis, and Etchemins, from which last tribe the greater part of those who now remain are descended. This race of people, from their utter incapability of associating with persons of civilised habits, or being weaned from their native barbarism, have declined to a diminutive few: they still adhere to their former migratory habits, but, though frequently reduced to extreme want, seldom commit depredations on property. The greater part of them profess the Romish religion, to which they have been converted by catholic missionaries. The men continue to wear the conical cap, skin garment, leggings, and moccasins, their national costume; but the females have, for the most part, adopted the round hat, shawl, and short gown and petticoat, resembling those of the French and Flemish peasantry. The Acadians, or neutral French, form, in order of priority, the next class of inhabitants: their history, manners, and settlements have been noticed in preceding parts of this work. Another class of ancient respectability, and not inconsiderable in point of numbers, are what may be termed the *old inhabitants* and their descendants, who comprise those settled in the country before the conclusion of the American revolution, and so distinctively named by the American loyalists and disbanded troops subsequently settled in the province. They were found well settled at Mangeeville, since

which their progeny have spread themselves all over the province. The bulk of the population, however, is composed of the American loyalists and their descendants, who, having sacrificed their possessions at the shrine of loyalty, converted large tracts of this vast wilderness into comfortable independencies for their families; and with this class may be reckoned the disbanded soldiers, who, at the conclusion of the war, received allotments in this province as a reward for their services and a means of future comfort and prosperity. To these must be added the European emigrants, who at various times have swollen the population, and either formed separate settlements or, by intermarriages and other connexions, mixed themselves up with the more original population. There are also many free people of colour settled throughout the province; in some places several families together settled as farmers, but in this occupation they seldom thrive, their unsteadiness more frequently reducing them to want, when they become the menial servants of others, a station for which they seem better fitted.

The persons of the inhabitants of New Brunswick are tall, well proportioned, and athletic, and those born in the province generally excel in stature those from whom they are descended. The spirit of manly independence, naturally inspired by a course of life which throws man entirely on his own resources and energies, bringing him in contact with the grandest objects of nature alone, with little assistance from, or association with his fellow man, strongly characterises the inhabitants of this province. They are devotedly loyal, but it is from correct judgment and good feeling, utterly removed from servility, whilst their manners are marked by a freedom rather amiable than repulsive.

“ In noticing the state of religion in this province it may not be amiss to observe, that the old inhabitants, who came originally from New England, where the genius of their church government was republican, were generally Calvinists in their modes and doctrine, whilst the loyalists and others, who came to the country in 1783, were generally churchmen, quakers, or methodists. The emigrants who have come since that period include all denominations.

“ The Church of England is in a flourishing state in this province; there are nineteen clergymen belonging to the establishment, who are under the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Nova Scotia. Many of them

have handsome churches with numerous congregations. Two of them are employed as itinerants for the vacant districts of the province, and several of the others serve two or more parishes. An ecclesiastical commissary has the superintendence of the whole.

“ The catholics have a few chapels, and appear to be on the increase. Their congregations are chiefly composed of emigrant Irish, French, and Indians. There are six clergymen in the province, some of whom are settled and others are employed as missionaries amongst the scattered French and Indians.

“ There are but two ministers of the Kirk of Scotland in the province; they have handsome churches in St. John's and St. Andrew's. There are, however, a number of seceders from the presbyterian form of church government, but all holding the doctrine of Calvin; several of them have commodious places of worship and respectable congregations.

“ There are no places of worship belonging to Indians in this province. There are, however, a few of these primitive worshippers scattered through the country, who, joining sincerity and honesty with plainness, are excellent members of society.

“ The methodists are a numerous and respectable body of people. There are four Wesleyan missionaries in this province, with a number of methodist preachers, who, although not immediately in connexion with the missionaries, adhere strictly to the old methodist discipline and doctrine, and usually attend the conferences, which are held once a year, either in Nova Scotia or New Brunswick, where the missionaries for the two provinces and the adjacent islands assemble to arrange the different stations for their preachers, and regulate the affairs, temporal and spiritual, of that body.

“ The baptists are the descendants of those followers of Mr. Whitfield, who formerly were very numerous under the denomination of new lights. They are a numerous class of people, and have several fine chapels. In general, a desire for the christian ministry is increasing in the province. Places of worship are erecting in most of the settlements, and such other provision for the support of the gospel provided as the abilities of the settlers will admit \*.”

\* Sketches of New Brunswick, &c.



The state of learning in a province so comparatively new as this, (that is, new in political importance and improvement, though old in existence), requires to be looked at with an eye of some indulgence. Not that any indifference to so important a consideration has ever been manifested either by the government or the inhabitants, and a most marked improvement in this particular, within a few years, both as respects the means and the efficiency of the public institutions, attests the anxiety of both to keep pace with their rising capabilities. It was not an uncommon thing, a short period back, to find persons filling public situations most deficient in all beyond the bare rudiments of learning; but the liberal grants since made, for the purpose of advancing literature in the province, effectually guards against the recurrence of so degrading an inconvenience. The principal and indeed the only collegiate institution is the college of New Brunswick at Frederickton, endowed with a block of 6,000 acres of land, and established by royal charter. The governor and trustees of the college, however, finding their utility circumscribed by a defect of powers and of means, surrendered their charter to the king, at the same time petitioning for an enlargement of both, in consequence of which a new charter, of a more liberal character, was granted to them, dated 18th November, 1823, accompanied by a grant out of the royal revenues of the province, for the purpose of erecting a new college building, and providing a library and philosophical apparatus. This liberality of the crown was seasonably aided by a grant from the legislature of the province, which enabled the trustees to erect the handsome and commodious building, a view of which forms one of the graphic ornaments of our work. This establishment was opened for the reception of students.

Besides this college there are grammar schools in every parish, supported partly by a grant of £20 annually allowed by the legislature to every such parish-school, and another of £30 per annum by the like authority, collectable from the inhabitants; so that there is no part of the province destitute of the means of education for its youth. But the seminaries most resorted to by the bulk of the youth of the province are those under the Madras establishment, which extends its cares to every settlement. The number of pupils attendant on these institutions,

as collected from the report of the governor and trustees, was in 1823, 3,339; and in 1824, 4,379; giving an increase of upwards of 1,000 in one year, which is demonstrative of the advance both of population and habits of civilization.

The trade of the province is confined, as respects exports, to the timber and lumbering trade, ship-building, and the fisheries; these take place to the West Indies and Great Britain, from the former of which it receives in return rum, coffee, sugar, and molasses; and from the latter, grain, spirits, and British manufactured goods. The trade in gypsum, limestone, and grindstones to the United States is now nearly extinct, though they still furnish a market for that of the fish caught in the Bay of Fundy.

The ship-building is a trade which at one time involved a great amount of capital, and employed a large number of hands; but from being overstrained, and other concurrent causes, this branch of commerce became a source of so much loss to multitudes engaged in it, that as an article of trade for the British market, the construction of ships has been comparatively abandoned, and is now confined almost exclusively to those made for the carrying trade and for the use of the fisheries.

