

# THE GLEANER:

AND NORTHUMBERLAND SCHEDIASMA.

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*Nec arancurum sane texus ideo melior, quia ex se fila gignunt, nec noster vilior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes.*

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## THE GLEANER.

FROM M'GREGOR'S BRITISH AMERICA.

### PROVINCE OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

THE province of New Brunswick extends from the River St Croix, which is considered the boundary line of the United States, to the Bay de Chaleur and the River Restigouche, which divide it from Canada. The greater part of this colony is yet in a wilderness state, although its soil, with the exception of a few rocky districts, principally on the Bay of Fundy coast, and several, but not extensive swampy tracts, is rich and fertile.

The River St. John, with its lakes and myriads of streams; the tributary waters of one side of the St. Croix; the River Petit Coudiac; the Miramichi, with its majestic branches; the river Nipisiguit, and many lesser rivers, open an inland navigation into almost every part of the Province.

Dense forests cover nearly the whole country: and the trees, which grow to an immense size are of the same kind and quality as already described under the head of forest trees. Pine abounds in greater plenty than in any of the other lower provinces. Birch, beech, and maple, are the prevailing hardwood trees.

The quality of the soil here, as elsewhere in America, may always be ascertained by the description of wood growing on it. Along the countless rivers of this province there are also innumerable tracts of what is termed intervalle land: this kind of soil is alluvial, with detached trees of luxuriant growth, principally elm, maple, and black birch, and butternut; and is, like the lands of the Nile, annually irrigated and enriched by the overflowing of the rivers. In several parts of the interior country, generally along small brooks, are wild meadows, caused originally by the industry of the beaver, in consequence of the irrigation of a flat tract by the water, arrested by the dams constructed by these animals.

The aspect of the coast of New Brunswick, along the Bay of Fundy, is generally rugged, and the soil near the shore stubborn and difficult to cultivate.

The geology of the province is very imperfectly known. Limestone, greywacke, clay-slate, with sandstone, interrupted occasionally by gneiss, trap, and granite, seem to prevail on the southern coast. Among these however, calcareous rock appears to predominate. Marble, of fair pretensions to beauty, abounds at Kennebecasis, and probably in other parts of the country. Coal is plentiful, and iron ore abundant. Copper, plumbago, and manganese, have also been found, and great research may likely discover many other minerals. Gypsum and grindstone are abundant near Chignecto Basin.

Along the shores of this province, facing the Gulf of St. Lawrence and Chaleur Bay, sandstone prevails. Grey sandstone and clay-slate seem to predominate, as far as I could observe, along the course of the Miramichi; among which, granite, mica, quartz, and ironstone in detached rocks, occasionally occur. Specimens of amethyst, cornelian, jasper, &c., have been picked up in various places. Some sulphurous, or hepatic springs, of much the same properties as the waters of Harrowgate, have lately been found. Salt springs, strongly saturated, are believed to be numerous. Some of the salt produced by boiling the water of one of these springs was shown me, which resembled the finest table salt we have in England.

As we proceed from the sea-coast up the river of this province, the rich fertility of the country claims our admiration. A great flat district may be said to prevail from the parallel of the Long Reach, up the River St. John to the foot of Mars' Hill. High hills oc-

asionally rise in ridges in various places, but no part of New Brunswick can be considered mountainous.

The scenery of the rivers, lakes, and cataracts, is generally picturesque and beautiful, and often wild and grandly romantic.

The wild-animals are bears, moose-deer, and cariboo, foxes, loup-cerviers, tiger-cat, racoon, porcupine, martin, beaver, otter, mink, musquash, fisher, hare, weasel, &c. Most of the birds enumerated as common to America are also plentiful.

Along the coasts, cod, haddock, mackerel, and nearly all the kinds of fishes caught in the North American seas, are abundant; salmon, shad, bass, &c. frequent the rivers and shores; and a variety of other descriptions of fish, among which are chub, smelt, trout, eel, and perch, are plentiful in the streams or lakes. A kind of fish, called in New Brunswick cusk, and considered excellent eating, is caught in the rivers. I have not seen it elsewhere. It somewhat resembles the white fish of the Canada lakes, but is less in size, and quite a different species.

The climate of New Brunswick is salubrious; the epidemic fevers of the southern states are unknown; and colds, and their consequent diseases, can only be common in this province. An erysipelatous disease, previously unknown in the country, made its appearance three or four years ago; at which time it prevailed also in Nova Scotia. It must have been produced by some peculiarity in the season of that year, or brought on by accidental circumstances. Consumption, although not apparently so common as in England, is the principal cause of death among the young, or those between twenty and thirty. Fevers, generally in the form of mild typhus, occur frequently in the beginning of winter, most probably for want of proper attention in fortifying the body in time with additional clothing against the sudden change from warm to cold weather.

