

burden which oppress them, the more imperatively should it weigh upon their consciences to make themselves acquainted with the relations of these colonies to European politics and their real interests. Yet, from Mr. McGregor's work, we collect every where that their policy has been at the best wavering and indecisive; and in some instances, fatally blind; of which we cannot need a better evidence than the fact of their having, by express treaty, co-operated in the re-establishment of the French at the entrance of the St. Lawrence; thus willfully restoring a baleful influence, whose expulsion from those regions makes so memorable a page in our British colonial history.

Such being the darkness which prevails even in the highest quarters upon these great interests, we have all reason for peculiar gratitude to any writer who labours effectually to disperse it. That task is neither easy nor pleasant: it can rest securely only upon strong arguments supported by numerous facts, and upon facts in the largest extent improved into their true bearing by arguments the strongest. A book of mere statistics is blind, a book of mere reasoning is weak. In the first, very few readers can find their road; in the second, where the road is officiously pointed out, the reader distrusts his guide. Mr. McGregor's book is, in this respect, constructed upon the right plan. It is not, as might perhaps have been expected in a case where details so copious had been collected, too laboriously, a book stuffed merely with the dry bones of statistics. Yet, on the other hand, the opinions and leading doctrines of the writer are every where sufficiently supported by massy facts and numerical calculations—giving a basis to what otherwise were pure hypothesis, and bringing within the light of palpable evidence what might else have appeared mere conjectural speculation. Coming at this time, such a book discharges a critical service. For the colonies of British America are now making gigantic strides, such as will soon antique and superannuate the feeble and indeterminate policy which has hitherto conducted their affairs in the British Cabinet; and it is only in the interval between wars, that any powerful efforts can be made at home for breathing a new life into the councils which should watch over their development.

It is more for her own sake than for any danger which her influence, however abused, can ultimately menace these colonies, that we have reason to pray for the triumph of sound councils in this chapter of the British policy. The loss of so important a base as her North American provinces, would inflict a heavy wound upon the reputation of England, and the European estimate of her power. SHE would suffer; but on THEM such a separation would fall lightly. They would soon manifest their self-sufficing powers for repelling aggression, and for exercising all the functions of an independent state. To them no power could be really formidable in a military sense, except the great Republic on their frontiers. But as her purposes could be no other than that of incorporation into her own federal system, there would be no reason for apprehending a sanguinary war of devastation. France, from the advantages of her position amongst the parties engaged, might sow momentary dissensions by means of intrigue. But eventually it would be the great domineering interests on each side which would determine the result; and both parties would make their final election with the dignity of an independent choice, and according to the pure balance of political interest. England, therefore, apart, there is not much to chequer the prospects, or to throw gloom upon External relations, of these provinces. It is, therefore, by a double obligation the duty of a power which stands in this predicament, and holds its influence by a sort of filial suzerainty and prescriptive reverence, to wield it for none but the most benevolent purposes, and in a spirit of parental tenderness. Towards this (as indeed towards any consistent) end, the first step is—to make ourselves well acquainted with the real interests of the provinces which we are undertaking to benefit and foster. Without us they have sufficient internal sources of prosperity: let us be cautiously on our guard that they lose none through our interference.

On such a line of policy perhaps no book, before Mr. McGregor's, could furnish us with any adequate assistance. His challenges our especial notice from this cause—that it is thoroughly comprehensive. Any former work that we know of, supposing even that this information were sufficiently recent, is liable to this great objection—that, by confining itself to one province or two at the most, it foregoes the possibility of rising to a general survey of the foreign relations which connect the whole of these provinces with Great Britain and Europe. Viewed as an aggregate, our North American colonies present a character and a political position which cannot be ascribed to any one of them individually. And it is necessary that they should be considered collectively, in order to appreciate the importance which even each singly may attain. Nova Scotia, for instance, taken separately, and resting on her own resources, will hardly be supposed entitled to any very magnificent prospects; yet, as Mr. McGregor observes, so great is her capacity for a higher destiny in combination with a state already powerful—that she alone, by supplying one capital want, would render the great American Republic independent of Europe. All these provinces in fact have some natural adaptation to the imperfection of each other. And this it is which makes a comprehensive view, like that before us, no less essential to the truth and accuracy of the several parts than of the total result. In point of correctness also, as respects the great mass of the information furnished, we may presume Mr. McGregor to have had one advantage peculiar to himself—that much of it has been obtained from the records of the Chamber of Commerce in Halifax, an authentic source of such details not previously laid open to any traveller.

