

**A TRIP TO MANITOBA:
OR, ROUGHING IT ON
THE LINE**

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A trip to Manitoba: or, Roughing it on the line by Mary FitzGibbon

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MARY FITZGIBBON

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BY
MARY FITZGIBBON.



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DEDICATED

TO

Lady Dufferin.

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PREFACE TO CANADIAN EDITION.

IT is one of the peculiarities of life in this "New World" that railways, which were first desired as a means of more readily carrying traffic already existing between towns, or entrepôts of trade already built up, have come with us to be used as a means of settling the wilderness.

The backwoodsmen of forty years ago looked forward hopefully to the time when, his settlement having become populous and important enough, he might reasonably expect the extension of the railway system to his doors. The settler of to-day is unwilling to take up lands which are not within easy distance of at least a projected railway, if not one in course of construction.

The Canadian Pacific Railway, west of Winnipeg, is destined to be (as several Trunk lines south of it have been) a great colonization worker. Between Winnipeg and Lake Superior the line is a necessity to afford access from Canadian waters to the fertile lands of our great North-West. Its chances, as a colonization road, until those richer lands further on are filled up, are doubtless not very great. The country is, in a large part, rough and not easy to subdue by culture.

The plunge into this howling wilderness of wood, lake and rock, interspersed, and not rendered more valuable or romantic, by vast swamps or muskegs, to find a practicable railway route through it and build a line so far away from towns and the comforts of civilization, was a rough task for men. For women still harder, although it was but to accompany and care for them, to repeat in a new form what women have done when "roughing it in the bush" in the now settled parts of Canada forty years ago.

The writer of this sketch of rough life, under a novel combination of circumstances, with constant

telegraphic communication with the outer world and railway work before them, has drawn a faithful picture, with a hope that it may be read with some interest now as a representation of one phase of the march of civilization into the wilderness and in the future, by those who go up to possess that goodly land, as a record of the rude work done to open a pathway for them to their new homes.

OTTAWA, *July, 1830.*

