

Till earth's universal Easter parts her intermingled clay,
And this poor chaotic twilight yields to uncreated day.

And we live a fuller measure of the life we strive for
here—

Not in changeful months and seasons, but one grand
eternal year,

Wherein love is never dying, and where neither sun nor
moon

Lights the land of perfect summer, where it will be
always June.

WESLEY W. ROGERS.

Prince Edward Island in 1765.

THE following account is a letter written by Samuel Holland, describing Prince Edward Island at the time of its first survey in the year 1765. This letter was furnished to Lieut.-Governor Fitzroy by the authorities of Downing St., and in the year 1841 the Provincial Legislature ordered it to be printed. What follows is an exact copy from the Colonial Herald (P. E. I.) for September 11, 1841 :—

Downing Street,

18th November, 1840.

Sir :

Careful search having been made for the ancient map of Prince Edward Island, and for the map or plan of Georgetown, which you were desirous of obtaining for the information of the House of Assembly, I regret to state, that no trace can be found of those documents.

I enclose, however, a copy of a description of the Is-

land, drawn up by Mr. Holland, in October, 1765, which I hope will prove useful to the Assembly.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant

(Signed)

J. RUSSELL.

Lieut. Governor

Sir Charles A. Fitz Roy,

&c. &c. &c.

St. John's is divided into three counties—King's County, on the east part, has four Parishes, viz : St. George's, St. Andrew's, St. Patrick's, and the east Parish ; and sub-divided into twenty Townships, containing in all 406,000 acres. Queen's County, near the middle of the Island, has five Parishes, viz : Charlotte, Hillsborough, Grenville, Bedford, and Saint John's, and is sub-divided into twenty Townships, and contains in all 458,420 acres. Prince County, in the North West part, is divided into five Parishes, viz : St. David's, Richmond, Halifax, Egmont, and the North Parish, and sub-divided into twenty-three Townships, containing in all 407,000.

SOIL AND PRODUCE.

The soil in general on the South, and South-East side of the Island, a reddish clay, though in many places it is sandy, particularly upon the North coast ; from the East Point to St. Peter's, is a greyish sand. The woods upon this coast, from the East Point as far Southward as Hillsborough River, and to Bedford Bay on the West, was entirely destroyed by fire, about twenty-six years since—it was so extremely violent, that all the fishing vessels at St. Peter's and Morell, upon St. Peter's Bay and Morell, were burned. In many parts round the Island, is rough steep coast, from forty to sixty feet high—in some places a hundred—composed of stratas of a soft red stone, which when exposed to the air for some time, becomes harder, and

is not unfit for building, Wherever this sort of coast is, it diminishes considerably every year upon the breaking up of the frost, which moulders away a great part of it. It may probably be owing to this cause that the Sea betwixt the Island and the Continent is frequently of a red hue, and for that reason by many people called the Red Sea ; on the North and South-east side, it has received some addition by the banks of sand which the Sea has thrown up.

There are no high hills in this part of the Island, but merely a small ascent inland. The Rivers are properly Sea creeks, the tides flowing up to the heads, where generally streams of fresh water empty themselves. In most parts of the Island the sarsaparella root is in great abundance, and very good. The mountain-shrub and maiden-hair are also pretty common, of whose leaves and berries the Acadians and Soldiers frequently make a kind of tea. The ground is in general covered with strawberries in their different seasons, which are very good ; with proper care, it produces most kinds of grain, wheat, barley, oats, peas, beans, &c. ; also, cabbage, cauliflower and potatoes, very good, in great abundance ; carrots, turnips, &c. In those places which have been settled, and are still tolerably cleared, is very good grass ; but a great part of the lands formerly cleared are so much overgrown with brush and small wood, that it will be extremely difficult to form a true estimate of the cleared lands, or to make it fit for the plough again. It may be proper to observe here, that very few houses mentioned in the explanation of the Townships are good for anything, and by no means tenantable, except one or two at St. Peter's, kept in repair by the officers, and one built by me at Observation Cove.

TIMBER.

Red and white oak, neither of which are in plenty, or of large growth ; beech and maple very good ; black and white birch, the former of which is a useful and handsome

wood. The pine is extremely large and fine. In some places is found the curled maple, which takes an excellent polish. Spruce of many kinds is the universal produce of the whole Island ; from one species of which is got the balsam of Canada, which the Canadians hold in great repute. From the maple also, at the proper time of the year, is extracted a liquor which they boil into a sort of sugar, pretty good and medicinal.