The timber and lumber trade are avowedly the staple of the province; the former being exported to Great Britain, and the latter to the West Indies; and these being the natural unassisted produce of the province, they must for many years to come be the most plentiful article it can have to dispose of. But though the fine growth of timber has always furnished an abundant supply to an ever-demanding market, yet has not this trade proved by any means a permanently profitable one to those largely engaged in it. From speculating too extensively, and engaging too many hands on the spot, to whom advances of money and provisions have to be made, and drawing bills, which have become due before a fair market could be found, the stock has been sold at any price that could at the moment be obtained, to satisfy the more pressing demands, so that the speculation has ultimately turned out of infinite loss; and in this way multitudes of timber and lumber adventurers have been ruined. Now against improvident undertakings or monopolies of timber it seems peculiarly desirable to guard, because the standing trees, judiciously managed, furnish a permanent and lasting stock, which, sent into

market in a just proportion to the demand, will contribute to defray the expenses of all improvements, and materially facilitate the means of amelioration to the province. The wholesale and improvident inroads upon the forests made by American and other speculators, disproportionately decrease the main stock, at the same time that they lower the market; and by the injudicious mode adopted in felling and collecting, frequently injure the land, whilst the removal of them in nowise contributes to the clearing; because as not above one tree in a thousand answers the speculator's purpose, he proceeds through the forest, thinning it of its wealth, but not in the slightest degree affording a facility to the subsequent settler. The best and most wholesome way in which this trade can be conducted appears to be, when the settler of restricted means finds himself located upon lands, which in the first place have to be cleared, and in the winter months, when he cannot be advancing his agricultural operations on the portion of land he may have cleared, he turns to the adjacent forest as a source at once of employment and profit. With no more costly nor complex apparatus than an axe, he fells and squares the pine; if he have a team, he employs it to draw the produce of his labour to the nearest stream; if not, he either goes on shares with some neighbour who has, or joins in a party with several settlers near him, who amongst them are able to furnish a team, and so promote the views of each other. In this manner the tedium and idleness of the winter months are avoided, a fund is provided for the maintenance of the settler's family or the reimbursement of expenses he has already been at, the land is cleared of its valuable timber only in proportion as it becomes settled and cultivated, the market is supplied more gradually and steadily, and the wealth bestowed by nature on the soil finds its way into the pockets of those who seem legitimately entitled to it. The disorders produced by the lumbering and timber trade, when pursued as a wholesale speculation, have been before pointed out; in justice however to the early, though improvident adventurers in this branch of commerce, we must admit, that to the rigour with which it was pursued, St. John, Frederickton, and St. Andrew's owe their rapid rise, advancement, and prosperity. The only other branch of trade for which this province at present offers facilities is its fisheries. As has been noticed, all the harbours,

and the whole line of coast of the Bay of Fundy, the north-eastern coast above Miramichi, and the Bay of Chaleurs, afford abundant produce of this kind, which is cured, furnishing a plentiful supply to the home market, and a large fund of exportation to America, the mother country, and the West Indies.

Under the head of manufactures little can be said in a province so imperfectly populated, cultivated, and improved as is New Brunswick. The grindstones, formerly cut in large quantities from quarries near the Bay of Fundy, the cured fish, last noticed, the squared timber and sawn boards furnished in large quantities by all its most flourishing districts, comprise all the produce that can in any way be termed manufactured. The quantity of timber shipped from the various ports of this province in 1824 was 321,211 tons.

Comparing the exports and imports of New Brunswick with the population, they will tend to furnish a very favourable view of the activity, comfort, and wealth of the inhabitants, and of the productiveness of the country.

We shall take the year 1824, confessedly a prosperous one, but sufficiently remote to afford a fair average. The imports in that year were, including the port of St. Andrew's, in 1,070 vessels, of 240,054 tons, navigated by 11,357 men; the cargoes valued at 514,557*l.*; the exports at the same period were, in 1,265 vessels, measuring 274,173 tons, navigated by 12,234 seamen, the value of their cargoes amounting to 462,043*l.* sterling, to which may be added the price of sixty new vessels sent to Great Britain, as payments, and which, estimated at 10*l.* per ton, the whole measuring 16,488 tons, may be reckoned as 164,880*l.*, making the whole amount of exports 626,923*l.*—no contemptible produce for a population of from 70,000 to 80,000 souls. The tables of exports and imports state these matters more particularly, and bring them down to a later date; showing how inevitably a tract of country possessed of so great natural advantages must advance in prosperity, increasing its own wealth and that of the mother country.

The revenue of the province in the same year amounted to 44,676*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* currency of the province, and in 1830 to 49,070*l.* 0*s.* 5½*d.*, the whole of which is applied to local improvements and provincial purposes.

The militia of the province consists of twenty-three battalions, each comprising from six to eight companies; a company consisting of one captain, two subalterns, three serjeants, and sixty rank and file. The enrolling of the militia is effected in districts, into which the province is divided as respects this purpose only, and each district furnishes two companies, but in some of those more remotely situated and thinly settled, which cannot provide two companies, but exceed the number of sixty-five, they are allowed to enrol eighty men in one company. The entire effective force usually amounts to about 12,000, which are under the orders of the commander-in-chief, who appoints an inspecting field-officer, before whom they are assembled by companies, two days in each year, for drill, and in battalions or divisions whenever the commander-in-chief thinks proper to appoint. The regulations for this force, however, are frequently varied by the provincial legislature.

The constitution and government of New Brunswick are assimilated, as nearly as circumstances will allow, to those of the other British American provinces and of the mother country. The executive power is vested in the lieutenant-governor, who is assisted in his administration by a council of twelve members, which council has also a legislative capacity, resembling that of the house of peers in Great Britain. There is likewise a representative assembly, consisting of twenty-six members, elected by the different counties, as follows:—for St. John, Westmoreland, Charlotte, and York, four each; for King's, Queen's, Sunbury, and Northumberland counties, two each; besides two for the city of St. John. To all local and financial laws the consent of this assembly is requisite. Those interfering with acts of the British legislature cannot be in force till they have received the sanction of his Majesty. The assembly sits for a period of about two months, during the winter, at Frederickton, whither it is summoned by proclamation of the lieutenant-governor.

The other tribunals of the province are, the court of chancery, of which the lieutenant-governor is chancellor, and the judges of the supreme court, assignees, and which adds to its equitable jurisdiction that of a prerogative court, as respects the regulation of wills, &c. The governor and council likewise constitute a court for determining all cases of divorce. The supreme court of judicature consists of the chief-justice

and three puisne justices, and holds its sittings at Frederickton; its jurisdiction combines that of the courts of king's-bench, common-pleas, and exchequer in England, and determines all causes of importance whether civil or criminal. The judges of this court likewise hold circuits through the different counties; their salaries are 500*l.* each per annum, that of the chief-justice 750*l.* per annum. There is likewise an inferior court of common-pleas, consisting of two, three, or more justices, assisted by the county magistrates, and which holds its sittings occasionally; its jurisdiction extending to all manner of civil causes, where the property contested is not of large amount, and also to criminal matters not punishable with death. To this court the county grand juries present all bills of indictment, and if found to be beyond the jurisdiction of the court they are sent to the court above. This court has also the control of the police throughout the counties and parishes, and usually holds two or more sittings annually in each, for the regulation of such matters. At these sittings all differences respecting taxes are decided, parish accounts audited, parish officers appointed, licenses to innkeepers and dealers issued, and, in short, much the same routine of business takes place at the quarterly-sessions in Middlesex. There are, moreover, inferior local courts, under the presidency of a magistrate, for the recovery of small debts under five pounds.

