

In every part of this province, too, the harder kinds of the grape vine, which is nearly coincident in range with Indian corn, ripen their delicious fruit. Here, too, the melon and tomato come to maturity, and the apple can be cultivated. This district is at present by far the most populous of the whole country. It contains the largest cities and the greatest amount of realized wealth. It is, therefore, desirable to look closely into the productions which its climate allows to be its staple.

The greater part of our Dominion is peculiarly favored as respects climatological adaptation to the growth of wheat, but this part of it is that on which we chiefly rely for our supplies of this important cereal. The Richelieu district derived its name from its rich yield of agricultural produce, chief of which, in former times, was wheat, and the white wheat of Ontario is now famous. When the insect pests, which have for many years past injured our harvests, have disappeared, we shall proudly boast at least ten bushels to the acre more than any soil in the States which do not actually touch our boundaries, for the valleys of the Mississippi up to Central Iowa and of the Ohio up to Cincinnati are too humid and tropical for wheat; so is the Southern part of Virginia, while even in Central Illinois and Southern Maryland quality and quantity both suffer.

The barley of this district is the best on the continent of America. It ripens here later in the year than in the more Southern United States, on which account its grain is more plump, and less liable to stain. Barley is essentially a Northern cereal, and as long as our climate is colder than our neighbours', we shall grow it of better quality.

Oats, too, love the North. They yield more bushels to the acre here than they do further South: and probably weigh more per bushel.

Lorin Blodget, the great authority on the climatology of North America, says that corn yields most abundantly near its Northern limit. It can hardly be said to be a staple in any part of Canada, but if this statement be correct it may become so.*

One other matter deserves especial mention. We do not believe there is a single spot in any of the settled parts of Canada or the sister Provinces where the cultivated grasses will not thrive. Blodget says that "on the sandy plains of New Jersey and in some parts of New England the English grasses fail, though the cause is not climatological. But on the prairies of some of the States east of the Mississippi the climate assists to limit them, through light summer temperature and long periods of drought. West of the Mississippi the climate is still less favorable, and as the soil has less of the retentive character in receding from the Mississippi, the favorite *cultivated turf* almost wholly fails." The truth appears to be that the extreme summer heat of the middle States kills it; the winter cold of New England and many of the Western States, unaccompanied by snow, destroys it. We in Canada are favored with a less torrid summer and by a covering of snow in winter, which preserves and invigorates its roots. Hence, probably, the superior excellence of our sheep, both in flesh and fleece.

4. The extreme South-west of the Province of Ontario.—This is the tract most favored by climate of any in Canada: the southern section of the peninsula of Ontario inclining towards Lake Erie, including also the regions between Lakes Erie and Ontario, and Lakes Erie and St. Clair. It is distinguished from the rest by its adaptability to the growth of many kinds of fruit, shrubs and flowers which will not come to perfection in the rest of the Dominion. Here the peach ripens, as a standard, in the open air. The finer kinds of grape grow well; the vines needing little, if any, protection from winter frosts. Indeed, the district close to the Niagara River, near the Detroit River, together with the Islands in Lake Erie, are better adapted for the cultivation of the grape than any of the more southern parts of Ohio or New York. The tulip tree blossoms, the catalpa is not cut down by frost, the chestnut bears; the finest kinds of pears and apples can be cultivated. The mean temperature of the months in this district is hardly established by a sufficiently long series of observations, but it is about as follows:—

—	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May.	June	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Year.
Windsor(O.).....	27.0	26.6	35.4	46.3	56.0	65.6	69.7	67.5	60.0	47.7	38.2	26.9	47.8

5. The North Shores of Lakes Huron and Superior.—Little is yet known concerning these. In some parts, immediately on the shore, oats and barley grow well. To the northward, at the dividing ridge between waters flowing into the Lakes and into the Hudson's Bay, it is difficult to raise even potatoes. The capabilities of the intervening country are probably governed by local peculiarities—the configuration of the hills, the aspect of the slopes, the character of the soil. We give the monthly temperature of Fort William, Thunder Bay, Lake Superior, &c., &c. :—

—	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May.	June	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Year.
Thunder Bay.....	5.7	8.2	22.7	31.4	48.9	58.7	62.2	58.8	48.2	41.9	23.4	18.1	35.7

6. The Prairie Country of the West.—Here the isothermal of the summer months rises rapidly. Fort Garry and the Saskatchewan have the same mean summer temperature as the most favored parts of the St. Lawrence valley—as Central Pennsylvania and Southern New England. The winter isotherm is that of Quebec. The natural vegetation is luxuriant, so travellers all agree. The farmers of the Red River Settlement produce fine crops of wheat and corn and hay. The soil is evidently rich, certainly in the basins of the Red River, the Assiniboine and the Saskatchewan, and there appears no reason why these regions should not very shortly become highly attractive to agricultural settlement.

We now revert to the climate of the two Oceanic Provinces—Nova Scotia and Newfoundland.

1. Nova Scotia.—The general features of the climate of Nova Scotia are easily to be learned from the following table of mean temperatures of the months at Halifax, taken from a paper read before the Nova Scotia Institute of Physical Sciences, by Col. Byers. Observations taken at Wolfville, in the interior of the country, and kindly forwarded by Prof. D. F. Higgins show a temperature a couple of degrees lower for the winter months, but higher in summer :—

* It is somewhat singular that what may be designated as its decided success is so nearly co-incident with the extremes of its possible limits. It is still more extraordinary that the district of maximum production lies so far north of the native latitudes, and really near the northern extreme of its position. In New York, the Southern New England States and Ohio, or from the 42° to the 43° parallels, the maximum of productions of this staple is attained, and this maximum is of the entire sum of its growth,—leaf, nutritive matter in the stem and grain. Though the stem is of less size than farther south, there is a greater weight of it grown on equal areas, and the grain is in equal excess.—*Blodget's Climatology of the U. S.*