

**NEW BRUNSWICK,  
AS A HOME FOR  
EMIGRANTS**

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New Brunswick, as a Home for Emigrants by J. V. Ellis

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**J. V. ELLIS**

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# NEW BRUNSWICK,

AS A HOME FOR EMIGRANTS:

BY J. V. ELLIS,

OF ST. JOHN, N.B.



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uses of man; ships have been built and sent to their home upon the bosom of the ocean; cities and towns have been erected and property accumulated, worth at this moment over twenty millions of pounds.

At the commencement of the year 1783, New Brunswick was a wilderness; the only settlements being a few on the River Saint John and at the North Shore, but so small and sparsely populated as to be hardly deserving of the name. In the summer of that year a body of Loyalists from the United States, numbering about 6,000 persons, settled at the mouth of the River Saint John. What a contrast this, as compared with the New Brunswick of 1880. The evidence of material wealth are now everywhere visible: they are to be seen in the cultivated valley, smiling with prosperity, in the busy factory and the bustling city; in the railroad and the steamboat; and, above all, in the contentment and happiness that everywhere prevails.

Herein are described the country, its soil, climate, and resources; the progress it has made, and its institutions; and it will require little in the way of argument to prove that New Brunswick holds out inducements, no where else exceeded, to those who have their own fortunes to make, whose capital is their labour, and in whom busy brains, toiling hands and willing hearts are the only pre-requisites for success; or to those who, in addition to these endowments, are already possessed of wealth, and seek for channels in which to increase it.

#### THE PROVINCE GENERALLY.

New Brunswick and Nova Scotia formerly constituted one Province. In 1784 a separation took place, since when New Brunswick has enjoyed a distinct Colonial existence. The Geographical limits of the Province are within the degrees of 45deg. 1' 37" north latitude, and between the parallels of 63deg. and 69deg. west longitude. Situated between Canada and Nova Scotia, and separated from Prince Edward Island by only a narrow strait, New Brunswick may be said to be the centre of the Colonial system of England on the Atlantic Coast of America. Canada lies to the north, the State of Maine to the west, and Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island to the east. The Province has a sea coast of considerably over 400 miles; her shores are washed by the Gulf of Saint Lawrence and the Bay of Fundy, and along this extensive coast line there are numerous fine harbours and bays well adapted for the purposes of commerce. The area of New Brunswick is 27,620 square miles—larger than Belgium and Holland united, nearly twice the size of Switzerland, and larger than either Denmark or Greece. Her greatest length is 210 miles, her greatest breadth 180. The natural features of the Province are picturesque rather than bold and startling, in the sense that the traveller who has visited the Alps or the Andes, understands these words. A range of mountains, the highest of which is 2,170 feet, *extend from the American frontier near the Grand Falls of the River*

Saint John, across the Province to the Gulf of Saint Lawrence, skirting along the coasts of Gloucester and Bestigouche; another range of hills commences near Lake Chepoutneticook and runs east to the Saint John, and smaller ranges of hills cross the country in various directions; but, notwithstanding these, the general character of the surface of the country is undulating, inclining to be level rather than mountainous. The counties bordering on the Gulf of Saint Lawrence as far south as Kent, are alternate hill and dale; Kent is almost as level as a Western Prairie. Along the southern coast, for a distance of twenty miles inland, the land is nearly level; behind this level strip is a range of hills developed in some degree in the County of Kings. The valleys between these hills are rich in agricultural wealth, and even to the tops of the hills the forest trees are growing in luxuriant profusion. The country on each side of the river Saint John is in keeping with the other portions of the Province; for miles are tracts of level land, gradually swelling into hills, and then for a long distance, hill and dale alternate—the former rising at times to the dignity of a mountain, and the latter subsiding into a valley; then the banks become abrupt and steep, and again they are terrace like, sloping away with a graceful incline from the water's edge.

New Brunswick is divided into fourteen counties, all of which are accessible by water. In this respect Nature has bestowed her gifts with no niggard hand, for the counties not bordering on the Gulf of Saint Lawrence or the Bay of Fundy, front on the River Saint John, while through their interior run numerous smaller streams, feeders for the main river, and navigable for various distances, thus opening up these counties for the enjoyment of, or at least a participation in, the ocean trade of the Province. This is an advantage not to be underrated, for no matter in what county the settler locates, he finds himself within easy reach of navigable water.