From the view which we have given of this vast province, it will be found not to be an unimportant part of the British American Dominions. In resources it presents a field of riches almost incalculable; they wait but the acceptance of man, at the price of that reasonable industry, without which nothing truly valuable can be obtained. Our opinions upon emigration will be found at length in another part of this work, and we would not wish here to anticipate them; but if there be a redundant population in the mother country, which it is advisable to remove to another, here is indeed a tempting arena for settlement;—a valuable stock on hand awaiting but the axe of the woodman, and capabilities of producing every species of comfort and even luxury almost beyond calculation. Fortunes are not to be rapidly made in new countries, but if the certainty of providing for a family, and placing them all in independent circumstances, at least so far as to be beyond the reach

of want, is desirable, then is the temptation to colonization in this part of America considerable, as the accomplishment of such an object is certainly attainable. There is a severe but not an oppressive or unhealthy climate, there are lands that ask the hand of culture only, and timber and fish to afford a preliminary supply. If we were to contemplate this large tract of territory adequately peopled, and its resources employed to their utmost extent, we should behold an empire, for wealth and power, excelled perhaps by few in the world. With regard to the location of emigrants, or any other means of advancing colonization in this province, we may be permitted to remark, that its adjacency to the United States, and that on a disputed line of boundary, is one strong inducement to reinforce the settlements near the border; no defence is so sure and efficacious as an attached and loyal population: and were the line of the Madawaska thickly settled, and that of the St. John, as far as Mars Hill, they would afford a better security against the encroachments of American cupidity than any chain of military posts can ever furnish. Thus, it will appear, that no portion of our trans-atlantic possessions better merits the attention of the British government, or of purposed colonists, than New Brunswick.



## CHAPTER XI.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.—Geographical Position—History—Divisions and Subdivisions—General Surface—Harbours—Rivers—Settlements—Climate—Soil—Produce—Agriculture—Population—Trade—Society—Religion—Government

THIS island is situated in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, in a kind of bay or recess, lying between Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick. It ranges in somewhat of a crescent form, between  $46^{\circ}$  and  $47^{\circ} 7'$  north latitude, and  $62^{\circ}$  and  $64^{\circ} 27'$  longitude west, from Greenwich. Its length, traced in this direction, is 135 miles; and its breadth in the widest part, which is from Beacon Point to East Point, towards its eastern extremity, thirty-four miles. Its form, however, is exceedingly irregular, being in some places indented with deep harbours on both sides, making its width insignificant, and at others stretching boldly into the sea in projecting promontories and spacious headlands, swelling its breadth to the extent we have mentioned. It lies conveniently near to the provinces before named, the distance from West Cape to Richibuctoo being eleven miles, from Cape Traverse to Nova Scotia, across the Strait of Northumberland, nine miles, and from East Point to Cape Breton twenty-seven miles. From the nearest point of Newfoundland it is 125 miles.

This island was amongst the early discoveries of Cabot; but no claim was ever made by the English on that account. The French afterwards assumed it, as part of the discoveries of Verazani; and in 1663 a grant of it was made by the company of New France; but the anxiety of the government of France to foster the colony of Cape Breton induced them to afford little countenance or encouragement to that of the island of St. John. The natural advantages of the island, in respect of soil and its situation for fishing, however, induced many families both from Cape Breton and Acadia to settle here after the peace of Utrecht. The surrender of Louisburg to Great Britain in 1758 was followed by the cession of this island: from several appearances observed on the

island at this possession, it was inferred that the principal part of it had long been inhabited by tribes of Micmac Indians, with whom the Acadians had, in a great measure, assimilated. St. John's was associated with the government of Nova Scotia in 1763, and in 1776 the official survey of it under the British government was accomplished by the late Major Holland, then his majesty's surveyor-general in North America, whose family now reside on the island. The island was shortly afterwards divided into sixty-seven townships, containing about 20,000 acres each, which were granted severally to such individuals as government conceived to have claims upon them. One condition (amongst others) of the grants was, that they should be settled within ten years, in the ratio of one person to each 200 acres, one fourth of such settlement to be effected within the first four years with emigrants from Europe or other parts of America. Many of the original grantees, however, surrendered, or alienated their property, which in a short time became monopolized by a comparatively few individuals; but when the lands of the adjacent colonies became more thickly peopled, the value of the land in this island became more justly appreciated and in greater request. In 1768 the island was erected into a separate government, though at that time it possessed not more than five resident proprietors, nor did its total number of inhabitants exceed 150 families. For the subsequent five years much pains were taken to increase the settlements by importations of Acadians, Highlanders, and other disbanded troops. In 1773 the first house of assembly met, and the constitution of the colony was definitively settled under the administration of Governor Paterson, which lasted from 1768 to 1789. The colony seems to have suffered greatly by the attempts of this governor and his successor to deprive the settlers of their lands and monopolize them to themselves. In 1799 the colony was honoured by the notice of that illustrious prince and intelligent officer, his late Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, who ordered the barracks to be rebuilt, and caused three troops of horse to be raised; and in compliment to him the name of the island was altered from St. John to that of Prince Edward. The Duke of Kent resided in the colonies for about ten years, at two different periods, and during the latter of which as commander-in-chief

of the British forces in America. The head-quarters were at Halifax, whence his Royal Highness sailed for England on the 3rd of August, 1800, carrying with him the sincerest regrets, the respect and attachment not of the inhabitants of Nova Scotia alone, but of all the sister provinces. The government of the island is now administered by Governor Ready, under whose authority a new assembly enacted numerous laws for the well-being of the colony, under which it has steadily and rapidly advanced to that degree of prosperity which now renders it one of the most enviable portions of the king's extensive dominions in that quarter of the world.

Prince Edward Island is divided into three counties, these again into fourteen parishes, and these further into sixty-seven townships, in the manner shown by the following tabular statement. The townships do not all contain exactly the same number of acres; but, as before stated, they average about 20,000 acres each; some a little above, and some a little below that number; which variations, however, we have not thought it material to point out.

<i>Counties.</i>	<i>Parishes.</i>	<i>Townships.</i>
KING'S COUNTY	St. Andrew's	No. 59
		61
		63
		64
	St. George's	51
		52
		53
		54
		55
		56
		66, and
		George Town.
	St. Patrick's	38
		39
		40
		41
		42
	East Parish	43
		44
		45
		46
		47

<i>Counties.</i>	<i>Parishes.</i>	<i>Townships</i>
QUEEN'S COUNTY	Hillsborough	No. 29
		30
		31
		65 and
		Fort Lot.
	Grenville	20
		21
		22
		23
		67
	Charlotte	24
		32
		33
		34 and
		Charlotte Town.
	Bedford	35
		36
		37
		48
		49
	St. John's	50
		57
		58
		60
		62
PRINCE'S COUNTY	North Parish	1
		2
		3
	Egmont	4
		5
		6
		7
		8
	Halifax	9
		10
		11
		12
		13
	Richmond	14
		15
		16
		17

<i>Counties.</i>	<i>Parishes.</i>	<i>Townships.</i>
PRINCE'S COUNTY	St. David's	No. 18 19 25 26 27 28 and Prince's Town.
Prince's county contains	.	467,000 acres.
Queen's	.	486,400
King's	.	412,000
Making the total surface of the island	.	<u>1,365,400 acres.</u>

From this it will appear that a town plot is reserved for each county; viz. George Town, in King's County; Charlotte Town, in Queen's County; and Prince Town, in Prince's County.

The general appearance of Prince Edward Island is picturesque and attractive, destitute of those bold romantic features which form the characteristic of most parts of the adjacent continent; it presents a surface naturally, where it is not artificially, fertile, swelling in gentle undulations, and clothed with verdure to the water's edge. There is no continued tract of absolutely flat country, nor does it any where reach the elevations of mountains. The principal high lands are a chain of hills, traversing the country nearly north and south from De Sable to Grenville Bay: with this exception, the land has few inequalities which interfere with the ordinary pursuit of agriculture.

