



THE  
EMIGRANT TO NORTH AMERICA,  
FROM  
MEMORANDA OF A SETTLER IN CANADA.



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OF  
A SETTLER IN CANADA.

BEING  
A COMPENDIUM OF USEFUL PRACTICAL HINTS TO EMIGRANTS,  
WITH AN ACCOUNT OF EVERY DAY'S DOINGS  
UPON A FARM FOR A YEAR.

BY AN EMIGRANT FARMER  
OF TWENTY YEARS' EXPERIENCE.

WILLIAM BLACKWOOD & SONS,  
EDINBURGH AND LONDON.

1844.

EDINBURGH:  
PRINTED BY ANDREW SHORTREDE  
GEORGE IV. BRIDGE.

## ADVERTISEMENT.

\* THE EMIGRANT TO NORTH AMERICA," as will be seen from the following Advertisement, was first printed in Canada, where it has met with a most extensive circulation.

The present edition has been revised and enlarged by the Author.

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### TO THE READER.

IN the following work, the author has no other object in view, than to convey to the mind of the emigrant, before he leaves his native country, some idea of the nature and importance of the step he is about to take, with such hints and information as he will find useful for his guidance afterwards : and it owes its origin to the great and palpable want of plain and practical information, as to the general face and appearance of the country, its climate, soil, and agricultural capabilities and resources ; its internal communications, especially its winter roads with their ancient cahots, now called *reminiscences*, (at one time a great mystery to the author,) but above all, as to the mode of reducing the mighty forest into such a state of subserviency to the labours of the husbandman, as to make it "bloom and blossom as the rose," when on every acre stands a weight of solid timber, amounting to three or four hundred tons, which, to the total overthrow of all preconceived opinions about the value of timber, must be *burnt*. In short, as to every thing connected with a settler's life in the woods of Canada.

To remedy the evils arising from this want of information, was the author's primary object, and he entered upon the task with the most sanguine and enthusiastic anticipations of success ; but obstacles and rebuffs, of which he never dreamt, although only such as are naturally incidental to similar undertakings, damped his ardour, and prevented the completion of his design, when his labours were thrown aside among his useless papers, during a period of more than seven years, where they would still have remained to share the fate of their companions, had not Mr Kemble, of the *Quebec Mercury*, whose consideration they were accidentally submitted, rescued them from their incipient state of oblivion, by giving them to the

public, through the medium of his well conducted paper,—from whence they were copied into several other journals; and two copies simultaneously sent home for publication in England, when the author was earnestly requested to publish them also in this country, in pamphlet form, for the use and benefit of the great influx of emigrants, expected out during the then ensuing season; and while he was hesitating about their unfinished state, the expense of printing, &c., he received still more flattering and substantial proofs of public favour, in the shape of orders for more than a thousand copies of his work, provided it could be got out by the opening of the navigation, which, by that time, was so near at hand, that he must either have published then, as it was, or have taken another year to revise and improve it, and he decided upon both alternatives.

The first edition, consisting of rather a large impression, met with the anticipated reception from the public, and had a ready sale, notwithstanding it was of so local a nature, being confined chiefly to the lower portion of the province. This palpable defect, however, as well as others necessarily incidental to the haste with which it had to be got through the press, is now, it is hoped, if not entirely remedied, at least so far obviated as to lead the author to venture forth in his frail bark once more on the troublous ocean of public opinion, in the hope of reaching the wished-for haven.

In concluding these cursory observations, the author cannot bear the idea of bidding a final adieu to the poor emigrant, in whose fate he has ever felt, and will continue to feel, a deep, and he would fain hope, not an unavailing interest; for if ever there were circumstances in which a fellow-creature could be placed, apart from positive and painful suffering, calculated in an eminent degree to call forth the warmest and kindest sympathies of our nature, it is that of the stranger just arriving in this strange land, who has in every sense of the word, besides the common acceptance of the term, to begin the world anew; for not only has he to commence a new system of labour, to obtain for himself and for those who may be dependent upon him, "bread to eat and raiment to put on," but he has to forego old established usages and customs, to which he had been habituated from his cradle, and to conform to a new system, and even to a new nomenclature in the ordinary affairs of life.

If, therefore, I should have it in my power, or if an overweening vanity should prompt me to think I have, to farther his views and promote his welfare, we may meet again, probably in another year—till then, kind reader, farewell.

## ADVERTISEMENT TO THIRD EDITION.

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THE principal portion of this work was originally published in Canada by the newspaper press in 1841, then in pamphlet form in 1842, with more attention to systematic arrangement, and with a good deal of additional matter, in an appendix, containing some statistical information, which it was considered would be of importance to the intending emigrant, together with general instructions for his guidance, not only before he sets out on his pilgrimage for a foreign land from the home of his childhood, but in every subsequent step he has to take to accomplish his object, namely,—that comfortable competency in a colony of the empire, which his limited means would not afford him the chance of obtaining in the mother country. A new edition of a more comprehensive character, and revised with still more care, was again issued in the spring of 1843.

The author's object in thus publishing the work in Canada, instead of Great Britain, where it obviously would have been far more likely to have effected the purpose for which it was written, namely, the benefit of the emigrant, was to secure for it a character in the colony itself, of which it professes to treat, that might distinguish it among the crowd of similar publications with which the press has teemed during the last quarter of a century, before he would venture to claim for it from the British public, that reception which he flattered himself he had a right to expect. This important object is now attained, as this character *has* been stamped upon it, and that in the most decided and unquestionable manner, as a reference to the favourable notices in the first two or three pages will abundantly prove. Should other proof be thought necessary, it might be adduced from the fact of the late Governor-General, Sir Charles Bagot, as well as the present one, Sir Charles Metcalfe, having ordered several hundred copies for gratuitous distribution, both here and at home, without even the shadow of an attempt to recommend it to the favourable notice of these zealous promoters of emigration, beyond the simple fact of submitting a copy of the work to their consideration, in order that they might be enabled to form an opinion upon its merits; for the author was not even known to them, and if he had been, a plain unobtrusive farmer, as he is, could hardly be supposed to possess any influence with individuals of such prominent distinction in the country.

Although it would be unseemly in the author to praise his own

performance, yet the discerning reader will pardon him for pointing out to his special notice an important feature peculiar to this otherwise unpretending work, and that is, its strict adherence to truth, manifested by the faithful, and in some instances even the minute, detail of those annoyances and disappointments which are naturally and necessarily incidental to an emigrant's commencement as a settler in any new and uncultivated country like this.

Every colony in this all but limitless empire has been the subject of unqualified eulogium, and to each in its turn, which had been cried up as the most suitable asylum for the surplus population of the British isles, has the tide of emigration been strenuously directed by Colonial Land Companies, Emigration Associations, as well as private individual landholders, with any of which the author declares, positively and decidedly, that he has no connection. This he mentions under the conviction, that it is very important that the reader should be assured of the fact. Neither is he influenced by any self-interested motive. He has not even an acre of land for sale ; and, consequently, neither has nor can have, so far as he is able to judge himself, any other motive in thus recommending this little work to the serious consideration of the emigrant, as a sure and unerring guide as to all points upon which it treats, than to afford him all the information which long experience qualifies him to impart, before he determines upon so important a step as casting his lot with the author, as " a stranger in this strange land."

The inhabitants of an old settled country like home, to use a colonial expression, where every thing has been long used and firmly established, can form but a very inadequate idea of the ever-varying circumstances under which we live, some of which have so important a bearing upon the fate of the emigrant when he arrives in this country, as to render any instructions that we might give him this year, for instance, on many seemingly trifling points, very incorrect, if not totally and entirely inapplicable to the altered circumstances of the succeeding one. Hence the labour and pains necessarily and constantly requisite in the revision of any work on the subject, and these the author has most carefully bestowed upon the present edition, short as has been the time since the issuing of its predecessor.

The discrepancies which the critical reader may discover between the two accounts of the expense of travelling up into the interior of the country, are to be attributed to the two modes of conveyance, by barges and steamers ; the latter of which, though the most comfortable, is the most expensive.

GRENVILLE, LOWER CANADA, *July*, 1843.

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PART I.

THE first thing a prudent family generally does, when they think of emigrating to America, is, of course, to make inquiries about the country,—to search in some geographical grammar or gazetteer for a description of every province and town in this mighty continent, when a discussion is naturally entered into, and carried on probably for a length of time, upon their comparative merits, till perhaps each member of the family, as was the case in ours, decides upon a different part, not in the immediate neighbourhood of one another, but some thousands of miles apart. But before we came to this decision, we ransacked all the booksellers' shops for every thing new and old, that had been published about America, in the shape of Histories, Recollections, Travels, Conversations, Emigrants' Guides, Letters to Friends, &c. &c. Indeed, we left no effort untried to obtain such information as we thought might be depended upon. We even got a young man from the State of Ohio to stay a whole month in the house with us, in order to insure a perfect practical knowledge of the country, which was intended to become the theatre of our future destiny. Yet, after

all our labour and pains, when we landed upon its shores, we found it as different, as totally different, from what we had been led, from the fine descriptions of it, to expect, as we could have done, had we never heard of it before. Indeed, this is a feeling that predominates over every other in the mind of the Emigrant, when he first obtains a distant view of the wild and interminable forest, which clothes in so forbidding an aspect that land of promise, which he had pictured to his imagination as the very garden of Eden; and he awakes once more, from his long and fondly cherished fantasies, to all the sad realities of life; and, extending his wondering gaze over the whole face of the country, he sees that the original curse of his nature has reached it, and he reads, in characters which can neither be mistaken nor unfelt, "in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread."

After having determined upon leaving our native village, and the land of our forefathers for ever, we sold our small patrimonial inheritance, consisting of a dwelling-house and a few acres of land, together with our moveables, and divided the proceeds, according to the will of our father, equally amongst us, making a portion for each of about L.300 sterling.

The eldest brother, who was considered a sort of head, and was looked up to accordingly, determined, with the consent and approbation of the whole, to sail for Nova Scotia, as a pioneer for the rest, and if he should not like that country, to proceed to Canada; and, of course, like all emigrants, he did *not* like that country, because it turned out to correspond, in no single feature, with that paradise he had been led, from the whole course of his inquiries, to expect, and which he was now so anxiously in search of. Therefore the first, and almost the only thing, he did in that fine country—for it *is* a fine country—was to look out for a conveyance to Quebec, the capital of Canada; at which place he arrived,

in a fishing sloop, in about ten days. But here he was also disappointed, and consequently proceeded on to Upper Canada, with no better success. His prospects however, seemed now to begin to brighten, and he imagined himself in the direct road to the "promised land;" but it was still "very far off," and this constituted, perhaps, its only attraction.

From this Province, as he travelled through it, he sent us the following letter, which afterwards appeared in the weekly journal of the county town, a great promoter of emigration upon political principles, the dignified designation it was pleased to bestow upon the discontent and murmuring it laboured so hard to excite in the public mind against the then existing administration. Not that such lucubrations had any effect upon our minds, for we were no politicians; besides, if we had been, we seldom saw the paper, till at second hand, when it was so bedimmed and fretted, that we could hardly read it. The letter was as follows:—

QUEENSTON, UPPER CANADA, *Sept. 1, 1817.*

My dear Brothers, — I have just arrived at this place, where, as I must wait two days for a vessel to take me across the great lake, I shall have sufficient leisure, which I have never had before, to give you some account of my adventures and prospects.

I reached Halifax in twenty-three days, and immediately sailed for the Canadas, through a great portion of which I have travelled. I hear such terrible accounts of their winters as to convince me that these cold and inhospitable regions are not the country for us. Besides, the woods are so thick, as not to afford even the *slightest degree of pasturage*. The length of the winter too, independent of its severity, must be very disadvantageous to farming occupations. The land, however, is good, and the crops, if I may judge from the little that is yet out, appear to be tolerable.

I am determined not to stop till I reach the Ohio country, so fine a description of which is given in Birkbeck's letters. From thence, if I should not like it, I will proceed to the Missouri territory. I feel in much better spirits as I advance into the interior.

The severity of the climate moderates even in the same latitude, and the whole tide of emigration seems to be flowing in this direction. We may possibly be all wrong, and it may ebb again. But the land is better — the forests easier to clear away — the communication to New Orleans, always open ; whereas the rivers of this country are frozen up nearly half the year. And although New Orleans is a very distant market, yet, from its geographical position, it has such easy access to the whole of South America, the ultimate market for almost all the surplus produce of this part of the continent, that its distance makes but little difference in the prices the farmers obtain. But I am anticipating my progress. I shall, of course, give you every information when I reach that fruitful land.

You will naturally expect, in a letter from this place, some account of the far-famed Falls of Niagara, whose roar booms through the welkin, to an immense distance, like the voice of the receding earthquake. I can only say, that as all the very fine and very graphic descriptions which I had seen, have failed, completely failed, to convey to my mind any adequate idea of them, it is not for me to presume to draw a portraiture of a scene so magnificently grand ; Walter Scott ought to take a trip to this country on purpose to see them.” \* \* \* \* \*

The next letter we received from him, was dated at Cincinnati, and stated that there was one circumstance which Mr Birkbeck had neglected to mention, and that was, that there was no good water in that fine district of country, which he had described as so well suited, in point of view, to the English emigrant.

My brother, however, so far from despairing, thought the prize he was in search of so nearly within his reach, that we might venture to sail in the following spring, and he would meet us at Philadelphia. But his promised land appeared to be still so doubtful and distant, that it threw disunion, if not discord, into our councils. Some slight mention was made, too, in some of his letters, of intermittent fevers ; cheapness of farming productions, and one or two other trifling circumstances, which led, at least, the oldest that remained, to break the compact

they had entered into, and, with his youngest brother, whom he considered as more especially under his guardian care, to seek in Canada that fulfilment of those high hopes which we had, perhaps, foolishly formed, and which had hitherto been sought for, but in vain, on the banks of the mighty tributaries of the far-famed Mississippi.

Thus we parted, not in anger—far from it—but in the most devoted affection, with the warmest wishes for each other's welfare; not unmingled, however, with commiseration for the hardships to be endured in those hyperborean regions, on the one part,—and on the other, for their wilful and needless exposure, to agues and intermittents, with their never-failing train of diseases, superinduced by the miasmæ of that unhealthy climate.

Young as we were, we argued the point like philosophers. On the one side it was urged, that with bad health and a broken constitution, nay, without such positive evils, what was life itself, if exposed to such hourly danger, but “dying a thousand deaths in fearing one.” While, on the other hand, it was as strenuously argued, that sickness, and sorrow, and death, were the natural inheritance of humanity, and, consequently, inevitable wherever we went; and that the annoyances of such a climate as this, would more than counterbalance those objections, which, on this continent, are incidental to a milder climate.

But arguing and deciding are two very different things, seldom having any connection with each other. So, at least, it proved in this instance, as one party sailed for Philadelphia, in the spring of 1818, and the other for Quebec.

The writer of these sheets, with his brother, formed the party to the latter place, and having no instructions, as to what would be suitable for the Canada market, we brought out our money in gold, and bills of exchange.

While the others, being better informed, took out quite a venture in different articles of merchandize with which they made out but indifferently, escaping, however, with less loss than could have been anticipated, from their ignorance of mercantile affairs and matters of business.

The voyages of both parties were prosperous, nothing having occurred but what is common to all such adventures, and we reached our several destinations in safety.

Our small patrimony was not sufficient to enable us to live together at home ;\* the education we had received, through the industry and good management of our worthy parents, although better than befitted our rank in life, was not such as could be turned to a profitable account, but only tended to render that kind of employment we must occasionally have been subjected to, in some measure degrading, and, consequently, more irksome and laborious : whereas, by coming to America, we could unite our little funds, purchase a good farm, and cultivate it together. How soon, in the cold realities of after life, are the Utopian schemes of youthful visionaries thwarted and forgotten ! Two of our number, after losing their little all, in some speculation in the lead mines, in the far west, fell victims to those fatal diseases, so common in that climate. Of the others, one pitched his tent on the Mississippi, another in the Ohio country, a third in Upper Canada, and myself in Lower Canada ; not nearer than from four to seven hundred miles to each other. I am thus particular about our dispersion, not for the sake of troubling the reader with circumstances, in which he can feel but little interest, but for the purpose of conveying to him, in a short history of each, some idea of the comparative claims these different

\* This endearing term is always applied by the emigrant to his native country.

countries ought to have upon his notice, as the point of destination to which he may direct his course, when any of the thousand and one stimulants to emigration shall have induced him to leave his native land in search of that comfort and independence which at home are beyond his reach.

I shall begin with my own history, in which that of my brothers will be interspersed, as it came to my knowledge, by letters or otherwise.

As I write chiefly from memory, and am no book-maker, my desultory style and manner, I trust, will be overlooked by the ingenuous searcher after that information he stands so much in need of, and which publications of this kind frequently, if not generally, fail to convey, owing to their being so deficient in detailing the minutiae, the every day circumstances, occurring in the life and occupations of a settler in this new country, without which no adequate idea can be formed of the difficulties to be encountered, of the varieties to be met with, nor even of the advantages to be expected: the first are generally overlooked; the second, too little regarded; while the last are always magnified beyond measure.

When I reached Montreal, which is one hundred and eighty miles above Quebec,—(to this port, emigrants should always take their passage, if they possibly can, at the same rate as to Quebec, and more is seldom asked,)—I put my money, which had suffered but a trifling diminution, into the bank at five per cent interest, and immediately went out into that part of the country inhabited by English settlers; when I say English, it is in contradistinction to French Canadians, and comprises also Irish, Scotch, and Americans, all, in short, who speak the English language. After travelling about forty miles, through the intricate mazes of Canadian roads, made about as crooked as they can be,

without turning directly back again, I reached the settlement I was in search of, thanks to the carter who took out my things, and acted as my pilot.

As it was too late in the season to commence upon land of my own, and as my little capital would have suffered no small diminution, had I gone about the country hunting for a farm — a practice as common as it is ruinous — after making some inquiries into the character of the inhabitants among whom my lot had thus accidentally been cast, I attached myself to the family of one of them, a substantial farmer, a native of the country, being the son of an united empire loyalist, as those who remained true to their king and country during the war with the North American Colonies, now the United States, were designated. I did not actually hire myself as a labourer, but by making myself as useful as I could, I was to pay nothing for my board ; this was certainly a foolish bargain ; but as I happened to fall into good hands, I suffered no loss by my imprudence ; for he gave me, in stock and seed-grain, as much as I could have expected, had I stipulated for regular wages.

I thought, like all English farmers, I could teach the people every thing, and had myself nothing to learn ; but I must now confess, that I cannot help attributing all my subsequent success, to the knowledge and experience I obtained during this my year of probation. There were many things, it is true, I *could* have taught them, had they been as willing to learn as I was ; but they had no confidence in their teacher ; indeed, how should they, when he did not even know how to cut a tree down, or to hoe a hill of Indian corn, the very first things a farmer's boy, in this country, learns.

