

**OBSERVATIONS**  
ON  
**EMIGRATION**  
TO  
**BRITISH AMERICA.**

**BY J. MACGREGOR.**

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1829.

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

**MAURICE FITZGERALD, M.P.**

THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS ON EMIGRATION

ARE MOST RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED,

BY HIS MOST OBEDIENT, HUMBLE SERVANT,

**J. MACGREGOR.**

## PREFACE.



The following observations are the result of my inquiries while residing in, and travelling over, the British possessions in America. Although never interested in Emigration, (further than the question itself relates to our Colonies, or to the condition and prospects of families, or individuals leaving the land of their forefathers, and planting themselves along the shores, or amidst the forests of the Western world,) yet intimately connected as I am with, and anxiously as I feel for, the prosperity of those interesting countries, I could not, with the opportunities which I have had, but direct a portion of my inquiries to this very important subject.

During my last visit to America, from whence I have but lately returned, I endeavoured, among other matters in which I was in reality more directly engaged, to ascertain, satisfactorily, the present state of the inhabitants, and the prospects for new settlers, and also the opinions of leading

practical men in the Colonies on these subjects, whose conclusions, founded on personal observation and experience, I might safely consider just.

To many gentlemen of high respectability and standing in the Colonies, I have to acknowledge the obligations I owe for the information given me, and the facilities afforded me, whenever I required statements or information from the public offices.

In whatever I have read on the subject of Emigration, there has always appeared to me, either a prejudice, or an interested bias, to one side or other of the question. Now this circumstance is a matter of much more serious consequence than it may at first seem to most men, who are not well acquainted with the general description of Emigrants. It is no *common-day business* for a man, with his family, to remove from the place where he was born, and which he knows, and from occupations to which he has been trained and habituated, to a country far distant, and in many respects different from his own, and assume pursuits to which he is a perfect stranger. I have endeavoured, therefore, in the following pages, to point out, in a concise manner, both the advantages

and the difficulties attendant on emigrating and settling in America, and I hope I have been impartial.

I say little descriptive of America in these observations. In my Sketches of the Colonies, (which were, I regret, published before I arrived from America, as I intended otherwise to have introduced much valuable information into them, which can now only appear in another edition,) sufficient will be found, I trust, for the guidance of Emigrants respecting the Lower Provinces and Islands.

Although those countries have been so long in our possession, it is astonishing how very little is known of them. I may observe that the Province of Nova Scotia alone, if possessed by the United States, would render that nation independent of all Europe. The reason is obvious:—this Province possesses exhaustless mines of the best coals for furnaces, and for the manufacturing of edge tools; also abundant iron mines of superior quality; copper, and various other minerals; gypsum, freestone, and slate. Those who are acquainted with the resources of the United States, will immediately discover that Nova Scotia possesses the very materials that are required by them, in order to establish

and conduct manufactures on an important scale. There is coal, it is true, in the United States, but not in convenient places, nor of equal goodness to that of Nova Scotia. On talking over this subject a few months ago, at Halifax, with a scientific and well-informed gentleman,\* then directing the plans and management of the Albion Mines, in Nova Scotia, for Messrs. Rundell and Bridge, he perfectly concurred with me in this opinion.

A measure closely connected with Emigration and the prosperity of the Colonies, would be the establishing of steam packets between Valentia, in Ireland, and some point in Nova Scotia. From what has been stated to me on the subject, by some of the principal gentlemen in the Colonies, and from all I have observed among the records of the "Chamber of Commerce," of Halifax, (which were politely put into my possession, "agreeably to a resolution passed at a monthly meeting of its members, with leave to make such extracts as I might think fit,") I consider, *that if steam packets should be established, as has been contemplated, it would be an undertaking attended with advantage to the proprietors, and with*

\* Richard Smith, Esq.

*great benefit also to the Colonies, as well as to the south-west part of Ireland.* Such vessels might, with only a few hours' loss of time, carry the mails along to Saint John's, Newfoundland, and from thence proceed to Halifax, in Nova Scotia, returning again by way of St. John's, to Valentia. Steam communications bring, morally speaking, countries so much closer than they naturally are to each other, that, consequently, their resources, and whatever relates to them, would become better known; and whatever men perceive distinctly, they enter into, or abandon, with a more assured confidence of acting rightly. Steam vessels are, undoubtedly, the best passenger-ships, and taking the length of the voyage, and the difference of provisions into consideration, I would think the least expensive. As respects the comfort of passengers, and the risk of fevers being generated on the voyage, steam vessels are certainly preferable.

There is one view in which I have not yet observed His Majesty's North American possessions *particularly* considered, either by the Government, or by writers on Emigration; that is, *as countries forming a component part of the empire, which*

*yield all the kinds of grain and green crops that England does, besides other productions, for the support and benefit of man, and the climate of which, unlike that of our East or West Indian possessions, is perfectly congenial to English constitutions.*

Those men who, in order to attract some portion of popular notice, make a noise about the retention and the expense of our American Colonies, are either ignorant of, or disregard, their present resources and population.

These Provinces are still only in their infancy, and men who can, with the minds of statesmen, anticipate their future greatness, will readily acknowledge that their mighty resources, which are gradually developing themselves, and their political consequence, which will soon be more justly appreciated, must add increased strength to Great Britain.

Every inhabitant in our Colonies consumes, annually, from three to four pounds worth of our manufactures. In this view alone they are of important value, besides the support which so many thousands of the inhabitants of the United Kingdom derive,



immediately or indirectly, from the shipping employed in the colonial trade.

It has been urged as an argument in favour of the inutility of our American possessions, that the United States have taken more of our manufactured commodities since, than before their independence. This is, indeed, a feeble inference from very weak reasoning. The greater consumption of our manufactured articles by them, is the natural consequence of a rapidly-increasing population; and even in this view, did we but still retain the sovereignty of the countries that form the United States, they would take from us double the quantity of our manufactured goods that they now do; for the value and quantity exported to the United States have not by any means increased in the same ratio as the population; and an obnoxious tariff may extend to the entire prohibition of British goods.

In the minds of some men, His Majesty's North American possessions must inevitably merge in the United States. Admitting this,—what would follow? Why, the American republic would gain great and powerful strength, and the British empire would, in the same degree, be weakened.

But that nation never will obtain possession of these Colonies. During the last war, the progress they made towards conquering Canada, was little more than trifling desultory attacks, although the defence of the country depended chiefly on the bravery of the Canadian militia. The British Colonies can now raise an effective militia, amounting, at least, to 180,000 men, equally as brave and well-disciplined as any the Americans can bring against them; and happy and contented under their own government, there is not in the world a more loyal people than the inhabitants of British America. It would be unwise, however, to withdraw our regular troops at once from the Colonies. For some time it will be well to have a few regiments in those Provinces. Let us treat them with prudent liberality, until they gain more strength, and they will freely grant, as a boon, much more than can ever be extorted from them as a claim of right. This certainly appears to be the policy of the Ministers of the present day; and had it existed during the days of Lord North, we should still have possessed the United States.

The differences in Canada between the

Executive Government and the Legislative Assembly, arose out of circumstances that may be traced to the particular constitution of that Colony, as settled by the Quebec Act, in 1774, and not in any want of loyalty in the inhabitants, who are a moral, contented, and tractable people, and who are well convinced of the mighty privileges they enjoy under the British Government.

The retention of our North American Colonies is an object of such importance, that the very idea of abandoning them cannot be for a moment defended on just or political principles. Wanting colonies, and, consequently, commercial ships, it was impossible for France, during the last war, to raise seamen to man her navy. Sailors can only be bred by frequent voyages. Had Great Britain wanted her Colonies during the same period, her importance in the scale of nations would have been very different from the magnificent and powerful state which she has maintained.

As our North American possessions require a vast addition to the present population, whatever, therefore, may give a proper direction to Emigration, in order to locate so many of our fellow-subjects in our own

Colonies, instead of allowing them to settle in a country where they must necessarily become subjects of another power, is surely deserving of the attention of the Government and of the public.

## OBSERVATIONS, &c.



Those parts of North America which, at the present time, form the British possessions, have, like most other Colonies, been settled by men who expatriated themselves, in order to find in distant countries those things, or those enjoyments, which they either wanted in reality, or of which they fancied themselves destitute.

After the reduction of Cape Breton, and the conquest of Canada, which added nearly the whole of North America to the British empire, numbers, stimulated by the spirit of adventure, left the mother countries, and established themselves in the newly-acquired territories. These were generally persons engaged in trade. Farmers, or others, who expected to derive their subsistence from cultivating the soil, directed their course to that part of America now forming the United States; and, from the first planting of the New England and southern Colonies, the stream of navigation continued to flow into them with little interruption. For, according as men were driven from the different countries of England, Scotland, and Ireland, either by the pressure of poverty, or by disabilities on account of their religious scru-

ples;\* or whether they were allured from home by the golden visions of gain, it was natural, or, at least, common, for them to remove to those parts of America where some of their friends or acquaintances had previously gone. In this way thousands emigrated annually to America, and in this manner the United States became populously settled.—(*See note A.*)

The American revolutionary war, it is true, arrested the spirit of Emigration; but no sooner was the independence of the American Republic acknowledged by England, than the majority of those who left Great Britain and Ireland for America, were, as formerly, fascinated into the United States. This arose in a great measure from the mighty resources of the British possessions being nearly altogether unknown in the United Kingdom.

Some Scotch, and a few Irish families, together with a few German and Swiss Protestants, found their way, before this time, to Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, (then called St. John.) A few Highlanders, also, many of whom were disbanded soldiers, settled at Glengarry and other places above Montreal. It was not, however, until after the American revolutionary war that emi-

\* We find in the early history of the American Colonies, that the settlement of those countries was occasioned as much by religious intolerance, which drove thousands of Puritans from England, as by the enterprising passion of adventure, or the more powerful motives which urge men to escape from the evils of poverty. Those very Puritans, however, were no sooner established in the New England States, than they, in their turn, persecuted the Quakers with all the rage of spiritual fanaticism.

gration to our Colonies, of any great consequence, took place. From that period to the present time, notwithstanding the vast swarms that have continued annually to flock to the United States, not less than from eight to eighteen thousand settlers have arrived yearly in British America, from England, Scotland, and Ireland, while their departure from the United Kingdom has scarcely been observed.

From the best authenticated accounts, the privations which the early colonists endured, and the hardships to which circumstances, connected with a wilderness country, subjected them, were severe in a degree of which those who now plant themselves in America have scarcely a conception. They had not only to suffer the miseries of hunger, and the want of almost every convenience to which they had been accustomed, but they could scarcely enjoy even that relief from toil which sleep usually affords, from the dread of being burnt in their habitations by the Indians, or of becoming victims to the murderous tomahawk or scalping knife of those savages.\*

In the countries which now form British America, the colonists were not, it is true, often doomed to experience the vengeance of the bloody spirit of the Indian tribes; yet the hardships they

\* Before the surrender of Louisbourg, rewards were given by the French to the Indians for every English *scalp* they produced, in much the same way as premiums are, at present, paid by some of the Colonial Governments for the snouts of bears, to encourage the destruction of those animals. The terrible ferocity of the savages was also most wickedly encouraged during the American war, and acts were committed that should always make humanity shudder.

had to encounter and overcome in other shapes were almost incredible. The winters were either much more severe than at present, or the sufferings of the first settlers made them describe the frosts more intense, the snows deeper, and the duration of cold longer.