No town, however, is more heard of in this country, on account of its immense timber trade, than that of Miramichi. We mention it here as connected with one of those tremendous fires which sometimes arise in the American forests, and spread havoc by circles of longitude and latitude. In the autumn of 1825, such a calamity occurred on the river Miramichi, which extended 140 miles in length, and in some places 70 in breadth.

Such disasters, however, are repaired in wonderfully short space of time; wooden cities being easily rebuilt in a country where timber is a weed. Weed, however, as it is in a domestic sense, by means of exportation to English markets, timber has turned out a more valuable possession to New-Brunswick than diamond mines could possibly have proved to a country in her situation. Mr. McGregor gives us a very impressive picture of the mode in which timber is cut, hauled to the banks of rivers, and finally floated in the shape of rafts to Miramichi or other ports. The class of people engaged in these labours are called Lumberers; they live like Indians in the woods; and a life of greater hardship than theirs, or labours carried on under circumstances

of more romantic peril and difficulty, we do not suppose to exist any where on this planet.

Mr. McGregor's account of these people has all the interest of a romance with the truth of history. Yet they are cheerful, and as passionately attached to their own mode of life, though entailing upon them a premature old age, as the chamois-hunters of the Alps. Danger, like the risk in gambling, comes at length to be loved for its own sake.

It is urged, however, that this pursuit has a tendency to demoralize the people engaged in it; and on that ground chiefly has been raised a project by our present Ministers for loading the colonial timber with an additional duty of ten shillings a load, at the same time reducing the duty on foreign timber five. On this point, Mr. McGregor makes a powerful representation, on the one hand, of extravagant follies connected with this new financial plan, and, on the other, of the benefits to this country from the timber trade as now conducted. The heads of his statement are these: First, it employs about three hundred thousand tons of British shipping, and sixteen thousand seamen. Secondly, it supplies to England annually about four hundred thousand loads of timber. Thirdly, it takes off, in payment for this, British manufactures to the value, at first cost, of more than two millions sterling. Fourthly, the timber ships having a home freight find it to be in their power to carry out emigrants at one half the fares which would otherwise be required. And accordingly in 1830 alone, out of forty thousand British settlers in North America, more than three-fourths were carried out at these reduced rates by the timber ships. With these and other facts before him, luminously stated in the present work, Lord Althorp must be a bold man indeed if he can seriously proceed with his financial changes, which will have the effect of destroying this important branch of industry at one blow.

Yet these interests, vast as they are, sink in importance by the side of those which are connected with Canada; so much larger is the scale, and so much more comprehensive, upon which these last are expanding. In 1763, about the time when our possession of Canada was finally secured by treaty, its total population was rated at seventy thousand. It is now, according to Mr. McGregor, nine hundred thousand; of which one-third belong to the upper province, and the other two to the lower. The total militia of Canada consists of eighty-five thousand men. In 1830, the imports of Canada amounted to £1,771,245; and the exports to nearly two millions. Twenty years ago, all the vessels of every description which arrived in Canada, amounted to 341, registering about 52 thousand tons. At present without enumerating coasters, or fishing vessels, river or lake craft, Canada gives employment to about one thousand ships, registering about 220,000 tons; and navigated by eleven thousand seamen. These items in the account of its prosperity we mention as expressing, in a shape easily understood, the amount of advance which she has made; and it must be recollected that this expansion is continually going on. In reality, if Great Britain had no other possession in North America, she would have the basis of a great empire. The mere river St. Lawrence is a sufficient exponent of the great destiny which the hand of nature has assigned to this region. Perhaps few readers are aware that the river St. Lawrence is the greatest in the world. Mr. McGregor asserts this, and, considering the breadth of this river in connexion with its length, and the prodigious size of the lakes into which it continually opens, we believe that he is right.

We shall make some further extracts from this interesting, and highly complimentary Review, in our next.

**TEARS.**—Many and manifold are the fountains of tears, that lie within the human heart. There are tears of sorrow, and there are tears of joy; but their founts lie almost upon its surface, and in the spring-time of youth, readily gush forth, and are often soon drained: happy are those whose eyes know only these; even happy if they know only the former of them: but there are other tears, whose sources lie deeper, and whose streams rise not, till the heart, that holds them, be shaken by some mighty convulsion; tears of anguish and of horror; tears of rage, of hate, of remorse, of hopelessness; and bitter and burning are all of these:—but their bitterness and their burning, are as honey and oil, compared with those tears, that spring not forth, until the heart, that has been all but shattered with its throes, sinks into torpor and numbness; till, as it were, its very foundations having been rent in sunder by shock after shock, the agitation subsides, and then flow these most terrible—tears; neither of anguish, nor of horror; nor of rage, hate, remorse, nor hopelessness—but a commingling and confusion of them all, without one drop of sweetness or of balm to allay them, easing not, relieving not, aiding not. Such were the tears, that now, heavily and hotly, like molten metal, swelled and dropped from the eyes of Alberic. *From Dramatic Stories: by T. Arnold, Esq.*

**MAXIMS AND AXIOMS.** If you wish to please in this world, you should muster resolution sufficient to allow yourself to be taught many things which you know, by persons who know nothing about them.