In the following spring, I purchased in that neighbourhood, a farm of three hundred acres, about fifty of which was cleared, with a log-hut, as a dwelling-house, and a good frame barn upon it ; the price was L.300,

L.100 of which was paid at the time, and the remainder I was to pay in annual instalments of L.50, with interest (after the first year, which was free) at six per cent, being the rate allowed by law, till the whole was paid. This mode of paying for land is very common throughout every part of North America, and not unfrequently in the end, turns out to be more advantageous to the seller than to the buyer, as farms so sold, after a year's labour or more in improving them, sometimes revert back to the original proprietor from the purchaser's inability to complete his payments; when he loses besides, all he may have paid, such being a general condition of the bargain.

I now bought a yoke of oxen for L.15, or sixty dollars; three cows for L.15; ten sheep for L.5; and a horse for L.17; several implements of husbandry, some little furniture, a few kitchen and dairy utensils, pigs, poultry, &c.

The first summer was spent in getting in a little crop, putting up fences, and in clearing up three-and-a-half acres of wood-land, which I sowed with wheat in September, after my earliest crops were saved; the rest of the autumn (here invariably called the fall) was occupied with my late oats, potatoes, and Indian corn. I then hired another man, and commenced clearing away the underbrush, and as soon as the snow came, I cut the trees down, and into lengths of from twelve to fifteen feet, for piling in heaps to burn: this work, by the 10th April, was completed upon about thirty acres, besides several hundreds of rails cut, split, and hauled out of the bush, as the woods are called, as well as my winter and summer fire-wood; but as I intend to insert a whole year's diary,) for I have always kept one, and I would advise every farmer in any country to do the same,) I need not here enter into farther particulars.

The produce of my farm this year did not amount to

more than was sufficient to pay its own expenses, and keep me and my family until the following harvest, nor hardly as much, as I had some provisions to buy.

In the spring I began to feel rather uneasy about my prospects; my money was wasting away very fast;\* I had only about L.50 left, and still owed more than three times that sum for my farm; and the thirty acres, my chief dependence for a crop, looked like any thing rather than producing one, covered as it was so thickly with felled timber and heaps of brushwood, as to preclude the possibility of passing through it; and to add to my apprehensions, the rain fell in torrents for nearly a fortnight, soaking it so completely, that I thought it would never dry again, not, at least, in time to be burnt over for a crop, and to perplex me still more, my horse died, and two of my sheep were killed by the bears or wolves, or perhaps by my neighbours' dogs; but what annoyed

\* It is necessary to observe, that money is always reckoned here in Halifax currency, in which a pound is not quite eighteen shillings sterling.† My L.300 sterling accordingly amounted to something over L.333 in this money, besides some L.16 premium on my bills of exchange, in all about L.350, out of which I paid,

For my farm when I bought it, . . .	L.100	0	0
For my horse, oxen, cows, &c. . . .	95	0	0
For provisions, seed-grain, hay, &c. . .	15	0	0
Besides what I bought in Montreal, as mentioned in my diary of April 10, amounting to, . . . . .	21	0	0
Wages, . . . . .	25	0	0
Second instalment on my farm, . . . .	50	0	0
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	L.306	0	0

Leaving a balance of L.44, together with L.6 or L.7 of interest over and above what made up the amount of my passage out and travelling expenses. See Note A, in Appendix.

† Since the above was written, an Act of the Legislature has made the pound, Halifax currency, exactly 16s. 8d. sterling: thus, L.100 sterling is now L.120 currency.

me more than all these,—perhaps because it was the last misfortune that befell me, or probably because we are more apt to be distressed at trifles, by not preparing our minds to bear up under them, whereas in greater evils we rouse up our energies, place our back against a rock, and resolve to overcome or die,—was a circumstance, however, of a nature hardly serious enough to excuse the grave reflections of this digression, unless I couple what I felt with what it led to; as it was nothing more nor less, than a ravenous old sow that I had, getting into the place where my goslings were kept, and crunching them all up, as if they had been so many raw potatoes, the old thief! I immediately went to my friend the farmer I have mentioned, and laid before him all my misfortunes; the whole family felt due commiseration for my distresses, but when I mentioned my last, the old man laughed at me, and said I was right served, as I could not expect better luck without a wife to look after such things: he might, possibly, I thought afterwards, have been in earnest, for he had a daughter, that he would have liked to have seen married in the neighbourhood, and I knew I stood high in the estimation of the parties concerned; be that as it may, in less than three months I *had* some one to take better care of my next brood of goslings; but before this important event took place, the weather cleared up, and my prospects brightened with the brightening sun, as it shed its scorching rays upon my *Slash*,—as the timber I had cut down is here significantly called,—for it was soon dry, when I set fire to it, and had an excellent burn; all the brushwood and branches, as well as the scurf, formed by the accumulation of leaves, small roots, and weeds, were completely consumed, and nothing left but the heavy timber. I then planted Indian corn among these logs on about twenty acres of it; this is done by striking the hoe into the earth, raising it up loaded with soil, then

dropping about five grains into the hole, and covering it up again, with the soil taken out, (the holes three or four feet apart as the logs will permit,) when nothing more is necessary but to gather it in harvest: half of the remaining ten acres, for it will be remembered there were thirty in all, I cleared for oats and spring wheat, the latter of which was sown before planting the Indian corn, and the other half I left to be cleared for fall wheat.

Other crops upon the old cleared land, though of little consequence compared with those on the new, were all well got in, and while they were growing I commenced clearing up the five acres for wheat, in which work I spent the remains of my last L.50, depending upon the sale of my produce, together with some potash I had made, and intended to make, to meet my next instalment, which would become due in the following spring; and in order to subject myself to as little risk as possible, and my mind to the less anxiety, I turned my oxen into good feed, (after my wheat was sown in the beginning of September,) to fatten them for the Montreal market, by the latter end of winter; but my crops were good, my potash brought a good price; in short, I succeeded so well in every thing, that I was able to purchase another yoke of oxen, in time to get out my firewood, and fencing timber, before the expiration of the winter.

In the midst of all my difficulties and distresses, I received the following letter from my brother, which tended, as may well be supposed, not a little to increase them:—

CARLISLE, ILLINOIS, *Feb.* 10, 1820.

My dear Brother,—Your letter of last March only reached me about three months ago. I am extremely sorry to learn from it that you have purchased a farm; but sell it again immediately at almost any sacrifice, and come here, where you can get as much land as you like, and of the very best quality, for a mere nothing;

and what is better still, perfectly free from wood. It will produce without any other expense than fencing and ploughing, upwards of a hundred bushels of Indian corn to the acre. The climate is rather too warm for wheat, though we do grow it in small quantities ; but grazing is our chief dependence. I have already upwards of one hundred head of cattle, which did not cost me much more than half as many pounds. The climate is not so unhealthy as your fears have made it. Europeans generally, however, are subject, on their arrival, to slight attacks of ague and intermittent fevers. And in order that you may not be disappointed, if you should come, I will give you a faithful account of the few disadvantages we labour under, which you can balance against those of the country you now live in. The price of farming produce is certainly rather low, while clothing, and what you have to buy, is very dear ; but then an economical farmer will make his own clothes, and live within himself as much as possible. Labour is also very high ; indeed, such are the facilities for a man to set up the farming business himself, it is hardly to be had at any price. We have also some few taxes, but where is the country without them ?

You have certainly one great advantage over us, in having a church in your neighbourhood, as we are, in this respect, totally destitute, and the demoralized state of society, I confess, is dreadful : but recollect, we have none of the severities of your hyperborean climate to contend with ; and if our produce fetch but a small price, it costs but little to raise it, and the market is at our doors, for we find a ready sale for every thing in the vessels as they descend the river to New Orleans,—therefore, sell every thing and come.

I have written for Henry, in Ohio, and James in Upper Canada, and have little doubt but they will also come, as they both\* seem a little dissatisfied with the part of the country they have settled in. I rejoice in the prospect of our being again united, and living comfortably together in this fruitful and happy country. In the full anticipation of so desirable an object, I am, &c.

GEORGE W——.

“Fruitful and happy country!” “none of the severities of your hyperborean climate!” these two remarks

\* James’s dissatisfaction, it appeared afterwards, arose simply from some trifling disappointments common to new settlers any where.

struck my mind very forcibly, and I could think of nothing else, overlooking all the drawbacks of agues, fevers, the demoralized state of society, &c. What a paradise, I said to myself, and what a fool I was to be so stubbornly bent upon coming to this miserable country; and had I met with a purchaser, at almost any sacrifice, I should certainly have taken my brother's advice, had there not been circumstances, with which the reader is acquainted, that prevented me from exerting myself to accomplish an object, otherwise apparently so desirable: I might, it is true, have gathered from his letter quite enough to have deterred me from going there, but my mind was harassed and perplexed with difficulties I was just then labouring under, so that, at the moment, any change appeared likely to afford relief; but it was well for me I did not take his advice.

It was not until after this eventful period in my little history, that I heard of the death of my two brothers at Galena, on the Missouri, a circumstance I mentioned in a former page, and now only advert to it again, on account of the salutary effect the melancholy intelligence produced upon my mind at this particular juncture, which I may justly consider as the crisis of my subsequent fate; for it opened my eyes, on reading George's letter over again, to see in its true light the importance of the "disadvantages" he mentions, despite the colours in which his prejudices had portrayed them. But that I may not subject myself to the imputation of putting a construction upon it, twisted into accordance with this change in my opinions, I must give his own practical illustration of it, which I received from him five years afterwards in the following letter:—

CARLISLE, ILLINOIS, *Sept. 5, 1825.\**

My dear Brother,—I have not written to you now for a long time—sorrow and sickness, and misery and disappointment, must plead my excuse; and as they must have formed the only subject of my letters, you may the less regret my silence. Indeed, I could not find in my heart to mar, with a detail of my own sufferings, so much comfort and happiness as seem to have fallen to your envied lot. My continued silence should still have saved you from the painful commiseration I know you will feel for me, had not the thought struck me that you might possibly be able to find some one in your neighbourhood who would exchange farms, &c. with me here, if the rage for coming to this *fine* country has reached you, of which I make little doubt, as it seems to have reached every where.

If I cannot dispose of my property in some such way, (selling it is out of the question,) I am doomed, I was going to say, to live in this country, but rather to die. I have had more than a hint of this during the summer: I have suffered dreadfully—you would hardly know me—I am literally and really an old man. But this is not all; my farm has been totally neglected, as I could do nothing, and hiring being impracticable. I have consequently no crops, no hay saved for my cattle, of which I have more than 150 head; and I cannot sell them—not even at 10s. a-piece: bread corn I can get, for my own consumption, as much as I want for nothing, as every body who has not been sick all summer like myself, has more than they can sell, even at 7½d. a-bushel,—I mean, of course, in the ear.† Last year, when it was a little more saleable, I had to give fifteen bushels for common cotton cloth enough to make me a shirt. We have no money in the country, and our bank notes but ill supply its place; some of them are at seventy-five per cent discount, while others will not even pay a hopeless debt. I offered three bushels of Indian corn to the post-master in payment of the postage of your last letter, which he refused to

\* It may here be objected that a long period has elapsed since the date of these letters, during which, in a new country like that to which they refer, such great changes may have taken place, as to render some of the statements they contain hardly applicable to its present state and circumstances. To this I have to reply, that not only was every word confirmed by this very brother in a personal interview I had with him ten years later, but I have seen letters of a still more recent date, fully bearing me out in all I have said concerning the far west.

† Indian corn is here meant, which constitutes the staple bread stuff of that part of the country. A bushel in the year is only half as much when thrashed, or shelled, as it is termed.

take, and I had to give him *ls. 3d.* in *hard* cash. I was at first entirely carried away with the fruitfulness of the country — the fineness of its soil — the cheapness of land, cattle, &c. as all Europeans are, without duly considering that they must also sell again at such low prices ; but the difficulty of selling at all is the principal obstacle.

I have lately heard from Henry, in the Ohio country, who had just returned from a visit to James in Upper Canada, who, he says, has actually made his fortune ; but not content with a comfortable independence, he has entered largely into the lumber trade, in which he has hitherto succeeded even beyond his most sanguine expectations ; but this, of course, is no news to you, who are, according to the way in which we measure distances in this country, in his immediate neighbourhood.

Henry himself, I fear, is not doing well ; for all his letters, (and I hear from him frequently,) are filled with complaints about the high price of labour, the unhealthiness of the climate, and, above all, the enormous taxes he has to pay, which he describes, on comparing them to what we paid at home, as equal in amount upon a man's capital to what they are there upon his income ; and, since his return from the visit to Canada, he adds to the catalogue of his grievances, the want of markets and money.

I have often wished to hear from you a detailed account of all the circumstances that led you to make choice of so happy a country, maugre all the prejudices prevailing against it. I am, &c.

G. W.

I will take up neither my reader's time nor my own about this part of the country, longer than to make an observation or two upon the letters he has just read, trusting that he will already feel convinced that this is not the region of comfort and competency he is in search of.

I am fully aware that there is a very different opinion so generally prevailing as to become (as my brother terms it) a rage, and people with such a bias, previously entertained, may fancy, on a cursory view of the last letter, which I consider conclusive, that it is only the ebullition of a mind struggling under disappointment, and sinking under bodily disease ; but let them compare this letter

with the former one, and they will find the principal facts mentioned in each, exactly to correspond, namely, the high price of labour and the low price of farming produce ; besides, even the first letter appears to me, and I do not think I judge too unfavourably, to give a clear and comprehensive, although a succinct, account of the country, as adapted to farming purposes, evidently framed under a predisposition to view every thing in the most favourable light. Still he does look at every thing, but miscalculates the chances against the fulfilment of his almost unbounded hopes, and the accomplishment of his exaggerated expectations. In his second letter, admitting that he was equally predisposed to look at every thing in the most unfavourable point of view ; still again he does look at every thing. The same data are given in both from which very different deductions are drawn — as different as practical ones are from theoretical in a variety of other cases ; and in none is this difference more manifest or more frequent, than when applied to farming, or settling in America.

If I thought this was not sufficient to turn away any emigrant from that grave of Europeans, I could enlist under my banner a whole host of other evidence ; but this having come so immediately under my own notice, naturally forming part of these memoirs, I mention it as such : I would not sully these sheets with garbled stories, about this or that country, framed perhaps at first, by speculators and land jobbers, to suit some interested purpose, and propagated afterwards by the ignorant and book-making traveller : let not this, however, be construed into an assumption of superior wisdom, to which I prefer no claim.

At the time I received my brother's last letter, I could not help comparing my circumstances with his ; not only as they then were, but as they would have been, had all the fine expectations in his former one been realized.

We had a church and a Church of England clergyman, in the settlement — not that every settlement has one, though few are destitute of the labours of a minister of some persuasion or other, and I would strenuously advise all well disposed emigrants not to overlook this circumstance in deciding upon their location ; few there are, if any, who come to this country, having never been so situated as to be unable to attend the public worship of God, however negligent they may have been in availing themselves of the privilege, that would not feel most poignantly if they were deprived of the opportunity ; nor would they see without some annoyance, so little respect paid to that day, set apart for relaxation and rest from the cares and labours of life, even admitting they forgot the nobler purpose for which it was intended, and to which it ought to be devoted, because it would at least be a constant witness to them, on its weekly return, that they were, if not houseless exiles, strangers in a strange land. Indeed, I have myself seen men, whom I knew to have seldom entered the precincts of the sanctuary, travel, what in England would be considered an incredible distance, upwards of twenty miles, to attend divine service, or perhaps to get their children baptized, or the clergyman to visit the sick of his family, or to “bury his dead out of his sight,” consoling himself in his affliction with the idea, that there was one so near. It is in circumstances such as these that the heart of the exile yearns after his native land ; he therefore ought to secure to himself, in the home of his adoption, as many of those favourable features in the home he has left, as can possibly be found, and they will be to him as household gods ; they bring with them associations that beguile into the tale of other years ; and if they do not revive in our memory those scenes of pure and unmingled happiness in the bright and buoyant season of youth, they occasionally throw a transient halo of delight over our existence by

leading us to forget that we are away from them. Every emigrant may feel assured, that however anxious he may be to leave his native country, and however much it may be to his advantage to do so, he will retain a painful recollection of it to the latest hour of his existence ; no one brought up in a country like England, where such order and regularity prevail, can form any idea of the demoralized state of society in many portions of the United States ; whereas the part of the country where I had located myself, might challenge the whole world for its superior in orderliness and morality.

My brother mentions, as a disadvantage, some few taxes ; I never heard from him a detailed account of these taxes, but I can give one from my other brother, in the State of Ohio, where they are lower than in almost any other portion of the Union : — there is first a tax for the support of the United or General Government ; then a State tax ; and a Town tax, exclusive of the Road duty, which must be a tax every where ; besides which he cannot well avoid paying something towards the salaries of the Minister and Schoolmaster, amounting, without the two last, to about one per cent upon his whole property, or two shillings in the pound upon his annual income, supposing his property brings him ten per cent upon his outlay. I leave it to the Emigrant himself to compare this with the taxes he pays at home. In Upper Canada, the taxes, to which I shall have occasion to advert hereafter, are much lighter, but in Lower Canada the case is very different : at this moment (1837) I have increased my property by care and industry, under the blessing of an overruling Providence, about nine fold, as I consider it worth little less than L.3,000, and I might have made it much more, if I had not remitted in my exertions to increase it, and indulged in more of the comforts and luxuries of life than were absolutely necessary ; yet in all the course of my progress to wealth and independence,

I never paid one far thing either of direct taxes,\* or to Ministers' or Schoolmasters' salaries, which are provided for from other sources, and all the indirect taxes would hardly amount to a moiety of what is thus paid by the inhabitants of any other civilized country upon earth.

As to markets, a very material and important consideration, I may assert at once, without the fear of contradiction, that Montreal is the best on the whole continent of North America. Sufficient proof of this is exhibited in the well known fact, that great numbers, from hundreds of miles within the limits of the United States, resort to it. Our produce fetches a fair remunerating price, and the necessaries we have to purchase are cheaper than any where else on this side the Atlantic. The facilities of conveyance to this market are very great, by roads tolerably good in summer, superb in winter; by navigable rivers, canals, and one railroad; and if we cannot grow so much upon an acre of land here, nor so easily, as in warmer latitudes, we can cultivate it at so much less expense, in consequence of the price of labour being so much more reasonable, so that if a farmer in this Province were to pay for the tillage of an acre out of its own produce, he would have as much left, or nearly so, as a farmer in the Western States after doing the same thing, and it would sell for three or four times as much as it would in the West; this also applies to the more distant parts of Upper Canada, though not to the same extent.

The length and severity of our winters, of which so much is said, form generally the chief, if not the only argument ever attempted to be used against this part of the country; and to look only at the state of the ther-

\* This, since the union of the provinces, does not generally apply to the Eastern portion, direct taxes being now imposed by the Municipal Councils; but as that body has refused to act in this district, the assertion is still true, so far at least as the settler is concerned. — *Quebec Mercury*.

mometer and the depth of snow, it would appear rather a formidable one; but the thermometer and our feelings do not unfrequently measure heat and cold, especially the latter, very differently. — I have actually suffered more from cold in England, while closely shut up in a mail coach, during a night in July, when the thermometer could not be so low as the freezing point, than ever I suffered in this country when it has been near zero: and this is easily accounted for by the fact, that, in the one case, the atmosphere was saturated with moisture; while in the other it was dry. From which it would appear that our feelings, as far as the cold is concerned, would correspond more nearly with the range of the hydrometer than with that of the thermometer. It must, however, be admitted, that the thermometer is so low for a day or two every winter, as to indicate an intense degree of cold, requiring care to avoid suffering from its effects.