The non-existence of roads, the want of boats, or, even, for some time, of canoes, and the Emigrants' entire ignorance of managing the latter, rendered it a business of great difficulty to pass from one part to another, of a country covered with thick forests, and intersected with rivers, lakes, and branches of the ocean. The use of the axe, also, or the art of *chopping*, is an acquirement quite indispensable in a wooded country, with which most settlers are unacquainted. With this tool, a gun, one or two hoes, and a pot, an American back-woodsman will make his way through, or plant himself and family in, the midst of a most dreary forest, and secure at the same time the means of subsistence.

Innumerable, indeed, were the miseries which the Emigrants had to reconcile themselves to for several years after the early settlement of our Colonies, and it certainly required in them more than ordinary resolution and fortitude to establish themselves in defiance not only of real, but imaginary difficulties.—(B.)

Natural obstructions have, in all countries, been only removed by the industry and fearless intrepidity of man. Such formidable obstacles to settlement and cultivation, as the new world at first presented, and which still characterize the re-



mote districts, existed at one period in Britain and in all the kingdoms of Europe ; and, in the same progressive ratio as the settlement and cultivation of any wilderness country proceeds, do natural obstacles disappear ; those, therefore, of the most disheartening character to men accustomed to plough the long-cultivated lands of Britain and Ireland, are vanishing gradually in North America. Leading roads are opened through the different provinces ; by-roads lead to the settlements ; the communication between different places, by means of *craft* of various descriptions, is attended with but little inconvenience ; the necessaries, and even the luxuries of life, are to be obtained in abundance at moderate prices, and at no great distance from the most remote settlement.

In America, as well in the United States as in the British possessions, notwithstanding all the difficulties with which an Emigrant has to contend, it is a well-established fact, supported by the opinion of all who have observed the conduct, and marked the progress of new settlers from the first planting of North America until the present time, that all those who have settled on wilderness lands, if their habits have been industrious, frugal, and persevering, they have, with few exceptions, and in general only when ill health interfered, succeeded in rising from a state of wretched poverty to the attainment of considerable property in land and cattle, and all that is necessary to render rural life happy.—(C.)

It frequently happens, however, that Emigrants are disappointed in realizing the prospects

they cherished when they left their native country. Lured by unprincipled speculators into the belief that all they can possibly wish for is to be obtained with little difficulty on the shores and amidst the forests of America, they embark with sanguine *el dorada* expectations. No sooner, however, do they tread the lands of the Western world than the delusion vanishes, and they discover that neither food, clothing, nor any article whatever, is to be had without money, or some exchangeable value; that they must, for at least two or three years, endure many privations; and that success must depend altogether on persevering industry and judicious management.

It is, therefore, a matter of the first importance, for a man living in the United Kingdom, to consider, before he determines on expatriation, whether he can, by industry and integrity, obtain a tolerably comfortable livelihood in the country of his nativity,—whether, in order to secure to his family the certain means of subsistence, he can willingly part with his friends, and leave scenes that must have been dear to his heart from childhood,—and whether, in order to attain to independence, he can reconcile himself to suffer the inconveniency of a sea voyage, and the fatigue of removing with his family from the port where he disembarks in America to the spot of ground in the forest on which he may fix for the theatre of his future operations,—whether he can reconcile himself for two or three years to endure many privations to which he had hitherto been unaccustomed, and to the hard labour of levelling and

burning the forest, and raising crops from a soil with natural obstructions which require much industry to remove. If, after making up his mind to all these considerations, he resolves on emigrating, he will not be disappointed in realizing in America any reasonable prospect he may have entertained in Europe. These difficulties are, indeed, such as would often stagger the resolution of most Emigrants, if they had not before them, in every part of America, examples of men who must have encountered and overcome equally, if not more, disheartening hardships, before they attained a state of comfortable affluence.

The majority of those who emigrate to America are driven abroad by the goadings of poverty; another class is formed of adventurous men, who go to seek fortunes in other countries, with the hope of again returning to their own; a third class is composed of men of genius, whose schemes have been frustrated, or whose hopes have been blighted at home; and a fourth class includes individuals who are not only discontented with their condition in the land of their forefathers, but displeased also with all public measures: these men are not, probably, compelled to emigrate from necessity, but from a spirit of dissatisfaction natural to them. Of this last unfortunate description I have discovered numbers in all the Provinces. They at first fix on a farm in one place, and as they do not find that their ardent expectations are realized in a year or two, they attribute their bad fortune to the ill-fated spot they have chosen, which they leave for another, where no better success attends them.

In this manner, roaming about from place to place, the chances inevitably are, that they wear out their constitutions and waste their labour to no good purpose.

Immediately after the last war, a crisis in the affairs of men necessarily occurred. The peace threw thousands, either altogether, or in a great measure, out of employment. The articles which labour produced were many of them not further required, and the demand for, and the price of, the remainder reduced by the death of the war monopoly, and the great reduction in the military and naval departments. Agriculture and commerce continued for some time to languish, while the spirits of the farmers began to droop, and those of the manufacturers to ferment. In the minds of some men, evils, under the impression of misfortune, produced discontent; with others, the transition from their former artificial affluence to a condition which made them feel their real position, broke out into invectives against the measures of Government, and into a declared indifference to their country.

The labouring classes, when out of employment, generally find relief if they emigrate to America; but those whose spirits have been soured by misfortunes, either brought upon them by their own imprudence, or by accidental circumstances, often blame their country; and, with an avowal of hatred to it, expatriate themselves. It is assuredly fit, and perhaps necessary, that such men should go abroad. Fresh activity may renew in them the energy of youth; and while they spend the

remainder of their days in other countries, experience fortunately never fails to convince them that it is impossible for them to forget, or not to love, their own.\*

It is vain and inconsistent to expect that the government of any nation can relieve effectually the miseries of many hundreds of thousands of paupers, who have been principally born in poverty, and reared in the abodes of hunger, improvidence, and ignorance. The most that we can hope is, that their sufferings may be ameliorated. It requires the gradual operation of an age at least to change the habits, and to direct to steady purposes the energies of a vast population.

Many causes have combined to produce the present alarming extent of pauperism : the remote causes are not within my province to inquire into ; but in Ireland, which we may consider the very empire of mendicity, superabundant population is certainly the immediate cause of beggary. That the Irish peasantry are improvident cannot be denied. This again arises from ignorance and want of education, which reconciles them to live in a state scarcely superior to that in which the brute tribes exist. Therefore, in the absence of reflection, and the attendant disregard of future consequences, as to the means of supporting a family, at about the same age that the young men of England and Scotland are leaving school, and their

\* This observation I have read in some able French author, whom my recollection does not enable me to quote or name ; but the truth of it has been in many instances forcibly impressed on me while travelling in America.

parents anxiously considering what occupation they are to follow, or what trade they are to learn by an apprenticeship of five or seven years, the Irish peasantry link into premature marriages, and thereby multiply the endless evils of poverty. In countries like America, where labour is dear, and the population scanty in proportion to the vast extent of land, early marriages are not by any means attended with the same evils as in Ireland, where the population is superabundant, inasmuch as there is not sufficient employment for the inhabitants. A great proportion of the pauperism that exists in Great Britain is caused by the seemingly endless influx of Irish beggars. Were there no mendicants but those born within the parishes of England and Scotland, our feelings would not be harrowed by the famished, half naked, unfortunate beings that assail us in every town, village, and along every road in both countries.\*

The removal of a great portion of the redundant population of the United Kingdom to our

\* We may every day, at the Pierheads of Liverpool, at Glasgow, and other places, witness the landing of hundreds of ragged, squalid objects, (men, women, and children,) from Ireland. These people come over, under the pretence of looking for employment, and proceed, begging on their way, through the country. Before leaving Ireland, they are told it is physically impossible that they can be so miserable in England or in Scotland as in their own country; that they can beg from one place to another; that if they are eventually sent back by the parishes, they will be provided for; and that they can, in spite of all the vigilance of overseers and police-officers, return again to England.

An Irish pauper, from having either learned the benefit of living on the industry of England by his own experience, or by acquiring, previously, the rudiments of *ingenious begging*, is wonderfully *eloquent* and *au fait* in the way of amusing select vestries or police-officers, while giving an account of himself.

Colonies, which has for some time engaged the attention of the Government, may be considered the best temporary expedient to relieve the mother countries from the burden of pauperism. That those who are sent to the Colonies will be removed from the pressure of poverty, I have no doubt, and the consequent effect which this measure may have on the United Kingdom, will doubtless depend on the extent to which Emigration may be effected. It appears, however, that some other measure of at least mighty importance should be pursued, at the same time, with respect to Ireland:—infusing, by means of education, such useful knowledge into the minds of the peasantry, as will gradually introduce habits of thinking, and of orderly industry, is a measure assuredly of primary necessity; providing, as far as possible, employment for the labouring classes within the kingdom, is also an object of paramount consideration. Another measure of great magnitude, although the policy will be by many denounced, but which would, nevertheless, be of eminent benefit to the country, is—the removal, as speedily as may be consistent with humanity, of the mud cabins; the destruction of the whole system of sub-letting; and, consequently, changing Ireland from a potato to a great bread country. The great question of disabilities on account of religion does not come within my province; but, from all I have observed in Lower Canada, I would conclude that it would be a wise measure to remove all reasonable causes of irritation and discontent on the score of religious belief.

In carrying into effect a grand scheme of Emigration, for the purpose of disburthening the United Kingdom of a poverty-smitten people, it becomes necessary to consider the probable consequence of introducing a great mass of human existence of such a description to our Colonies.

Our North American possessions will require for many years a vast accession of settlers; but, at the same time, it must be remembered that the men whose labour and energy are wanted, with the present inhabitants, to cultivate and raise those great countries to the mighty importance of which they are susceptible, should, generally speaking, possess correct principles and industrious habits, as well as strong physical qualities.\*

Apprehensions of distress, and many other evils being introduced with large bodies of poor Emigrants, are very generally entertained in the Colonies; and unless adequate means be provided to carry these people to the place of location, and to support them for a reasonable time afterwards, it would certainly be unjust to inundate the Colonies with a pauper population. In the reports of the Emigration Committee, this subject, as well as most others connected with the question before them, has been fully considered.†

Should Emigration be conducted at the public

\* It is notorious, that while the number of criminal offences have increased during late years, few instances of guilt can be traced to the old settlers. A life of continued poverty is, however lamentable, usually at variance with virtue.