The island is so indented and intersected by numerous bays, creeks, and inlets, there is scarcely any part of it more than eight miles distant from tide water. From this circumstance the coast furnishes several convenient harbours. The principal of these is that of Charlotte Town, situated on the south-west side of the island, at the bottom of Hillsborough Bay, and at the confluence of the three rivers, Hillsborough, York, and Elliott. It is one of the most secure in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and though not more than half a mile in breadth at the entrance, it soon widens into a capacious haven, into which flow the three

rivers we have named. It is not very strongly fortified, but is surrounded by many situations which could easily be placed in a state to defy any naval attack. A battery in front of the town, another near the barracks, and a third on Fanning Bank, with a block-house at the western point of entrance, constitute all the defences that are regularly kept up. The harbour of George Town is also spacious and commodious, situated on the eastern side of the island, and also at the entrance of the three rivers, the Cardigan, Brudenelle, and Montague; it possesses the advantages of being frozen later and opening earlier in the spring than any other harbour in the gulf, and of lying in the direct track of vessels from Europe to Quebec. Its entrance is wide, deep, and free from sand-bars: the whole inlet abounds with fish and facilities for taking them. Darnley Basin formed by Prince Town on one side, and Alanby Point on the other, is the harbour for vessels belonging or trading to Prince Town; it is on the south-east side of Richmond Bay, but affords no accommodation for large vessels. Richmond Bay is a very spacious inlet of the sea on the northern side of the island, stretching ten miles from its entrance inland, and being nine miles wide, it almost divides the island, leaving a narrow neck from Webber Cove to Wilmot Cove, on the south-east side, of only one mile in width. The entrance to it, however, is contracted, but on the east side only, by a long narrow island stretching across its mouth. Several creeks, rivers, and smaller bays indent its shores, and no fewer than six islands stud its surface. Ship-building for exportation, the fishery, and the timber trade have been carried on to some extent in this port. Turning on the north from Richmond Bay, at about sixteen miles distance, we find Holland Bay, which resembles the former in having its entrance almost entirely closed up by islands; it is, however, safely accessible: its principal harbour is called Cascumpecque, which is commodious and secure, and favourably situated for the fisheries. From this bay to the north point of the island the distance is twenty-four miles. South-eastward from Richmond Bay is Grenville Bay, possessing the harbour of New London, at the mouth of Stanley River, which affords good anchorage for small vessels, but not for such as draw more than twelve feet water. About eight miles farther, in the same direction, occurs Harris's Bay, equally remarkable for having a long slip of an island

lying across its entrance, accessible, however, on its northern side, to Harrington, or Great Rustico Harbour, which will admit schooners and small brigs. Into this bay flow Hunter's and Whately Rivers. On the southern side of the bay, entered beyond the southern extremity of the island before mentioned, is Stanhope Cove, or Little Rustico Harbour, very delightfully situated, but accessible to small vessels only. Five miles further, in the same direction, is Bedford Bay, indenting deeply into the land. Its entrance is much narrowed by sand-hills stretching across from its eastern side; it will admit schooners and small brigs. Savage Harbour, about six miles eastward of Bedford, will admit only of boats. Saint Peter's, distant but a few miles, in the same direction, has a sand-bar across its entrance, and will admit small vessels only. Into this harbour falls the River Morel. Hence to the east point of the island no harbour occurs. Along the south-eastern shore, between East Point and George Town, or Three Rivers, there are Colville, Rolls, Fortune, Howe, and Broughton Bays, all small harbours, calculated for light coasting vessels. Southward of George Town is Murray Harbour, enclosed by Bear Cape, and receiving three rivers, the Murray, the Fox, and South Rivers, on its southern side, and two, the Green and Mink Rivers, on its northern. This is a spacious and well sheltered haven, but its entrance is rather difficult, nor can the vessels of a large class, loading outwards, take in the whole of their cargoes till they have passed the bar. Along the southern shore of the island there is no harbour of any importance till we come to the spacious Bay of Hillsborough, remarkable for the harbour of Charlotte Town, which we have before noticed, and receiving the waters of the Hillsborough, York, and Elliott Rivers on its northern and western sides, and several others of inferior note on its eastern shores. Tryon Cove is a pleasant little harbour for small vessels, situated about twenty miles to the westward of Charlotte Town, and nearly opposite the Bay Verte in Nova Scotia; it has a very dangerous sand-bar at its entrance, and will admit only boats and very light schooners. Pursuing the line of the coast towards the west, we next encounter, at the distance of about eighteen miles, Halifax Bay. The harbour lies on the eastern side of the bay, and its entrance is sheltered by a small island; at its head it branches into two rivers. It boasts several



ship-building yards, and is a considerable port for the shipping of timber. Westward of this again is Egmont Bay, a spacious estuary of about sixteen miles in width and stretching ten miles inland. It receives the Percival and Enmore Rivers, and two smaller ones, but possesses no harbour that is safely approachable either by large or small vessels, being almost entirely blockaded by shoals which stretch far into the sea. Along the extreme western shore of the island, from West Cape to North Cape, there occurs no harbour whatever.

Our account of the harbours has shown the multiplicity of rivers by which this island is traversed; some of the principal of them demand a more particular notice. Hillsborough River is the most magnificent stream the island boasts. It rises near the north-eastern coast, at no great distance from Savage Harbour, in Bedford parish, Queen's County. It flows in a south-westerly direction, through the same parish, gradually widening, and receiving in its course many tributary streams, the principal of which are, the Pisquit, which traverses, in a direction nearly due north, the township No. 37 and Johnston Rivers, which last has a similar direction, and falls into the main river in township 35; it forms, moreover, several bays and creeks, making in the whole a course of about thirty miles, till it falls into the bay of the same name at Charlotte Town, of which it constitutes the south-easterly boundary. The scenery on the whole course of this river is delightful; it is edged by numerous flourishing farms, whilst the back ground of stately timber furnishes a majestic finish to the landscape. The tide extends its influence twenty miles beyond Charlotte Town. York River, which meets the Hillsborough at the south-easterly angle of Charlotte Town, takes its source in Charlotte parish, about five miles north-west of the town, and flows in a south-easterly direction, skirting the town on its south-west side, and receiving a large creek, which indents deeply into the town allotment, till it reaches the bay, its whole course being about ten miles, of which the tide extends to nine. Its banks are, for the most part, well settled, and furnished with farms in a respectable state of cultivation. Elliott River takes its source in township No. 31 in Hillsborough parish, considerably to the west and a little to the south of Charlotte Town, and for some miles pursues a south-easterly direction, then turning north-easterly, and

widening in its course, receiving numerous creeks and small streams, till it reaches the bay, and forms a junction with the two other rivers, about a mile below Charlotte Town, and immediately above Fort Amherst. The whole course of the river is well settled, and displays flourishing farms, with scenery as romantic as any the wild features of the country afford. The three rivers, whose confluence forms the port of George Town, are the Cardigan, which rising in township No. 52, in St. George's parish, a few miles westerly of the town, pursuing a direction due east, forms the northern boundary of the town, and reaches the sea opposite Boughton Island; the Brudenelle, which has its source a few miles south-easterly of the town, and pursuing a course nearly parallel to that of the last named river, constitutes the southern limit of the town plot, and there meets the Montague, which, from this point, stretches south-westerly into the county to a distance of about ten miles. The other principal rivers are the Foxley, which, stretching from Holland Bay, south-easterly, through Egmont parish, terminates in a spacious lake bordering on Halifax parish, about eight miles from its mouth. This river, from the western side of Richmond Bay, stretches about a dozen miles, through townships 14 and 16 in Richmond parish, in a south-westerly course, and branches into various inferior streams, pursuing different directions, and extending to within a few miles of the southern shore. Boughton River, on the eastern side of the island, reaches the sea in Boughton Bay, a few miles to the northward of George Town; for about seven miles from the sea it is a broad stream, of serpentine course, with wide sand banks; towards its source it is much narrower, flowing south-easterly from township 54. On the same coast, about twelve miles south of George Town, we find Murray River, flowing into the harbour of the same name, which it reaches at about ten miles from its source, flowing in a north-easterly direction, between townships 63 and 64, in St. Andrew's parish. The other rivers, which are of minor importance, have been named in our notice of the harbours into which they flow.