As to the snow; its depth and long continuance on the ground are such a convenience and benefit to the farmer, that he is anxious for its coming, and sorry when it leaves him; it also acts as manure, and pulverizes the land, superseding in a great measure the necessity of fallowing.

Half at least of what is said about this climate, has no other foundation than what is to be found in the imagination and credulity of travellers; according to these, to be frost-bitten is of so frequent occurrence as to become the subject of a necessary and almost daily salutation, "Sir, your nose is frozen!" I have been a farmer in this very severe climate upwards of twenty years, and have never seen nor heard of a single instance of material suffering from the cold: people may have lost their way in a stormy night, and perished; but I do not consider these exceptions peculiar to this country, as such cases have happened in Great Britain, and even in Spain, as a sen-

tinel on duty at Madrid, was frozen to death in his sentry box in 1836. The length of our winter too, has been much exaggerated : while now writing, this 29th November, 1827, my cattle are out grazing night and day, not yet having had any snow, and scarcely any frost ; I have sometimes not been obliged to take them in or to feed them till a few days before Christmas, though this is rarely the case : and by the middle of April we commence sowing our grain, so that our winter is on an average not of more than four or five months' duration, instead of six or seven, as people have been led to suppose.

I am not prepared to give advice so well as the author of *one* emigrant's guide, who states that he has read every thing that has been published on the subject during the last ten years, whereas I have read scarcely any thing of the kind during a much longer period ; yet do I hesitate not to claim from the emigrant, for these observations of mine, an equal, if not a greater share of his confidence and attention ; not because they are faultless — far from it, the writer is by no means blind to their blemishes — but because of their plain practical truth ; being the ungarished history of many years' experience, with conclusions resulting from mature consideration. With such means and opportunities, another could unquestionably have produced something of the kind equally useful, and perhaps better calculated to answer the purpose for which this is designed ; but how difficult would it be to find a person, with the same opportunities of information that I have had the good or bad fortune to have had thrown in my way.

One person makes a hasty journey through Canada, to the Western States, and back again, and publishes an account of it, as a guide to the poor emigrant with a large family to those distant regions : another, who was perhaps never out of his counting-house, or from behind his counter, farther away from some large town in which

he had resided from his boyhood, than a Sunday morning's ride into the country would take him ; and he, forsooth, must needs point out to the weary pilgrim, the very spot, in this wild wilderness of woods, where his foot may rest : there are others still more likely to mislead emigrants, than either of the scribblers I have mentioned, who, not satisfied with writing alone, have agents at every port to direct and cajole as many as possible into certain districts where they have large tracts of land for sale at a very cheap rate. The best and only remedy for all such evils would be found in the establishment of a board of emigration, an object no less desirable from other and more important considerations. See note B in Appendix.

There is, I trust, another advantage, which this little work will be found to possess, at least over some of a more imposing appearance, in affording the emigrant, before he leaves his native country, what he has hitherto anxiously sought for, but in vain, namely, an idea of the every day transactions and occurrences of a settler's life ; the common trifles, that have never yet been thought worth mentioning by more learned writers, but which, notwithstanding, constitute the greater portion of our employment, and occupy most of our time. Indeed, what is it that renders the works of the most popular writers so interesting to men like me, but the happy talent they display of describing, so familiarly, the common fireside nothings of real life ; but as I neither possess nor pretend to any such excellence, I must make up for the deficiency, as far as such a thing may make up for it, by giving an account of my daily occupations, during the first and most anxious year of my life, in the woods of Canada, as noted down by me at the time. Sometimes it will be observed that a few days are omitted ; this is generally owing to there being no variation in the work, or else that they were forgotten : —

April 10th.\* — Returned, with my hired man Richard, and a load, with a horse and ox cart, from Montreal, forty miles, two days on the road, which is very bad, the frost not quite out of the ground — my loading all safe, consisting of the following items; a plough, 17 dls. — 2 axes, 8s. each — harrow teeth — 8s. for a bush harrow, in shape of the letter A. — 2 logging chains, 10s. each — 2 scythes and stones, 9s. 8d. — 1 spade, 3s. — 1 shovel, 4s. — 1 dung-fork, 2s. 6d. — 2 steel pitch-forks, 3s. 6d. each — 3 augers, 1, 1½, and 2 inches, 15s. — 1 bbl. pork, 20 dls. — 1 bbl. N. shore herrings, 5 dls. — 2 bbls. flour, 27s. 6d. each — 20 apple trees, and 6 plumb trees, at 2s. each — 16 gooseberry bushes, and grape vines, at 1s. 3d. each, amounting to L.21, 2s. 2d.

Put my apple trees, &c, into a hole in the garden — got a good cup of tea, saw my horse and oxen well taken care of, and went to bed — thus ended the first day of my new mode of life.

April 11th. — My man Richard fed and watered the cattle — got breakfast with some difficulty, owing to the want of many things we ought to have got in Montreal; we had no frying pan, for instance — herrings superb — being Sunday, went to church morning and afternoon.

April 12th. — Up at daylight — reprimanded Richard for being out too late the night before, planted my apple, plumb trees, &c., in what had been an apology for a garden — mended the fence round it — broke open our pork barrel, found it good — had some for dinner — knocked the spout off the new tea kettle, of course cracked before — worse off than ever for cooking utensils — borrowed a frying pan, and boiled potatoes for dinner in a forty gallon pot — 2 cows calved, and a ewe yeaned 2 lambs.

April 13th. — Got a supply of cooking apparatus at a

\* The 1st of this month may be considered generally as the commencement of the agricultural year.

shop in the neighbouring village — commenced ploughing for wheat, making garden, &c. Hired another man for the summer at 10 dls. a month, same as I gave Richard, — another cow calved. This was considered a very early spring, but I have since sown wheat, on this day, two years consecutively, and might have done so oftener, had it been otherwise convenient.

April 14th. — Hired a housekeeper at 4 dls. a month — sowed onions, beets, sallad, &c., — new man, Charles, mending fences — drawing rails with the horse and cart — Richard still ploughing with the oxen — myself at the garden — bought four cows at 18 dls. each — 2 of them calved a month before — made a harrow.

April 15th. — Sowed wheat, after washing it with brine and drying it with lime — Charles harrowed it in with the horse — four bushels (our measure, which is nearly the same as Imperial) upon  $3\frac{1}{2}$  acres, according to the custom of the country — planted early peas and sowed garden seeds — Richard still ploughing — two ewes yeaned.

April 16th. — Charles and myself making fence — one of the new cows calved — ploughing for potatoes and corn, first time.

April 17th. — Finished ploughing potato and corn land.

April 18th. — Sunday.

April 19th. — Ploughing some rough land, which had been partially covered with bushes and briars, with a hog plough, a sort of an implement of a very light, simple, and primitive construction, without a coulter, but very useful for such a purpose, as it is easily disentangled from roots which have too firm hold of the ground to be torn up. The price of one is about 25s., but that which I used was a borrowed one, or rather a hired one, at fifteenpence a day, according to a custom which I think as good as it is common in many parts of the country.

April 20th. — Richard working away with the oxen and hog plough — Charles and I tearing up the loosened roots, and casting them off into heaps, to be burnt when dry, spending a good deal of time also in getting out the oldest of the stumps, which were sufficiently decayed to be eradicated without digging round them, and *stubbing* them up, which we never think of doing, but wait till they will come out like a ripe hazel nut from its husk.

April 21st. — Finished about four acres by noon, sowed it with oats and peas mixed, a common crop in this country, and profitable for provender for horses or working oxen, and not amiss for fattening hogs with ; better at any rate than oats alone.

April 22d. — Richard finished harrowing in the oats and peas — Charles and I at the same work as yesterday, as several roots were brought to light by the harrow which we had previously missed.

April 23d. — Blasting a few large boulders in the corn land, which had been drilled by contract at three half-pence an inch, and drawing them off with the oxen on a stone drag, a machine made of plank about three inches thick, split out of a crooked ash tree, and hewed even with a curve of about six inches in its whole length, (five feet,) its breadth being about two feet and a half, the planks dowed together, and a small piece of scantling pinned on across the ends, and along each side, to keep it firmly together, and to prevent the stones from rolling off. We made it in about four hours.

April 24th. — Finished getting off the stones, although we had two of them to blast over again, or at least portions of them, which were too large to move — hard work — all went to bed very tired.

April 25th. — Sunday, a very wet day, scarcely any body at church ; no sermon ; fine in the afternoon.

April 26th. — Harrowed the corn and potato land,

which, being of a light gravelly soil, was dry enough for the operation.

April 27th. — Called out by the surveyor of roads, (an officer appointed in every section of a parish or township by the people themselves,) to mend a very bad piece of road.

April 28th. — Planted three bushels of early potatoes — got out some firewood, which is always done the winter before, but this being my first year, I had to do it now. I have since always had a sufficiency for a year's consumption got out beforehand, so as to have it dry and well seasoned, a matter of no small comfort and economy.

April 29th. — Drawing out what manure was thawed on the top of my dung-hills, and laying it up in a heap near my corn land, so as to allow the sun, &c. to thaw the remainder — made a hotbed in my garden for cucumbers and melons, and for rearing early cabbage plants.

April 30th. — Cleared up the front of my house, which was about twenty yards from the main road, and in a very rough state, and planted three butter-nut trees, (a kind of walnut,) — went to an auction of household furniture, farming stock, &c. in the neighbourhood, but every thing sold so high, that I bought nothing except a tin horn to call us home to dinner with, a brass candlestick, and a *brush* scythe, an implement made by a common blacksmith, much stronger than an ordinary one, with an eye like that of a hoe, in which to fix the handle, in order to answer the purpose its name implies.

May 1st. — All at work on the roads — finished our highway duty.

May 2d. — Sunday. — All to church.

May 3d. — One of the men churned before breakfast, with a swing-churn,\* lately invented — cut up a little

\* The intelligent reader might discover from this mention of the swing-churn so lately invented, as well as from a reference to mills for making oatmeal, so recently established, that this diary was not

firewood — too warm to plough with oxen in the middle of the day — all making fence.

May 4th and 5th. — Wet days — made four rakes, and handled and ground the new axes, one having been partially ground and a temporary handle in it before — cleared out and repaired the barn.

May 6th. — Fine again — land too wet to plough — making fences — Richard went to the mill with a few bushels of oats to be made into meal — got the horse shod.

May 7th. — Very warm and sultry — ploughing for Indian corn by day-light, left off at 10, and commenced again at 4, P. M., continued till dark — carting stones off the corn land — finishing my garden — got home the grist sent away yesterday.

May 8th. — One of the principal farmers of the settlement killed by a tree falling upon him. Work same as yesterday until noon, when we all went to assist in raising a wooden building for a barn 40 feet by 30 for one of our neighbours.

May 9th. — Sunday. — All went to Church — I need not again mention this, as we never allowed any thing to interfere with this duty. A tremendous thunder-storm.

May 10th and 11th. — Drawing manure for Indian corn, ploughing it in, &c.

May 12th and 13th. — Same work as two preceding days — and planting Indian corn and pumpkins — attended funeral of the neighbour killed on the 8th.

May 14th and 15th. — Sowed more oats and finished planting Indian corn — killed a fat calf — sold one quarter for 5s. and the skin for the same.

May 16th. — Sunday.

written at the period referred to. To which I can only reply that in correcting it for the press, such important discrepancies were introduced for the better information of the Emigrant, being more in accordance with the present time.

May 17th and 18th. — Clearing an old “slash,” which term has previously been defined—drawing the logs together with the oxen, then piling and burning them.

May 19th. — At the same work with two extra hands ; for “logging,” as it is called, cannot be carried on to advantage with fewer than four hands, or five if the timber is heavy, as the teamster would have to assist in rolling up a log when the log got high, and thus not only lose time with his team, but keep the men waiting till he drew in another log, which he ought to have had ready on one side, while the last was being put up on the other. A log pile consists, when the trees are at all of a uniform size, of five logs on the ground, four on the top of these, then three, two, and one ; and when they are not uniform, two are substituted for one, or sometimes three for two ; and when crooked pieces are met with, which is very seldom, the holes which would be left by their lying alongside of straight ones, are filled up with large chips, thick ends of branches, and pieces of old rotten logs which have not been consumed when the fire had been “*run through*” the slash to consume the underbrush, and as more than a sufficient quantity always remains, the residue is thrown upon the top of the pile, or against the ends : the pile is then set on fire, (generally two or three days’ work, or more, is burnt at once ; fifteen heaps is about a day’s work for five men.) The morning after, two men go to every pile, and roll up the burning embers closer together with handspikes, and again about six or eight hours afterwards : this occupied our time till the evening of the 21st, when I paid my two extra hands at the rate of two shillings a-day, and discharged them.

May 22d. — Drew together into one heap a few remaining brands, as we term the burnt log ends left after the pile has been all but consumed, gathered up the ashes, and carted them home.

May 23d. — Sunday. — My men wanted to go in the

morning to brand up the pile we had set on fire the night before, which they said was generally done in the backwoods, where they came from. I thanked them for their attention to my work, and endeavoured to convince them of the impropriety of such conduct, but I fear with little success. I then told them I would much rather see them getting ready to go to church, which, from the black and begrimed state of their clothes, being the same they had worn the day before, they did not seem inclined to do, and asked, with some astonishment and in a deprecatory manner, if I wished them to go to church *every* Sunday, when I told them that to neglect this duty without sufficient cause, of which I must be the judge, I should consider tantamount to a notice to quit my service. They submitted to my wishes, but one of them thought me a hard and cruel task-master; that one, however, is now a serious, orderly, and regular attendant at church, and a communicant, and attributes all his subsequent success in life, as well as his reformation of conduct, to such trifling instruction as I was led to give him on such occasions: thus a word in season is sometimes like bread cast upon the waters, which may appear after many days.

May 24th. — Wet day. — Sheared the sheep, having got them into the barn before the rain came on — cut potatoes for seed the rest of the day. Of late years I have planted them whole, and find it decidedly preferable, for although it takes more seed, I have more than a corresponding increase of produce.

May 25th. — Planted the new clearing with Indian corn.

May 26th. — Same work as yesterday, and clearing up a little corner of the piece we had left unfinished on Saturday.

May 27th and 28th. — Making road through a swamp preparatory to drawing out my manure for potatoes; this

was almost an interminable job, and we wrought at it whenever we could snatch a day or two. We made it by laying logs across it side by side along the whole distance, some two hundred yards, and then covered them with gravel or chips from the fuel yard.

May 29th. — Went to a *logging bee*, the first and last I ever was present at; a great deal of whiskey was drunk, and one man got into a passion, and with a hand-spike struck another with whom he was quarrelling, and killed him on the spot. He was taken up, sent to jail, and found guilty of *murder prepense*, which was a great mystery to me, as he was evidently only guilty of manslaughter. His sentence of death, however, was commuted, probably in consideration of the circumstances, into perpetual confinement, and he is still, I believe, in Montreal jail.

May 30th. — Sunday.

May 31st. — A friend of mine, who had been to Quebec with some lathwood for the English market, returned to-day, and brought me a large silver medal, which had been awarded to me by the Natural History Society, established there only the year before. I had seen in the newspapers a list of subjects, upon which the best essay should receive such an honorary distinction, one of which was the agriculture of this country, which, thanks to my kind instructor, the farmer I lived with for a year, I thought I might write upon with some chance of obtaining the promised reward, which I value the more highly, in consequence of its being the very first literary prize ever bestowed in the country; I should hardly have mentioned the circumstance here, however proud I might be of the honour, and I am proud of it, had it not had an intimate, although an indirect connection with these memoirs, for it led to their first publication, by convincing me that a plain farmer even, like me, might venture to obtrude himself, as an author, upon the public, in the

hope of conveying some useful information, provided he confined himself to a subject he fully understood.\* — Finished the road through the swamp, so far at least as to make it answer my present purpose — improved it much since by occasional labour.

June 1st and 2d. — Sowing  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acre of oats on the clearing; Richard ploughing the potato land second time; Charles drawing out manure, and spreading it before him: myself planting potatoes with a hoe after him: it may be here remarked, that before the stumps are all out, or nearly so, it is not possible to drill up land for this crop.

June 3d. — Finished the potatoes, and reckoned up my crop — stands as follows: wheat  $3\frac{1}{2}$ , peas 3, oats 5, Indian corn 6, potatoes  $5\frac{1}{2}$  — in all, 23 acres — meadow 20, pasture 13, partially cleared 20, added to the 23, makes 76 acres. It may be remembered here, that I said my farm contained about 50 acres of cleared land, whereas I make out 76 acres, but I did not then take into the account either the 20 acres partially cleared, or the 6 or 7 I cleared myself.

June 4th. — A holiday, which I have always kept in commemoration of the birth of good King George the III. of blessed memory.

June 5th. — Went to a *training*, as it is here called. All the men in the country, with some trifling exceptions, between the ages of sixteen and sixty, capable of bearing arms, are obliged by law to muster once a-year; and this constitutes the militia of the Province.

June 6th — Sunday. — I witnessed on this evening a splendid and gorgeous sunset, far surpassing any thing of

\* This is a very sensible observation, and many would-be authors, who do most unmercifully “*obtrude*” themselves upon the public, would do well to take a hint from it. It reminds us of some very pertinent remarks in an article (on Deer Stalking,) in a late number of the Edinburgh Review. — *Quebec Mercury*.

the kind I had ever seen at home. Even a sunset in Italy, as a Commissariat Officer, settled on a farm near me, who had served in that country, declared, could not be compared to it.

June 7th. — All hands cutting timber for making new fences, and mending old ones.

June 8th. — Hauling out of the *bush* with oxen the timber cut yesterday, and my two men cutting more.

June 9th. — Same work — This ought all to have been done in the winter on the snow, and I have taken care ever since to have it done thus.

June 10th. — Still drawing fencing timber with oxen, but my men splitting it into rails, making blocks, pickets, or stakes, &c.

June 11th. — Mending fences round my pasture, and on each side of a public road intersecting my farm a short distance from the front of my house.

June 12th. — Making a small portion of new fence to prolong the line or division fence between me and my next neighbour, beyond my little new clearing, into the edge of a thickly wooded swamp, as all swamps are in this country, all, at least, that I have seen. This was what is called a log fence, such as is generally first made after clearing the land ; as many of the smaller logs supply its material, hence its name. In after years, others of various descriptions are substituted. In Western Canada, seven or eight small rails, about twelve feet long, are piled up with their ends across each other at something more than a right angle, but we in this part of the country, and good farmers every where, prefer a post and rail fence, not however such as is made in England ; the post is half of a cedar log, of about ten inches diameter, and six feet four inches long, with five holes,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches square, cut through it with a narrow axe called a post-axe, something like the felling-axe at home, but neither so long nor so heavy, and the rails are spliced in the

holes, not on the top of each other, but side by side, and both the posts and rails are split or "riven," if the latter word, which is excluded from our vocabulary, may be used. The posts are put into holes about two feet deep. But when stones abound in the land, and have to be carted off, they are made into a rude wall about two feet high, in which case two rails can be dispensed with, and the posts need not be so long, as they do not require to be put so deep into the ground, owing to the support they derive from the broad-bottomed stone wall. This is decidedly the best fence that can be made.