† See Colonel Cockburn's Report and Appendix, printed by order of the House of Commons, 1828.



expense, it is recommended to provide the Emigrant with a year's or eighteen months' provisions, axes, and a few other implements. From my own inquiries, and all that I have observed respecting the settlers in each of our American Colonies, I am of opinion, that if each family received an axe, two hoes, an auger, a saw, a plane, a cow, seed, and provisions for one year, it is fully as much as Government should grant. It is doubtful, if more assistance were given, but that it would lead to abuse; and with such aid, the man who does not become independent of others for the means of subsistence, deserves, (according to an observation made to me by an affluent and worthy old farmer, who settled forty years ago in America, not worth a shilling,) "to be hanged as a public defaulter."

That Emigrants sent to the Colonies, and located and furnished at the expense of the public, should be bound, after a reasonable period, to repay the money advanced on their account, is no more than mere justice, and, as such, should be received and acknowledged by them with lively gratitude.

It may safely be laid down as a general rule, formed on the success of the present inhabitants in the Colonies, that an industrious settler would be able, at the expiration of five, or, at the most, six years, particularly if received in agricultural produce, to repay the money expended on his account by Government. As a security for such money,—and as settlers, especially those of a *pauper* character would not, it is believed, be inclined to

repay what they received from the public funds,—it would be proper to make the liquidation of this debt one of the conditions by which they should hold their lands. This would be preferable to an annual rent, which, be it ever so small, is always considered obnoxious and grievous in America: instalments, to cease after a fixed time, would neither be objected to, nor considered oppressive; and unless a settler be very idle indeed, the improvements on his farm in four or five years would be of more value than the sum that should necessarily be advanced him.

As the order and peace of society is indispensibly connected with the prosperity of all communities, local regulations, to be strictly adhered to, would be necessary in establishing new settlements, and from the character of the inhabitants, and the nature of the country, it would be proper to have them enrolled and trained as a regular militia.\*

Whether Emigration, on the plan recommended by the Committee of the House of Commons, be carried into effect, or not, voluntary Emigration, at the expense of the Emigrants themselves, will still continue to go on in the usual way; and, as the majority of those who leave the United Kingdom for America will have been brought up to occu-

\* Several leading men in the Colonies have remarked to me, that as the Irish Emigrants, (as is well known,) after landing in America, rather than proceed at once to the cultivation of a farm, prefer lingering behind, and clinging to the towns and old settlements for employment, and not unfrequently after they settle on a wood farm, straggle away, it cannot be too strongly impressed on those who may have the direction of settling them in America, to send as many as possible of them at once to the remote districts. This, however, could only be effected if Emigration at the public expense be carried into operation.

pations not only different from each other, but unlike those that they will probably follow afterwards, it will be of great consequence to prepare themselves in the best possible manner for the new life they are about to commence.

With respect to the advantages which our North American possessions present, and the prospects they afford to new settlers, it may be observed that the upper or inland, and the maritime Colonies, have each their respective advantages. Canada, however, will likely continue to be the country that will absorb the greatest number of Emigrants. But from all that I have been able to learn, and from the opinions of the most thinking men of practical experience and local knowledge, I conclude, that from one to two hundred thousand settlers might be sent at little more than half the expense, and with equal, if not greater, advantage to Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Cape Breton, and the district of Gaspé.

The proximity of these countries to plentiful fisheries is of great benefit to new settlers, who are enabled to procure, at an easy rate, or with little trouble, what may constitute, for some time, one of the principal articles of food. Herring, cod, salmon, mackarel, and many other varieties of fish abound in the rivers and along the coasts.

In Upper Canada, it is true, the lands are equally fertile, and, in some respects, superior to those of the Lower Provinces; but the distance to the unoccupied districts, with the consequent expense of carriage, and fatigue of travelling, are much greater; while the inland parts, at the same

time, want the benefit of fisheries, and the immediate markets for the productions of the soil, which the maritime Colonies possess.

The last inconvenient objection will, however, in a great measure, soon disappear, as the canals now cutting to avoid the cataracts and rapids, and the roads which are gradually extending to the remote settlements, will facilitate the carriage of luggage and goods; and the produce of the soil will also, in consequence, find a readier market.

The Emigrant who directs his course to Upper Canada, a country which has for some years afforded an asylum for some thousands of poor settlers, need not apprehend the want of fertile land, nor, after two or three years, the necessaries and many of the conveniences of life. Yet, notwithstanding the vast tracts of unoccupied land, he will, in order to secure a desirable farm, have to proceed a great distance into the back country, apart from society, and without the conveniences to be found only in a populous neighbourhood. He must not, however, be discouraged if he suffers much more, from the time he lands at Quebec or Montreal, until he plants himself and family in the woods, than he experienced in removing to America from the land of his forefathers. Every succeeding year will open more cheering prospects to him; the Emigrants who arrive after him will settle beyond him in the wilderness, and he will soon observe houses, villages, and cornfields occupying the place of gloomy and boundless forests.

It has, unfortunately, been the fate of the majority of those who have emigrated to Canada, to

encounter severe hardships after landing. It must, at the same time, be mentioned, in justice to the Government of the Province, and to the gentlemen of Quebec and Montreal, that the Emigrants have not only received kind and liberal assistance to enable them to proceed to the Upper Province, but that the greatest care has been taken of the sick poor, among them, at the hospitals.

The districts of land still unoccupied in Lower Canada will accommodate an immense population. On the lands through which the river Saghunay and its streams flow, Scotch Highlanders from the upper parts of Perth, and the inland parts of Argyle, Inverness, Ross, Caithness, and Sutherland shires, might be located to great individual advantage, and with importance to the political value of Canada. Such people are eminently qualified to colonize this district; and I almost coincide with the Quebec gentleman, who says, in a letter to Colonel Cockburn, "that it is (the basin of Saghunay) the *arx et domicilium imperii* of North America, and should be settled with people of military habits." No men can more readily assume steady military habits, if necessary, than those I recommend to this country. Another tract, lying between the rear of the Canadian settlements on the south side of the St. Lawrence and the Province of New Brunswick, is capable of supporting many thousands. This tract should either be settled by the Canadians or Scotch Highlanders, for the purpose of forming a barrier of *distinct men* near the frontiers of the United States.

There are other tracts in Lower Canada worthy

of much attention: that lying north of the St. Lawrence, in the rear of the Seigneuries, is particularly adapted for Scotch Highlanders; that is, if this tract be not reserved for the increasing Canadian-French population. Another excellent tract, pointed out by Lord Dalhousie, for Lowland Scotch, lies on the Ottawa, below Hull.

As respects New Brunswick, as the soil is, at a short distance from the sea coast, equal to that of Canada, it is, at the same time, accessible at little more than half the expense. The lands on the banks of the river St. John and its numerous tributaries are equal to those of any of the Colonies, and this Province will, at no distant period, form a most important part of America; but, bordering on the United States, great care should be observed in sending to it only Emigrants of correct, industrious, and, if possible, at the same time, of military habits.

This extensive and beautiful Province is watered in every direction by noble rivers, and their tributaries:—along the banks are rich tracts of intervale or alluvial lands, annually irrigated, and fertilized like the Nile. These lands are eminently adapted for growing hemp, flax, Indian corn, the average returns of the latter being eighty-five bushels per acre. All kinds of green and white crops produced in England, thrive here; and since the depression of the timber trade in 1826, the inhabitants have been directing their labour principally to agriculture.

In Nova Scotia, although there are not now remaining extensive tracts of good lands ungranted,

yet farmers of frugal and industrious habits, and with some means, are sure to succeed ; and such is the state of society in, and the improved condition of, this Province, that a man does not feel that he is very far removed from all that he has formerly been accustomed to.

This valuable Province has rich mines of coal, iron, copper, and other minerals ; gypsum, freestone, slate, &c.; plentiful fisheries along its coast ; good roads, excellent harbours, mills in all the old settlements, and not far distant from unoccupied lands ; and also the benefits of education within reach of the children of settlers.

Cape Breton, with its eminent advantages for the fisheries, and for grazing, and also in most parts for agriculture, is admirably adapted for families from the Highlands and Isles of Scotland, from the Isle of Man, or from Wales. Last year about two thousand Emigrants arrived in this island, from the Hebrides, in a state of wretched poverty, and would have suffered great miseries had not several of their relations or acquaintances previously settled in the Colony. Cape Breton has mines of coal and other minerals, salt springs, gypsum, &c. It is well wooded, and pierced with arms of the sea ; some leading roads have been made, and others are opening through the island.

In Prince Edward Island, families from the inland counties of England, and from the agricultural shires of Scotland, to the number of five or six thousand, would find farms to suit them, on terms fully as liberal as in any of the other Colonies, where lands are equally well situated ;

and in this Colony also, the state of society and local advantages are superior. This island has long been considered the most beautiful of our American Colonies. It is thriving rapidly in agricultural improvement; and, for its extent, will become a productive grain country.

The island of Newfoundland, the lands of which are so imperfectly known in the United Kingdom, and which, like those of Nova Scotia formerly, seem still, according to the generally received opinion, condemned, as if doomed by nature to everlasting barrenness, affords, notwithstanding, situations for an additional population of ten to twelve thousand families. It must, at the same time, be considered, that settlers adapted for Newfoundland should be men brought up along a sea coast. Families from the Shetland and Orkney Islands, the Hebrides, the Isle of Man, the shores of Wales, Cornwall, and the West and South of Ireland, would succeed best.

As to the classes to which British America offers inducements to emigrate, much will depend upon individual character; but it may, however, be observed, that in consequence of the high price of labour, gentlemen farmers do not succeed, and the condition of new countries do not admit of extensive establishments. The settlers who thrive soonest, are men of steady habits, accustomed to labour.

Practical farmers possessing from £200 to £600, may purchase, in any of the Colonies, farms with from twenty to thirty acres cleared, which may be cultivated agreeably to the system of husbandry practised in the United Kingdom. The embar-



rassed circumstances of many of the old settlers, brought on by improvidence, or by having engaged in the timber business, will compel them to sell their farms, and commence again on woodlands.

Joiners, stonemasons, saddlers, shoemakers, tailors, blacksmiths, cart, mill, and wheelwrights, and (in the seaports), coopers may always find employment. Brewers may succeed, but in a few years there will be more encouragement for them. Butchers generally do well. For spinners, weavers, or those engaged in manufactures, there is not the smallest encouragement.

Active labouring men and women may always secure employment, kind treatment, and good wages.

To gentlemen educated for the professions of law, divinity, or physic, British America offers no flattering prospects. There are already too many lawyers, as they are admitted as attorneys and barristers on serving an apprenticeship of four or five years in the Colonies. There are, of the Established Church, notwithstanding the astounding statement of Archdeacon Strachan, fully more clergymen, in proportion to the members of the Church, than in England. The members of the Kirk of Scotland, as soon as a sufficient number settle within a reasonable distance of each other to support a clergyman, generally send for a minister to Scotland. Antiburghers, Baptists, and Methodists, have preachers in every settlement where they have members, or gain hearers.

The Roman Catholic Church is respectably established,—its clergy well supported; and no class

interferes less with other persuasions than they do, or are more peaceable or better members of society.