Prince's County forms the north-western division of the island, extending from North Point to some miles on the south-east of Richmond Bay, where it is separated from Queen's County by a division line, running nearly due north and south from Cape Aylesbury to Brockelby's

Cove. It contains 467,000 acres, besides the 4,000 assigned to the royalty of Prince Town. The lot assigned for the town is a peninsula, projecting into Richmond Bay on its eastern side; the building lots, however, do not yet boast any houses; but the whole of the pasture lots are settled, and converted into flourishing farms, stretching round Darnley Basin to Alanby Point on the gulf shore. The entire vicinity of Richmond Bay is well settled, comprising the villages of Ship-Yard, Indian River, St. Eleanor, Bentick River, Grand River, and a considerable village on the banks of Goodwood Cove, in township No. 13. Near the North Cape is the settlement of Tigniche, in which the land has been found productive of wheat, barley, and potatoes to a very satisfactory extent. The shore from North Cape to West Cape is perhaps the least thickly settled of any part of the island; but it boasts a rich soil, covered with lofty trees, and abounds with streams and ponds of water. The whole line of coast is without a harbour; but it is practicable for landing in boats, and no doubt its many advantages will quickly attract an adequate population. At Cape Egmont there is a settlement of Acadian French. The county is reported by Colonel Cockburn to contain equal quantities of good and indifferent land. The whole of it has been granted by the crown, but the township No. 15 has reverted to its possession.

Queen's County adjoins Prince's County on the south-east, and extends about forty miles, embracing the whole width of the island, to Savage Harbour on the northern shore, whence it is separated from King's County by a line running nearly due south to the south-eastern shore, about ten miles eastward of Hillsborough Bay. It contains 486,400 acres, besides 7,300 apportioned to Charlotte Town and Royalty. The principal settlement in this county is Charlotte Town, the seat of government and metropolis, if it may be so termed, of the island. The situation of this town, as mentioned in our account of the harbour, is at the confluence of the Hillsborough, York, and Elliott Rivers; the two former of which bound two of its sides, the first on the north-east, the second on the south-west sides. It stands nearly in the centre of the island, with all parts of which it has ready communication, either by water or good roads. The ground on which it is built rises with a gentle slope from the river's edge to a moderate height; the streets are regularly laid

out in rectangles, in building lots of 80 feet frontage and 160 depth, with vacancies at chosen intervals for squares; the number of houses already built amounts to nearly 400, several of the more recent being of very handsome appearance. The public buildings are the court-house, in which the legislative assembly and the courts of chancery and judicature hold their sittings, the episcopal church, the new Scotch church, a catholic and a methodist chapel, and the new market. The barracks are situated near the water. The aspect of Charlotte Town from the water is peculiarly pleasing, rising in an amphitheatrical ascent from the water's edge, composed of gay and lively buildings, separated from each other by groves and gardens, whilst the quantity of land assigned to each house gives it the appearance of nearly twice its actual size. The fort lies on the south side of the harbour, and commands a charming view of Charlotte Town, the course of the Hillsborough River, parts of York and Elliott Rivers, and of the various thriving and picturesque settlements on the banks of all three.

On the northern shore of this county is the settlement of New London, in the district of Grenville Bay, including a very interesting new settlement called Cavendish. This district includes Elizabeth Town, Campel Town, and the whole chain of settlements round the bay and on the borders of the Stanley, Hope, and other rivers that fall into it, the whole of which are cultivated and thriving. At Rustico, on the same shore, are two Acadian French villages; and the banks of Hunter's and Whately Rivers are thickly settled, principally by emigrants from Scotland. Between this and Stanhope Cove, Breckly Point presents a pleasantly situated and flourishing settlement, whilst, at Little Rustico, the extensive and well cultivated farms afford the most cheering and inviting prospects. Along the coast to Bedford Bay, and thence to Savage Harbour, the land is pretty well settled, chiefly by highlanders. On the southern shore of this county, and on the eastern side of Hillsborough Bay, we have the district of Belfast, including the villages of Great and Little Belfast, Orwell, Pownall's, Perth, Flap River, and Belle Creek, and indeed the whole eastern and northern shore of the bay, from the estuary of the river to Beacon's Point, is thickly settled and in most flourishing circumstances. This part of the island was originally peopled

by about 800 emigrants from Scotland, brought by the Earl of Selkirk, in 1803, who, together with their descendants, are now as prosperous as any inhabitants of the island. The soil is favourable, agriculture well attended to, and crops are raised which furnish exports to New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland.

King's County comprises the eastern division of the island from the boundary line before mentioned, as dividing it from Queen's County, surrounded on its northern, eastern, and southern sides by the waters of the gulf. The town plot for George Town has been laid out, as before mentioned, at the confluence of the Cardigan, Montague, and Brudenelle Rivers: but little progress has as yet been made in the erection of buildings. The banks of the rivers in the vicinity are, however, tolerably well settled, and ship-building and exportation of timber are carried on to some extent at the port. On the northern shore of this county, adjacent to Savage Harbour, and stretching thence to St. Peter's Bay, is a pleasant line of settlement, with good farms, fronting on a small lake, and thence termed the lake settlements. The borders of St. Peter's Bay and the banks of the River Morel are also thrivingly settled, and in rapid advancement towards improvement, from the exertions of Messrs. Worrell, to whom the lands principally belong. On a peninsula, enclosing the bay from the gulf, is a very pleasant settlement called Greenwich. The whole line of coast thence, to the east point is cleared, settled, and cultivated by Scotch farmers, whose husbandry is greatly assisted by the quantity of marine productions thrown on shore, affording valuable manure. Colville, Fortune, How, and Boughton Rivers, stretching from the eastern shore deep into the land, are settled on both their banks, principally by Acadian French and Highlanders. The county is on the whole so thickly settled, and the villages lie so near to each other, that where water-carriage does not afford a complete and convenient communication, good roads have been established, and are kept in constant repair.