June 13th. — Sunday.

June 14th. — Found a swarm of bees in a hollow tree in the woods, which was claimed by a bee-hunter, who however renounced his right to my superior title, he only having marked the tree, while I was the owner of it. Much as the habits of this wonderful and useful little insect have been studied, and that with the most successful results, there is one, and I have never seen it mentioned in any dissertation on the subject, upon which the bee-hunter implicitly depends for his successful search after its honeyed treasures, and he is seldom disappointed. Whenever he finds a bee, he catches it, and puts it into a little box with a glass cover to it, and keeps it there for a day or two, when he gives it as much honey as it chooses to take, and then opens the box, and allows it to fly away, but he marks the road it takes, and follows it, but days, or weeks, or even months may elapse before he does so, when he is almost sure to find its home, with a rich treasure there, sometimes of even a hundred weight of honey; but instances have been known when he has had to travel more than six miles before he reached the spot. From which it is evident that the bee, when starved for a day or two, and then filled with honey, and permitted to escape, literally, in the most exact sense of the word, goes *straight* home. Sometimes, and that not

unfrequently, he finds that it takes its flight to a settled part of the country, but almost every settlement is bounded on one side or another by the wild interminable wilderness of woods, and in that direction alone does he follow it. — Cutting down the tree, cross-cutting it above and below the swarm with a saw, getting it home after being all of us well stung, setting it up as a hive, with a board at each end, and fomenting our swollen hands and faces, occupied the greatest part of the day, and, as it turned out, it was far from unprofitably employed, as I have now a valuable stock from it.

June 15th. — Put up a small building behind my garden, which, although not always to be found on a farmstead in this country, is not on that account the less *necessary*.

June 16th. — Hoeing Indian corn — very, very hot.

June 17th. — Bathed early in morning, a great luxury — hotter still. My men would eat no meat at dinner to-day, preferring milk and butter; but nothing will ever induce working men in this country to forego their meat breakfast. I thought it very odd when first I came to see fat pork fried, and potatoes boiled, or warmed up, for breakfast. I once asked an Irishman I had working for me, why he would not live upon potatoes and salt in this country, as well as in his own? his reply was, “An’ sure, and doesn’t the *hate* of the climate require stronger food?” Well, but in the winter, I rejoined, “An’ troth, and don’t ye *thin* want something substantial to keep the cold away from your heart?” — Still hoeing Indian corn.

June 18th. — Finished hoeing corn — were something longer at this work in consequence of doling out a barrel of plaster-of-paris, or gypsum, which I got for a dollar from Gamanoque mills, upon an acre and a quarter of the poorest of it, by a table-spoonful to each hill. This is a manure which is very valuable in this country, not only in consequence of its cheapness and efficiency,

but chiefly from the little labour required in applying it; a very material and important consideration when labour is dearer than land, a circumstance which exercises an overwhelming influence upon all agricultural operations.

June 19th. — Harrowed my potatoes with a light English harrow, in the same manner as is done in the old country, as well as in this, when ploughed in, or in drills — Cattle broke out of the pasture, and consequently employed the rest of the day in mending the fence.

June 20th. — Sunday. Thermometer, 86 in the shade.

June 21st. — Sowed half an acre of Swedish turnips, (*Ruta Baga*,) on my new clearing, and hoed them in. This is necessary, as the scurf upon the new land cannot be sufficiently broken by harrowing to allow the root to expand, and ploughing being out of the question, owing to the ground being so matted, if I may so term it, with *live* or green roots, that two years must elapse before it can be at all scratched up with a plough: but the most profitable crops are obtained while the land continues in that state; which, in the estimation of an old countryman, would be considered untillable and almost useless; larger crops, it must be admitted, may be produced after every impediment to cultivation has been removed, but if the interest upon the capital sunk in bringing it into this higher state of culture be deducted out of its proceeds, the assertion will be found a correct one.

June 22d. — Clearing up half an acre more for white turnips, (the globe.) It may be remarked from the little attention paid to this crop, that it is not considered of so much consequence as at home; and this is really the case, as we cannot cultivate them to the same perfection, because the winter sets in too early, and is too severe to preserve them in large quantities without too much trouble. We therefore only grow a few for our cows and

ewes in the spring, to assist in producing a supply of milk for their young before the grass comes.

June 23d. — Sowing and hoeing in the white turnips.

June 24th. — An old rotten wooden conduit to convey a little run of water across my road having broken in, we took it all out, and replaced it with a permanent stone one.

June 25th and 26th. — Finishing our *bridge* across the road.

June 28th. — Commenced hoeing potatoes, found them hardly large enough to hill up, and consequently gave up this work at night, in order to allow them a few days more.

June 29th. — Making fences and a drain from the sink at the back door.

June 30th. — Finished our drain with great satisfaction, as it did away with a nasty dirty mudhole — hoeing Indian corn the second time.

July 1st. — Hoeing potatoes, which we found had increased in size wonderfully since Monday.

July 2d and 3d. — Same work, with an extra hand, in order to finish before haying, which, however, we did not quite accomplish.

July 4th. — Sunday.

July 5th. — Wet day — ground scythes and *harry* them.

July 6th. — Commenced mowing.

July 15th. — Finished haying without a drop of rain — very hot.

July 16th. — A fearful thunder-storm — burned a log-barn in the neighbourhood, or, as some suppose, the accident happened from a man going into it with a lighted pipe, to prevent which has been a great source of trouble to me whenever I have employed Canadian labourers — killed another fat calf.

July 17th. — Finished off my hay-stacks.

July 18th—Sunday.—To church—clergyman absent at a distant settlement—prayers, and a sermon read by the schoolmaster—weather quite cool, as is usual after a violent thunder-storm.

July 19th.—Commenced hoeing corn the third time, or rather cutting up with the hoe whatever weeds had grown since the last hoeing—sold 200lbs. butter at 8d. per lb.—cut first cucumber.

July 20th to end of month.—Finishing hoeing corn and potatoes—commenced clearing new land, by cutting down the under brush, and piling it in heaps ready for burning—this I did upon 30 acres of woodland, during the rest of the summer, when I found I could spare a day for that purpose, and in the winter cut down the large trees, and then into lengths for piling in heaps to burn. The summer is the best season for commencing to clear land, because the brush is in full leaf, which, when dry, helps to burn it, all which a person soon learns when he comes to the country, but would doubtless like to know something about it before.

August 2d.—Attending a meeting of the principal inhabitants about repairing the roof of the church steeple; gave a dollar towards the expense—bought a pew, L.6—The two men underbrushing—first new potatoes—bought a sickle and a cradle scythe—made the cradle, having had the fingers blocked out before—a very difficult thing to make.

August 4th to 7th.—Clearing part of the underbrushed land, for winter wheat—same until 10th, when I began reaping and cradling—continued till 21st—finished harvesting, except  $1\frac{1}{4}$  acre of late oats and the Indian corn—cut first melon, but I am very late.

August 31st.—Resumed clearing land—killed a lamb.

September 1st to 10th.—Same work, and sowed three acres of winter wheat—commenced making potash from the ashes I had saved when clearing the land.

September 11th to 22d. — At the underbrushing — continued at the potash till I made two barrels, which I sold for something over L.15 — my neighbour's cattle broke into my Indian corn, but did little damage.

September 23d. — Wet day — threshing and dressing up  $1\frac{1}{2}$  bushels wheat and 8 of oats — sent them to mill at night — oats weighed 48lbs. the bushel.

September 24th. — Got home grist — oats produced 2cwt. 0qr. 14lbs. — got a certificate from the miller and a farmer of the weight of the oats, 40lbs. being the general average weight of good oats — made a wooden box as a steamer for my boiler — box containing 12 bushels.

September 25th. — Commenced ploughing — had a cow dried up and bled, and turned into the best feed, to make beef.

An ox, belonging to my neighbour, being one of the cattle which broke into my corn, died of a surfeit, as was supposed, of such rich succulent food as the green corn. This made him mend his portion of the line fence between my farm and his, which I never could get him to do before.

27th. — Commenced steaming pumpkins for my hogs — shut them up — threshed 5 bushels of peas and oats, had them ground to mix with the pumpkins — fed the hogs with raw food for some weeks before — made a hog-trough, by hollowing out a pine log — went to a squirrel hunt which I must give some account of.

Some years, when the nuts in the woods are plentiful, the squirrels are so numerous as to do great damage to the Indian corn, when a conspiracy, like the following, is entered into, for the destruction of them, as well as of all enemies that may be met with, whose depredations are chiefly confined to this valuable crop. All the men, young and old, for miles round, form themselves into two bands, each under a captain, and whichever gets the least

quantity of game has to pay for a ball and supper, at the village tavern, for the whole — each kind of animal being reckoned according to its importance ; thus the right paw of a bear counts for 400 — of a racoon 100 — squirrel 1 — right claw of a crow, woodpecker, or blue jay, 1, &c. By daylight of the morning of muster, the woods were all alive with the eager hunters, and in the afterpart of the day, the fields were swarming with groups of women and children, with provisions and ammunition for their several partizans, and to disburden them of their spoils. It was truly a season of merry and joyous holiday, in which all business and work were suspended ; many a small party spent sleepless nights watching for bears and racoons, for it is only then they come out. This lasted for three days, when we all met at the tavern to count up our spoils, in trembling anxiety for the award of two judges appointed to decide upon the claim for victory. The party I belonged to had 2 bears, counting 800 — 4 racoons, 400 — 473 squirrels — 27 crows — 105 blue jays and woodpeckers — counting altogether 1,835, and yet we lost, as the other party had nearly the same, besides one bear more.

“ The child may rue that is unborn,  
The hunting of that day.”

September 30th. — Richard ploughing — Charles and I gathering Indian corn — at night had a “ bee,” a term used for a mustering together of the neighbours, to assist in any work, which would puzzle an individual to do alone, when all the young men and boys in the settlement came to help me to husk it. Got the first premium for it from the Agricultural Society.

October 1st and 2d. — Same work — evening to husking bee at a neighbour's.

October 4th to 7th. — Ploughing — finished getting in the Indian corn — cutting the corn stalks — husking our-

selves, at night, what little we had gathered during the day — collected and brought home pumpkins.

October 8th to 9th. — Binding corn stalks, and stacking them up to dry — collected and got in pumpkins.

October 11th. — Got in remainder of pumpkins and the onions.

October 12th. — Stacked corn stalks, and fenced them round, together with the hay stack.

October 13th. — Commenced digging potatoes.

October 14th to 20th. — Finished taking up potatoes — 800 bushels — ploughed over the land to the end of the month — ploughing — clearing land, &c. — hired Charles for the winter, for seven dollars a month.

October 22d. — The boundless, measureless forest — the stupendous wilderness of woods, which overwhelms the whole face of the country, exhibited, in the bright sunshine and the pure atmosphere of this lovely morning, a picture as novel as it was beautiful in the eyes of a stranger; for, instead of waving their luxuriant foliage over mountain, hill, and valley, in the same rich though monotonous hue of living green, the trees now had assumed a colouring which, in brilliancy and variety, exceeded all description. The soft maple is the first to commence this gorgeous display, by changing to a rich crimson; the sugar maple then follows in similar though more sombre tints, variegated with the yellow of the trembling poplar, the orange and gold of the beech, and the sere brown of the butternut, while the sturdy oak still maintains his deep green in defiance of those harbingers of winter.

November 1st. — Getting in turnips and cabbages, and all other garden stuffs — took in the cows at night — 350 bushels turnips.

November 2d. — First hard frost — could not plough till noon — clearing, &c.

November 3d. — Frost continuing — no more ploughing

I suppose—cutting fire-wood, a kind of work I have had to do at this season since, as all provident good managers always take care to have a sufficiency for a full year's consumption drawn home and piled up at the door the winter before.

November 4th.—Cleaning out and repairing the stables, sheds, &c.—took the cows in at night.

November 5th.—Fine weather—cattle out all day—got my horse sharp shod, and an axe jumped, that is new steeled, which cost me four shillings and sixpence with the grinding. I am reminded of the last circumstance by the poor blacksmith having been found dead shortly afterwards at the tail of the water wheel which drives his grindstone. The body was dreadfully bruised and mangled. It appeared that he had been attempting to do some repairs upon it, when, from some leakage in his sluice, the baskets had been gradually filling, and the rest of the machinery having been thrown out of gears, it had moved round with great velocity, when he had been jammed through a very narrow space between it at the end of the flume. It was a sad accident, and created quite a mournful sensation throughout the settlement.

November 6th.—New handled my jumpéd axe, and underbrushing in the afternoon—had to attend the Coroner's inquest as a juror on the body of poor Turnbull—verdict, accidental death.

November 7th.—In the afternoon attended the funeral of the unfortunate blacksmith at the Presbyterian Church to which he belonged—heard a very excellent and edifying discourse on the shortness and uncertainty of life, from a very appropriate text—“Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble; he cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down; he fleeth as a shadow, and continueth not.”—JOB. This sad event created a much greater sensation throughout the settlement, in consequence of its having been the third fatal accident

within the year; indeed so many had not occurred before during the residence of the oldest inhabitants.

November 8th. — A thaw — called upon my old neighbour and friend to ascertain if he would join with me in purchasing a Liecestershire ram, which he consented to do, and commissioned me to go off to a distant settlement where I had heard there was one for sale. His wife and daughter were busy sowing onions in the garden. — My men off on a hunting excursion, having heard of a \* bear in the neighbourhood; found him, and had a long but unsuccessful chase.

November 9th. — My men off again after the bear — one of them indeed did not come home, but had been watching for him with another young man of his acquaintance, all night; and not being very busy, I did not care any thing about their losing a day or two, as they had been so diligent and attentive to their work, till the whole of my crops were housed — went after my ram, and bought him for fourteen dollars, and a splendid sheep he is. I also bought a three year old ewe of the same breed for eight dollars. I may as well mention here, that I had very bad luck with this ewe and her progeny — the first year she had only one lamb, which was so very fat and lazy, that it was always the hindmost of the flock, and one day a mad dog came across my pasture, (a very rare occur-

\* Some twenty years subsequently to this, a bear was seen trotting quietly along past my house, when three of my own boys, the oldest not sixteen years of age, and the only one with a gun or other weapon, offensive or defensive, started off after him in full cry, with the same fearless eagerness as a pack of hounds after a hare; one of the younger ones got a head of him, and by pelting him with stones, turned him from his course, but not in the direction of his brother who had the gun, so he got off unscathed. Some old countrymen, under the influence of those silly prejudices imbibed at home, scampering off out of his way in the most abject fear, instead of joining the boys in their merry chase, constituted the most amusing feature in the scene.

rence,) ran after the sheep, and bit the first it could catch, which, of course, was my pet lamb, but the slight wound it inflicted healed up, and I thought it was doing well and past all danger, when, after more than a month had elapsed, it went mad and died—the following year she had no lamb, the next she had one, and I kept her two more without any farther increase, and then killed her—she was very fat, and weighed twenty-five pounds a quarter. Her daughter has a fine lamb this year, so that I hope yet to make amends for my bad luck.

November 10th. — My men returned from their hunt not altogether unsuccessful, for although they did not succeed in killing the bear, they captured one of her cubs, which was tamed and kept for some years, and became a great pet with the whole family. They also killed a racoon, which was very fat, and not of a bad flavour; it weighed, I mean the meat, about 16lbs. — little work done to-day.

November 11th. — All commenced work again at the underbrushing with renewed alacrity, in consequence of our late negligence. One of my poorer neighbours had his house burnt, and lost his little all, as well as his other *awls*, for he was a shoemaker.

November 12th. — All hands, with the horse, went to a *Bee*, to assist in rebuilding the house burnt yesterday. It was a general rising throughout the settlement, even the women made themselves useful in preparing and bringing provisions to the place. One small party was in the woods cutting down the timber, followed by a couple of hands to line it out, then came the scorers and hewers, and at their heels again the *teamsters*, with oxen and horses to haul it to the place, where five men put it up as fast as it was brought to them, and after a day spent apparently more in fun and frolic than in hard labour, the out-shell of a capital log-house, with the exception of a roof, was put up.

November 13th. — Richard went again to assist a few of the neighbours to put up the rafters of the house built yesterday, when they boarded it also, and cut out places for door and windows — some furnished boards, others shingles, a carpenter the door and sashes, and the store-keeper the glass, putty, nails, &c., all of which the man paid for in work at his trade, in the course of the following six months.

November 15th. — Richard made a new hog-trough, the old one being too small — myself and Charles underbrushing. At night all went to my friend's house to peel apples for drying.

November 16th. — Banking up my house with sand, to keep the frost out of the cellar — my men cutting fire-wood.

November 17th and 18th. — Underbrushing for the last time this season, having thus gone over as much land as I think I shall be able to clear. This work cannot be done well when there's any snow on the ground, and cannot be done at all when there's much.

November 19th. — *The* dark day, as it was afterwards designated in the almanack, as well as elsewhere, whenever it has since been mentioned.

The sun rose in a dim yellow smoky haze, but we could see that it *had* risen, or we might afterwards have entertained a doubt on the subject; about 10 o'clock, A. M., the smoke, or whatever it was, but it looked like smoke, became so dense that we could neither see the sun, nor distinguish his whereabouts, and the darkness was evidently increasing; at noon, daylight was all but gone, the fowls went to roost, and a Dutch farmer's family near me, who had no clock, were milking their cows; two hours later, and an Egyptian darkness, a darkness that might be felt, involved every thing in the obscurity of a moonless midnight; there was not a breath of air to stir even the sered and dead leaves of the beech, and the

thick smoke seemed as if it would produce a suffocating effect; but it was not really felt, which led me to suppose it was confined to the higher regions. About 1 o'clock, P. M., a sudden and very violent flash of lightning, mingling with the yellow tinge of departing light, instantly succeeded by a deafening peal of thunder, produced a most startling effect upon people's minds, wrought up as they were to the highest pitch of fearful expectation of some dreadful catastrophe. The inhabitants of Montreal, as we afterwards heard, were thrown into still greater consternation on perceiving that the spire of their great church was in flames, having been set on fire by the lightning. The next morning a yellow, sulphureous-looking powder, without either taste or smell, slightly covered the ground.

Some attributed the phenomena to the burning of the prairies in the far west, while others assigned a very different cause; but I do not think it has ever been satisfactorily accounted for. One thing, however, may with certainty be said of it, that it stands alone, without a repetition and without a parallel, in the meteorological history of this country, as "THE DARK DAY."

November 20th. — Searching in the woods for a tree with a proper turn near the root to make a pair of runners for an ox sled — found one — but it proved unsound at the heart, which we did not discover till we got it home, when we had to go after another; this took Richard and me all day — Charles putting stables to right.

November 21st. — First snow — took in all the cattle.

November 22d. — A thaw and wet day — threshing more grain for the hogs — sent it to the mill.

November 23d to 30th, — Ploughing again one day — clearing — killed a sheep — hard frost again, but fine weather called the Indian Summer, with a slight smoky haziness in the atmosphere, through which the sun is seen with a deadened lustre — something like a full moon.

December 1st to 4th. — Indian Summer continues — clearing and chopping.