Medical gentlemen generally secure a decent livelihood, but with few exceptions seldom make money. *The climate of British America is too salubrious for doctors to make fortunes.*

Schoolmasters who emigrate, if they have not entered into engagements, as to salary, before leaving home, will, nine out of ten, have to cultivate the soil for a subsistence, and they generally make indifferent farmers.

Young men of education, clerks in mercantile houses, or shopmen, need not expect the least encouragement, unless previously engaged by the merchants or shopkeepers in America. Many young men, however, of persevering minds, and industrious habits, have baffled every obstacle, and finally succeeded in establishing themselves in trade. Many of the richest merchants in the Colonies were of this description.

Farmers or labourers going to America, should carry out with them, if their means will admit, as much clothing, bedding, and linen as may be necessary for four or five years; some leather, one or two sets of light cart harness; two or three spades or shovels, scythes, sickles, hoes, plough traces, the iron work of a plough, and harrow, of the common kind used in Scotland; the cast machinery for a corn-fan, cooking utensils, a few door hinges, and a small assortment of nails. Furniture, or any kind of wooden work, will only incommode them, as what may be necessary, can easily be procured at moderate rates in America.

When an Emigrant has fully prepared himself in other respects, the object of greatest importance to himself and his family, is the manner in which he is to cross the seas to America.

It has frequently been the fate of passengers, particularly of those who have at all periods of emigration embarked at ports in Ireland, and in the Western Highlands and Islands of Scotland, to have undergone miseries of the most distressing and loathsome character.

Men of broken fortunes, or unprincipled adventurers, were generally the persons who have been engaged in the traffic long known by the emphatic cognomen of the "white slave trade," of transporting Emigrants to America. They travelled over the country among the labouring classes, allured them by flattering, and commonly false, accounts of the New World, to decide on emigrating, and to pay half of the passage-money in advance. A ship of the worst class, ill found with materials, and most uncomfortably accommodated, was chartered to a certain port, where the passengers embarked: crowded closely in the hold, the provisions and water indifferent, and often unwholesome and scanty; inhaling the foul air generated by filth and dirt,—typhus fever was almost inevitably produced, and, as is too well known, many of the passengers usually became its victims.

An Act of Parliament, at last, subjected the Emigrant ships to very proper restrictions as to the number of passengers, and to very necessary regulations as to the quantity and quality of water and

provisions. This necessary and just law was complained of by those interested, as grievous, and the "*white slave traders*," who did not scruple to break through its stipulations, were often ingenious enough to evade its penalties.

When the restrictions contained in this act were afterwards removed, no language can describe the consequent *disease, misery, and squalid wretchedness* imported, principally from Ireland, into the Colonies.

In 1827, the inhabitants of Halifax, in Nova Scotia, who, in the most humane and liberal manner, provided for the relief of the sick Emigrants, were doomed to share in the calamity thus introduced; and, while some hundreds of the passengers died in the hospitals, many of the healthy inhabitants of the town caught the infection and were carried off by it.\*

During the summer of the same year, several vessels arrived at St. John's, Newfoundland, from Ireland, on board of which, men, women, and children, exceeding double the usual number, were crammed. Filth and confined air soon produced disease, and the consequence was dreadful. One vessel, under 120 tons, had, previously to leaving Ireland with 110 passengers, loaded within three feet of the deck with salt. The weather during the passage was such, that, for two weeks, the hatches were not opened, and at this time two-thirds of

\* By an act of the Legislature of Nova Scotia, masters of vessels are obliged to give bonds in the amount of £10 for each passenger, that they will not become, for one year, chargeable to the parish, by reason of poverty, childhood, or age.

the passengers were afflicted with typhus and dysentery.

On entering the harbour of St. John's, the condition of this vessel was probably as appalling as that of any slave ship that ever left the Coast of Guinea. The very salt was impregnated, or covered over to the depth of one to three feet, with loathsome filth. The dead, the dying, and the sick, presented a scene too shocking for description. Some died before the vessel arrived, others on entering the harbour; forty men and ten women were carried to the hospital; and twenty died in all.

By the act of the last session of the Imperial Parliament, for regulating the carrying of passengers, (D) the number of passengers is limited to three for every four tons that a ship registers, and the quantity and quality of provisions are also regulated; but, nevertheless, it appears that some greedy speculators have, since then, lured Emigrants away from Ireland, without conforming to the legal stipulations; and it will require the greatest vigilance to bring men, trained to this traffic, to answer for their conduct. The Colonial Governments are, I understand, in future, to guard against the landing of passengers who may arrive in a sickly condition.\*

\* Irish Emigrants have been unaccountably doomed to suffer more than most others. It is well known that about two thousand Irish were inveigled to Brazil, by the offer of free passages and lands, by an agent of the Brazilian Government. These poor deluded men, on landing in South America, discovered that the intention of Don Pedro was to make soldiers of them, and on refusing to become such, every tenth man was imprisoned. After enduring great misery, either the British Ambassador or the British Consul, (I am not certain which) insisted on their being conveyed to Ireland, or to some British Colony. Vessels were accordingly

In arranging for passages to America, it will be necessary for the Emigrant, in order to guard against imposition, to make his inquiries for vessels through men of established good character, and who may have some knowledge of the owners of ships taking passengers: the ship, if possible, of a size that admits about six feet between the decks, and not an old vessel.\* Much expense and inconvenience will be saved by embarking in a ship bound to a port nearest to the Emigrant's point of destination.

The establishment of steam boats between the most convenient ports in the United Kingdom and America, would facilitate, not only the intercourse with the New World, but also shorten the voyage, and diminish the sufferings of Emigrants.

On landing in America, after the necessary information is obtained respecting vacant lands, either at the offices of the commissioners of Crown lands, or the Emigrant societies, as little time as possible should be spent in the towns, or elsewhere, before

chartered for the purpose:—the brig Highlander carried from Rio de Janeiro to St. John's, N. B. 171 men, 31 women, and 14 children, who were landed in a state of wretched poverty. These people were liberally relieved by the provincial Government, and also through the benevolence of the inhabitants. Another vessel from the same place arrived at Halifax, with about an equal number, in a similar miserable condition, many of whom were sent to the poor-house, or otherwise assisted. Much as the condition of paupers, arriving under such circumstances, is to be deplored, were it not from feelings of great benevolence for the suffering individuals, the people of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick might be said to go almost too far in relieving men, duped by Don Pedro. A Colonel Cotteril was, I believe, the name of the agent of the Brazilian Government in this business.

\* Rates of passage depend much on circumstances, the place of destination, and the class in which the ship stands.

the settler fixes on the land he is about to occupy. Much of his success may depend on the spot he selects; but, at the same time, he can almost, in any of the unoccupied tracts, fix on the best land he can obtain without losing much time, which very seldom answers any very desirable or useful purpose.—(E.)

There are various ways in which men may always employ themselves, after they land in America. The heads of families cannot do better than by devoting all the time they possibly can to the clearing and preparing their new farms, for cultivation. It is often, however, necessary for them to work for provisions, or other assistance, among the old settlers; but prudent men never do so after the first year, except compelled by necessity.

Women, and children above ten years of age, can find ready employment, particularly during spring and autumn. Young unmarried labouring men ought to save, at least, half their wages. Food, except in the towns and at public works, is usually provided for labourers by their employers.

Children, whose parents are unable to support them, may be provided for by binding them until they become of age, as apprentices to farmers, with whom they are generally brought up as one of the family; and a cow, a sheep, and some seed, is usually given to them when they leave, to begin with on a farm. In this manner, orphans are generally taken care of. It rarely happens, that a man who has a family finds it necessary to bind any of his children to others; and he who has the most numerous offspring, is considered to have the

best opportunity of prospering, in a country where land is abundant, and in which the price of labour is high.

A common plan with those who own cleared farms that they do not occupy, is, to let these farms on the halves; that is, to stock the farm with horses, horned cattle, sheep, and hogs, provide half the necessary seed, and then give possession to a practical farmer, who will cultivate it, and find the labour. After harvest, the produce, even to that of the dairy, is equally divided between the proprietor and the farmer. Many farmers, who dislike commencing at once in the woods, have, by industry and frugality, supported their families very comfortably in this manner, for two or three years, besides accumulating sufficient stock and seed to commence on a new farm. Farmers from the inland counties of England, and from Dumfriesshire and Perthshire, have succeeded best in this way.\*

To those who are anxious to emigrate, but who have not the means, it is a matter of difficulty to advise how to proceed: various plans are often

\* The prosperity of a man who cultivates land on the shares, as well as the benefit which arises to the proprietor, depends (as success in every other branch of industry does) on the industry and character of the man. A worthy friend of mine, Ewen Cameron, Esq. of Prince Edward Island, owns a remarkably fine farm within a few miles of Charlotte Town. He let it on the shares for three years, to a John Kennedy, from Perthshire, a plain, honest, industrious farmer; at the expiration of this period, Mr. Cameron was in every respect pleased with Kennedy, and quite satisfied as to the produce of his farm. Kennedy, with his stock removed to a wood farm, which (in 1828) when last in America, I passed in front of, and I could not help admiring how much land he had reclaimed from the forest, and under excellent tillage. Mr. Cameron told me that since Kennedy left, his farm, under the management of the man who succeeded him, produced him nothing.



adopted. Unmarried men and women who were unable to pay their passages, have frequently bound themselves for two or three years to those who paid for carrying them to America.

Letters from those who have been settled some years in America, to their friends in the mother countries, have long been a powerful cause of Emigration. Money, also, is frequently sent by settlers in America, to enable their friends to follow, and by these means more have been induced to emigrate than by all others.

The following very prudent plan has long prevailed in Scotland, and, having been generally attended with success, can scarcely be recommended too much. When a family, or a few families, determine on emigrating, some of the sons or relations that are grown up, are sent forward to prepare for the reception of the families, who are to follow afterwards. It often occurs that the young men thus sent to America have, for two or three years, to earn money, which they remit to pay the passages of their friends.

Young Irishmen, also, who have at different times found their way to America, have not unfrequently, by working for three or four years in the towns, or among the settlements, or by employing themselves in the fisheries, accumulated considerable sums of money, which have been forwarded to Ireland, in order to bring after them their parents, brothers or sisters, and often young women to whom they were previously engaged or attached. This I know to be a very common trait in the character of the Irish peasantry, and no

circumstance can illustrate a more powerful force of affectionate attachment.

The leading fault of Irish Emigrants is their apparent indifference about fixing at once on the permanent and certain employment, which the cultivation of the soil alone can secure to them. Transient labour among the old settlers seems more congenial to them than working on a wood farm on their own account. Exceptions, however, there are to this general observation ; and in comparing the condition of the Irish settlers in America, with that of the peasantry in Ireland, I may say, without the least fear of being incorrect, that I have beheld more apparent wretchedness, and, I would infer, real misery, in one day travelling in Ireland, than I have witnessed during several years' residence in, and while travelling through the principal parts of, the British empire in North America.

