

wards the Lake on one side and the Thames on the other. What will appear singular, almost all the creeks which run into the River Thames have their sources on the south side of this ridge, and consequently have to run through the ridge in their course to the river. It will be readily perceived by the Thames running in the rear and the Lake in front, that there can be no very extensive streams in this Township, but there are several small ones which answer a very good purpose, in furnishing sites for mills, machinery, &c. There are three, however, of considerable size, that empty into Lake Erie, one of which has its source in the adjoining township of Orford, and runs a distance of many miles before it empties into the Lake, where it is called Big Creek, as being the largest in this part of the Country. There is also another stream of moderate size, which also rises in Orford. All these incline in a south west direction from the centre of the Township. There are several smaller streams than those mentioned, but as the most of them run into Harwich before emptying into the River or the Lake, I omit particularizing them, as it is probable they will be spoken of in the sketch of that Township. Mountains are unknown in this part of the country, nor have we any thing that deserves the name of a hill.

The climate of this Township is the very best of any part of the Province, being situated on the shore of Lake Erie, and about as far south as any part of Canada. The influence of the Lake breezes in the fall is an effectual protection to our crops, which are perfectly safe for three or four weeks longer than at the distance of 30 or 40 miles in the interior. Indeed there is nothing that the farmer plants but has sufficient time to ripen to perfect maturity without injury.

The soil of this Township is, for the most part of the very best description, being a black sandy loam for a good depth, of the richest quality, and capable of producing large crops of any kind of grain raised in this country, and that without manure for generations. Indeed there are many places on the River Thames that have been cultivated upwards of 40 years without manure, and are still too strong to bring a good crop of wheat. The depth of the loam varies from 6 to 18 inches, below which there is a rich marly clay, which when ploughed up among the loam, and fertilized by the sun and air, produces some of the best and heaviest wheat raised in America. I have weighed some myself that gave 64 lbs. to the bushel. There are some parts of the township, particularly the ridge, which are not so heavy yet capable of bearing good crops at present, though we cannot expect that they should stand cultivation so long without manure, but the above remarks are best suited to the character of the soil of this Township.

Our productions are wheat, rye, Indian corn, barley; oats, pease, beans, potatoes, turnips, musk and water melons, cucumbers, squashes, carrots, parsnips, beets, onions, cabbage, &c.; all of which grow in abundance in the open fields, with little care or attention but to plant them in season. Buck wheat is sometimes raised, but not to any great extent, as the soil is too rich. Flax and hemp likewise grow well, but have not, as yet, been grown in great quantities. It is also a favorite soil for fruit; apples, pears, plums, cherries, gooseberries, currants, raspberries, &c., grow in great perfection and abundantly.

Tobacco has of late years been largely raised, and of the best quality. I am told by Virginia planters that it is superior to the tobacco raised in that State, principally on account of the richness of the soil. The climate of this entire District is well calculated for tobacco, which I hope will become more an article of exportation.

There are no manufactories of any consequence in this Township. We have 4 grist and 2 saw mills. We are likewise about to have a furnace erected here, for the manufacture of iron ore, with which this Township is said to abound. It is to be in operation by the first of June, and is owned by a brother of Mr. Field, proprietor of the Colborne Furnace, Gosfield; so that we hope shortly to have other inducements besides good land to invite settlers to this part of the country.

Our commerce consists of the import of foreign articles and the export of produce, such as wheat, barley, rye, corn, oats, pease, beans, pork, beef, tallow, lard, butter, hides, honey, beeswax, peltry, pot and pearl ashes, and tobacco.

There is a very commodious bay in this Township, which affords an excellent shelter for vessels to load and unload, which gives us a decided advantage over any other on Lake Erie, as it is completely sheltered from the most prevalent winds. Vessels can load and unload here when it would be im-

possible to enter Kettle Creek harbor in safety. As internal improvement is making such rapid strides in this Province I hope soon to see an appropriation for the purpose of opening the mouth of Big Creek, so that vessels can run out and in at pleasure. As nature has done so much for this place, it would be a pity to leave her unaided by art.

I am, Dear Sir,
Yours sincerely,
JAMES RIDDLE.

Township Sketches.

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TOWNSHIP OF HOWARD.

SIR:—Impressed with the idea that your sketches of the several townships of this District, if fairly given, will prove conducive to the general welfare of the country, and seeing that no person has, as yet, furnished a sketch of Howard, I am induced to offer the following feeble attempt. It was not until after your second appeal to your patrons that I was induced to undertake which is a fit subject for a more able pen. But as that appeal seemed to have been made in vain to others, I now offer you a brief description of Howard Township, earnestly hoping that it may assist you in some degree in the very laudable undertaking which you have commended, of reclaiming our Western District from the shades of oblivion in which it has been so long enveloped. And for the further welfare of this part of the country and the District generally, and for the disinterested exertions which you have so liberally bestowed upon it I fervently hope that every well-wisher of the District will endeavor to recompense you for your services, by annually subscribing for the Canadian Emigrant, so long as it supports its character as an independent journal, and publishes to the world the public actions of public men, whether they be good or whether they be bad. This District has been too long kept in darkness, and we hail the appearance of a paper which, while it develops the resources of our hitherto *terra incognita*, will fearlessly submit the public acts of our public men to the ordeal of public opinion.

The Township of Howard is situated nearly on the north east corner of the Western District, the township of Orford only lying between it and the London District line. It lies between Lake Erie and the River Thames; is bounded on the south east by Lake Erie, on the north west by the River Thames, on the north east by the township of Orford, and on the south west by the township of Harwich. Its extent in width, on Lake Erie, is six miles and a half, and its length, between the Lake and the River Thames is 13 miles. Before its forests melted away before the axe of the enterprising and industrious emigrant, the Township was covered with timber of the following kinds: oak, walnut, cherry, ash, hickory, maple, bass, white-wood, elm, beech, and some chesnut, and of such the remaining woodlands still consist. The face of the country is generally level, interspersed with moderate swells and ridges, which give a pleasant appearance and prove advantageous for building spots in the centre of the Township. There is a ridge that runs parallel with the Lake through this, as likewise through the neighboring Townships, which is allowed to be 100 or 130 feet higher than the level of the Lake, and the land falling away gradually, to-