

Towards the Rockies. CHARACTER OF THE COUNTRY AND THE POLICY OF SETTLING IN RAPIDLY.

(Rev. Principal Grant in The Week.)

One sees little anywhere from a railway carriage, and when the country is pretty much of a dead level, covered with a uniform net of thick grass, green or russet, according to the time of year, the view from the window soon ceases to interest, and no one regrets that he misses 200 or 300 miles of it during the night. And we learn as little by hearing and by seeing. The information picked up by the way, chiefly in the odd minutes at stations, is not of the most reliable nature; and nowhere is it so difficult to get at the truth as in the North-West on either side of the boundary line. Of course, it is a part of every man's religion that the country, and his section in particular, must be cracked up. And when you point to indifferent crops, or tell of hardships your friends have encountered, or drawbacks undeniable connected with the North-West, these are at once put down to some malign genius indifferently known as "the Government," or "the Syndicate" or "the banks."

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Trebizond. The Euxine has labored under the misfortune of having few or no harbors on the southern side, which has resulted to the advantage of Russia, which owns the whole of the northern and eastern shores, and the best harbors. It is not so long ago since Trebizond was a sort of emporium for the Circassian slave trade. I well remember, when residing at Trebizond, seeing the little coasters creeping into the roadstead with their decks crowded with Circassian girls for the harems of Constantinople. There is another circumstance of my life there which is still vivid in my memory. One day the Turkish teacher failed to come at the appointed hour. The next he reported that he had been detained

by a deep sleep which had come on him after eating some honey bought of a peasant. Every student remembers that it was honey like this which overpowered Xenophon, and buried them in a death-like slumber on the outskirts of Trapezus. Their leader gave himself up for lost, mourning that after so many toils they should reach so far on their way to perish at last by poison, but on the following day they awoke and found themselves unharmed. It was from Azelias which grew in such abundance in the neighborhood, that bees obtain this subtle narcotic. Another old-time reminiscence may be observed by the archaeologists in the curious fighters which sweep up over the rollers toward the steamer. They are identical in form with the Greek galleys of ancient times, and are undoubtedly a direct perpetuation of ancient naval architecture, of which only one other instance probably exists at the present day. I refer to the fishing galleys of Lisbon. Over the stern of these boats of Trebizond swings the long, oak-like rudder, moved by a standing helmsman. The city itself is composed of winding lanes, which are excessively narrow, but not uncleanly, for the steep slope and the rains are favorable to a result uncommon in Oriental cities. The houses are not visible until one passes the gate of the high surrounding wall. Each dwelling stands in a garden of mulberry, pomegranate and linden trees, interwoven with luxuriant vines. The gates are so low, that one must stoop to enter, a precaution adopted in stormier times, when a man's house was often also his fortress, to defend against the aggressions of a lawless soldiery.—S. G. W. Benjamin, in the Manhattan for February.

Ostrich Farming in California.

Ostrich farming, which has proved so profitable in Southern Africa, is being tried with fair success in California. The farm is situated near Anaheim, and comprises 640 acres of alkali soil. To obviate this evil the ground was ploughed very deep, water turned on it, which, after being allowed to remain a short time, was drawn off; thus taking with it a portion of the alkali in solution. This was repeated until the land was in a condition to be cultivated. Ostrich eggs are about six inches long, by five wide, and are equal in bulk to twenty-four hens' eggs; the chick is hatched in forty-two days, and shortly attains the size of an ordinary hen; a light brown down covers it, and at the back and wings are projecting needles similar to a hedgehog. At the age of one month the size of a turkey is reached, and small feathers begin to appear. At six months the plumes have attained a good size, but are not cast off until the bird becomes a yearling. Young ostriches are kept in flocks from twelve to fifteen, are separated from the old ones, and are gentle and tractable, but after three years become vicious and deceitful. Blindfolding them—which is done by drawing a stocking over their heads—generally takes away their pugnacity, for they will not kick without knowing what they are attempting to strike. The eggs are not fruitful because, as the owner states, the birds are getting acclimated, and it is a well-known fact that eggs laid by birds in captivity are barren. Even if all attempts to hatch the eggs should fail, the value of the feathers alone will cover the expense of tending the animals for the year. These are generally cut only once a year, cut with great care and attention two or even three crops of feathers can be obtained. The best plumes come from North Africa, but the crop is small compared with that of Cape Colony, Natal, and the Transvaal. Since 1862 ostrich farming has greatly increased in these countries, and it is now estimated that there are 100,000 domestic ostriches, which yield feathers worth £9,000,000.

Special Notices.

NOTICE TO THE CARNIVAL SKATERS.—We have every facility for taking those in carnival costume; and it is our intention to make a grand combination group. We invite all those taking part in the carnival to come and have their photos taken.—G. H. COOK & CO., over Apothecaries' Hall, entrance by Queen Street. [Jan 18 f]
NOTES ON INGERSOLL.—I have for sale at Fletcher's Music Store the Rev. Mr. Lambert's crushing reply to "Bob" Ingersoll, the ablest work in defence of christianity that has appeared within the present century. Only 75 cents.—HAMILTON FLETCHER. [Jan 14 lwy]
KENT MILLS.—The best family flour at "Cheapside."—HENRY BEER. [Oct 25 f]
SKATING BOOTS, the best and cheapest at J. B. MACDONALD'S Boot Store. [Dec 29]
ISLAND FLOUR and Cracked Oats at R. K. BRACE'S. [Dec 27]
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JOHN NEWSON is at the top of the ladder in furniture. Long experience, best quality, greatest variety, and best workmanship. He does not need to advertise that "he is a live" man. The public know it. Go and get real bargains. "Newson's Building," opposite Post Office. [Oct 18 f]
J. B. MACDONALD has a clearing-out sale of winter goods, giving great bargains. [Jan 12]
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ALL WOOL House Blankets cheap at J. B. MACDONALD'S. [Dec 29]
METHODIST PREACHER'S PLAN can be had at George Carter's, Great George Street, or at G. H. HAZARD'S, Queen Square. [Jan 12]
WINTER GOODS slaughtered at J. B. MACDONALD'S. [Jan 12]
A SPLENDID lot of China, Glass, and Earthenware, to be sold cheap at COLWELL'S. [Aug 8 f]
FIVE gallon tins Best American Oil cheap at BIRD & GORR. [Jan 12]

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ON AND AFTER MONDAY, 10th DECEMBER, 1883, trains will run daily as follows (Sundays excepted):—

Table with 4 columns: STATIONS, No. 1, No. 3, STATIONS, No. 2, No. 4. Rows include Charlottetown, Royalty Junction, North Wiltshire, Hunter River, Bradalbane, County Line, Freestown, Kensington, Summerside, Miscouche, Wellington, Port Hill, O'Leary, Bloomfield, Albion, Tignish.

TRAINS DEPART—FOR THE EAST. TRAINS ARRIVE—FROM THE EAST.

Table with 4 columns: STATIONS, No. 5, No. 7, STATIONS, No. 6, No. 8. Rows include Charlottetown, Royalty Junction, York, Bedford, Mount Stewart, Cardigan, Georgetown, Mount Stewart, Morell, St. Peter's, Bear River, Souris.

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JOHN NEWSON. Charlottetown, Jan 2, 1884.—17

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