In remarking generally on the condition of the inhabitants of our American Colonies, as respects their means, no class, except those engaged immediately or indirectly in commerce, has accumulated fortunes. The majority of the whole population possess considerable property in land and cattle ; among the remainder, many are poor ; but beggars are scarcely ever seen, unless it be in the towns, where some accidental calamity or natural infirmity brings occasionally a destitute individual to solicit charity. The Irish Emigrants are, but only for a short time after landing, frequently observed begging.

The oldest settlers are not always discovered to

be the most opulent, notwithstanding the advantages they have had of selecting the best lands. It is truly lamentable to observe the condition of some of those who have long occupied the finest farms, and whose poverty is the visible consequence of unsteadiness, extravagance, and often of a silly species of pride that attaches contempt to rural industry. In each of the Colonies I know many farmers of this character, who, before the month of May each year, have to purchase grain and potatoes from their more provident neighbours.—(F)

It is, however, most satisfactory to know, that, in every instance, the early settler, who has confined his labour to agriculture, and who has managed the fruits of his toil with frugality and judgment, is discovered to be respectably opulent, to have brought up his family in a most creditable manner, and happy with his sons and daughters, commonly married and settled around him. In a contrary view, we find that those who only considered farming as a secondary employment, and engaged in other pursuits according as their fancy directed, have had poverty an ever present attendant, with their families scattered in different places, subjected to a precarious subsistence, and often leading an irregular and indolent life.

As an example of a body of some hundreds of Emigrants thriving by steady industry, I know of none who have succeeded better than those sent by the late Earl of Selkirk, in 1802, from the Highlands and Isles of Scotland to Prince Edward Island, where his Lordship first began his colonizing experiments, by settling them along the sea

coast, on lands which he purchased in one of the finest districts of that Colony. It would have been happy for those he sent to Red River, if they had been equally fortunate; and however good and honest his Lordship's intentions were, and I believe them to have been so, he was undoubtedly imprudent in his measures and plans in respect to the Red River settlement.—(G)

Many instances might also be pointed out in Upper Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Cape Breton, of the prosperity of Emigrants, who had to encounter all the hardships attached to a wilderness country, without money, or any support, but what depended on their industry, to carry them through their difficulties.—(H)

Among other advantages connected with Emigration to British America, the constitution of our Colonies, being a transcript of that of England, will be agreeable to most settlers. By the laws of England, all criminal matters are judged; and, with the exception of Lower Canada, where civil causes are tried according to the *Coutume de Paris*, or old French laws, all matters that involve property are decided agreeably to the English laws, and those passed by the provincial legislatures.

There are scarcely any taxes, and very few public burdens,—duties on articles of luxury are trifling, and on necessary articles there are rarely any, consequently all that is required for supporting a family may be purchased at low rates, fine clothing excepted.\*

\* See Appendix.

I have particularly to advise new settlers against running in debt to the shopkeepers ; doing so, has prevented many hard labouring men from prospering. The low price of spirituous liquors is also a great bane to the success of Emigrants, and the facility with which rum can be procured, is the most prolific source of domestic misery and personal depravity that exists in America.

Wherever a settlement is formed, and some progress is made in the clearing and cultivation of the soil, it begins gradually to develop the usual features of an American village. First, a saw mill, a grist mill, and a blacksmith's shop appear ; then a school-house and a place of worship ; and in a little time the village doctor, and pedlar with his wares, introduce themselves.

Few habitations can be more rude than those of the first settlers, which are built of logs, and covered with bark or boards, but many in the United Kingdom are far less comfortable. The most that an Emigrant can do the first year is, to erect his habitation, and cut down the trees on as much ground as will be sufficient to plant ten to twelve bushels of potatoes, and to sow three or four bushels of grain. If his means will enable him to carry to the land he commences on, as much provisions as will support himself and family, it will be an object of the greatest importance, to enable him to overcome the difficulties of his situation.

Much valuable time is wasted in working among the old settlers for provisions ; and if the Emigrant should even succeed in getting articles

of food on credit, it will long be a drawback on his industry.

In the course of five years an industrious man may expect, and should have, twelve acres under cultivation, one horse, two or three cows, a few sheep and pigs, and sufficient food for himself and family. In ten years the same man, with perseverance and frugality, ought to have from twenty-five to thirty acres under improvement, to possess a pair of horses, a waggon or cart, a sledge and cabriole, five or six cows, a yoke of oxen, sheep, hogs, poultry, &c. a comfortable house, a good barn, and plenty of food for himself and family. This is no extravagant calculation—I could name hundreds who began in a state of abject poverty, who, in the same period, accumulated, by steady industry, fully as much as I have stated.

On the other hand, I have witnessed the condition of many others who were settled from five to fifty years in America, who scarcely possessed any of the necessaries of life, but the cause I invariably traced to their improvident character and indolent

## NOTES.

*Note A, page 14.*

We find, in different parts of America, settlements nearly of distinct people. The gregarious propensity of men speaking the same language, and of similar habits, no doubt causes this circumstance. Those who first emigrate from home, describe, in their letters to their friends, the country they settle in; and I have, all over America, discovered that the resident inhabitants of one place knew scarcely any thing of other parts, even of those in their vicinity.

Wherever a few families, from any particular parish or country, went, others usually followed. Thus, various parts of the Carolinas attracted swarms of Emigrants from the Long Island (Lewis, Uist, and Barra) Sutherland, Argyleshire, and Rosshire; Invernesshire sent settlers to Georgia, to Nova Scotia, to Prince Edward Island, and to Cape Breton; Glengarry, and some other places in Upper Canada, were first settled by people from Lochaber, Glengarry, and Keppoch in Scotland, who first emigrated to the Southern Colonies, but were afterwards forced away by the disturbances which effected the American revolution.

This was the visible course of Emigration for some time after its commencement; and though in a more general way, and its distinct movements less observable, the same feelings still direct those who leave their mother land.

*Note B, page 16.*

Old men now living in the Colonies have related to me most distressing accounts of the miseries they endured after their arrival in America (about 1770.) Some of those who first settled at Pictou, were frequently compelled to cross

the country through the woods, on snow shoes, to the Bay of Fundy, forty or fifty miles, and drag back on small sledges, or toboggans, a bushel or two of potatoes, to keep themselves and families alive. The case of these people was far from being solitary. Instances of equal suffering attended the first settlers in all the Colonies. The Highlanders who settled at Glengarry, in Upper Canada, had extraordinary difficulties to overcome, and suffered great privations. In Prince Edward Island the early settlers were, chiefly from not knowing the country, subjected for one or two years to all but perishing by famine. They used to divide into lots the very shores where shell-fish abounded, and several of the old inhabitants have told me, that, were it not for the extraordinary abundance of eels and other fish, and the great plenty of game, they must have all starved.

“The difficulties to which the first settlers (in New Brunswick) were exposed, continued for a long time almost insurmountable. At St. Ann’s, where Frederickton was afterwards built, a few scattered French huts were found, the country all around being a continued wilderness, uninhabited and untrodden, except by savages and wild animals; and scarcely had the settlers began to construct their cabins, when they were surprised by the rigours of an untried climate, their habitations being enveloped in snow before they were tenantable. The climate at that period (from what cause has not yet been satisfactorily ascertained) being far more severe than at present, they were frequently put to the greatest straits for food and clothing to preserve existence, and forced to go from fifty to one hundred miles, with hand sleds, or toboggans, through dreary woods, or on the ice, to procure a precarious supply for their famishing families. Frequently, in the piercing cold of winter, a part of the family had to remain up during the night to keep fire in their huts, to prevent the other part from freezing.”—“Sketch of New Brunswick,” a very accurate little pamphlet, written, as Mr. Simonds, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly told me, by a Mr. Fisher, of Frederickton. I state these circumstances merely to show that all new settlements, formed at a great distance from the parent state, or where there are not old settlements in the immediate neighbourhood, are exposed to very great difficulties for some years.



*Note C, page 17.*

The best method of illustrating the prosperity of settlers in America, is by stating instances of individual success. Among the settlers in New Brunswick I had some conversation with an old Highlander from Sutherlandshire, one of the soldiers of the 42d regiment, who were disbanded in America after the revolutionary war. This man had settled on the banks of the Nashwaack, and had scarcely ever since been absent from his farm, except occasionally with his overplus corn or potatoes to Frederickton. He retained his native language with as much purity as if he had never removed from the vale in which he was born, by which I immediately discovered where he came from; the tone and accent of the Gaelic varying as much in one shire, or in one of the isles of Scotland, from the others, as the pronunciation of the inhabitants of the several counties in England does. When I addressed this good old man in his native language, his very soul seemed to feel all the rapture of early enthusiasm; and I can never forget the bright warmth of his countenance, and the ardour of his language, when inquiring about the state of the Highlands, and the condition of his countrymen. He said he used for the first few years to receive now and then letters from his friends, but that his relatives gradually dropped off, some by death, others by removal to other countries; and that for the last twenty years he had no direct intelligence from Sutherland. Never could his country, however, cease to be dear to him. "Never," said he, "will we forget the tales, the songs, and the music we heard in the Highlands; we recite or sing them during the winter evenings, and our children will ever remember them, and, I hope, transmit them to their offspring." He said that although Government did much for them (his neighbours and himself) in the way of rations, &c. they, nevertheless, suffered very great hardships for the first few years, after settling where they now live. "There were some idlers and faint-hearted people," he said, "among us, who left the settlement, but all those who have remained have prospered. I am myself as comfortable as I can be. All my family are married; some of them live with me; others have farms of their own. I have very little to do but enjoy myself among my children and my grandchildren, and although the best

years of my manhood were spent fighting for my king, and the greatest part of my life since that period has been spent in toiling for the support of my family, and for whatever I now possess, yet I have great reason," he continued, "to be thankful and grateful to God, in whom I trust for a peaceful and calm retreat through my declining years to another world." This is nearly a translation of what he said, but destitute of the force of expression so peculiar to the language in which he spoke,—that of nature.

About twenty years ago a family from Ardna-Murchen, among many other Emigrants from Argyleshire, settled on a point of land on the north side of Prince Edward Island. This spot possessed not the advantages of *marsh*, or *running streams*, which are considered of such indispensable importance by all indolent farmers; but its soil was fertile, and covered with immense trees of birch, beech, and fir; and M'Millan and his family were thrifty, and not afraid of hard work. They are at this day, therefore, as opulent and respectable as any farmers in the Colony; the sons and daughters married, and comfortably settled on their several farms, which they have purchased, and on which they have built good houses, barns, &c. The second son, who occupies the farm they first commenced on, and with whom his parents live, has built a handsome house, a large barn, different new outhouses, and has also his lands in a high state of cultivation. His cart, or sledge, appears once a week, or oftener, in the market of Charlotte Town, with flour, grain, or other produce; while some old settlers, who have been forty years in the Colony, and living on excellent farms, with plenty of marsh and fertile uplands, often come, with a bag under their arm, to buy wheat of Mr. M'Millan before the month of May.