#### THE RIVERS OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

The Rivers of New Brunswick are so numerous, that it would be impossible in the limits of a work like this, to mention in detail even a third part of them. It can be safely said, that, in comparison to its size, no other country in the world has such a great and useful water power. Indeed, the whole face of the Province is covered with rivers, and no inconsiderable number of them are of a size and volume equal to many of the best known rivers of Europe; the scenery along their banks is raised to an eminent degree of beauty by foaming cascades and gushing falls, here so numerous as to excite little attention on account of their picturesqueness. These rivers teem with fish, and their banks are the resort of almost every species of game peculiar to the country. But the beauty of their scenery, or their value to the sportsman, are nothing compared to the facilities they afford in the settlement of the Province. They open up the finest tracts of country to the farmer: they enable the labourer to bring the

products of the forest to an easy market; they fertilize the soil, and exert a genial influence upon the climate; and, in future years, as wealth increases, factories and mills innumerable will spring up along their banks, giving employment to thousands of industrious people.

The River St. John is second in importance to the St. Lawrence. It is to New Brunswick what that river is to Canada—a great natural highway for commerce. The Saint John has its rise in the Mejermette Portage, in the highlands between Canada and the State of Maine, and for a considerable distance is the boundary line between that state and the sister Province, and between Maine and New Brunswick. Its entire length is 460 miles. From its mouth, at the harbour of Saint John to a point above the Grand Falls (where it commences as the boundary line), it runs for 225 miles exclusively through British territory; its east bank only, for a distance of 75 miles further up towards its source, is within the Province,—its west, for the same distance belongs to Maine; 112 miles above this its course is entirely through American territory; and a further distance of 88 miles to its source, it is the dividing line between Canada and Maine. The basin of the Saint John extends over an area of 17,000,000 acres, 9,000,000 of which are within the Province, and comprise, for the most part, some of the finest land on the continent. The Saint John is navigable for vessels of about 100 tons to Fredericton, 80 miles from its mouth, and steamers, of light draft of water, ply to Woodstock, 62 miles further up, and at some periods of the year they ascend as far as the Grand Falls.

Many of the rivers that enter the Saint John are navigable for steamers for various distances—some of them for as many as thirty miles from their confluence with the main river. By smaller craft they can be navigated almost to their sources. It is impossible to enter into any details respecting these rivers, however desirable it may be to do so, for the purpose of describing the fertile lands and magnificent forests, opened up by the Saint John and its tributaries, to the trade of the world, because it would occupy by far too much space to do so, and mete out justice to each one.

The scenery on the River Saint John in the summer season, and in early autumn, is extolled by disinterested travellers, as being superior to any river scenery in North America, but this is disputed by those who have at the same seasons explored the Restigouche.

The number of travellers who pass up and down the Saint John annually is estimated at from 60,000 to 70,000.

Next in importance to the Saint John is the Restigouche, which empties into the Bay Chaleur. Its entire length is over 200 miles; its basin is 4,000 square miles; it is navigable for vessels of a large size eighteen miles from the head of the Bay Chaleur. Many of its tributaries are very large, and its navigable waters, and those of its tributaries, are calculated to extend at least 400 miles.

*The Miramichi discharges* itself into the gulf of Saint Lawrence,



For a distance of 40 miles along its bank it is navigable for vessels of 800 tons, and it might be so improved as to open it up for ships of 1,000 tons; it divides into two branches, each of which are navigable for a distance of 100 miles. It has a large number of tributaries.

The Richibucto is navigable for ships fifteen miles, and the tide flows inland twenty-six miles. It empties into the Gulf of Saint Lawrence.

There are several other rivers emptying into the Gulf,—as the Nequisiquit, Kouchibouguac, Bectouche, Shediac, Cocagne, Tabusintac—all of which are navigable for various distances. But those named do not comprise anything like the entire list.

Besides the Saint John, there are other rivers of less importance discharging into the Bay of Fundy, as the Potcodiac, which is 100 miles long, and is navigable for nearly 50 miles, the Saint Croix, Maguadavic, Musquash, Memramcook, etc. With the exception of the Saint John, the rivers emptying into the Bay of Fundy, are not near so large as those emptying into the Gulf of Saint Lawrence.

In the interior of the country are several large lakes, which are drained by the different rivers. One of the largest of these—Grand Lake—is 20 miles in length, and is navigable from one end to the other, and for a considerable distance up one of its tributaries. There are other navigable lakes, nearly equal in size to Grand Lake.

#### THE HARBOURS.

With such an extensive coast line as New Brunswick possesses, she cannot be without several fine harbours. The principal of these on the Bay of Fundy are Saint John Harbour, Saint Andrews, Chignecto and Shepody Bays, and Cumberland Basin. On the Gulf of Saint Lawrence, the mouths of the different rivers form good harbours; at the head of the Bay Chaleur are one or two very fine harbours; Miramichi Bay is a fine sheet of water. There are several other smaller harbours.

The capacity of these harbours varies; but some of them, as Saint John, Restigouche, and Miramichi, are capable of receiving ships of the largest tonnage.

