

## TRAVEL AND COLONISATION.

## SPORT IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

THERE IS NO PART of the continent of North America where sport of every kind, save deer-stalking, is more accessible and abundant than in the beautiful province of Prince Edward Island. Resting on the cool, blue waters of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, which bathes its sandy beaches, and lying directly in the route of the migratory birds, it cannot be otherwise.

Native game is scarce, and limited to the dusky or blue grouse and Arctic hare. There are foxes and bears and, until quite recently, beavers. The migrants are very numerous, and comprise the Canada goose, brant, black duck, teal, wigwag, woodcock, snipe, golden plover, and other birds. There are also a few mammals, family, great flocks of curlews, and many waders of less importance.

Early in March the "honk-honk" of the goose is heard in the land, and sportsmen are everywhere on the alert. Geese come to the island in immense flocks, arriving before the ice disappears from the coast, but not before it breaks up. Gladdened by their first glimpse of water after their long and rapid flight from southern rice-fields and lagoons, the tired birds alight in the pools of water amid fissures in the ice, and there wait until the movements of the ice floes shall have given them more sea room. It is now, in large part, that the sportsman has to bag his game, since the geese are partial to fresh water, and there may have been early freshets in some of the rivers. At all events, they will get no sport without the aid of the goose-boat or tub, or both.

The goose-boat is of small dimensions, ill-proportioned, white, and fitted with side-wheels, which are worked from within by means of an ingenious pedal arrangement, conveniently placed amidships. Thus it is easily carried from one place to another, pretty nearly resembles a lump of ice which it is intended to do away with, and is propelled through the water in almost absolute silence, when drifting is not possible. The boat is carried out across the "ice board" or standing ice some time previous to the expected arrival of the geese, and placed in a position whence it may be easily and rapidly launched. Decoys are placed in the water at various points, and the sportsman's patience and skill are more than rewarded. The tub is used, it is said, to a hole previously cut in the ice, of sufficient depth to conceal its occupant, who, having set out decoys, waits the incoming of the birds. This is, in fact, the more general method of circumventing the geese. Spring goose shooting lasts about a month, and the number of birds taken is always large. There is scarcely a creek or a cove along the whole coast of the island where the decoy is not used, and it is possible one who can go after them. A youth of our acquaintance shot 300 birds during the spring of 1891, of all of which he found a ready sale in Boston. This is not an isolated case. Still the number of geese does not sensibly diminish from year to year; indeed, sportsmen declare them to be more numerous last year than ever before.

When they return in the Fall from their breeding places in the Arctic and semi-Arctic regions of Greenland, Labrador, and Newfoundland, they are again shot in considerable numbers, and, because wilder, giving better sport than in the spring. Lately, at this season, immense numbers of geese have been seen in the rivers and creeks. But since they have proved hobjoggers in the past, in some instances frightening them away altogether from favourite haunts, their use has been wisely forbidden, and more sportsmanlike methods adopted.

Though fascinating to an unusual degree, spring goose shooting in winter seasons must be a lonely and dreary mode of sport to a sportsman by reason of his long enforced exposure to the chilling winds that blow across the ice, and there is always the possibility of the ice suddenly breaking up and floating away seaward.

The departure of the common goose for higher latitudes allows the sportsman just enough time to prepare for the arrival of the more desirable, and more numerous, migrant geese, which will be in place early in May. Brant are not nearly so plentiful in the Canada goose, though they are found at many points in the island in pretty considerable numbers. By this time the ice has almost disappeared, although a few blocks may possibly linger about. Again, the goose-

## JAMAICA.

THE LAST BELL has rung, warning those who have come to bid their friends good-bye on board the R.M.S. Don, which is about to sail from Kingston, Jamaica, for Southampton, that they must leave, in a few minutes, the lovely and safe and safe and picturesque harbour of Kingston. The hour was fast becoming a long strip of land, on which is a fringe of coconut palm trees, stretches out from a point about six miles east of the city in a south-westerly direction and completely protects the harbour. At the extremity of this neck of land is the town of Port Royal, where there is a small anchorage for the shipping of the domestic trade. The town is fortified, and there are numerous forts on the opposite side of the entrance to the harbour, which is quite narrow, so that if a hostile fleet attempted to force the passage it would meet with a warm reception.

There was another Port Royal, over the submerged ruins of which we pass before we reach its modern namesake and successor. In June, 1629, a terrible earthquake completely destroyed the domestic town. Without a moment's warning, shock succeeded shock, and in a few minutes the town was a heap of ruins. The sea, agitated by the same cause, completed the work of destruction; the dead were washed out of their graves, and their ghastly remains mingled in the harbour with the bodies of those who had just perished.

Port Royal was at that time said to be the richest and wickedest spot on earth. It was so richly stocked with treasure, that when it was time to deposit their ill-gotten gains and carouse till it was time to start on another expedition. All this wealth is still at the bottom of the sea, being beyond the diver's reach. The bell of the church was ultimately repossessed, and is now in the museum of the Jamaica Institute. Pestilence subsequently broke out owing to the number of unburied dead, and many more perished, and it is said that many who were absent at the time subsequently succumbed to the same terrible disaster. Perhaps in the whole history of such catastrophes there were none so sudden, terrible, and complete as the destruction of Port Royal 200 years ago.