December 5th. — Killed my hogs.

December 6th. — Fall of snow — threshing — cutting up and salting pork.

December 7th. — Drawing wood home for fuel, in the log, with the horses and oxen, not being snow enough to draw it on the sled.

December 8th and 9th. — Made an ox sled — cutting firewood.

December 10th and 11th. — Drawing firewood, as on the 7th.

December 13th. — Snow storm — threshing.

December 14th. — Drawing in stack of corn-stalks to give to the cattle instead of hay, which I cannot yet get at in my barns, it being covered with grain, and not wishing to cut into my hay-stack till I should have room enough to take it all in at once.

December 15th. — Commenced cutting down the trees on the land I had underbrushed, and chopping them into lengths for piling.

December 16th to 18th. — Same work — feeding and watering cattle — cutting a supply of firewood at the door, cleaning out the stables, &c. occupied a little of our time while the breakfast was being got ready, when we came home to dinner, and at night after finishing our day's work. The horse was always groomed, fed, &c., with candle-light, after supper, when the working oxen had also a little fresh hay given them. All which having to be attended to in the same way every day during winter, I shall not again advert to it.

December 19th, Sunday. — Six double and nine single sleighs at church. Old Mr Tenny broke the finest string of his bass viol, which created a good deal of confusion among the singers, enough to engross the whole conversation in the settlement during the following week. He

was quite an original character, I mean this Mr Tenny, he was by trade a carpenter, and a clever and ingenious one; an enthusiast in psalmody, he led the singing in the church, made himself this his own bass viol, played upon it and sung to it, taught the whole settlement all they knew of sacred music, built all the houses and barns in it—plastered the houses—cut the stone for the fire-places, and built them—made all the furniture,—in short he was the father of the settlement in every point of view, besides that which entitled him to this distinctive appellation, being the oldest man in it. Poor old Father Tenny!—unfortunately he was poor,—he has since gone to his long home, sadly missed, and universally lamented! Although by no means an educated man, he was naturally and intuitively a scientific mechanic. I remember his shewing me plans, with explanatory remarks, proving most satisfactorily that “I,” to use his own words, “a man of 70, could, with the tools at his command, have transported the enormous canoe of Robinson Crusoe to the creek, and launched it on the ocean. I thought, when I was a little boy, that this was a blunder of De Foe’s, and I think so still.”

December 20th. — Commenced making a one-horse sleigh — Richard, who was half a carpenter, as well as myself, assisting in the work — Charles “chopping” in the “bush” on my intended new clearing.

December 21st. — Same work — part of the time Charles cutting firewood.

December 25th. — Visited by my old friend and neighbour, with whom I spent the greater part of my first year in Canada, who came, not only to salute me with the compliments of the season, but to invite me to join his family party, after church, at their Christmas dinner, which, under the peculiar circumstances of which the reader has already received a hint, I was nothing loth to do. He had a capital dinner, although it consisted of

heterodox materials for the occasion, but not being fastidious I was quite satisfied, and made very well out with roast turkey and plum-pudding, closing with just the sort of cheese I like, that is, possessing a *decided* character, washed down with a tumbler of the old man's (*own*) best sparkling cider. Wine too there was, and of good quality, of which all slightly partook, in order to pay due honour to some appropriate and seasonable toast after dinner; the old man went fast asleep as was his wont, his wife was busied in her household affairs, and his two nephews, the only guests besides myself, went off somewhere or other to see their acquaintances, all which afforded his daughter Harriet (the reader little knows how I like the name) and me an opportunity of holding a long private conversation upon a subject, the nature of which, although of the deepest interest to us both, must be kept a profound secret from the reader. Before I left the house, the two nephews returned, and kindly invited me to a party of young people they intended to have for a dance on New Year's Eve.

December 27th to 30th. — Hurrying on with my sleigh in order to have it ready for the party—Richard helping me—Charles “keeping his Christmas holiday”—got my sleigh finished in time, ironed, painted, and dried, which last would have been the most difficult part of the story at this season of the year, had I not managed, by taking out one of the windows in my kitchen, to get it snugly ensconced in a corner near the cooking stove.

December 31st. — Went to the party in my new sleigh accompanied by her who afterwards became the affectionate sympathiser in all my sorrows, and the happy participator in all my prosperity—had a glorious dance and a beautiful drive home by moonlight afterwards.

January 1st. — A holiday. Drove out my old friend and his family with his own pair of bays to see his friends who had given the party the night before, where we dined.

January 8th. — This week “loafing,” which means doing nothing.

January 15th. — A thaw and one wet day — all men at work again, hewing timber for a new barn.

January 22d. — Same work as last week — finished barn-timber.

January 29th. — Cutting and drawing home firewood, there having been fortunately a great fall of snow in the beginning of the week, which made good roads.

February 5th. — Hauling out the barn-timber — cutting and drawing timber logs to the saw-mill for boards to case round and cover the barn.

February 12th. — Same work as last week.

February 19th. — Cutting, splitting, and drawing rails for fences — went to town with my butter, and a few bushels of grain, which I sold, and bought groceries, hinges, nails for my new barn, as well as other trifling necessities, preparatory to my anticipated change of circumstances.

February 26th. — My men cutting and drawing home timber for shingles, except one day, when a certain event of no small importance, in my own little history at least, took place, which was a holiday for every body belonging to the two families most interested in it.

March 4th. — Busy with all hands in overturning and new arranging every thing in the house, and about it, adding a hundred little items essentially necessary for our comfort and convenience which I had never missed before.

March 11th. — Two or three days occupied in preparing for a large party of my wife’s friends and acquaintances, which, in accordance with a good old custom, we had to give; and being our first, we had to be more particular, knowing how narrowly our little establishment would be scrutinized, especially by the young women, who were all anxiously looking forward to the time when their turn should come to do the same thing.

March 18th.—Cutting and drawing firewood—getting in a stack of hay.

March 25th.—Fine mild sunshiny weather—snow roads getting bad, nearly done with them however—making maple sugar.

April 1st.—Cloudy weather and hard frost—finished getting out firewood enough for not only the summer, but the ensuing winter—made maples, molasses, and vinegar,—season nearly over.

April 10th.—Making shingles—snow nearly gone—and my year ended.

Had this diary been kept in some other locations, on the Ottawa for instance, the winter would have been much more advantageously employed, by getting out wood for the steamboats, as a yoke of oxen or a pair of horses could easily clear L.20 or L.30 besides doing the work already mentioned, by being constantly employed and well fed. In that section of the country there is also a ready market in every village, perhaps the best in America, for all kinds of agricultural produce.

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When an emigrant first attempts to cut down a tree, to make use of a homely but characteristic simile, he seldom succeeds, even to his own satisfaction, and I feel that the same may be said of a first attempt at book-making, if it should not apply to first attempts at every thing else ; and this was my principal reason for endeavouring to revise and improve this little work, from an earnest desire to render it more deserving the reception it has already met with from an indulgent public, and, in accordance with this wish, I must not allow the present opportunity to escape me of correcting an erroneous impression, which these memoirs, without such explanation, might produce. I allude to their apparent exclusive recommendation of Lower Canada to the notice

of the emigrant. I say apparent, because I do equally recommend to his notice, not only both banks of the Ottawa, the left of which is in Upper Canada throughout nearly the whole course of that stupendous river, which now forms the best and most commodious communication with the interior, and will doubtless become, at no very distant period, what it has been not inaptly termed, the very back bone of this mighty Province ; but I also speak as favourably of the whole of Upper Canada, below and away from the Great Lakes, whose shores, in some places, are unhealthy.

I have said more, it is true, about Lower Canada, where I myself, and others that I know, have succeeded so well : at the same time I wish it to be distinctly understood, that the objects I had in view, were, first, to shew that certain portions of Lower Canada had as good a claim to the notice of the Emigrant, as any portion of Upper Canada, and secondly, to prove that either had a much better than any portion of the United States could pretend to, or why do such numbers of their citizens flock to this country while so few are found to migrate from hence to theirs ? and that few I believe generally return, or would do so if they could.

This is strikingly illustrated by the following reflections, from the *Bytown Gazette*, upon an observation of my own, bearing upon this point, supported and strengthened by explanatory facts : —

“ We could mention many other instances in which the oldest settler even, as well as the strange emigrant, have been deceived by either over-colouring the advantages of remote sections of the country, or concealing important objections to which they were liable for settlement. Within the last month we were favoured with the perusal of a letter from a family who were a few years ago allured by these deceptive misrepresentations to go from this neighbourhood to the State of Michigan. The father, pretty well advanced in life, has been for some years comfortably settled on a lot of land (100 acres) on the bank of the Ottawa, had what is termed

a good clearing, well stocked with comfortable buildings, within eight miles of this town, the best market for the farmer in British North America, and to which he had access by a good road. The old gentleman paid a good share of attention to the cultivation of a small spot of a garden, and being generally the earliest in the market, commanded the highest price for his garden stuffs, so much so that he informed us in one season he realized L.60 currency, from the produce of his garden alone, besides what his farm yielded him. All this would not do ; he had some sons grown up, and fearing that the extent of his farm would not be sufficient for his family, and flattered by the accounts of the cheap rate at which lands could be procured in Michigan, and the great returns it yielded, he abandoned all his present flattering prospects, and determined to transport himself and family to that country. As might be expected, his property here, by a forced sale, brought a price under value. The whole was, however, converted into cash, and the unfortunates, as they may be truly called, set out for the land of promise in the State of Michigan. It was from this family, being their joint production, that the letter was sent to one of their old neighbours, and with which we were favoured with a perusal. It was filled with murmurings and regrets at their having left Canada. True, they obtained land at what they considered a fair rate ; higher, however, than it would have cost them in Canada, but they were promised larger returns of crops from it. When they came to purchase the other requisites, it was then they suffered from the exorbitant charges. The soil was of that deep alluvial clay description, that no less than four or frequently six oxen were required for a plough. The usual price of each yoke was from L.40 to L.50, and every other description of farming stock high in a like proportion. To procure these, drained them of all their pecuniary resources ; and if, as not unfrequently happens with new comers, they had been obliged to purchase a part of their stock upon credit, many years of hard and almost helpless toil had to be endured before they could be freed from their debt, the low price they obtained for the produce of their land far over-balancing the larger returns in these crops when compared with the state of these matters in Canada. To similar ills many others, equally deceived, have become the unfortunate victims."

John S. Evans, a native of the State of Vermont, came into this province, and settled in a seigniory bordering on the Eastern Townships : as he had no money, he took a

wild lot of land, upon which he made, in a few years, rather a valuable improvement, and acquired some little stock, sold out, and returned to the States, under the impression that although this country was better than his own without a capital, (no mean praise,) yet, with a capital small even as his own, he would do better there, found out his mistake, and in two years returned, no better than he went, to the vicinity of his old location, and is now doing well.

The following is a case I feel pleasure in recording :—

Elon Lee settled in the Eastern Townships, got dissatisfied, sold out, and returned to his native country, one of the States — I believe Massachusetts — failed in his attempts to establish himself there, got over head and ears in debt, made a moonlight flitting again into Canada, came to the banks of the Ottawa, at that time little known, (for this occurred long ago,) where he was not likely to be found, took a wild lot of land, which, by his own exertions, with persevering industry, he cleared, built a house, barn, &c., upon it, and then sold it for a considerable sum of money, with which he paid off all his old debts in the States, and had enough left to set him up anew. He is now an old man, well provided for during the remnant of his days, which are wearing away, under the consoling reflection that he has, under great and voluntary sacrifices, acted the part of an upright and honest man.

David Gillanders came to Quebec in July, 1831, went out to Broughton, bought a lot of land, got dissatisfied, sold out, and went to the State of New York — disappointed — returned and bought another lot, in Broughton, and is now doing well.

John Reinhart left Broughton also, and went into the State of New York — found by comparison, that all things considered, he had changed for the worse — stayed away only a few months — returned to Broughton,

bought a lot of land, and is now one of the most thriving farmers in the neighbourhood — is of opinion, that better places *may* be found than Broughton, but thinks a man must be very hard to please, who could not be as well satisfied with it as he is.

Nicholas Reinhart, brother to the above, also left Broughton, and went to the State of New York, where he remained three years — thought he had tried it long enough, so he returned, and is now doing well.

Robert Ross also fancied he could suit himself better in the States — tried it, and found it was a mistake, and after remaining there three years, returned to Broughton, and is now content to remain, and is in a thriving condition.

John Koyle went to the States, worked hard for three or four years, found he could not “go ahead,” returned to Broughton very poor, is now on land of his own, and doing well. See Appendix, Note C.

THE  
EMIGRANT TO NORTH AMERICA,  
FROM  
MEMORANDA OF A SETTLER IN CANADA.

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PART II.

It may be remembered, that I mentioned, in the former part of this true and faithful narrative, that one of my brothers (James) had located himself in Western or Upper Canada; and it may also have been observed, that I never afterwards referred to any communication from him, and this was owing to the simple fact of my never having received any; and, consequently, I endeavoured to make up for the deficiency, as best I might, from other sources of information, some of which, as will appear from allusions to them hereafter, were not altogether so pure and free from error as they ought to have been. Thinking, however, that this brother, notwithstanding his negligence, would be pleased to see our little history in print, I sent him a copy of my pamphlet, and I am rejoiced that I did so, as it has roused him from his indolent apathy, and produced the following letter from him:—

N—, NEAR GODERICH, *August 14, 1842.*

MY DEAR BROTHER,

I have duly received your affectionate letter; but it was not until three weeks afterwards, and I cannot

account for the delay, that the mail brought me your long wished for pamphlet, for which, from some equally unaccountable cause, I had 18s. 9d. postage to pay; this, as you may easily suppose, put me rather into a bad humour with it; however, as I read on through several pages, I got so far interested, and I may say delighted, that I forgot the 18s. 9d. till I came to your description of Upper Canada, as you persist in calling this part of the Province, when the unfortunate three dollars and three quarters again rose up in judgment against you, because you speak disparagingly of a section of the country, near as it is to you, of which you seem to know but very little; or rather, I ought perhaps to say, that your assertions, though true, only apply to a very small portion of this vast and boundless country. As to fever and ague, for instance, was not the Isle-aux-Noix, near St Johns, in your own section of the province, abandoned, in consequence of the prevalence of that disease in that particular locality? And yet, how absurd to say, that it prevailed in Eastern Canada!

You yourself, and I am delighted to hear it, have succeeded in obtaining a comfortable competency, and I doubt not but hundreds of others may have done as well, but I suspect that you would have to pick them out of multitudes less fortunate; whereas, in this place, from which I now write, you might find a whole settlement, with hardly a solitary exception, equally successful.

I myself, to give you some account of my own history, which I have so long neglected to do, have not, it is true, been so uniformly prosperous as you seem to have been, owing to misfortunes, which, however, have nothing to do with either the country or the climate, but were entirely and solely attributable to my own folly. I was not satisfied with a comfortable competency, but must make a fortune; to this end I entered into the

lumber trade, and lost all, about ten years ago. I then came here a beggar, and commenced anew; and, suffice it to say, I am now a rich man. Therefore, in the new edition of your pamphlet, which you talk of publishing, instead of saying a word against this portion of the province, insert in it a number of letters, I send you herewith, from a plain, practical Scotsman, an Ayrshire emigrant, as they contain the plainest and best description of it that I have ever met with. These letters were written to his brother, a mechanic, in Glasgow, and a copy of them taken by a Lanarkshire farmer for his own guidance in coming to Canada, the originals being kept by the person to whom they were addressed, to serve as a guide to himself in his intended emigration next spring.

This Lanarkshire farmer is now settled in this neighbourhood, and kindly sent them to me on returning your pamphlet, which I had lent him. He wishes them to be returned; but if you make such use of them as I recommend, and send him a copy of your work, I suppose you need not trouble yourself farther about the MSS. If you send me a copy, it will do as well, but mind about the postage! Yours, &c.

JAMES W——.

The following are the letters to which my brother refers, and it is hoped they will be considered a valuable addition to this little work:—

#### LETTER I.

MY DEAR BROTHER,

As I promised to write you anent every thing, just as it happened, I shall not trouble you with any attempt to arrange and classify, or to divide my letters, into heads; as our worthy minister used to do his preachings; I

shall just note down every thing as it happened, even foot foremost.

When I wrote you last from Greenock, I thought we should have sailed the next day, as the ship lay at the tail of the bank ; but as the wind was contrary, we were delayed two days longer—so, as I was leaving my native country, perhaps for ever, I considered that I ought to see as much of it as possible, and, therefore, I took advantage of our second mate's proceeding to Port-Glasgow, to take farewell of his friends, to accompany him to behold the wonders of that celebrated place.

Travellers are proverbially given not to *understate* what they see in far away parts, and so I found by experience, for the Port-Glasgow steeple, so far from slanting over like the hanging tower of Saragossa, in the Penny Magazine, is just a wee thocht ajee. From canny and cautious investigation—for it is a ticklish subject with them—I found that it is a real fact, that they first painted their grand bell, which deadened the sound, and then boiled it to take aff the paint ; but they succeeded no better in this than in another boiling ploy they had about this time. Ye see, a young man from the town set aff to Jamaica, and in course of time became a grand planter ; so he sent home to the magistrates of his native town, a queer kind of beast of the shell-fish kind, called a turtle. Now, the Magistrates had heard that the Lord Provost and Bailies of London thocht it a great dainty, for it made noble soup. Accordingly, they put it bodily into the same tar pot they had used for the bell, with plenty of barley and cabbage ; but it would not turn red like a lobster, as they supposed it would, and the kail, though they supped all for fashion's sake, they said was but indifferent, and as for the flesh, it was tasteless, and they would greatly have preferred a gigot of mutton.

The next day, at four in the afternoon, we might have

sailed, but the Captain would not hear of it, being a Friday; but on Saturday we got under weigh before daylight in the morning, with a fine easterly breeze, which, the mate told me, always blows about the time of the Greenock spring preachings,\* and by the time it was good daylight, we were passing the Auld Kirk.

As the wind was rather off the land, we sailed close under the Ayrshire coast, and you may be sure I never took my eyes off it while it could be distinguished from the sky. Oh, it is a sore and a heart-sinking thing to take the last look of a land that is endeared to us by so many remembrances—gradually to lose sight of the farm where we were born—the village at which we went to school—the woods and glens in which we played—the burns in which we “paidled”—the kirk in which we were christened, and where we first heard in public the word of God, and under whose shadow is the turf that covers the mouldering bones of our parents—blessed be their memory! But for their pious instructions I should have sunk in despair—but they early taught me to put my trust in HIM, whose arm is not shortened, and who can throw the shield of His protecting providence over me, and cause His staff and His rod to support me equally in the wild forests of Canada as on the sunny slopes and shady glens of my native land.

I did not recover my spirits all that day; for, do what I would, sad thoughts would thrust themselves into my breast, but at night I prayed fervently, and felt relieved—next morning we had lost sight of land, having gone round the north of Ireland in the night, and in the morning we were standing onward with a fine steady breeze, and a moderately smooth sea. Many of our passengers

\* The spring celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper—the middle or end of March. The mate was correct.—*Quebec Mercury*.

were sorely afflicted with sea-sickness, which is a most grievous dispensation — but I, who have been so often at Arran and Campbelltown, was in a manner seasoned, and suffered but little.