#### THE CLIMATE.

Nothing is less understood abroad than the characteristics of the climate of this province. The people of Great Britain entertain an idea that this is a country where one-half of a man's life is passed in a continual shiver, that it is here so cold as to be destructive to health, so foggy as to keep one continually wet, and generally so unpleasant as to allow only about one-half the pleasure usually enjoyed in other places. Yet, this is the reverse of the fact, and ~~some~~ ~~one~~ ~~may~~ ~~say~~—

prised to find it so than Englishmen themselves, who come here with their minds made up to shiver with the cold, as emigrants to the far west are supposed to do with the ague. Persons from the old country, who reside here for several years, generally testify that their imagination of the country was much colder than the country itself.

The average range of the mercury in Fahrenheit's thermometer is from 88dgs. above to 18 dgs. below zero. At the Grand Falls of the River Saint John, at Woodstock, Fredericton, and other places in the interior, it is sometimes lower than 18dgs. in winter, and in summer it is occasionally above 88dgs., but cases of this nature are not common.

The whole number of days in the year during which the mercury in the thermometer is below zero, rarely exceeds twenty. The winter of 1859-60 produced but fifteen in the City of Saint John, and on one of these days only, and that at seven o'clock, A.M., was the mercury at 15dgs. below; at midday it was about 4dgs. It rarely happens that more than four days occur together when the mercury is below zero at all. There are generally in the course of the winter season three or four intervals of cold weather, and these occur over the whole breadth of America, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, at the same time or nearly so. Towards the close of December, the middle of January, and between the 5th and 21st February, these cold intervals occur: between them are thaws, rains, and comparatively warm, sunny days, during which the average range of the mercury is from 10dgs. to 40.

There is, of course, a difference of temperature in different parts of the Province. The atmosphere which surrounds those places near the sea is always more humid than that of inland places; and thus, in summer the coast is cooler than the interior, while, from the same cause it is warmer in winter.

In general the winters are pleasant; and a few days of extreme cold are nothing in comparison with the average amount of fine weather. But the winter here is a necessity. Providence seems to have designed every thing in its proper season, for a great portion of the trade of the Province depends upon its winters: it is during this season that the operations of the lumberman are carried on to the greatest advantage, and what is termed an "open winter," that is, one in which there is an undue amount of rains and thaws, has often a bad effect upon his labour.

Nor is it the lumberer alone that is benefited. The frosts of winter and the amount of snow that falls have the effect of adding to the general fertility of the soil; and it has always been found that, after a winter in which there has not been too great an alternation of heat and cold, the ground is much more easily worked than it is after a mild winter.

*There is another thing with respect to the winters which should not be overlooked; that is the amount of enjoyment they bring to a*

great portion of the people, in the way of the usual winter sports. Any person who has spent a year in Saint John must testify that there is more social pleasure, more exhilarating sport and innocent amusement, more genial good fellowship cultivated at this season, than at any other; and the same may be said of the whole Province.

The summers are warm, and have the effect of developing vegetation at a rapid rate. In the interior of the Province the heat is greater than on the sea coast, where (as already stated) the temperature is reduced by the sea; but in some of the lovely valleys of the interior, the calm blue sky, the green and luxuriant vegetation, the indescribably balmy quiet that prevails, remind one of the summers of Italy; though, of course, the summer season is much shorter than that of Southern Europe.

As the season advances towards the autumn months, the summer still lingers, as if regretting to quit the scenes of beauty it has created—and then is produced the "Indian summer," a season of rare and exquisite loveliness, that unites the warmth of summer with the mellowness of autumn.

The prevailing summer winds are the west, southwest, and south.

Another erroneous idea that obtains to a great extent in England, is in respect to the fogs of New Brunswick. The country is often described as "foggy;" yet the reverse of this is the fact. That portion of the coast bordering upon the Bay of Fundy is, it is true, visited by fogs; but the extent of country covered by them does not justify the application of the epithet to the whole Province. As well might England be termed a "foggy country," because of the almost impenetrable fogs which sometimes envelope London. The counties on the Gulf of Saint Lawrence and in the interior, are entirely free from the unwelcome visitor; and even that portion of the Province bordering on the bay of Fundy does not suffer so immensely as is imagined.

The rain that falls throughout all the British Colonies in America is more equally distributed than in corresponding or more southern latitudes of Europe, while the number of rainy days is smaller than in England.

The climate is more or less affected by the Arctic regions, from whence it is said the cold comes in waves, sweeping over the whole continent. It is also affected by the Gulf Stream, which has a softening influence upon it. Its worse feature is not the extreme heat or the extreme cold, but rather the sudden changes to which it is subject, particularly in winter. No better proof of its general salubrity need, however, be required than is shown by the healthiness of the Province. Epidemics are unknown, the proportion of deaths is 1 to 100, while the extreme longevity of many of the early settlers, and the large yields of the crops afford proof positive that the climate is a good one, being largely productive of health, and exercising a beneficial influence upon the soil.