On entering or leaving Kingston Harbour one cannot help being struck by the beauty of the mountains that form such a splendid background to the city. These rise gradually to a height of some 6000ft., clad in verdure to their very summit, and when clothed in green tropical sunlight form a scene the visitor will not readily forget.

In bidding adieu to the "island of springs," or land of wood and water, as its name is said to indicate in the now forgotten Carib language, I may be permitted to make some remarks as to its advantages and disadvantages as a place of residence. After a residence of three years in the island, I can honestly say that the former far outweigh the latter. In the first place, the climate is nearly perfect; true there are some swampy districts where malarial fever lurks, and the trade winds are not so strong as they are elsewhere, spring running streams are scarce, and only surface water from ponds is to be obtained. This is another drawback, although the water here even is good, but it is not equal to spring or running water. I am speaking of the country, of course; in the towns water is conveyed in pipes from the mountains, and pure spring water is available in the country, and may, however, by building a tank of sufficient capacity, be run down water from the rain collected from the roof of his house all the year round.

With regard to the produce of the soil, two or three acres carefully cultivated will yield most of the necessaries and many of the luxuries of life. Bananas, plantains, bread-fruit, yams, sweet potatoes, oranges, pineapples, coconuts, pine apples, melons, &c., as well as some English garden vegetables, can be grown with little trouble. A cow or two only require pasture—still feeding is unknown; pigs in an inclosure where there is grass and some fruit trees will look after themselves; and chickens only require a little grain, which can also be grown on the place, to supplement what they can pick up for themselves. Fuel is only required for cooking purposes; wood, charcoal, and kerosene may be used for cooking, and they are all cheap. Churches and post-offices are neither few nor far between; there is a good newspaper press, and the papers contain daily telegrams from the outer world. It is evident, therefore, that a resident in the West Indies to-day does not by any means require a large amount of money to live in comfort.

## NARROW ESCAPE FROM A WOUNDED RHINOCEROS.

WE HAVE received the following extract from a letter written by a gentleman at present in British East Africa.

On the morning of the 11th the doctor got through the river, and I started to return here. We had marched about ten miles, the road terribly muddy and heavy, when I saw a rhinoceros close to the road, and determined to have him. I started off with two men, each with his Snider—one a Swahili, who had been with me ever since I came out; and the other a Somali, who unfortunately knows no lingué but his own, and cannot do anything but useful in an emergency. Getting to within 100 yards of the animal he fired, and the animal fell off at a great rate, we after him, and I managed to put a couple more into him on the journey; but these, of course, would be only minor details, though I made sure the first two would bring him down before long. After running about a mile, he stood, and we came up to him in a very bare place—not even a stone or tuft of grass for cover.

This would not have mattered if the men had both known what they were about, and obeyed my orders, but directly after I had fired, instead of lying down flat while the animal was looking to see where the shot came from, the fool of a Somali blazed off his gun, and then ran for his life. The old rhino saw the smoke, and came down on its six steam ahead; this frightened the Swahili, who went away, and I was left alone, for I knew it was hopeless to try to run away. I let him come to within about ten yards, and then made a rush to pass by him obliquely, trusting that he would not be able to turn sharp; but he doubled on me like a hare, and though I jogged all the while, he was quick for a rhino, and kept himself sailing through space. I no sooner touched ground than was he on me, and he like a tennis ball, shouting to the men to fire; the rhinoceros obeyed sharp and fired me up again, and larly let me reach the ground before he repeated the operation. The last time I came down right on my head, and was so dazed that I could not move, and the old bull came on to my chest, and I was in a very bad way. As I was flat on the ground, so at last he smashed his foot down on my chest, which, as may be imagined, with about two tons of beef behind it, fairly stove all the breath out of me.

Just as I began to think it was all up, he suddenly turned and left me, and in the same moment I made a final grand effort in the opposite direction. Whether he really intended it was time to go and get his own wounds looked after, or whether my Swahili managed to hit him with a random shot, I do not know, but he left for good, and I was very thankful, for I only managed to get a few yards and my legs failed me. Thank goodness I never lost my senses for a moment, and I was able to manage my own escape, and I am now again well, and I was able to give all directions.

I do not know how the beast managed it, but he tore my right boot, a shooting boot, tightly black, clean off. He evidently missed my skin, and hooked the boot off. My men carried me splendidly, and only put me down twice in thirteen miles, and those I sent back to all I did some wonderful nursing. I was so tired that I could not walk, but before the accident happened, they then went back and reached Dr M.'s camp, twenty-three miles, at 1 a.m. He gave them two hours to feed, and started off at 3 a.m., reaching here at eleven at night, thirty-eight miles, so these fellows had no sleep and very little food, and I marched seventy-one miles in thirty-eight hours, over very heavy muddy roads.

It was awfully good of the Doctor to come back, for he has a sore foot, and marched those thirty-eight miles right through in slippers. He found two ribs had been smashed off the breast bone on the right side and stove in, and a wound in the thigh, which is healing beautifully. My marching boots were very much worn, and I had a pair of leather breeches; these, being very loose and stiff, turned the heels of my horse slightly, and he never had a straight, fair day. One of the men touched the right leg of my breeches and through the inside of the left, bruising the flesh badly; but the point of the horn did not enter. He also hooked the watch pouch off my belt, and tore my shirt with a horn. The whole affair, Dec. 22, 1894.

F. G. H.