Though situated in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and surrounded by Canada, Nova Scotia, Labrador, and Newfoundland, the climate of Prince Edward Island is by many degrees more mild and favourable than that of either of those colonies. The winter is two months shorter in duration,

and the frosts much less severe with a considerably less fall of snow. Another material advantage is the absence of fog, a vapour of very rare occurrence in this island, although in the immediate neighbourhood of places which are perpetually overhung by it. The summer season is considered to commence in April, and during the month of May progresses rapidly to its zenith. The trees acquire their foliage, the flowers blossom, and the whole face of nature assumes a luxuriant appearance. Throughout June, July, and August the heat is excessive, the thermometer rising from 80° to 90°, and during this period thunder storms are frequent. About the middle of September the weather becomes cooler, and continues to increase its wintry aspect throughout October, but even in November the weather is moderate and far from unpleasant. It is not till the middle of December that the frosts become severe and continuous, and January frequently arrives before the lakes and rivers are frozen over, or the ground covered with snow. The frosts generally continue throughout the months of January, February, and March, during which the thermometer sinks many degrees below zero. About the latter end of February and the beginning of March the island is visited by severe snow-storms, accompanied by hurricanes of wind, which produce immense drifts. The duration of the winter cannot, however, be reckoned at more than four months at the utmost, its greatest severity not continuing more than eight or nine weeks, and the general freedom from moisture during that period induces some to give it a preference to that of Great Britain. With regard to the salubrity of the climate, we may be allowed to quote the opinion of Mr. Stewart, whose account of Prince Edward Island is somewhat scarce: "The fevers and other diseases of the United States," says that intelligent writer, "are unknown here. No person ever saw an intermittent fever produced on the island, nor will that complaint, when brought here, ever stand above a few days against the influence of the climate. I have seen thirty Hessian soldiers, who brought the disease from the southward, and who were so much reduced thereby as to be carried on shore in blankets, all recover in a very short time; few of them had any return or fit of the complaint, after the first forty-eight hours from their landing in the island.

"Pulmonary consumptions, which are so common and so very de-

structive in the northern and central states of America, are not often met with here; probably ten cases of this complaint have not arisen since the settlement of the colony. A very large proportion of the people live to old age, and then die of no acute disease, but by the gradual decay of nature\*."

The whole of the land in this province has been granted by the crown, but the townships 15 and 55 have again become vested in it. The soil may be appreciated by the species of timber which it produces; maple, beech, black birch, with a mixture of trees, generally indicating a rich land, whilst fir, spruce, larch, and the various descriptions of pine, are found on inferior tracts. There are very few portions of land throughout the island not applicable to agriculture, the soil being mostly light, of easy tillage, and remarkably free from stones. The deviation from this general character is found in the swamps and bogs, which, when drained, form good meadow land; there are indeed some tracts termed barrens, but these bear a very insignificant proportion to the good land, nor are there any of them but what good management might reclaim. The marshes on the sea-board, which are occasionally covered by the tide, produce a strong grass, which is consumed by the cattle in winter, and when they are enclosed and drained become either excellent meadows, or, if ploughed, afford good grain crops. The land has, for the most part, been cleared of its heavy timber, which has been an important article of export to Great Britain. Pines of various descriptions are found, but they do not abound sufficiently to form an article of commerce. The red and pitch, and the yellow or white, pine are the most frequent. There are several varieties of the fir, the spruce, larch, and hemlock, red and white; beech of a majestic size is universally met with; sugar maple in several varieties; birch, white, yellow, and black; oak of indifferent quality and in small quantities; elm, which is scarce; black, grey, and white ash; poplar and white cedar complete the list of trees that may be denominated timber. The ordinary fruits of England, and which have been mentioned as common to the other



British North American colonies, are plentiful here, and grow to great perfection. There are besides sarsaparilla, ginseng, and many other medical herbs. Neither limestone, gypsum, coal, nor any valuable mineral has yet been discovered. Red clay for bricks, and white fit for common pottery works, are met with in abundance. The animals found here are nearly the same as those we have mentioned as inhabiting our other American colonies, to which may be added otters, loup-cerviers, or wild cats, and seals, which are to be found in the bays and creeks; walruses used formerly to be found, but of late years the breed appears to have become extinct. Of birds, fish, and insects, the catalogue is nearly the same, and it therefore would be superfluous to enumerate them; but we may observe that all round the coast and in all the bays and creeks, the more valuable sorts are found in the greatest abundance, furnishing not only a plentiful supply for the consumption of the island, but a considerable article of commerce.

The nearly level surface of the ground through the greater part of the island, the quality of the soil, and the favourable nature of the climate, are peculiarly calculated to invite the settlers to a steady pursuit of agriculture. The timber trade and the fishery have here, however, as in other colonies, seduced the short-sighted and those eager for rapid returns, to their apparently more productive employments; but the timber is now so far cleared, and the prosperity of the consistent agriculturist so palpable, that the cultivation of the earth seems from this time forward likely to be looked to as the most certain and profitable occupation of time, labour, and capital. Wheat thrives well here, and has furnished not only an abundant supply for the consumption of the inhabitants, but also for exportation to Nova Scotia. As agriculture improves, no doubt the quantity produced will increase, and the West Indies afford a ready market for any quantity that may be raised. Rye, oats, and barley also succeed. Beans and peas are not cultivated to any extent, but generally yield average crops. Indian corn does not seem to thrive in this soil. Flax is raised for domestic purposes, and the success that attends its culture seems to promise well for its growth as an article of exportation: hemp does not succeed so well. Wheat and oats are sown in the latter part of April, when the weather is favourable, otherwise in May; barley

as late as June. Fruit, flowers, garden-vegetables, &c. occupy the attention of the horticulturist in the month of May. On the low and marsh lands grass grows in luxuriant crops; timothy, red and white clover, and some species indigenous to the soil are plentiful; haymaking commencing and generally concluding in the month of July; but barley harvest commences in August; that of wheat and oats in September. The cattle here thrive well, and produce good beef, but do not grow to the same size as in England. Sheep and swine also answer well. The breed of horses is small, and by no means beautiful; but they are hardy, and can bear much fatigue. The farms are usually laid out in 100 acre lots, of 10 chains frontage by 100 depth, and wherever it is practicable, fronting on a river, creek, bay, or road. The agricultural system pursued here, however, is defective in the last degree, and were not the soil by nature exceedingly productive, the little skill employed on it would afford but small assistance. The farmers are exceedingly negligent in applying manure, though that of the most efficacious kind abounds in all directions. Great quantities of sea-weed are constantly thrown on shore, which is an excellent manure; and in all the bays and creeks may be collected, to an incalculable extent, that composition of mud, decayed vegetable and animal substances, shells, &c. called muscle-mud, remarkable for its efficacy as a manure. The introduction of some intelligent farmers from Yorkshire and the southern parts of Scotland, has, within these few years, done much towards improving the usual mode of cultivation.

As peculiarly apposite to the purposes of this work, and as it has not been laid down in any other part, we will here give a brief sketch of the progress of a new settler, located upon uncleared forest land; and we do not know that we can better do so than in the words of a writer we have before thought proper to quote.

“The first object is to cut down the trees, which is done by cutting with an axe a notch into each side of the tree, about two feet above the ground, and rather more than half through on the side it is intended the tree should fall. The lower sides of these notches are horizontal, the upper make angles of about 60°. The trees are all felled in the same direction, and after lopping off the principal branches, cut into twelve

or fifteen feet lengths. The whole is left in this state until the proper season for burning arrives, generally in May, when it is set on fire, which consumes all the branches and small wood. The large lops are then either piled in heaps and burnt, or rolled away to make fencing stuff; some use oxen to haul them off. The surface of the ground, after burning the wood on it, is quite black and charred; and if it be intended for grain, it is now sown without farther preparation or tillage, other than covering the seed with a hoe. By some (i.e. by those who have the means) a triangular harrow, drawn by oxen, is used, in preference to the hoe, and to save labour. Others break up the earth with a one-handled plough, with the share and coulter locked into each other, and drawn also by oxen, a man attending with an axe to cut the roots. Little regard is paid to making straight furrows, the object being no more than to work the ground, that the grain may be more easily covered. Potatoes," (which, by the by, to settlers with limited means are, from their easy culture and quick production, as an article for food the very first object of attention,) "are planted in round hollows, three or four inches deep, and fifteen to twenty inches broad; three or five sets are planted in each of these, and covered over; the hoe alone is used; with such preparation a plentiful crop of grain or potatoes is raised the first, second, and often the third year without manure. Wheat is usually sown the second year after potatoes, without any tillage except harrowing or rolling the seed in. Along with this second crop, timothy or clover seed is sown by prudent farmers, after which they leave the land under grass until the stump can be got easily out, clearing and bringing in new land in the same manner each year until they have a sufficient quantity enclosed. The roots of the spruce, beech, birch, and maple, will decay sufficiently to take out the stump in four or five years. The decay of pine and hemlock requires a much longer time. After the stumps are removed, the plough is used, and the same system of husbandry is pursued as is most approved of in Great Britain.