I shall not trouble you with a minute account of the voyage. Like all other voyages it was wearisome — sometimes we had calms and sometimes gales, but I have reason to believe it was not much better or worse than most passages across the Atlantic. We were told at starting, that we should be thankful if we were not over six weeks — we were four days over it, but I was thankful notwithstanding.

We arrived at Quebec on the 15th of May, and I was just landed when I forgathered with one Mr Corbett, a gawey, sponable looking man from Straven, who is agent for the Canada Company. We took half a mutch-kin together, and never was time better bestowed, for he told me more about the country in half an hour than I could have learned from all the books that ever were written on the subject, and he gave me a wee map of the province, which, in the long run, will turn out to be very useful. He advised me to go well west, for there was little good land on this side of Toronto. He said the best land was in the Huron district, but advised me to look for myself.

When I told him that I was sent to look for land for some families in the neighbourhood of Irvine and the parishes thereunto adjoining, he was then more kind than ever, and gave me letters to all the Canada Company's agents, and advised me not to stay a minute in a big town, where I would spend more money in a day than would keep me in the woods for a week. Accordingly he took me to the steamboat, the captain of which was a friend of his, and in her I proceeded to this place.

I would fain give you a description of Quebec, but I only saw it from the river, for I was not farther up the

hill than the Neptune Inn, but if ye can imagine the Craig of Ailsa, on the banks of a river a mile broad, ye may have some notion of it—only it has houses stuck to it like swallows' nests to a wall, and fortifications bristling with cannons to the very top.

Oh, man, but it's a beautiful country between Quebec and this. The bonny white farm-houses, in the middle of their orchards, which are now in full bloom—the grand elm-trees on the banks of the river, that would look grand even in my Lord Eglinton's park, and the beautiful kirks, at every three or four miles, with their tinned steeples glancing in the sun. What a pity that the poor deluded creatures that worship therein should drink of the cup of the abominations of the red harlot of Babylon! Oh, that we could but send out our minister, and a dozen or two more of the right sort from Ayrshire, where they have the root of the matter, to shake them over the pit, and frighten them from the errors of their ways! Pray, my dear John, that these days may come, when all mankind may come into the only true fold, the Kirk of Scotland, and believe me your affectionate brother,

ROBERT STEVENSON,  
*Montreal.*

Endorsed :

To MR JOHN STEVENSON, Cordwainer,  
Care of Deacon M'Awl, Hutchison Street,  
Glasgow.

## LETTER II.

MY DEAR BROTHER,

On the Sabbath, I remained in Montreal, and I went to the kirk in St Peter Street, where I heard a most weighty discourse from Dr Mathieson. He's a Boan-

arges yon, and toots the Lord's trumpet in a manner to shake the ramparts of Satan's kingdom, even as those of Jericho were shaken before the rams' horns of the priests carrying the ark of the covenant. In the afternoon, I attended the ministrations of Doctor Black, (I never could fathom the reason why, when ministers are getting auld and doited, they aye call them doctor,) who is equally orthodox, but not so awakening.

I proceeded up the Lachine Canal, which takes us safely round a *rapid*, as they call it in this country, that is, where the river tumbles over rocks at the rate of fifteen miles an hour. It's awful to look at, and to think of the danger of the poor creatures that bring down rafts of timber in such a torrent. After some other rapids, we came to Côteau du Lac, a French name, which I am told means a hill on a lake, but I could see no hill higher than a midden, (and they are higher here than ever I saw them any where else,) and as for a lake, it's no broader than the rest of the river.

I had now an opportunity of examining the soil, as I walked on the bank, while the French bodies pulled and shoved the flat-bottomed boat, (which they, poor deluded creatures, in their barbarous lingo call a *batto*,) up the rapid. It's no ill land yon — deep rich clay, which I would think must be dour of the tilth, but bears wonderful crops, considering that it has been cropped and cropped with white crops for a hundred years, and no a grapeful of dung laid upon it, nor a green crop ever thought of. What would the folk of Dundonald, Saltcoats, or Irvine say, who live like the rabbits among the land, if they were to hear of folk calling themselves farmers, who, when their midden of horse-dung and cow-dung and straw became too large for their convenience, carted it aff bodily, and couped it into the river to get quit of it? But that's the way here.

At a place they call Lancaster, I had another opportu-

nity of inspecting the country ; the land is not so good, being stony here and there — but if it was in the hands of skilful farmers, it might be brought to good purpose ; but the folk are Highlanders, so no good can be expected of it.

About Cornwall the land is no that ill, but inland it gets it worse. We stopped at Brockville to take in wood for the steamboat ; it is a flourishing place, but the people are Yankeeified, and remarkably hoggish in their manners. I met one decent man, however, their member, who is from Kilmarnock, and a remarkably good judge of night caps.

From that to Kingston, the greater part of the way, the land is rocky and bad, covered with pine trees, which, I am told, are always found in a barren, sandy soil ; and, as for Kingston, if it were for us to presume to give our thoughts on the judgment of Providence, we would say that certainly the land round it was formed whereon to place the wicked for the punishment of their sins.

Tell Mary and the bairns that I arrived in Kingston safe from any attack of wild beasts. She was dreadfully frightened, poor thing, when a serjeant's wife of the 71st told her that her husband had written her home, that the road between Cornwall and Kingston was infested by a certain lang soo, which swallowed up many people passing — and so, to be sure it is, but it is not an overgrown brute of the swine tribe, as we thocht at the time, but merely one of these plunging rapids that drowns folks going down, and taigles them coming up. The sow's tusks, however, are like to be drawn by a Mr Killaly, who is cutting a canal through it, by order of the Government.

I took the steamboat for Toronto, and we touched during the night at two places, Coburg and Port Hope, but I was asleep and did not see them. Next day, however, a fat Highlandman, with a reddish head, the colour of a fox,

and who lives in the Rice Lake country, as the interior of the Newcastle district is called, told me that it was a very rich and fertile country, and sent a vast of wheat to these markets, and that a canal was cutting, that would render its communication with the lake easy.

I had heard much of the fertility of Yonge Street — that is the road that goes right back from Toronto; for in this country a road is a street, though it should not have a house on it once in a mile; I walked over it, and went back occasionally into the country, resolved to take my time to it, as it is not every body that is so clever as Mr. Sheriff, of Mungo's Wells, who could fly over a country twice as big as Europe in five months, and describe it as minutely as a minister does his parish in Sir John Sinclair's Statistical; and really it is a fine country, and grand large barns and outhouses, and the crops to all appearance remarkably thriving.

✧ The folk here have great advantages. Toronto is an excellent market for all kinds of produce, and in clearing their land they get as much for the firewood as will cover the expense; and above all, they have a macadamized road, and though some of them grumble at being obliged to pay the toll, yet, by their own confession, they can carry at one load now, as much as they could at two and a half formerly, to say nothing of the breaking of their waggons, the tearing of their harness, and the utter murder of their horses. The only objection to this part of the country is, that the half of the people are rank rebels, and I would never settle myself, nor advise a friend to settle, among an unsanctified clanjamfray, that neither fear God nor honour the Queen.

I shall leave this place to-morrow, and give you some account of it in my text; I go round the head of the lake to the Falls of Niagara. I might go across in a steamboat, but wish to see the country. Yours, &c.

R. S.

## LETTER III.

MY DEAR BROTHER,

Toronto is a town of about 15,000 inhabitants, with good brick houses, and as for the shops, or, as they call them here, *stores*, they may be compared with those of either Quebec or Montreal. It is situated on the side of Lake Ontario, the harbour being protected from storms, by a long low sandy point, that forms a safe haven of about three miles from east to west.

The growth of this town has, like many others in this country, been most rapid. In 1816, there were only seventy-six houses, (counting log-huts and shanties, that is, sheilings.) In 1832, it was still a dirty village, but a great emigration took place in that and the following years, and it is now a good sized town, and the seat of a very considerable trade, as it supplies the country behind and above it, with all the British goods they require, and that, to judge from the state of its wharfs, warehouses, and wholesale stores, must be no trifle.

I started on my way upwards along the lower, or lake shore road — the land here is good, being the mud and clay deposited by the lake, though sometimes it is encumbered by round stones, rounded doubtless by the action of the water. Farther on, here and there, is a kind of reddish marl, which seems very productive. The streams or creeks, as the burns and waters are uniformly called in this country, are here creeks in reality, for they are, where they join the lake, deep dull inlets, most of them navigable for miles. It is probable that the first explorers of the country went in boats and canoes to carry their provisions — these creeks would form their harbours, and having once named them from the wood that grew on their sides, as Alder Creek or Cedar Creek, or from their

distance from an ascertained point, as Sixteen-mile Creek, they remained for ever after creeks to their very source.

I slept this night at Oakville, a neat, thriving village, where they have a very good harbour, from which they ship a great deal of grain and barrel-staves from the back country.

Next morning I proceeded to the Burlington canal, that is an artificial cut through a ridge of land that crosses the head of Lake Ontario, and divides it from a smaller lake on which stands the town of Hamilton. You'll mind that Captain Basil Hall mentions this, and supposes that the ridge was formed by the shoving of the ice; but a decent man that I met there, with a broad blue bonnet, told me that he thought the Captain was wrong — that it was merely a sand-bar left above water by the subsiding of the lake, and that it had been formed, as all other bars were, by two currents meeting and neutralizing each other, so, at the point where they become still, the deposits of both must fall — the streams falling into the inner lake cause a rush out, and the lake, agitated by an easterly wind, rushes in, and here they come to a stand still. While waiting for the steamboat, I watched the canal, and found the water rushing in at the rate of three or four miles an hour, and I was told by a man who lives on the spot, that when the wind changed, it would rush out even faster than it came in; and as there is always a current one way or other, instead of forming a bar, it washes away any that may have a tendency to form.

When the steamboat came up, I got on to Hamilton, a clean little town, which is getting on wonderfully. It is situated at the foot of a hill which the folk call a mountain — in Scotland we would call it a brae; but it is easy to be a mountain in a country that's as flat as this table.

I was particularly struck with Dundurn castle, which stands on a height overhanging the lake — it is so un-

common in this country to see any thing like a country gentleman's house, that it reminds you of home. It belongs to Sir Allan M'Nab, who commanded in this country during the rebellion ; but, though born in this province himself, his forebears came from the Highlands, and he is no unlike a Highlandman himself, being a weel faur'd man, with broad shoulders and heather legs.

I set off the next morning on the road towards Dundas, and as good a macadamized road as any in Ayrshire ; it is well made and thoroughly drained ; and as it passes over several glens and valleys, the slopes down and up are gentle and gradual. I was told that the country owes this and many other improvements to the exertions of Sir Allan. There is here, too, some grumbling about paying the toll — but it is always the way ; folk think more of the twopence they have to pay, than the good road they have to travel. My grandfather told me that when toll-bars were first established in Scoland, the Highland drover bodies were like to go distracted at the “tam turnumspike” as they called them, and in Ireland the chief qualification of a toll-man was bodily strength and being a good cudgel player ; for as he expected a thump on the head instead of the money that was his due, he came out guarding St George with “ will your honour be pleased to pay the pike ?”

This was the first opportunity I had of seeing what is called plain land, that is, sandy land, whereon oak or pine grows. There is a prejudice against it, as it is thought to be light and easily exhausted ; but this seems to have worn tolerably well, though it must be coufessed it has got a reasonable share of manure of late.

Formerly, the farmers here, like their brethren of Lower Canada, thought manure a nuisance, but as they had not, like them, the convenience of a river wherein to throw it, they piled it before their barns, and when the heap became too large, they dragged the barn back, and

commenced anew — this has been done here within these ten or twelve years — but the land being soon worn out, they began to bethink them of the despised dung heap, and an accumulation of fifteen or twenty years being laid on, in the course of two or three, the land was restored, and produced excellent crops.

One thing that strikes Scotchmen as strange is, that the land is either not in ridges at all, or they are so broad, that, for the purpose of drainage, they must be utterly useless; but they all agree that narrow ridges like ours are not necessary, and as old country people give into it, I suppose it must be so. Otherwise the cultivation is good; ploughing straight and well laid, while the frost in winter, and heat in spring, crumbles the clods, so that a reasonable harrowing reduces them to powder, and makes a wheat field resemble a well raked garden bed. The gravel of these plains is always lime, and that, exposed to the sun, wind, and frost, makes a manure of itself.

On the lower side of the road, on the banks of streams, and in the valleys, there is some remarkably fine carse land — rather wet, but could easily be drained, and even as it is, produces capital crops of hay.

After passing through Dundas, a neat village buried in a valley, I ascended the mountain, where I got a view of remarkable beauty, being the valley between this and the opposite hill, on which stands the village of Ancaster. I have seldom, if ever, seen any thing of its kind to equal it. I there went down into a glen, to see a waterfall, or rather a number of them — to my surprise, in this hollow, I stumbled on a village. I asked the name of it, and was told it had no name; it was just the Hon. William Crooks' mills; and to be sure here were saw-mills, and grist-mills, and paper-mills, and carding-mills, and wauk (fulling) mills, and distilleries, and tanneries, and the Lord knows what beside. I asked who Mr Crooks was,

and was told he was a Scotsman from Kilmarnock—  
Weel dune Ayrshire yet! thocht I; ye'll find us in every  
quarter of the globe, but never as hewers o' wood or  
drawers o' water.

This glen is really beautiful, but the natives of the  
country neither ken nor care about these things; they  
have no notion of beauty, but how money can be made  
of it. I remarked to a rather decent looking man, what  
a splendid waterfall was before us; and what do you  
think was the reply of the uncircumcised Philistine?  
“Why, yes, mister, I guess it is a very nice water priv-  
ilege; I wonder no one don't put a mill on it; it shouldn't  
ought to stand idle.” They look at a waterfall in a  
wooded glen with precisely the same feelings they would  
at the muddy waters of a canal tumbling over a gate  
into a lock-pit.

That night I returned late to Mr Press's inn, in  
Hamilton, who is a worthy man, and a civil landlord,  
where, after a hearty supper, I spent a most pleasant  
evening with a party of the most celebrated characters  
of the place, at the head of which was Mr John Law,  
who comes from Galloway, and whose company cured  
me of a prejudice I had entertained from my youth  
upwards, namely, that nothing civilized ever came out of  
that benighted and moorland district.

The next morning I started off for the southward.  
The land under the mountain is rich clay, having, doubt-  
less, received all the soil that the slope of the hill had to  
give it; but the road is abominable; for they say in this  
country, where they are not in the habit of putting any  
metal on roads, that you never can have good roads and  
good land in the same place.

I ascended the mountain to see a fall at what is called  
the Albion Mills. It is, in fact, broken into two falls,  
and there being a flood in the river to-day, I saw it to  
great advantage. This, too, is a scene, that not one in a

thousand of the inhabitants of this country has ever seen or heard tell of.

Here a cliff was pointed out to me that had been the scene of a melancholy tale some years ago.

A young lady of beauty and accomplishments had emigrated with her parents from Ireland. A young man in the neighbourhood paid his addresses to her, and won her affections. Soon after, however, his attentions grew cold, and at last ceased altogether, and he began to draw up with another. This preyed upon her mind, but none of her friends anticipated any thing serious. She came to pass a few days with the lady of the gentleman who then owned the property, and one forenoon led his daughter, a girl of eight or ten years of age, out to walk. She took her way towards the cliff, which is upwards of a hundred feet plumb down into the stream. She looked steadily into the chasm, while the girl, from fear, stood aloof. She then returned to the child, hastily adjusted her disordered hair, knelt down and kissed her, and then, suddenly turning round, she took a race, and leaped over the precipice. Two labourers on the opposite side of the glen beheld the whole scene. They said, that at first she fell rapidly, feet foremost—then her descent was more gradual—and at one time, when considerably more than half way down, she seemed to pause in the air, her clothes acting as a parachute; then her descent again began, and seemed to increase in rapidity as she neared the ground, when she alighted on her feet and fell over in a heap. They hurried down the glen as fast as the nature of the ground would permit; they found she had lit on a plank, into which the brass heels of her walking boots were deeply dented. They raised her; she had not a bone broken, nor was she insensible. She spoke calmly and without difficulty, though she breathed heavily. She was carried to the house, where medical aid was procured; but she expired that night.

The cliff from which she sprang, in memory of the event, is still called "The Lover's Leap."

I returned to Hamilton by the *high* road that is on the top of the mountain. The land is not so rich as below, still it is good. I shall leave this to-morrow for Niagara. Love to Mary and the bairns. Yours affectionately,

R. S.

Hamilton, June.

#### LETTER IV.

MY DEAR BROTHER,

I started for Niagara, the road still keeping near the Lake shore, and the land much as before. This is an old settlement, and most of the houses are surrounded with orchards, and have snug neat gardens, which gives a great look of comfort, to say nothing of the convenience. Wherever a stream of any size comes down, there is sure to be a mill on it. The hill here sometimes comes near the lake, and sometimes falls back; at one time it is very steep, and at another a slope, but always wooded and beautiful. At some miles from Niagara it goes off from the shore of the lake altogether, when there is a level plain of rather hard clay, and, from what I could see, not very productive.

I was determined to take it easy, so that I might have time to make my observations. I slept at a place they call the Forty-mile Creek, and it was well on in the second day before I arrived at the town of Niagara.

This town was entirely burned down during the war, so that the present one was built since the peace. It's a very nice town in its way, but has not the stir and bustle of others in the country. Here is a fort and a garrison of soldiers, and opposite to it the Americans have another. It seemed a strange thing to me, who

never saw a foreign flag before but on a ship, to see the colours of two nations hoisted over their forts, divided only by a river, not, I should think, quite a mile broad.

I proceeded through Queenston, through a sandy soil, but well cultivated, with many large brick farm houses and fine orchards; for the people along the Niagara river make a vast of cider. It struck me as strange that the people should let their orchards be exposed with only a common fence, which, though it keeps out beasts, yet a body can easily get over it, even if they kept a watch. When I mentioned this to a farmer, he burst out laughing, and said these were old country notions,—that fruit was too common here to be much coveted, and if a passing traveller did take a pocket full of apples or peaches, they would never be missed among so many, and they were of too little consequence to quarrel about.

On Queenston Heights is the ruins of a monument, raised to the memory of General Brock, where he fell, after having defeated the Americans, who were three times his number. A Yankee *loafer*, (that's the name they give to a ne'er-do-weel in this country,) blew it up with gunpowder some years back. The country between this and the Falls is still sandy, but the crops looked well.

I shall not attempt to describe the Falls; it has often been tried by far abler hands than mine, and, so far as I have seen, has never yet been done. To have any notion of them, you must see them yourself. I staid there three days, and if I had staid three months I am sure I never should have been wearied of looking at them. You see something new and something wonderful every time you look at them, and they vary at every new point you see them from.

From the Falls I went on to Chippaway Creek, which communicates with the Welland Canal, and taking advantage of a schooner going up, I sailed through a fine

settled old country with a rich soil, but rather scant of water. When I came to the canal, I staid on board the schooner; the captain thereof, being a kind, civil man, he said it was a pity I should not see their grand canal, which he considered the eighth wonder of the world, and far better worth waring time on than the Falls of Niagara, which were well enough to look at, *but were of no use*. The land here is good too, and there are grand farms on it, and it is a great convenience to the farmer, that, instead of wading to market through deep roads, he can take his sack on his back in his barn, and fling it on board a vessel as easily as he could lay it on a cart.