Love, which lives in storms and often increases in the midst of treachery, cannot always resist the calm of fidelity.

R. says he has been acquainted with women from every country in Europe: the Italian thinks she is beloved only when her lover is capable of committing a crime for her; the Englishwoman, when he is ready to perform a rash act; the French woman, a silly one.

As the rose-tree is composed of the sweetest flowers, and the sharpest thorns; as the heavens are sometimes fair and sometimes overcast, alternately tempestuous and serene; so is the life of man intermingled with hopes and fears, with joys and sorrows, with pleasures and with pains.

While reform in politics is distracting the world, and calling forth the energies of all parties in support of those systems in which they are respectively concerned, it is gratifying to observe, that the cause of religion and morality is not entirely submerged in the conflicting interests of worldly policy.

To the mind accustomed to contemplate man as a moral and responsible being, no situation of employment can appear so dignified and important as that which would guard him against present misery and eternal ruin. To the truth and importance of this observation, thousands in the present day are fully alive, and many from principle, and perhaps more from policy, volunteer their services to promote those objects which are held in estimation by the wise and the good. Multitudes are united in the most benevolent enterprises, and by harmony and co-operation, are effecting much, which individual effort could never have accomplished. Perhaps no association of mere human invention could be better adapted to the present circumstances of this country, and promise more happy results were it to become general, than that whose object is to arrest the progress of Intemperance, and stay its murderous ravages.

A few indeed, have magnanimously embarked in this noble enterprise, manifesting courage to acknowledge that they are not too wise still to learn, and possessing boldness to encounter the opposition of the vicious and interested, and to withstand the ridicule and contempt of the blind supporters of old systems however pernicious their consequences. All that has yet been effected however, is as nothing, compared with what remains still to be done; and till more of the influence of the country is enlisted in the Temperance cause, the work of reformation cannot rapidly advance. To secure this, may by many be accounted a hopeless undertaking; but let not the friends of Temperance despair. By what they have already accomplished, they ought to be animated to still greater exertions, and hope for more than former success.

Many will aid in circulating intelligence upon the subject, who will not withhold their bottle from their neighbour's mouth, nor cease to indulge, occasionally, in the exhilarating beverage; and many set a private example of total abstinence, who refuse to enrol themselves on any society's lists. If then, those who have already openly engaged in this important contest, will but vigorously pursue the advantage they have gained, their ranks may yet be extended by recruits, with whose assistance they may obtain a glorious triumph. Let the Press be enlisted in their service. Let them appeal to the sympathies of the benevolent, in behalf of their perishing brethren. Let them call upon the faithful ministers of religion, to exert all their influence to wrest from the great adversary of men, the most destructive engine which he here employs for the accomplishment of his diabolical purposes. Let them petition the bench of Magistrates within their respective districts, to afford them their countenance and support in their attempts to ameliorate the condition of civil society. Let them solicit their interference to diminish the number of those pesthouses which superabound in all parts of the country, and, under sanction of the laws, deal out destruction and death to the unwary, the dissipated, and the profligate. If this could be accomplished, and I feel persuaded it is only necessary to make the experiment, to ensure success, with many of our enlightened Justices, the inebriating resources of many an unfortunate, would be cut off, and sobriety would often be enforced by necessity, where it would not be practised as a virtue. Could this be effected, the way-worn traveller would often be more comfortably accommodated on many of our roads through the country—peace and harmony would prevail in many an interesting family, where already the demon of domestic discord has commenced an usurped dominion—and many a hopeful youth would be trained to habits of sobriety and industry, who is now serving an apprenticeship to idleness and ebriety.

The winter Sessions is now approaching when the annual Tavern Licenses will be applied for, throughout the various counties in the Province.—In one of these, at least, the propriety of limiting the issue, would be strongly urged, and if the different Societies, throughout the Country, were to make a simultaneous movement of this description, there is good reason to believe these petitions would not be altogether disregarded. Were the intent of the magistracy thus secured, the friends of Temperance would not feel so sensibly the apathy and difference, not to say the opposition of the proposed followers of Jesus, who went about continually doing good; nor despair of soon seeing the nominal ministers of peace forced, by a regard to their own reputation, into that service in which love to God and to the souls of men, cannot yet prevail upon them to engage.

MONITOR.

November 25, 1832.