"The habitations which the settlers first erect are in imitation of the dwelling of an American backwoodsman, and constructed in the rudest manner. Round lops, from fifteen to twenty feet long, without the least dressing, are laid horizontal over each other, and notched at the

corners, so as to let them down sufficiently close; one is first laid to begin the walls of each side, then one at each end, all crossing each other at the corners, and so on until the wall is raised six or seven feet. The seams are closed up with moss or clay, three or four rafters are then laid for the roof, which is covered with the rinds of birch or fir trees, and thatched either with spruce branches or long marine grass that is found washed up along the shores. Poles are laid over this thatch, together with birch wythes, to keep the whole secure. The chimney is formed of a wooden framework, placed on a slight foundation of stone, roughly raised a few feet above the ground. This framework goes out through the roof, and its sides are closed with clay and a small quantity of straw kneaded together. A space large enough for a door, and another for a window, are cut through the walls; under the centre of the cottage, a square pit or cellar is dug, for the purpose of preserving potatoes and other vegetables during winter; over this a floor of boards or logs, hewn flat on the upper side, is laid, and another over head, to form a sort of garret. When the door is hung, a window sash, with six, nine, or twelve frames, is fixed, and one, two, or three bed places are put up; the habitation is then considered fit to receive the new settler and his family\*."

This is what is termed a log hut, and, as well as the mode of clearing and cultivating the farm here described, is common to new settlers in all parts of the British North-American dominions. Those who have the means, however, even in the first instance, proceed somewhat further in decorating and rendering commodious their habitation, such as covering the roof with shingle boards, and lining the wall, floor, &c. with planks, and covering them with matting or baize; so that the house, though presenting a rugged and uncouth appearance, is by no means destitute of comfort. In raising this first habitation, if any where adjacent to a settlement, abundant assistance is voluntarily contributed by the neighbours, under the denomination of a *frolic*, and is afforded at the price merely of a few regales of meat, fish, potatoes, and rum, being often thus accomplished in a single day. The estimate of a poor settler's expense of fixing himself upon his land in the woods, until he can make

\* J. M'Gregor, &c.

it productive, will be found in an extract from the evidence transmitted by Colonel Cockburn, with his report, inserted in our Appendix.

The trade of this island is inconsiderable. During the time it was in the possession of the French, their jealousy on behalf of Louisbourg prevented them from at all cultivating it. The locality of the place seems as well to adapt it for a fishing station as Newfoundland, and the facility with which supplies are raised would seem to offer a temptation greater than any which that island possesses; nevertheless the curing of fish for exportation has never been carried on here to any great extent. A good market is afforded at home for the consumption of cured fish by the timber and ship-building trades. In all new wilderness countries the timber trade is the first object of attraction; but the quantity that has been felled, and the small proportion of uncleared land that remains, have reduced the timber trade of this colony to a trifling amount. Ship-building is still a branch of trade of some moment; and the vessels built here have a good reputation for trim and durability. Numbers of vessels, from 150 to 600 tons, are readily disposed of in the British market; and to this may be added a large number constantly constructed for the Newfoundland fisheries; a considerable supply of live stock, provisions, corn, and vegetables is also uniformly forwarded to that country, from which West India produce is received in return. Large exportations of agricultural produce also take place to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and of provisions of every description to the Bermudas. The amount and description of exports and imports during a series of years will be seen by tables contained in the Appendix.

The population of the island, by the census of 1827, was taken at 36,000, but since that time the increase has been so considerable, that it may now be estimated at about 50,000. Society, which has here advanced rapidly, is not distinguished from the society in the other colonies by any peculiar features, and its different classes are very similarly divided. A decided aristocracy is of course wanting, but the members of the council, the employés of government, the superior classes of the military, merchants, and traders of all sorts, who have attained a tolerable degree of affluence, constitute here an upper class, who are by no means

backwards in cultivating the amusements and refinements of civilized life. Charlotte Town is the only place where people are sufficiently congregated to form any thing that can be termed society, and, this being the capital, possesses of course persons of every class. Those who are received at the castle, or government-house, being deemed the superiors, have assemblies, balls, dinners amongst themselves, and sometimes amateur theatricals. Others indulge in pic nic, or what in England would be termed gipsy parties, in making country excursions, and each taking his own provisions. As almost every housekeeper is the owner of a horse and a carriage, or winter sledge-carriage, they are readily able to procure such indulgencies. The farmers and husbandmen comprise every class—American loyalists, Acadian French, and emigrants from England, Scotland, and Ireland, whose manners, even in this distant but desirable exile, are in a great measure influenced by their national characteristics and peculiarities. English settlers are distinguished by the cleanliness, neatness, and propriety of their establishments; Scotchmen by their patient endurance of the hardships incidental to early settlement, and their persevering pursuit of wealth and substance, with much more neglect of what we term comfort; and the Irish by a more eager desire to secure temporary advantages and the means of present indulgence. All those occupied in husbandry and farming, to which many join some share in the fishery, timber, and ship-building trades (though the advantage of such a multiplicity of pursuits is somewhat more than equivocal) find abundant employment during the year, without seeking to share the amusements of the town, or substituting others of a more rural description. The amassing of money, it may be here observed, and the remark applies equally to all the American colonies, is absolutely impracticable. From nothing a man may rise to independence; he may find the means of comfortable subsistence assured to all his family and their future generations, but the realization of sums of money is not to be accomplished. The American settlers, peaceable and industrious, are remarkable for the variety of occupations which each individual unites in his own person. The facility of obtaining ardent spirits, and the free use made of them, operates here, as in all our other colonies, as a serious drawback on the morality and prosperity of the colonists.

The French Acadians, probably about 4,000 in number, and settled principally along the coasts, retain much of their primitive simplicity in dress, manners, and pursuits. A round jacket and trousers is the usual habit of the men, any instance of departing from which would be treated with the utmost ridicule; and the women exhibit an appearance very similar to that of the Bavarian broom-girls so commonly seen in this country. They are rather looked down upon by the European settlers, but are nevertheless perfectly inoffensive, and for industry they are not to be surpassed. They, however, apply this virtue to such a diversity of pursuits,—those who live on the coast following ship-building, lumbering, fishing, and farming—that they seldom advance in wealth so much as those who steadily follow any one of those occupations singly. The women, as housewives, are perfect patterns, and such is their activity, that they have seldom to go beyond the precinct of their own establishment for any necessary whatever, the whole of their clothes and other articles for home use being the product of domestic manufacture.

The established religion of the colony is that of the Church of England, though it has perhaps fewer professors than any denomination known there; the members of the Church of Scotland claiming, in consequence, a right to use the church of St. Paul, in Charlotte Town, equally with those of the established form. The only other English church is at St. Eleanors. The Kirk of Scotland have a large and elegant building at Charlotte Town, and another, built by the Earl of Selkirk in 1803, in the heart of the Belfast settlements. A class of dissenters from the Kirk of Scotland, called ante-burghers, have several places of worship in various parts of the island; the baptists have two or three, and the methodists about eight. There is a spacious catholic chapel at St. Andrews, about eighteen miles from Charlotte Town; to this communion all the Acadians belong, as do the remains of the tribe of Mic-mac Indians, who have a chapel on Lennox Island, Richmond Bay.