Among the settlers on the townships belonging to Sir James Montgomery and his brother, I have frequently had the opportunity of observing the industrious progress of an old man of the name of Sinclair. He was upwards of sixty years when I saw him beginning in the woods. His family consisted of his wife and two grown-up daughters; one of the latter usually spent three-fourths of the year at service: their means were limited, and they were obliged to live very frugally; but their industry overcame every difficulty: recollect-

ing the place thickly covered with trees, in 1820, I was charmed with its pretty improvements when I rode past it four or five years afterwards, and never did I observe more forcibly the effect of well-applied industry. A little further on, near Sinclair's farm, a settler, who was formerly a tenant on Major General Stewart's estate, Garth, in Perthshire, and who went to America recommended by this brave officer to Sir James Montgomery's agent, has also made most extensive improvements. In the same settlement a man of the name of Cairns, whom I observed the first year, with a rope over his shoulder, actually dragging after him the harrow which covered the seed, and who had at one time been in good circumstances in Dumfriesshire, but who arrived pennyless in America, told me that, after surmounting the difficulties of the first two years, he had lived better, and that he considered himself much more independent, than he ever did in Scotland. Mr. Dockendorf, one of the most respectable farmers in Prince Edward Island, with whom I have had frequent conversation respecting the condition of the inhabitants of the Colonies, removed to it about forty years ago from the United States. He was then unmarried, and commenced clearing the farm which he now occupies, which was at that time covered altogether with trees which indicate a fertile soil. It is now one of the finest farms in North America. His house is large, handsome, and comfortable; his barn, stables, &c. are commodious and well planned; his farming implements are ever in the best order; his horses, cattle, sheep, &c. always in excellent condition. He married, soon after he settled, a thrifty and worthy woman, and he has brought up a family in a manner highly creditable, and extolled for regularity of character and habits of thrift. He has often observed to me, that all the poverty in the Colony, and generally in North America, was nothing more nor less than the inevitable consequence of indolence, imprudence, and the absence of frugality. The poverty of such persons never surprised him. Every thing about this most worthy man bespoke happiness and comfort; plenty, but not useless waste, always appeared at his table. Respected in the Colony, a member of the Legislature, and dear to his family, he more than once observed to me that he had nothing to wish for that could increase his happiness; and that he thought no man in the world

could be more comfortable than he was. His strong mind enabled him to discover this; and if there be an independent and happy man on earth, one circumstanced like *my friend Mr. Dockendorff* must be so.

The following extracts from the reports of the New Brunswick Agricultural Society will show the prosperity of that Province, as respects the cultivation of the soil:—

“It is most gratifying to the Society, at this early stage of its progress, to announce that the operations of this, and of the several county agricultural associations, have tended powerfully, though silently, to the advancement of agriculture, not only with regard to the cultivation of the soil, but also with respect to the improvement of the breed of our domestic animals. To give additional facilities to the former, the central society have imported implements to a large amount; and, to promote the latter, they imported from England, in the course of last summer, a strong and beautiful horse, and sixteen of the Dishley or Leicestershire sheep. Measures were taken to introduce the sheep and implements of husbandry into various parts of the Province; and the horse will probably soon be offered for sale at public auction, in order that the inhabitants of all parts of the Province may have a fair and equal chance of competing for so valuable an animal.

“Mr. Nicholas Cunliffe, of Woodstock, commenced clearing his farm in May, 1824. The work was done by contract, at the rate of from £3 10s. to £4 per acre. He has now one hundred and seven acres of land cleared, excepting of the stumps of the trees; (seventy-four acres were cleared since May last;) and the crop raised from this land, last season, was nine hundred bushels of good clean wheat, weighing sixty three pounds to the bushel, four hundred bushels Indian corn, nearly one thousand bushels of potatoes, besides a quantity of beans and garden stuff, of which no particular account was kept. This crop alone will leave a profit of about £100 over and above the expense of clearing the whole of the land.

“Mr. Joseph Bedell commenced clearing his farm at Richmond, in the parish of Woodstock, about four miles from the River Saint John, in May, 1821. Without any other assistance than that of his three sons, (the oldest of whom is now but sixteen, the next twelve years of age, and the other still younger,) he has cleared fifty acres of land, from which he raised, last season, two hundred and forty bushels of wheat, two hundred and fifty bushels of oats, fifty bushels of buck wheat, six hundred bushels of potatoes, one hundred and fifty bushels of turnips, and a small quantity of Indian corn. He has paid £110 since he went on the farm, is now clear of debt, and owns four cows, one pair of horses, eight

head of young cattle, twelve sheep, and eight hundred acres of good land.”  
 —*The Report of the Agricultural Society of the County of Sunbury.*

“ It is also mentioned that, from one acre, Mr. Upton raised eighty-four and a half bushels of Indian corn; and that, from the same quantity of land, Mr. Miles raised thirty-four bushels of wheat; and the Report concludes by stating that the Southdown sheep could not now be purchased for three times the price for which they were sold in 1826, so superior are they and their lambs to the native breed.”

“ It is no wonder that, in a new country, whose first inhabitants (many of whom are yet living) had to struggle for existence in what was, a few years ago, a gloomy wilderness; and where the fisheries, and the manufacture of timber, have always employed so considerable a portion of its population, the more improved modes of farming have but in a few instances been practised. Enough, however, has been done to dispel those clouds of uncertainty that, until of late, had dimmed the prospects of the agriculturists. The goodness of Providence has cast our lot in a highly-favoured land, and all that is requisite on our parts to secure increasing and durable prosperity, is the general adoption of that industry, of which, in various parts of the Province, there are many honourable examples; and that industry differently and more judiciously applied.”

“ In this country the farmer pays no rent, and the taxes are so light as to be scarcely worth mentioning: the English farmer pays high rent and taxes, and (as has often been observed) he is well enabled to do so, by adopting machinery of an improved construction; by judiciously attending to the accumulation of manures, and to the prevention of their waste; by applying them properly; by raising extensive root crops for his cattle; by forcing the soil to its full capability of bearing; in short, by embracing, in every department of husbandry, an admirable system of order, neatness, and economy.”

“ Not only the farmers in this Province, but, in general, those of the northern parts of America, enjoy advantages, at present, which neither they nor their predecessors formerly possessed.”

Extract from the proceedings of a meeting of the Central Committee of the New Brunswick Agricultural and Emigrant Society, holden at the Province Hall, on Tuesday, the 17th April, 1827:—

“ Captain Douglas informed the meeting that his Excellency, the Lieutenant-Governor, had received the sanction of his Majesty’s Government to present to this Society the sum of Two Hundred Pounds, from the casual revenue, which sum his Excellency desires may be appropriated to the importation of stock for improving the breed of domestic animals in this Province, which are to be sold as soon as may be proper

after their arrival, and the proceeds of the sale (made up out of the funds of the Society, to the full cost, including freight and all charges,) to be re-invested in the purchase of other stock, which are likewise to be disposed of for the same purpose, in such place or places as may be most likely to diffuse the benefits of those importations as widely as possible throughout the Province. The several importations of stock made with this and the other donations presented by his Excellency are thus to be sold annually,—the loss on the transaction, if any, to be made up by the Society, and the operation to be continued until the Province shall be sufficiently supplied with stock of the most improved and valuable breed.”

*Note D, page 37.*

The following extract from the late Passengers' Act may be useful to Emigrants:—

“ 1. No ship to carry more than three persons for every four tons of its burthen; and to have five feet and a half between platform and deck; two children under fourteen, or three under seven; or one child under one year and the mother to be computed as one passenger.

“ 2. Ship to be provided with fifty gallons pure water, and at least fifty pounds oatmeal, biscuit, &c. for each passenger.

“ 3. Ships having the full number of passengers to carry no stores between decks; may occupy with stores between decks three cubic feet for each passenger less than the full number.

“ 4. Ship-masters to deliver a list of passengers to the Customs at port of sailing, and furnish similar list at port of landing.

“ 5. Ship-masters landing passengers any where else than agreed upon, liable to a penalty of £20, to be recovered before any two Justices of the Peace.

“ 6. Ship-masters not having the above quantity of water and bread to be guilty of misdemeanour.

“ 7. Ship-masters to enter into bond for observance of the Act.

“ 8. Act not to apply to Post-office ships, or to extend to Bahama Islands, or West Indies.”

*Note E, page 39.*

Lands, in all the Colonies which remained unoccupied and held by the Crown, were, until lately, granted to Emigrants on paying certain fees of office to the governors, surveyor-general, &c. amounting to about £12 on one hundred acres, and increasing to about £15 for five hundred acres.

Such lands are now sold in lots, under the direction of the

commissioner of Crown lands. These tracts are advertised in the colonial papers, and plans of them may be seen in the proper offices, at the seats of Government in each Colony. Although the lands sold in this way may not cost the Emigrant more than the former fees of office, yet the system is considered, by most of those with whom I conversed on the subject, very objectionable. Captain Hurd, surveyor-general of New Brunswick, pointed out to me, in a very distinct manner, the inconvenience to Emigrants of the present mode of settling the Crown lands.

There is more delay, and not so much liberty, in selecting any of the ungranted lands. As it is, however, the Emigrant must make his application as early as possible, and he will at once be told how soon, and where, he can get lands; which will not likely be attended with any greater delay than may be necessary for him to acquire the requisite information about the local advantages of the lands pointed out to him. When he receives the proper titles to settle on the spot fixed upon, it will be well for him to set at once about clearing away so many of the trees as may be necessary, on the ground where he is to build a habitation for lodging his family. The nearest settlers usually assist in these operations. The simple dwelling of a new settler is in imitation of the rude huts of the American backwoods-men, and built of large logs, laid horizontally, and crossing at the ends, are notched into each other, with the interstices closed up with moss. The roof is covered with the rinds of trees or boards. A place is cut out of the side wall for a door, and another for a window. A chimney is built of clay and straw, wrought into a slight wooden frame. A floor is then laid either of boards or of trees hewn flat on the upper side. A single door is hung, and a sash with four or six panes of glass put into the window. One or more truckle beds are fixed, and then this humble cottage is ready to receive the Emigrant's family. Such is the lodging by no means uncomfortable, which the bulk of new settlers occupy for the first three or four years after arriving in America.

Should it be too late in the season for the Emigrant to plant any thing for himself the summer he arrives, which is generally the case, he commonly labours for provisions or other necessities among the old inhabitants.