The captain told me that the canal was cut in consequence of the exertions of one Mr Hamilton Merritt, a flushing, phrasing, plausible cheil, that can gar folk believe that he can make spade-shafts bear plums. The locks are of wood, which seems strange to me, seeing that there is as much stone taken out of the lock-pits as would have built them; they say they are now going to make them of stone; it would have been as well had they done so at first.

Having seen the canal to the locks above St Catharines, I returned to where I started, and there took the track-boat to Dunnville, where there is a dam on the Grand River that supplies the feeder of the canal,—thence by boat towards Brantford, through some of the finest holm land I ever saw, belonging to the Six Nation Indians, and well cultivated, considering that the folk are only kind of half tamed savages; many of them have farms of seventy acres under tillage, with good stocks of horses and kye, and no doubt, in a generation or two, they will be just like other folk—for it takes many generations to tame wild creatures, and you might as well expect that by setting the eggs of a wild duck under a hen, you would hatch a clecking of tame ducks, as that

you could make a wild man tame in one or even two generations.

They are Christians, however, the most feck of them; that is to say, they are Episcopalians; and they shewed me the Bible and the sacrament cups that they got from Queen Anne, more than a hundred years ago, and which they carried with them through all their troubles and tribulations during the American war, where they fought bravely on the King's side, for which they got their lands here.

After looking about me for a day or two in this neighbourhood, I intend, God willing, to proceed by London to the west. This is no that bad country—indeed I think the land improves the farther I go.

Tell Mary, that though I do not write to her, that I intend my letter just as muckle for her as for you, but it is well known that the post office folk are no just so precise about women folks' letters as about men's, in respect that they are not supposed to contain matters of such weighty concernment. With kindest regards to all inquiring friends, I remain, my dear brother, your affectionate, till death,

ROBERT STEVENSON.

Brantford.

#### LETTER V.

MY DEAR BROTHER,

From Brantford I proceeded up the Grand River, and a beautiful river it is. It runs mostly through plain lands, and the folk tell me it is remarkably fertile and easily cleared, and as easily worked. The people are mostly Scotch, being chiefly from Dumfriesshire, and the township is called Dumfries in consequence. I did not go up to Galt, (the capital,) because I mean to go there by another road.

I was told of a story here I think worth relating. Two young men came out from Scotland together, and took adjoining farms; and after they had built houses, and got things something purpose like, one of them, who had courted a lass in Scotland, went home to marry her and bring her out. Before starting his friend came to him and told him that he wanted a wife too, but he did not like the women of this country, for though the well was close to the door, they would take a tin trumpet and blow on their husband to come in from the plough to fetch water. So he requested him, when he was in Scotland, to pick him out a wife and bring her out. Accordingly, he got a cousin of his own wife's to come out with him, and his friend met them in Hamilton, and got married off hand, and I am told there is not a happier couple in the district, which just shews that a great deal of time is lost in making love, and that folk had just as well begin where they mean to end.

I spent two days among these folk, and very kind and civil they were to me. They have, however, rather an overly full way of living, eating no parritch, and very little kail, but flesh meat three times a day; they look strong and healthy though, nevertheless.

I then proceeded to London. The township of Zorra is fine land, settled with Highlanders from the shores of the Frozen Ocean, being from Sutherland and Caithness—it has often struck me, from what I've read of, that the folk have a dash of the Esquimaux Indian in them, for they are a hard favoured generation, and rather savage in their way.

All this tract of country is good, but I was told that to the south was what they call the Long Point Country, which is sandy plains and barren. Sometimes the sand drifts like snow, and covers up a whole cleared farm, just as we are told it drifts in the Arabian desert. They use green manure here, they sow buck wheat, (a grain I

never saw before, but it is good for swine and hens, and makes special good pancakes,) and when it is in flower or coming into seed, they plough it down and put in their fall wheat on the top of it, and this produces fair crops as to quantity, and excellent as to quality. I think this might be done to advantage in many of the sandy soils on the Ayrshire coast. Besides this they have a kind of stone they call gypsum, (which, when burned in a kiln, makes the Paris plaster that they make the poll parrots and the Buonapartes, and the other stucco images out of, that the Italian boys sell,) and this laid on at so small a proportion as a bushel to the acre, (that is, one-fourth of a boll,) fertilizes the ground in a wonderful manner — it is also wonderful the extraordinary bounty of Providence, that whenever there is an extensive tract of sandy land, it is almost certain that there is a quarry of gypsum at no great distance.

The land rather improves as we approach London, and is, in many cases, a fine clayey loam, exceedingly rich, and producing heavy crops of every thing — the potatoes, however, are wet, which I attribute more to their not changing the seed, than to the soil, for in the clay lands of the Lothians I have seen as good potatoes grown, as in the light soils of our own country.

London is beautifully situated on the junction of two branches of the River Thames, which, from the high banks above them, looks as if all the three rivers were about one size. It is a thriving place, as the surrounding country is all good, and they send in a great deal of wheat and other produce, which in the summer is shipped on Lake Erie, and in the winter time is taken in sleighs down to Hamilton. This place may be considered as the capital of that part of the province that borders on Lake Erie. It is from the wholesale dealers of this, that the smaller stores in the country parts receive their supplies, and to pay for these, they send in the produce they obtain

from their customers — besides, it is a country town and a garrison, so it has a lively appearance with it.

I staid three days in London, and visited its neighbourhood. I find it all good land. There are many excellent farms — very extensive, and very well stocked and cultivated. The people who came in here at first were mostly poor, and received their land from government, gratis — but they have got on wonderfully, though they tell me they had terrible hardships to contend with at first; but on the whole, it strikes me that a man had better, if he can manage it, pay a good price for his land where there are roads and mills, a market and a neighbourhood, than to get land in the wild bush for nothing.

I remain, my dear John, with love to Mary and the bairns, your affectionate brother,

R. S.

London.

## LETTER VI.

MY DEAR JOHN,

I started from London on my way to Chatham. I went through generally a rich clay land; but when I crossed the Thames, it was rather sandy, but still not barren land, having a good deal of clay mixed with it, as is easily to be perceived, if you have to pass through it, as I had, after a shower, from the mud that sticks to your shoes.

The land all along this road is a deep rich clay, and the farms are mostly well cultivated and extensive — a great deal of good has accrued to the country from the formation of Agricultural Associations, and the consequent cattle shows. — Stock has improved amazingly, — Tees-water cows — Leicester and South-down sheep — and Berkshire swine, that would not shame any agricultural show in the kingdom.

The River Thames is a fine stream from its source to Chatham. It runs rapidly over its rocky or gravelly bed, and would furnish mill power for the whole province, but unluckily it runs the wrong way — arising in the east at no great distance from Ontario, and running parallel to Lake Erie, it falls into Lake St Clair, so that no use can be made of it, for bringing produce to market ; for the farther down you go, the farther you are from your place of sale. The only use, therefore, that is made of it in this way, is to carry rafts of lumber down to Detroit and the neighbourhood, where pine is scarce.

From Chatham, downward, it is a lazy, canal-looking river, with no perceptible current, but deep and navigable for any vessel that can sail these lakes.

The land on its banks is about the richest I ever saw in any country. Six or seven feet deep of earth that would do for a garden, and extensive grass plains stretching for miles into the country, without a tree, save here and there a small clump like an island in the plain — the grass, particularly that called blue joint, furnishes excellent pasture and hay. Indeed, your beasts, after they are weaned, are branded and turned out to pasture, and never reclaimed till wanted for use. Running water, however, is scant, and the people, from finding it so easy to scramble along after a fashion, are a lazy generation, and only half do their work. Their ground is generally foul, and their wheat, of course, mixed with the seeds of the weeds which are allowed to grow in such profusion among it. Add to all this, the stagnant water that is allowed to stand in these plains in the spring and fall (for they never dream of draining, though that would be easy) breeds fever and ague, so that on the whole I do not consider it a desirable location.

When you get down to the lake at the mouth of the river, (which you do through a road, that when the lake is high, takes the horses up to their bellies in water,) you

have the same low grass plain land until you come within a few miles of the village of Windsor, when it improves, and is rather higher above the bed of the river.

The village of Windsor is a new place, formed in consequence of the American tariff, to enable the inhabitants to smuggle British goods across the river. The village, therefore, consists of two classes of men, store-keepers and tailors, the former to violate the laws of the United States, the latter to evade them; for a man coming over from Detroit buys cloth for a suit of clothes, gets them made, and then marches back to Detroit with the new clothes on his back, and the old ones in a bundle, under the very nose of the Collector of Customs.

There is a settlement of industrious Irish in the rear of Sandwich, who, though their land was originally wet, have made it highly productive by draining. It is the most prosperous settlement I have yet seen in the Western District.

I proceeded alongside of the river to Amherstburg. The land is low, and liable to inundation—but rich alluvial soil. Of Amherstburg may be said what the Irishman said of Lochmaben, it is a “finished town,” for there is not a house built in it once a-year. Its principal trade is in tobacco, of which about 1000 hogsheads are raised in the neighbourhood yearly. I shall proceed tomorrow down the lake shore, and shall probably write when I get to St Thomas, on my way back to London. So, with kindest remembrance to all friends,

I remain, &c. &c.

R. S.

## LETTER VII.

MY DEAR BROTHER,

I proceeded from Amherstburg in an easterly direction, along the shore of the lake. For some way the land is rich, and descends towards the lake with a very gentle slope—farther on there are high steep banks of hard clay, perhaps 100 feet higher than the lake; and here it is extraordinary, that the streams flow from the lake, as the top of these banks which overhang it are higher than the land in the interior—this has produced swamp, and creates a necessity for drainage, which is very easily accomplished by each man cutting a narrow ditch of sufficient depth to cause a run on each side of his farm—these, when the snow melts, soon scour themselves to a proper width and depth, and in the course of a very few years, where they join the lake, cause a gully across the road that is difficult to bridge. To remedy this they every two or three years remove the road a little back; but the only way they can ever effectually remove this obstacle, is by at once putting the road back to the far end of the lot—then they will have only to bridge the ditch, not the ravine.

This land is remarkably rich, but not farmed in the very best manner. I suspect the most of the inhabitants never were bred farmers.

Through the Talbot settlement, — so called from having been settled by Colonel Talbot, and great credit is due him from having settled it so effectually, — the land is generally good, but after passing Dunwich, the soil is not so strong; the plains commence, and chestnut, and other woods that indicate a light soil, appear. I took a day and a half's journey into the Long Point Country; but I do not like it. The roads here, however, are good,

because the land is bad ; but they have this difficulty about them, that, like Hampshire in England, you have only to drive a waggon forward to make a road, and by and by the wheels cut through the turf into the sand. Accordingly, every farmer leaves the main road at any angle that best suits his own convenience, so that every farm road looks as big as the main road, and I wandered a dozen times in the course of a few miles.

I took my way, therefore, towards St Thomas — a very pretty village on a bank overhanging a river — and having staid there to see the country about, I proceeded towards London.

The land round St Thomas is all good — some of it richer and some of it lighter ; but the folk there tell me that the difference in the production of the two kinds of land is made up, by the lighter being easier tilled. It may be so ; but I would prefer the rich land, though it may be no so free to the plough.

On arriving in London, I found it was the quarter-sessions and a fair day. I went through among the beasts, and saw some very good Durham cattle, and Lei'ster and South-down sheep. I have my doubts whether Lei'sters and Durhams will do in this country after two or three generations. It's the pasture that makes the breed, and I doubt if their new pastures are sufficient to support these large beasts. Sir James Graham tried them in Cumberland, and had to go back to the Cheviots and Ayrshires. Lady Mary Lindsay Crawford brought a very large breed of cattle from Rome, where they are fed in the salt marshes by the sea side, but they fell off every generation, and they are now not much larger than the common cattle of the country.

As I was sauntering through the fair, who should I forgather with but my old friend Tam Kennedy ? Tam came to this country ten years ago, and having no more than paid his passage, he went to service to the clerk of

this district, who is a wonderful agriculturist, and has a noble breed of cattle. He has made a very useful discovery of how to know whether land is fit for barley in the spring. By rather a queer process he ascertains its temperature; and, if it feels warm, he knows it is in a fit state for sowing. I'm astonished he never published his discovery. Well, Tam was some years with him, and saved his wages till he could buy a farm and stock it, and he is now in a very thriving way, with a good farm and a good stock of cattle.

I went out with Tam that night, for it is scrimp ten miles from London, and a snug bien place he has. When he began farming, he bee't to get married, so he got a farmer's daughter, from Fenwich, and a handy stirring lass she is, and a grand one for butter and cheese.

Their oldest bairn (a lassie) is no six years of age yet, and it's wonderful how useful she is to her mother. It's astonishing how early in this country they make children useful. Boys are set to look after oxen at an age that in Scotland we would be afraid to trust them out of our sight, without somebody to look after them.

I had a long crack with Tam about where to settle, and he advised me to buy a farm at Sheriff's sale, and he recommended me to one, only the fifth part of a mile from his own. He said I would not get better land in the district, and it had considerable improvements on it. Accordingly, next morning, when he went back to the court to be a something they call a grand juror, I went to look at the land.

There is one hundred acres of it, and thirty of them cleared. It has a good barn upon it, and a fine young orchard close to the house. The house has been good, but has been sorely abused, the windows being broken and the water coming through the roof in two or three places, so that it would require a good deal of repair. The land is excellent, but has been neglected, briars and

raspberries being the principal crop. The fences are in bad order, and all the cattle in the country have been grazing in it for the last two years, or else it would have been a thicket of brambles. But as it never has been much wrought, and the grazing has given it a rest, it is in good order for the plough.

The poor gomeril of a bodie that owned it was doing well as a farmer, and wanted to do better. So he neglected his farm, and took to lumber and potashes. This brought him in to giving bills and backing bills, and like all folk that take in hand a business they do not understand, he fell through with it, and seeing nothing before him but the tolbooth, he yoked his waggon one night, and put all his matters in it that would carry easily, and made a moonlight flitting of it to the United States. Tam tells me that that is invariably the end of a farmer who quits his own business, and takes to one he knows nothing about.

When I got back to dinner, I found Tam there before me, there being no more business for the grand jury that day. I told him I liked the farm, and asked him what he thought would be the value of it. He said, were he valuing it between man and man he could not call it less than L.250. This was a sore damper, for I told him that besides what I had to bear my charges, I had only a letter of credit for L.150. He said he thought that might do, so I went to London with him, for that was the day of the sale.

When it was put up, there was only one man bid against me, and that was a wee gleg-looking deevil they called Diggory, a storekeeper; he bid it up to L.105; I bid L.110; he then turned round on his heel, and said, that that was thirty shillings more than it owed him; so I was declared the purchaser, and I paid for it by a draft on the Bank of Scotland of L.91, 3s. 4½d., the difference of exchange and currency making the odds.

I have been staying with Tam for ten days. I bought a yoke of oxen for sixty dollars, and a prime yoke they are; but every thing is cheap now, and luckily so for us new settlers, for you have had good harvests at home for the three past years; but I hope that the Lord, in his mercy, will send a blight or a dearth among you by the time I have any thing to sell, which will be next year!\*

I have hired a man to plough and summer fallow fifteen acres, which I mean to put in fall wheat, and then to plough the rest for a spring crop of wheat. I have to leave this to go to the district of Huron, because it was recommended as being good land, and I shall start tomorrow, as I behoove to see all the best parts of Canada, for the good of the folk at whose expense I came out. When I come back, I shall take charge of the farm myself. I am to live with Tam during the winter, and pay two dollars and a half a week for the board of myself and my oxen, and that's no dear, considering the vittles they give.

I hope to get the whole farm ploughed before the frost sets in, and Tam tells me that exposing the roots of the weeds and briars to the frost, is the best way to kill them, and clear the land. I shall then chop during the winter, and I hear that I may have enough to plant potatoes, oats, and barley, forby some turnips, before the fore-part of the summer is over.

Tell Mary I'll be sure to have the house sorted for her and the bairns. She should come out in one of the

\* This honest aspiration of Robert Stevenson's reminds us of a story we have somewhere heard of a minister in the Hebrides, where the inhabitants depended, in a great measure, upon the winds and waves for their precarious subsistence, who, after a long season of calm weather, added the following to his usual prayer:— We do not pray that the vessels on the great deep should be wrecked; but if they providentially should be, send them in *mercy* upon these rocks!— *Quebec Mercury*.

earliest ships. Go to Mr Corbett's at Quebec, get to the head of Ontario, then through the Welland Canal, and I'll meet her, and blythe will I be to see her and the bairns, on the banks of Lake Erie, and take them to their own home with the waggon and ox team.

I remain, my dear brother, yours affectionately,

R. S.

Dunure House, July.

### LETTER VIII.

I started from London, my dear brother, and proceeded into the district of Huron ; I found the land excellent. It is a curious thing, and I never heard of it any where else, that the cattle here, turned into the woods, in the course of six weeks after the snow is gone, are fit for the butcher. I stopped all night at a tavern kept by a Mr Balkwill, a Devonshire man, and there is a Devonshire settlement hereabouts, and very decent folk ; they are hard working, and have a great talent at building clay houses and chimneys.

Farther on I met with Highlandmen, from Nova Scotia, and really, considering all things, they are getting on extraordinary. I then came on to the end of the London road, and went to the house of one Mr Cook, where I spent a very pleasant evening with many of the neighbours.

The land through which I passed was all good till I came near to the town of Goderich, where it gets gravelly. Goderich is on a high bank, overlooking the River Maitland, and Lake Huron, and a very bonny place it is. I here met with Dr Dunlop, and he asked me to come over and dine with him ; he has a bonny house on the top of a bank overlooking one of the finest holms I ever saw, with the River Maitland winding through it. He is a man of

most serious and devout manners, but not more so than becomes his station as a ruling elder of the Kirk. Indeed I am told he is a saint upon earth. We handled together divers spiritual matters; and, I am happy to say, he is to the full as orthodox as his brother the advocate, who makes such a rippet in the General Assembly, and who is a well meaning young man, but not overburdened with brains, I'm doubting.

The doctor shewed me a statement, which was published by the Canada Company about two years ago, that astonished me much, as shewing the rapid advancement of the Company's settlements here, and which were only commenced in the latter part of the year 1829, before which period this extensive tract had not even been explored, and yet in the spring of 1840, their population exceeded six thousand, and the value of the improvements made upon their lands, and of the live stock which they had acquired, was L.242,287; and of this large amount, it is worthy of deep attention, that—

L.90,486 was acquired by five hundred and fourteen families, who had come into the settlement altogether destitute.

L.10,242, by sixty-one families, whose means were under L.10.

L.40,526, by two hundred and fifty-four families, whose means were under L.50, and

L.100,850, 17s. 9d. was accumulated by parties whose means, though small, were over that amount, but still they were so very limited, that they would not have been equal to securing for themselves at home one-fiftieth part of the independence that they now enjoy.