WHAT PARTS OF THE ISLAND ARE BEST SITUATED FOR TRADE AND FISHERY, WITH THE REASON.

Port Joy,* Cardigan, and Richmond Bay, are without dispute the only places where ships of burthen can safely enter, and consequently most proper to erect the principal towns and settlements upon. In point of fishing, Richmond Bay has much the advantage of situation ; the fish being in great plenty most part of the year, and close to the harbor. Ships outward bound from any of the above ports have their choice of two passages out of the Gulph of St. Lawrence, viz : the Gut of Canso, or round the North Cape of the Isle of Cape Breton, either of which they prefer, as the weather, season of the year, or port bound to, may make it most advisable. Such parts of the Island on the South-West coast, or the places inland, not conveniently situated for fishing, may and undoubtedly will turn to a general good account, if proper encouragement be given to settlers, whose business is the cultivation of lands only—and upon the settling of the Island, I would humbly recommend that this particular branch of people should receive the utmost encouragement ; the great length and severity of the winters making it extremely expensive and difficult to provide sustenance for their stock, as that season is of very little use to them ; besides the very short time they have for ploughing sowing, reaping, and making of

*The French name for Charlottetown harbor.

hay, will take up their attention so closely while the good weather continues, that it must of course make the great point of clearing of the Island go on but slow.

REASONS FOR FIXING THE THREE PRINCIPAL TOWNS (AS PROPOSED,) ON WHAT FOUNDED.

The capital, called Charlottetown, is proposed to be upon a point of the harbor, betwixt York and Hillsborough Rivers, as being one of the best, and nearly a central part of the Island ; has the advantages of an immediate and easy communication with the interior parts of the Island, by means of the three fine rivers of Hillsborough, York, and Elliot. The ground designed for the town and fortifications is well situated upon a regular ascent from the water side ; a fine rivulet will run through the town ; a battery or two, some distance advanced, will entirely command the harbor ; an enemy attempting to attack the town cannot do it without great difficulties, viz : having passed the batteries at the entrance of the harbor, they must attempt a passage up Hillsborough or York Rivers, the channels of both which are intricate, and the entrance of the respective channels will be so near the town that it must also be attended with the greatest hazard. Should they land any troops on either side of the Bay of Hillsborough, they must still have the river of the same name on the East, or Elliot and York Rivers on the West, to pass, before they could effect anything of consequence. As this side of the Island cannot have any fishery, it may probably be thought expedient to indulge it with some particular privileges ; and as all judicial and civil, as well as good part of the commercial business will be transacted here, it will make it at least equally flourishing with the County Towns.

GEORGETOWN.

Recommended to be built upon that point of land called Cardigan Point, there being a good harbour for ships of

any burthen on each side of Cardigan River, on the North, or Montague River upon the South side ; but the latter, though a much narrower channel upon coming in, is preferable, as the bay for anchoring will be close by the town. Immediately upon entering the river, and going around the Goose Neck, a long point of dry sand running half over the river, and forming one side of Albion Bay, the place for anchorage, upon the Goose Neck, may be erected a pier with great ease, and at a small expense, where goods could be shipped and unshipped with great facility and convenience.

The place proposed for the town is so situated as to require very little difficulty in making it secure, as well as at the entrance into the two respective harbors. It ought not to be omitted mentioning the advantage it has of a communication inland by means of Cardigan, Brudenell and Montague Rivers, from the top of which last to the source of Orwell River is not quite ten miles ; and Orwell River emptying itself into the great bay of Hillsborough, makes a safe and short communication betwixt two of the County Towns, both winter and summer.

PRINCETOWN.

Besides the advantages mentioned of Richmond Bay, it is proposed to be built on a most convenient spot of ground as well for its fisheries as fortifications, being situated on a peninsula, having Darnley Bay on the North-east, which is a convenient harbor for small vessels, and where they may be laid up to winter ; lying at the entrance to Richmond Bay, with all the convenient grounds of curing and drying of fish about it, and ships of burthen can anchor near in the Bay. For its fortifications, the neck of land can be strengthened with little expense, and some batteries and small works erected along the shore will entirely secure it.

(To be concluded next month.)