The greatest part of his time, however, should be devoted to cutting down the trees on a few acres of the land he fixes on. The axe is the tool used for levelling the forest; the trees are all felled in the same direction, and cut, after lopping off the large branches, into twelve or fifteen feet lengths. In May the whole is set on fire, which consumes the branches and small trees, and chars the surface of the ground. The large logs are then either rolled away for fencing stuff, or piled in heaps and burnt on the land. Grain is then sown without further preparations or tillage, other than covering the seed with a hoe, or sometimes by using a triangular harrow drawn by oxen. A one-handed plough, with the share and coulter locked into each other, (the old Dutch plough), also drawn by oxen, is used by some, a man attending with an axe to cut the roots. No attention is paid to make straight furrows, the object being no more than to break up the ground that the seed may be more easily covered. With such rude culture, however, three successive good crops are raised without any manure. Potatoes are planted in round hollows, scooped four or five inches deep, and about twenty in circumference, in which three or five sets are placed and covered over with a hoe. Wheat is usually sown the second year after potatoes, without ploughing; the seed is covered with a rake or harrow; and oats are sown on the same land the same year. Some farmers, and it is certainly the best plan, sow *Timothy* or clover-seed the second year, with the wheat, and afterwards let the ground remain under grass until the stumps can be easily got out, which usually require three or four years; with a little additional labour they may be dug out the second year. Indian corn, cucumbers, peas, and beans, are cultivated on new lands, in the same manner as potatoes. Grain, of all kinds, turnip, hemp, and flax seeds, are sown over the surface, and covered over with a hoe, rake, or harrow.

It is curious and interesting to mark the progress of a man who plants himself on a wood farm from the period he commences until he has reclaimed a sufficient quantity of land to enable him to follow the mode of cultivation he practised in his native country.

A new settler, to be enabled to settle at once on his farm, and not to be afterwards obliged to work for others in order to



get provisions for his family, should have from fifty to eighty pounds in cash, that is, to pay the probable purchase money of the land, and the necessary supplies he may require. He should carry with him to his new farm, if his family consists of five persons,

Fifty bushels Potatoes.....	£2	10	0
Two barrels Flour.....	3	10	0
One barrel Rye, Indian, or Oatmeal.....	1	6	0
One barrel Mackarel and one barrel Herrings	2	0	0
Half barrel Beef.....	1	15	0
Five gallons Molasses.....	0	12	6
Three gallons Rum.....	0	12	0
Three pounds Tea.....	0	15	0
Twelve pounds Sugar.....	0	8	0
One Milch Cow.....	5	0	0
Two Axes, four Hoes, one Saw, one or two Planes, one Adze, twenty or thirty pounds Nails, two Pots, one Kettle, some Tea Mugs, Gridiron, Frying-pan, and some Earthenware.....	10	0	0
	<hr/>		
	£28	8	6

He should, besides this, have as much money as will purchase seed.\*

The majority of settlers, however, have nothing but their industry to begin with; and, although they certainly suffer greater hardships, generally succeed as well as those who have a little means.

The old inhabitants would willingly allow an Emigrant to settle on any part of their wood-lands for six or eight years, in consideration of the improvements he should make. This, however, would be a most imprudent plan for the new settler. In Prince Edward Island leases can still be had of good wood-lands from the present proprietors for nine hundred and ninety-nine years, at from one shilling to two shillings per acre annual rent; and I believe these terms to be as favourable as any now to be had in America. When we consider the superior advantages of this Colony, wood-lands can also be purchased there for from £25 to £100 per hundred acres.

\* See Appendix.

In a few years, however, the lands in that Island cannot be obtained on such favourable terms, as the population is increasing fast.

The clergy reserves in Upper Canada are quite a *nuisance*, as interrupting the settlement, improvement, and prosperity of the country.

The mode in which lands are obtained from the Canada Land Company, may be seen by the following copy of a notice published by Mr. Galt, then agent for the Canada Company :

“ *To Emigrants arriving from the United Kingdom.*

“ Notice is hereby given, that the Canada Company having completed their arrangements for the settlement of that extensive tract of country which lies between the districts of Gore and London, and the shores of Lake Huron, a road is being opened from the township of Wilmot to the mouth of the Red River, hereafter to be called the Maitland.

“ This road is in continuation of one leading through Waterloo from Guelph, and Government is now opening another from Dundas to Guelph, by which route the journey from the head of Lake Ontario to Lake Huron may be performed in four or five days.

“ At the mouth of the Maitland, a town, to be called Goderich, will be founded in the course of the summer, as soon as the necessary surveys can be completed.

“ Along the road from Wilmot to Goderich, the land, which is all of the best quality, will be sold in lots of one hundred acres each, for which, at the option of the purchasers, payment, at the rate of seven shillings and sixpence per acre, will be taken in cash, provisions, or labour on the roads, from the first two hundred heads of families who offer themselves as settlers ; and supplies of provisions, and medical assistance, will be provided by the Company.

“ Saw and grist mills are building near the proposed site of Goderich.

“ Emigrants, or other persons desirous to embrace this advantageous opportunity of locating themselves, will please apply to the agents of the Company, in the following form, by whom they will be furnished with tickets addressed to the Company’s office at Guelph, where the applications will be registered, according to the date of the presentation of the tickets.

“ *Canada Company’s Office,* (Signed) JOHN GALT,  
“ *Guelph, May 28, 1828.* Superintendent.”

“ No. *To the Canada Company.*

“ I am desirous of locating myself under the Company, in their Huron tract, by purchasing ——— acres, one hundred to be immediately

abutting on the line of road leading from the township of Wilmot to the mouth of the River Maitland, and I will pay for the same as follows:—

“ (Here state whether in cash, and how, or in provisions and teaming, or in labour.)

“ My family consists of \_\_\_\_\_ persons; my eldest child is \_\_\_\_\_ years of age, and my youngest \_\_\_\_\_ I am a native of \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ by trade a \_\_\_\_\_ In my religion I am \_\_\_\_\_ and I am known to \_\_\_\_\_ residing at \_\_\_\_\_

“ N.B.—The applications are to be delivered in person, open, to the agents, viz.

“ At Quebec,	John Davidson, Esq.
“ At Montreal,	Messrs. Hart, Logan, and Co.
“ At New York,	J. C. Buchanan, Esq.
“ At Geneva, State of New York,	A. M. Nab, Esq.

“ Pultney Land-office.

Or, within the Province of Upper Canada, to John Galt, Esq. superintendent for the Canada Company, York or Guelph.”

*Note F, page 43.*

A ridiculous kind of pride which prevailed, and still in some measure exists, in America, showed itself prominently in holding rural labour in contempt. This has been a principal cause of poverty among the old settlers; who, when any other employment offered, were sure to escape from the occupation of husbandry.

Strange as it may appear in England, where the opinions of such people will be laughed at, the petty shopkeeper, who retailed rum, sugar, and tea; the pedlar, who carried about tape, thread, needles, and pins; the keeper of a common tavern or dram-shop; the constable, who served the summons or writs of the Justices of Peace; and the scheming horse-dealer,—were much more important persons than the truly more respectable and assuredly more honest man who cultivated his own lands. Unfortunately, many of the farmers themselves considered the cultivation of the soil beneath them, and only held the plough, as a degraded employment, from necessity; but the consequent poverty which their folly brought them to has opened their eyes.

*Note G, page 44.*

In alluding to the prosperity of new settlements, I might point out many in Upper Canada, among which I do not know

of any more deserving of notice than that of Perth, forty-two miles north of the Saint Lawrence, on the banks of the Tay, and those in the townships contiguous to it, the sites of which were, in 1815, occupied by a gloomy forest of immense trees. The flourishing village of Perth, with many improving settlements, corn-fields, and meadows, now offer a more cheering and enlivening scene, and afford to man the articles that are necessary to support him in a comfortable manner.

On the River St. John, the Cardigan settlement of Welsh Emigrants is in a very prosperous condition; and the settlement of New Bandou, on the shores of the Bay de Chaleur, consisting of Irish families bound together by a kind of mutual compact, has flourished as rapidly as any that I know of.

In Nova Scotia, the Scotch settlements on the East River of Pictou, and even among the hilly districts of the country, have made rapid strides towards independence, and the Highlanders also who have settled within the Bras d'Or Lake, and along the sea-coasts of Cape Breton, are, at least those who have located for three or four years, in tolerable circumstances, although they have not so much ambition to become comfortable as the English or lowland Scotch.

In 1818, several families from Yorkshire arrived at Prince Edward Island, where they did not, on leaving England, intend to remain; but being delighted with the appearance of the Colony, they applied to the agent of Sir James Montgomery to give them leases of one hundred acres to some, and of two hundred acres of wood-land to others, fronting on the road leading from Charlotte Town to Stanhope. The terms were, the first two years free, the third year at sixpence, the fourth at ninepence, and afterwards, for nine hundred and ninety-nine years, to continue at the annual rent of one shilling sterling per acre. A cow was also given by the proprietor to each of the settlers, to be paid for when their circumstances admitted. These people went to work with such a determination, and economized their time and means with such prudence, that, in 1826, when I had occasion to go among them, they had each from fifteen to twenty acres of land cleared and under excellent cultivation, one or two horses, four or five horned cattle, a few sheep, some pigs, and poultry. They were allowed to name their settlement Little York, and I was delighted to observe

the order in which they kept their agricultural implements, and the neatness and cleanliness of every thing about them, which reminded me of England.

The plan adopted by my friend Mr. Cormack, when he planted the settlement of New Glasgow, which the following letter explains, has been successful:—

“ *Edinburgh, 14th February, 1829.* ”

“ MY DEAR SIR,

“ I was much gratified on observing such a proof of the flourishing condition of the settlement of New Glasgow, in Prince Edward Island, as that of your noticing it in your Sketches of our American Colonies.

“ To secure a foundation to that settlement, I encouraged and guarded the first settlers, until they had marked out and possessed the grounds according to the notions with which they had left their native soil, and to secure its existence and prosperity afterwards. I supplied their wants so far as to enable them to labour on the land without working for others, and, by this measure, to make them feel attached to it as their own. Afterwards, I advanced necessaries to them, not exceeding altogether the value of their improvements.

“ I am, my dear Sir,

“ Yours, sincerely,

(Signed)

“ W. E. CORMACK.”

*Note H, page 44.*

I have in my Sketches of the British Colonies briefly noticed the present condition of the settlers sent by the late Lord Selkirk to Prince Edward Island, of whom his Lordship observes, in his able work on Emigration, “ I had undertaken to settle these lands with Emigrants whose views were directed towards the United States; and, without any wish to increase the general spirit of Emigration, I could not avoid giving more than ordinary advantages to those who should join me. \* \* \* To induce people to embark in the undertaking was, however, the last part of my task. The difficulties which a new settler has to struggle with, are so great and various, that in the oldest and best-established Colonies they are not to be avoided altogether. \* \* \* Of these discouragements the Emigrant is seldom fully aware. He has a new set of ideas to acquire: the knowledge which his previous experience has accumulated, can seldom be applied; his ignorance as to the circumstances

of the country meet him on every occasion. \* \* \* The combined effect of these accumulated difficulties is seen in the long infancy of most new-settled countries. \* \* \* I will not assert that the people I took there (to Prince Edward Island,) have totally escaped all difficulties and discouragements; but the arrangements for their accomodation have had so much success, that few, perhaps, in their situation, have suffered less, or have seen their difficulties so soon at an end. \* \* \* These people, amounting to about eight hundred persons of all ages, reached the Island in their ships on the 7th, 9th, and 27th August, 1803. It had been my intention to come to the Island sometime before any of the settlers, in order that every requisite preparation might be made. In this, however, a number of untoward circumstances concurred to disappoint me; and on arriving at the capital of the Island, I learned that the ship of most importance had just arrived, and the passengers were landing at a place previously appointed for the purpose. \* \* \* I lost no time in proceeding to the spot, where I found that the people had already lodged themselves in temporary wigwams, (tents composed of poles and fir branches.)