In a country like New Brunswick, where the inhabitants expose themselves so much to all the varieties of climate, and the waters of the sea and rivers, rheumatism often afflicts the working classes, especially the lumberers, who are so often during fall and spring, drenched in the remarkably cold waters of the rivers. The diseases, however, that are most fatal to life, are those brought to the province from other countries, principally by passenger-ships, such as fevers, small-pox and measles. Generally speaking the climate may be considered at least equally healthy as that of England.

The temperature of the climate of the southern parts is much milder than that of those parts which border on the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the Bay de Chaleur, and Lower Canada. Sea-frogs frequently envelope the shores of the Bay of Fundy, and render the culture of wheat near the coast uncertain, but do not appear to cause any unhealthy consequences.

With the difference of more humidity in the southern coast, and a few miles inland, and that the harbours within the Bay of Fundy, at least from St. John's to the State of Maine, are seldom long obstructed with ice, and the frosts in the northern parts being somewhat more severe, what I have observed in treating of the climate of America generally, will apply equally to this province.

The natural advantages of New Brunswick are equal to those of any wilderness country in America; and it requires only a great addition of industrious settlers to its present population, to secure its prosperity, and to make it one of the most important of his Majesty's colonies. Its resources are great, and it is capable of maintaining at least three millions of inhabitants.

The history of New Brunswick is embodied with that of Nova Scotia, of which province it formed a part until 1785. The first settlement attempted by the British was in 1762, by a few families from New England, on the River St. John, about fifty miles from its mouth, and named Mougerville.

These people experienced great misery, and met with many obstacles before they established themselves. The difficulties inseparable from settling in the finest wilderness country in the world, are sufficiently formidable and discouraging, but the hostile spirit of the Indians harassed them still more, and the savages were only at last appeased by the payment of large sums for the wild animals which the English colonists had killed.

During the American war, several other families left New-England, and planted themselves on the lands adjoining Mougerville. This district became then the seat of the court of law, and obtained the name of Sunbury.

At the peace of 1783, there were about eight hundred inhabitants in this part of the province. They endured many hardships before they secured ample means to subsist on; but it appears, however, that private dissensions and separate interests formed no small share of the evils that prevented their prosperity.

Three thousand persons from Nantucket arrived at the River St. John in the spring succeeding the peace with America. Many of these were men who served during the war; twelve hundred more from the same place followed during the autumn of the same year. The sufferings of these settlers were extremely severe. They had previously enjoyed all the comforts which a country, subdued and cultivated by the endurance and industry of their forefathers, afforded, and they had all at once to encounter all the horrors of an approaching winter, without houses to shelter them, amid the wilds of New Brunswick. Their sufferings are described as follow, by a gentleman now residing at Fredericton, in a small pamphlet descriptive of the province:—"The difficulties," he says, "which the first settlers were exposed to, continued for a long time almost insurmountable. On their arrival they found a few hovels where St. John's is now built, the adjacent country exhibiting a most desolate aspect, which was peculiarly discouraging to people who had just left their homes in the beautiful and cultivated parts of the United States. Up the river St. John, the country appeared better, and a few cultivated spots were found unoccupied by old settlers. At St. Ann's, where Fredericton is now built, a few scattered French huts were found; the country all round being a continued wilderness, uninhabited, and untraced, except by the savages and wild animals; and scarcely had these firm friends of their country (American loyalists) begun to construct their cabins, when they were surprised by the rigours of an untried climate; their habitations being enveloped in snow before they were tenable. The climate at that period (from what cause has not yet been satisfactorily ascertained,) being far more severe than at present, they were frequently put to the greatest straits for food and clothing to preserve their existence; a few roots were all that tender mothers could at times procure to allay the importunate calls of their children for food. Sir Guy Carlton had ordered them provisions for the first year, at the expense of government; but, as the country was not much cultivated at that time, food could scarcely be procured on any terms. Frequently had these settlers to go from fifty to one hundred miles, with hand-sleds, or toboggans, through wild woods, or on the ice, to procure a precarious supply for their famishing families. The privations and sufferings of these people almost exceed belief. The want of food and clothing in a wild country was no easily dispensed with, or soon remedied. Frequently, in the piercing cold of winter, a part of the family had to remain up during the night to keep fire in their huts to prevent the other part from freezing. Some very destitute families made use of boards to supply the want of bedding; the father, or some of the older children, remaining up by turns, and warming two suitable boards, which they applied alternately to the