The government of Prince Edward Island, although the population is comparatively small, is perfectly independent of the control of any of the adjoining provinces, and constituted on the same principle as those of the other British-American colonies; viz. as close an approximation to that of the mother country, in principle and form, as the variation of cir-



cumstances will admit. The executive power is lodged in the hands of the lieutenant-governor and a council; this council holds likewise a senatorial office, somewhat similar to that of the upper house of the British parliament. There is also a representative body, elected by the colorists, called the Legislative Assembly. Its functions, the qualifications of its members, and the limitations upon its authority, as well as upon that of the other bodies named, are similar to those which have been before detailed with respect to the other provinces of the Anglo-American dominions. There is a Court of Chancery, over which the governor presides, and the practice of which is regulated by that of the same court in England. There is also a Supreme Court of Judicature, which decides both in criminal and civil causes, wherein a chief-justice presides, its practice assimilating as nearly as possible to that of similar courts in Britain. The same persons fulfil the offices both of attorneys and advocates, and plead indifferently in both courts. There is one high-sheriff for the island, appointed annually by the governor. Small debts are recoverable before local magistrates, and minor offences are adjudged by justices of the peace.

We shall conclude our account of this interesting section of the British dominions, with another short quotation from Mr. McGregor's work, and we do so merely by way of expressing our entire concurrence in his opinion, and confirmation of the inference at which he has arrived:—"When we view the position of Prince Edward Island, in regard to the countries bordering on the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the excellence of its harbours for fishing stations, and take into account that the whole of its surface may, with little exception, be considered a body of fertile soil, it does not certainly require the spirit of prophecy to perceive, that unless political arrangements may interfere with its prosperity, it will in no very remote period become a valuable agricultural as well as commercial country."

For a list of the prices of land, produce, and other various articles of common consumption, we refer the reader to the Appendix.

## CHAPTER XII.

NEWFOUNDLAND.—Situation, Boundaries, and Extent—Historical Summary—Settlements—St. John's—Soil—Timber—Climate—Population—Government—Fisheries.

THE island of Newfoundland lies on the north-eastern side of the entrance into the Gulf of St. Lawrence, between the latitudes  $46^{\circ} 40'$  and  $51^{\circ} 39'$  north, and longitudes  $52^{\circ} 44'$  and  $59^{\circ} 31'$  west. Its form is somewhat triangular, but without any approach to regularity, each of its sides being broken by numerous harbours, bays, creeks, and estuaries. It is separated on the north-west from Canada by the gulf; its south-west point approaches Cape Breton; north and north-east are the shores of Labrador, from which it is divided by the Straits of Belleisle; and on its eastern side expands the open ocean. It lies nearer to Europe than any of the British American colonies, or indeed any part of America. Its circuit is not much short of 1,000 miles; its width, at the very widest part, between Cape Ray and Cape Bonavista, is about 300 miles, and its extreme length, from Cape Race to Grignet Bay, about 419, measured on a curve. From the sea it has a wild and rugged appearance, which is any thing rather than inviting. Its interior has been very imperfectly explored, and is therefore but little understood. In 1823, a Mr. M'Cormach succeeded in traversing its breadth from Conception Bay on its east to St. George's Bay on its western side; and, from his account, it appears, that this district is much intersected with lakes and rivers, is poorly wooded, and of a rocky and barren soil. Newfoundland, in this respect, thus differs amazingly from the other American colonies, producing little timber but what is dwarf and stunted, except on the margins of bays and rivers, where spruce, birch, and poplar sometimes grow to a considerable size.

Newfoundland was first discovered by Cabot, though the French formerly founded a claim on the ground of the discoveries of Verazani.

The first attempt at forming a settlement was made in the reign of Henry VIII. by two persons of the names of Elliott and Thörn, which settlement was subsequently followed up by another eminent mercantile man of the name of Hare. The ill fortune that attended these attempts discouraged all future ones, on the part of the English, for some years; till, in 1579, a fishing adventure, commanded by Captain Whitburn, was so successful as to induce him to repeat it: in the meantime, possession was taken of the island in the name of Queen Elizabeth, and the Portuguese, who had established themselves upon the coast, were driven away. In the next reign a charter was granted to the "treasurer and company of adventurers and planters of the cities of London and Bristol for the colony of Newfoundland," which association located a colony at Conception Bay in 1610. In 1614, the before-mentioned Captain Whitburn received a commission to establish tribunals and punish offences committed in this colony and the adjacent fisheries, from which we may conclude they were then in the exclusive possession of the English. Two persons of the names of Dr. Vaughan and Sir George Calvert in the next year procured grants of parts of the island, formerly granted to the above company: the latter gentleman succeeded in establishing a very flourishing colony at Ferryland, where, having been created Lord Baltimore, he erected a fort, and resided many years. About the same time a colony was sent from Ireland by Lord Falkland, the lord-lieutenant, and shortly afterwards Lord Baltimore returned to England, continuing to govern his property by deputies. Sir David Kirk, in 1654, obtained grants in this island, previous to his settling in Canada. Settlements now continued to be made all along the eastern coast of the island; and the French succeeded in establishing themselves in Placentia Bay on the south. In a few years after Lord Baltimore's leaving the island, it was computed that not fewer than 350 families were settled there, though scattered through fifteen or sixteen different points of settlement. The various measures tending to the amelioration of the colony seem always to have been a subject of dispute between the settlers on the island and the English merchants trading in the fisheries there; the former, in 1667, applied for the appointment of a local governor, which was vehemently resisted by the latter; and on a renewal of that application in 1674, when

it was referred to the Board of Trade and Plantations, they, influenced by the representations of the latter body, not only reported against the project but also advocated the total discouragement of all plantations whatever on the island, even recommending the forcible deportation of the settlers. A cruel persecution of this sort ensued, and representations on one side, and counter-representations on the other, in 1697, at length elicited another report from the same board, in which they certified in behalf of a moderate number of settlers, limiting them to 1,000. An act for the regulation of the colony (10 and 11 William and Mary) was passed in 1698, which did little but enforce the former barbarous policy. In 1701 a report was made by Mr. Larkins, who had been sent out by government expressly to obtain information as to our American possessions, and the picture of misrule and disorder which he gives, in mentioning Newfoundland, speaks all that can be said of the policy by which it had been hitherto regulated.

From 1702 till the peace of Utrecht in 1708, the colony was much disturbed by the French, whose establishments in Canada, Cape Breton, and even on the island, at Placentia, afforded them abundant opportunities of annoying our settlements and fisheries. Some representations had, in the meantime, been made to Queen Anne's government on the state of this colony by the House of Commons, and the inhabitants had themselves instituted some useful regulations, when at length, in 1729, a Captain Henry Osborn received a commission as governor of Newfoundland, with powers to appoint justices of the peace, administer oaths to them, to erect a court-house and prison, and other authority calculated to support his administration. The same petty, factious, and interested opposition which had been manifested by the traders and fishing *admirals*, as the commanders who arrived first on the coast were ludicrously nicknamed, to the appointment of a civil government, were continued against the administration of it, and every species of opposition practised for several years, till, in 1738, after repeated references to the Board of Trade, and to the opinions of the law officers, as to the powers possessed by the governor under the existing commission, an enlarged one was issued to Captain Drake, including a power to the tribunals there to try, convict, and punish felons.