“The settlers had spread themselves along the shore for the distance of about half a mile, upon the site of an old French village, which had been destroyed and abandoned after the capture of the Island by the British forces in 1758. The land which had formerly been cleared of wood was overgrown again with thickets of young trees, interspersed with grassy glades. \* \* \* I arrived at the place late in the evening, and it had then a very striking appearance. Each family had kindled a large fire near their wigwams, and round these were assembled groups of figures, whose *peculiar national dress* added to the singularity of the surrounding scene; confused heaps of baggage were everywhere piled together beside their wild habitations; and by the number of fires the whole woods were illuminated. At the end of the line of encampment I pitched my own tent, and was surrounded in the morning by a numerous assemblage of people whose behaviour indicated that they looked to nothing less than a restoration of the happy days of clanship. \* \* \* These hardy people thought little of the inconvenience they felt from the slightness of the shelter they put up from themselves.” His Lordship then states

numerous difficulties attending the location of the Emigrants, and then proceeds: "I could not but regret the time which had been lost; but I had satisfaction in reflecting that the settlers had begun the culture of their farms, with their little capitals unimpaired. \* \* \* I quitted the Island in September, 1803, and, after an extensive tour on the continent of America, returned at the end of the same month in the following year. It was with the utmost satisfaction I then found that my plans had been followed up with attention and judgment. \* \* \* I found the settlers engaged in securing the harvest, which their industry had produced. There were three or four families who had not gathered a crop adequate to their own supply; but many others had a considerable superabundance."

When in America I had the opportunity of knowing the condition of these Colonists. In 1827 their numbers, with the accession of some friends and relatives, had increased to upwards of 4000; and, if possessing land, good houses, large stocks of cattle, abundance of provisions, and a large overplus to sell for articles of convenience, together with being free of debt, be considered to constitute independent circumstances, they are certainly in the state I describe. The account given me by the Rev. Mr. McLennan, a very worthy clergyman officiating among them, tallied exactly with my own observations. The prosperity of this Colony induced his Lordship to attempt colonizing the lands beyond Lake Superior, on the banks of the Red River, more than double the distance from Europe, and of most difficult access; and although the unfortunate differences between his Lordship and the North-west Company broke up the settlement in 1815 and 1816, the natural obstacles connected with a country so inconveniently situated must long operate against colonizing it. The lands, however, are excellent, and the climate not very objectionable.

## APPENDIX.

COMPUTED PRICES OF VARIOUS ARTICLES AND THE WAGES OF  
LABOUR IN THE BRITISH AMERICAN COLONIES.

A Horse from £10 to £25; some of the finest Horses as high as £40.

A Foal six months old, £5 to £7.

A Cow from £4 to £6.

A pair of good Oxen, the four quarters of each of which should weigh 700lb. to 800lb., £16 to £20.

A Milch Cow and Calf, in the Spring, £5 to £7.

A Calf of six months old, about £1.

A good wether Sheep, 16s. to 20s.

Scarcely any fixed price for Pigs, as it depends on the breed and age; but the value may be considered one-third less than in England.

Turkeys, 3s. to 7s.

Geese (fat and stubble fed) 2s. to 2s. 6d.

Fowls are very cheap.

Beef, fresh, 2d. to 4d. per lb.

Pork, fresh, 2½d. to 4½d. per lb.

A barrel of spring Herrings, 12s.

A barrel of fall ditto, very fat, 15s. to 17s. 6d.

A barrel of Mackarel, very rich, and considered, in a family, equal to a barrel of Pork, 15s. to 22s.

Codfish, per cwt. 12s. to 15s.

A barrel of Salmon, 40s. to 50s.

Fresh Codfish, weighing about 15lb. 6d. each.

Lobsters and Oysters are abundant, and may be had cheap along the sea-coast and bays. A vast variety of Fish, such as Halibut, Haddock, Trout, Shad, Bass Eels, &c. are abundant, but are generally caught by the inhabitants for their own use, and not often put up for sale.

Flour, 2d. to 3d. per lb. 25s. to 35s. per barrel.

In Upper Canada, where far from market, Wheat 2s. to 3s. 6d.

In the Lower Provinces, Wheat 4s. 6d. to 5s. 6d.

Barley, 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d.



Oats, 1s. 3d. to 1s. 9d.

Indian Corn or Maize, 3s. 6d. to 4s. 6d.

Indian Meal, 12s. to 16s. per cwt.

Hay, 30s. to 70s. per ton of 20 cwt.

Potatoes, 1s. to 1s. 6d. per bushel.

Turnips, 1s. to 1s. 6d. per bushel.

Butter, 8d. to 1s. per lb.

Rum, 3s. to 3s. 6d. per gallon.

Brandy, 9s. to 11s. ditto.

Gin, 5s. to 7s. ditto.

Tea (good) 5s. to 6s. per lb.

Sugar (Muscovado) 5d. to 8d. per lb.\*

British Manufactures cost the consumer from 50 to 75 per cent. more than in England.

A day labourer may, in the towns, where, however, he cannot depend on steady employment, get from three to four shillings per day, finding his own lodgings and provisions. A labourer among the farmers, or in the country, may always get £18 to £24 a year, and his board and lodgings found him.

Ship carpenters' wages were exorbitant three years ago, having £6 to £8 per month, and provisions, lodgings, and grog given them besides. In Quebec, St. John's, and a few other places, they found themselves; but the difference of wages was made equivalent; scarcely any of these men, however, had sufficient prudence to save their earnings, and are now very little employed.

Joiners, who find their own provisions, receive from 6s. to 7s. per day. Blacksmiths, stonemasons, shoemakers, and tailors, are usually paid so much for what they do, and the price of their labour is usually very high.

Wages of labour and the prices of articles vary in America as they do in England; the foregoing, however, may be considered as the general rates.

I annex the following estimates, and also letters from Messrs. Cunard, of Halifax, which have been already printed in Colonel Cockburn's Report, and which will afford some use-

\* These prices are in Halifax currency, which is 1-9th less than British, and the rate of Exchange generally reduce the value 1-10th more.

ful information, as to prices, lower than which I do not believe Government could contract for the same articles.

*Estimate of the Expense to be incurred in taking a Family of Five Persons from England, and permanently establishing them on 100 acres of Land in New Brunswick:—*

1. Transport, Medical attendance, &c. from England . . . .	£17	16	4
2. Six months' Provisions (See Messrs. Cunard's Tender)	17	15	0
3. Tools of Husbandry and Domestic Utensils, (see Ditto)	3	6	3
4. Surveys . . . . .	0	9	0
5. Transport from place of disembarkation, supposed expense . . . . .	2	10	0
6. Cash for Cow, or to assist in putting up hut . . . . .	4	10	0
7. Seed, Corn, &c. (see Messrs. Cunard's Tender) . . . . .	1	10	0
8. Clearing three acres of Land ready for crop . . . . .	7	10	0

*Letter from Messrs. Cunard, inclosing an Estimate for Provisions, Implements, Seeds, &c.*

“Halifax, 13th June, 1827.

“DEAR SIR,

“Herewith I send you a list of articles which you mentioned to me as likely to be wanted in any new settlement of Emigrants that may be formed. Should security be required in London, Messrs. Bainbridge and Brown, of Bread-street, are our agents, and will at all times be ready to enter into the necessary security.

“I am, &c.

(Signed)

“S. CUNARD.

“Colonel Cockburn.”

*Tender from S. Cunard and Co. Halifax, to furnish Provisions, Implements of Husbandry, Seed, &c.*

[Note. This estimate refers to the items numbered 2, 6, and 7 in the General Estimate.]

“SIR,

“Halifax, 13th June, 1827.

“We will agree to supply rations for one year certain, and for a longer period, if required, for 2000, more or less, families, consisting of about five persons in each family, to be delivered at any one convenient harbour between Pictou and Miramichi, at your option; the ration to consist of as follows:—

5½lb. prime Beef or Pork at your option	} Per week, as a whole ration for an adult.
4lb. Indian Corn or Oatmeal, at ditto..	
3lb. fine Flour . . . . .	
2 pints Molasses . . . . .	
7lb. Potatoes, or three pints Peas . . . . .	

“ Averaging a family to consist of five persons, and to be entitled to  
 2 whole rations ..... } At the rate of 4d. sterling per day, on  
 1 half ditto ..... } this proportion of rations for each  
 2 one-third ditto..... } person in the family.

“ We also agree to supply the following articles, at the prices affixed thereto, in sterling:—

	s.	d.	
16000 bushels of Potatoes, at.....	2	0	per bushel.
2500 ditto Seed Wheat .....	5	6	ditto.
4000 Felling Axes, warranted .....	6	0	each.
4000 Hoes .....	3	0	each.
2000 Sickles .....	3	0	each.
2000 Scotch Spades .....	4	6	each.
2000 Pots .....	0	3	per lb.
2000 Bake Ovens .....	0	3	per lb.
2000 Frying-pans .....	0	4 $\frac{1}{4}$	per lb.
2000 Hand Saws (cast steel).....	5	6	each.
2000 Augers .....	2	0	each.
2000 Gimlets, of all sizes .....	0	3	each.
2000 Pairs Hooks and Hinges .....	0	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	each.
2000 Claw Hammers .....	1	6	each.
24000lb. Nails, 4d. ....	0	8	per lb.
”    10d.....	0	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	per lb.
”    20d.....	0	5	per lb.
2000 Drawing Knives .....	2	0	each.
12000 Panes of 7 by 9 .....	0	4	each.
2000 Grindstones .....	2	0	each.
60 Whip Saws .....	23	0	each.
30 Cross-cut Ditto.....	23	0	each.
2000 Large Common Tea Kettles.....	4	0	each.
80 Bushels yellow Seed Corn, Indian	6	6	per bushel.

“ It is understood that this offer is subject to the approval of His Majesty’s Government at home ; and should it be approved, and afterwards abandoned, ten per cent. to be allowed to cover any loss that we may sustain in erecting store-houses, collecting provisions, &c.

“ We further state, that to prevent the possibility of any serious disappointment in the event of Emigrants coming out this autumn, we will keep on hand a larger supply of provisions than usual, so as to be enabled, at the shortest notice on any emergency, to send such quantity as may be required to any part of the Province. In making this latter arrangement, should we sustain any trifling loss, we will state the same, not, however, as a matter of claim or right, but entirely leaving to His

Majesty's Government the amount of any remuneration it may be thought fit to afford us.

" We are ready to enter into any security that may be required either here or in London.

" We have to entreat that the decision of His Majesty's Government may be communicated to us at the earliest possible period, to enable us to make our arrangements.

" We have the honour, &c.

(Signed)

" S. CUNARD and Co."

FINIS.