What ample encouragement is here held out to the poor labourer and small farmer, who is struggling at home for a bare subsistence, to emigrate to a country where so much may be accomplished by honest industry, unaided even by any moneyed capital whatever!

The plans adopted by this company, at the commencement of their operations, were eminently calculated to produce this most satisfactory result; and in a country such as Canada then was, they afford an example of the manner in which the wilderness can be opened to settlement, and, in all probability, of the only principle on which it can be done within a reasonable period.

Abundant employment was offered in making roads, and all were allowed to take up lands upon the condition of actual settlement, and at the low price of a dollar and a half an acre, or at very low rates. No portion of the purchase money was required in cash, and, as a result, we find that in the short space of ten years, five hundred and fourteen families have thus, from their own labours alone, made clearings and improvements on the land, and acquired stock worth upwards of L.90,000; or, if we were to add to this amount the large sums paid on account of the purchase of the lands, where numbers are now freeholders, as well as the increased value given to their land over and above the cost price, by those improvements, and by the settlement of the lands around, the amount would be immensely increased—for, as mere land, it has quadrupled in value, in many situations, and in all it has more than doubled.

But the land being thus opened to settlement, the chief difficulties overcome, and the lots abutting on the principal roads all occupied, this indulgence was discontinued, excepting in special cases, and a first instalment of one-fifth of the purchase money was required in cash, most probably under an impression, that since there was abundant employment for labourers at high wages,—and that, since every industrious labouring man could thus, in the course of a year, save sufficient from his wages to pay an instalment of ten or twelve pounds, and at the same time acquire a knowledge of the mode of managing farming operations in this country,—they were thus doing a real

kindness to the labouring classes ; and, by increasing the number of applicants for labour, benefiting the farmers, by reducing the rate of wages, which for years have been much higher than the prices of farming produce would warrant.

It is not to be supposed that tailors and shoemakers should all at once become expert axemen and good farmers, and it may be said that the mass of the people of Canada, since the manufacturing districts supply the greatest number of emigrants, never held a plough, or worked upon a farm, till after their arrival in Canada, and yet one of these raw hands will spurn lower wages than are paid to experienced labourers ; and I am told, that although flour is now only  $3\frac{1}{2}$ dls. a barrel, labourers' wages are just as high as when it was 6dls. or even 12dls.

The Company have, however, now again returned to the old principle which was found to work so well, and poor people can obtain lands on a lease for twelve years, on the payment of an annual rent, commencing at L.2 per hundred acres, and gradually increasing to L.16, 10s. on the twelfth year, when the lessee is entitled to a deed in fee-simple, and then becomes a freeholder.

The Huron tract contains about one million acres, of which about seven hundred thousand are still the property of the Canada Company, and the circumstance of there being so much unoccupied land at the back of these settlements, affords an immense advantage in their favour over the Government settlements for the encouragement of the emigrant, since the Company's lands are rather heavily taxed — at present one penny and an eighth of a penny per acre — the whole of which is expended on public improvements and in the discharge of the district expenses — the improvements being confined to the immediate neighbourhood of the present settlements ; or, at all events, it is only reasonable to suppose that such should be the

case, since the expenditure of the money and the levying of the taxes, is in the hands of the District Council, or in fact in the hands of the very people, through their representatives, who are to be benefited by it—and this very body may, when they please, add one halfpenny per acre to the amount of this tax.

At the present rate, the amount to be paid for the last year by the Canada Company is about L.3,300!

Now if all these lands, instead of being in a wild state, were already settled, the same amount would certainly be paid to the district, but its expenditure would be distributed throughout the whole tract—and as it must, under the most favourable circumstances, take many years to settle the whole of these lands, those portions which happen to be actually settled, will, in the interim, receive the whole advantage of this large expenditure.

These are advantages which cannot fail to have a very favourable effect in inducing emigrants to select the Huron tract as their place of location, and in consequence, I am informed that, of last year's emigration, about 2000 have come into the Huron tract, and about 700 have moved in from the less favoured portions of the province, tempted by the superior quality of the soil, and the liberal offers of the Company for the encouragement of settlers.

The population of the Huron tract, it appears, was,

In 1840, .....5,921

In April, 1842, .....7,293

And at the present hour, it is supposed to be, at the least, 9,500.

And I am informed that several thousands may be expected out next year, to join their friends already settled, in consequence of the very satisfactory accounts which have been transmitted home, and that in one township alone there are already letters arrived from

forty families, advising their friends of their intention of coming out next spring.

The postmasters in the different portions of the tract have remarked, that an immense increase has taken place in the number of English letters transmitted and received by settlers, every one of which tends to render this highly favoured country and community better known—its advantages more highly appreciated—and upon the safest grounds and the most undeniable evidence, that of the success of those who have already emigrated. One postmaster alone has assured me that the number of English letters received and despatched from his office last year, exceeded in number that of the two previous years put together. I was shewn a letter from a clergyman in the eastern part of the province, who intends moving into this district next summer, and who expects that not only his whole congregation, but some hundred families besides, will follow him and establish themselves together in one township; and here is a great advantage also, which these settlements possess, that any number of families can thus set themselves down together and have all their old friends and neighbours around them.

But a very remarkable circumstance connected with this gentleman's removal here, is the character of the people who accompany him, and who are all Highlanders, that he has in the course of nine years' intercourse with them, only seen two glasses of whiskey drank, and, as a matter of course, never saw a fou man amongst them, and that he has often seen men, who have come from a distance with their oxen to help at bees, (which the Doctor says ought more properly to be called hives,) leave the hive, in profound disgust, merely because the master, or head bee of the hive, ventured to hint, that a glass of whiskey might be refreshing to them after their long walk—an unusual feeling of temperance for a Highlander and a lumberman, and which it is

devoutly to be hoped, in this land of whiskey, they may long continue to cherish.

I returned twelve miles on the road by which I came, and then passed through a fine country towards Waterloo. It is entirely inhabited by old country people, whose clearings and farms are a sufficient contradiction to the very generally received notion in this country, that it requires a lifetime to learn to chop down trees. The farms are as good as any of their age in Canada, and the people as well off, though none of them have been on their land more than ten or twelve years, and many of them not half so long.

They have one great advantage over the rest of the Province, — the Canada Company have made them good roads, and built good mills, and that is sure to make a good settlement.

When at Goderich, I heard a story worthy of record. A poor half-witted Frenchwoman came up to a village about thirteen miles below Goderich, where the ne'er-do-weel, with whom she kept company, deserted her. A man in whose house they had lived, hired a canoe at his own expense, to take her and her infant, of a year old, down to her friends on the St Clair, but a gale coming on, they were driven on shore, and it being the beginning of winter, the snow was on the ground. The canoe-man took her on to the next house, and went to secure his canoe. The poor foolish creature thought that she could get on five miles farther to the village she had left, through a wood path drifted up with snow, and not a house but one on the whole line. Accordingly she started, and must have lost her way, for she was found lying on her back with her long hair frozen in the snow. But though He that made us, had bestowed but little reason upon her, the instinct, which he hath given to all living things for the preservation of their young, was strong in her, for it appeared that when the poor natural

thought she must perish, her last care was about her infant. She had stripped herself of her under petticoat, torn it into stripes, and wrapped it round her child — then, taking off her hood, she had bound it over its head and face. When found by the Indian traders she was insensible, but the child was warm and well. They carried her to the next house: it was found that her feet were frozen, as was her back. She was then taken on a bed to Goderich, where her feet came off. She was long before she recovered, but her motherly affection caused a strong feeling in favour of the poor weak-minded Sophie La Voie.

It was remarked to me, that, to judge of good land, you should look at the trees, for if they are healthy, and of the right sort, (maple, elm, bass, that is, lime tree, with some beech,) the land is good. This is remarkably shewn in the district of Huron. The trees, particularly the elms, are the finest I have seen in Canada. When a party first started from Guelph, to cut the road, they complained, on their return, that the Guelph trees had grown less.

Coming out of the rich loamy land of Huron, you all of a sudden come on the light soil of Waterloo, one of the oldest settlements in the province. It was settled by Germans from Pennsylvania, nearly forty years ago, and a fine settlement they have made of it. The farms are large and well cultivated; the barns the largest I ever saw, built generally on the slope of a hill, so as to give warm stables, byres, sheds, and poultry houses below them, and the houses good two story buildings. It is said that this township produces more wheat than the Eastern and Ottawa districts put together, and, if you were to add to it its neighbour township of Dumfries, I dare say more than the whole lower province.

I proceeded on to Galt, the capital of Dumfries, which is a thriving village. The Grand River at this place is

as large a stream as can well be dammed, and a good dam dike has been thrown across it here, enough to supply power for all the mills that can ever be required here. I have got my report of the land I have visited ready, and am copying it for the purpose of sending it home. It is much more particular anent lands than this, which is a mere sketch of my journal; you can see it if you like, but as you have more to do with leather than land, I enclose you the prices of work in your trade, which I procured from a snob in Toronto.

*(Here follows a great many details of family matters, and the sending out of his wife and children, of no interest to the general reader.)*

The result of all my travels and inquiries is, that I would recommend to my friends to settle to the west of Brantford, but not farther west than Chatham. I would give the preference to the district of Huron, and next to that, the district of London.

I shall start for home in three days, and set to work on my farm, so, as I have not so many wonders to see, I'll have the fewer to tell you off, and, therefore, I will not write till the beginning of the new year, when I hope to be able to inform you that my house is in order for my wife and family. With kindest regards to them, and all inquiring friends, I remain, my dear John, &c.

R. S.

Galt, August.

## APPENDIX.

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### NOTE A.

IN the course of these memoirs, I have given such information to emigrants, possessing a capital of L.300 sterling, as will enable them, with prudence and good management, to accomplish this object, viz., a comfortable competency. To those who have larger means, it is only necessary to observe, that they can do all that I have done, and more, in much less time. But, as those who have less, say L.100 sterling, may feel that their circumstances have not been taken into consideration sufficiently to form even the ground-plan of that substantial and matter of fact edifice, which they perceive, on their arrival in the country, they *can* erect upon the ruins of those air-built castles they had formed on the commencement of their pilgrimage, I would propose the following mode of laying it out :

L.100 sterling, at the present rate of exchange, will amount to nearly L.120 currency.

A farm of 150 acres, one-fourth cleared, may be purchased, with a small house and barn upon it, for L.150 ; L.25 down, and L.25 a year, with interest, until all be paid, thus :

#### DR.

To first payment for farm, say April 1, . . .	L.25 0 0
To Stove, Kitchen and Dairy Utensils, and some little Furniture, . . . . .	. 12 0 0
To Provisions for a man and his wife, be- sides milk and butter from his cows, for half a year, . . . . .	. 7 5 0
Carried forward,	L.44 5 0

Brought forward,	L.44	5	0
To Seed, Grain and Potatoes,	5	2	0
To a Yoke of light Oxen, and Yoke,	14	10	0
To half a ton of Hay for them, 20s. and Provender 20s.,	2	0	0
To Ox Cart and Wheels L.5, Plough L.3, Harrow 20s.,	9	0	0
To Sled 15s., 2 Chains 30s., 2 Cows L.10, 4 Sheep L.2,	14	5	0
To an Axe 10s., 2 Hoes 7s., Spade and Sho- vel 7s., Dung and Hay Fork 5s.,	1	9	0
To 2 Rakes 3s., 2 Sickles 2s., Cradle and Scythe 15s.,	1	0	0
To 2 other Scythes 15s. 6d., a few Carpen- ters' Tools, Flails, &c., 15s.,	1	10	6
To 2 Shoats 30s., 3 Pigs 15s., Poultry 10s., Garden Seeds 5s.,	3	0	0
To a Man's wages, one month in summer, and board,	3	15	0
To ditto in Autumn, 1½ month,	4	10	0
To Sundry trifles and contingencies,	2	10	0
	<u>L.106</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>6</u>

## CR.

By Cash, L.100 sterling, say currency,	120	0	0			
By proceeds from two Cows, besides con- sumption,	3	10	0			
By sale of 150 bushels of Potatoes, at 1s. 6d.,	11	5	0			
By do. of 7 bushels of Wheat for seed, at 6s.,	2	2	0*			
By do. of 10 cwt. of Oat Meal, at 15s.,	7	10	0			
By do. 20 bushels Indian Corn, at 4s.,	4	0	0			
By remainder of produce, feeding Pig, Provender, Provisions, &c.	0	0	0			
Balance in hand,		41	10	6		
	<u>L.148</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>148</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>0</u>

\* For this and the two following items, a greater quantity of wheat would be substituted in the western parts of the Province.

The prices are much lower now; but being a detail of facts, they are retained in the hope that they will rise again, or that other things will come down to their level.

## SECOND YEAR.

DR.

To Second payment on Farm with interest,	L.32 10 0
To another Cow L.5, 4 young Pigs 20s., 2 additional Sheep 20s.,	7 0 0
To Grass, Turnip, and Garden Seeds,	1 5 0
To Wages, 3 months in Summer, and 2 in Winter,	10 15 0
To Kettle to make Salts, Sugar, Soap, &c.,	1 10 0
To another Axe 10s., Sundries 20s.,	1 10 0
	<hr/>
	54 10 0

CR.

By Balance on hand from last year,	41 10 6
By sale of Produce, besides consumption, Seed, &c.,	43 10 0
Balance on hand, carried down to Cr.	30 10 6
	<hr/>
L.85 0 6	85 0 6

## THIRD YEAR.

DR.

To third instalment for farm,	L.31 10 0
To a Man's wages during Summer and Winter,	19 0 0
To Doctors' Bill 35s., Shoemakers' and Tailors' Bills 70s.,	5 5 0
To Subscription for building School-house,	1 0 0
To a pair of Horses L.25, Harness L.7,	32 0 0
To a pair of Wheels for a Waggon,	4 10 0
To Waggon Body 20s., Horse Sled 25s., box for ditto, 15s.,	3 0 0
To Blacksmiths' Bill 50s., Sundries 25s.,	3 15 0
	<hr/>
	L.100 0 0

CR.

By Balance on hand from last year,	30 10 6
By sale of Grain and Potatoes,	68 0 0
By do. of Butter 85s. Pork 75s. Onions 30s.	9 10 0
By do. of Oxen, Stall-fed through Winter,	20 0 0
By do. of 9cwt. Black Salts at 15s.	6 15 0
By do. of a Fat Calf 20s., and two Fat Sheep 17s. 6d. each,	2 15 0
Balance on hand carried down,	37 10 6
	<hr/>
L.137 10 6	137 10 6

DR.

Fourth year's instalment with interest, . . . . L.29 10 0  
 leaving a balance of L.8, 15s. in hand to carry on the farm during the spring ; but it is unnecessary to carry the account farther ; indeed I cannot do so without anticipating the real history of the person from which it has been taken, who has now a good stock of cattle, with his clearing doubled, and every prospect of good crops, besides a stack of hay of ten tons, remaining over from last year, and only two more instalments to pay on his farm, when he will build himself a new house, in which to enjoy a comfortable competency for the remainder of his life.

So much for a small capital. But as I have recommended the country to such as have none, for the satisfaction and encouragement of emigrants of this class, I submit to their consideration the following instances of the success of sober, steady, industrious men, and, I ought to add, whose conduct and deportment had been decent, orderly, and moral, not to say religious — qualities, which I conceive essential to worldly prosperity, as I never yet knew an instance, (and I am no fanatic,) of a man succeeding in the world to an extent at all commensurate with his means, who paid little or no regard to the Lord's Day, and who did not constantly attend his church.

CASE 1. — My man Richard is the son of a settler who had been peculiarly unfortunate, and consequently very poor, but as his misfortunes and poverty had nothing to do with emigration or farming, it is unnecessary farther to advert to either ; suffice it that such was the fact, which had something to do with Richard's history, for he was a good young man and a dutiful son : he devoted the whole of his wages, during the first two of the three years he was with me, after clothing himself in the cheapest possible way to be at all decent, to the support of his father and family ; and I have no doubt would have continued to do so much longer had they required such assistance : but they did not, and Richard found himself enabled to purchase a small farm at Abbotsford, on the borders of the Eastern Townships, for which he was to pay L.40—L.10 down, ready money, and L.10 a year with interest, till the whole was paid. The first instalment he paid out of the savings of his third year's wages, and got my oxen and plough for a few days to break up some five or six acres, (which was all that had been cleared upon it,) for which he paid me in his own work. This he planted with Indian corn, and cleared an acre or two for potatoes, planted them, hoed them and his Indian corn in due season — harvested his corn, took up his potatoes, making cribs

for the former, and pits for the latter. During the spring and summer of that year he was thus occupied, he worked for me all the rest of his time, at eight dollars a month, which, with the proceeds from the sale of part of his potatoes and corn, enabled him to meet his second instalment, add something to his stock of clothes, and pay the carpenter for building a barn, the timber for which he prepared during the winter, squaring what was required for the frame, and drawing to the mill sufficient for the necessary quantity of boards. Just about this period, the second spring of Richard's being on his own farm, I was desirous of increasing my stock of cattle: and having heard of a farmer in the neighbourhood, who was giving up business and selling off, I went to purchase, and took Richard with me, considering him a better judge than myself: he bought for himself a pair of young oxen for L.7, 10s. on a credit of six months, upon my security. This he punctually paid, as well as the other instalment for his farm. In the course of two or three years he built a small dwelling-house, and married the daughter of the person who was killed, as I have already mentioned, by the fall of a tree. The young woman had a little fortune in farming stock, &c., of some L.200 value. After this he bought another small lot, of sixty acres, adjoining his farm; which together, he sold for L.260, and bought a much larger and more valuable property for half that amount — it having been sold at Sheriff's sale, and he having ready money to pay for it. Bargains of this kind are by no means uncommon. This property he has greatly improved — his stock has greatly increased — his wife is an excellent and economical housekeeper; and notwithstanding they have a number of children, he is quite independent, and never works, contenting himself with superintending; and I consider him worth at least L.1000. — So much for Richard's history.

CASE 2. — John Bone came to this country, I believe without a shilling. I rented him a small farm for two years, upon which he made out very well, as he managed to save L.50 or L.60, with which he went into the French country — as we call that portion of the Lower Province, which is inhabited nearly exclusively by French Canadians — and bought a small farm; and there, in short, he enacted Richard's history over again, with nearly the same success, but of course not in so short a space of time, as he had no fortuitous assistance, in fact, nothing but his own unaided exertions and good management. He now lives at a place called Chazil on the Chateauguay River.

It will be observed, that *these* are very striking instances of

success, by persons who began *without one farthing of capital* ; and are quite enough (although I could mention many others of a similar kind) to stamp the character of the country, as to its eligibility for the location of an emigrant, who is sober, steady, and industrious ; not that I would have it to be inferred that capital is not necessary ; on the contrary, a comfortable independence, or at least a competency, is doubtless much sooner acquired *with* a little capital than *without* it, as I trust I have fully shewn, in the account of my own adventures.

Note B. — SUGGESTIONS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A BOARD OF EMIGRATION, &c.

A great deal has been said, and, I think very foolishly, concerning some grand system of emigration to be carried into effect by the government at home. I say foolishly, because emigration, to be beneficial, on a scale at least at all commensurate with the important end in view, must be general ; and, to be either, must be voluntary. Whereas, whatever the government attempted to do, beyond what has been already done, towards the promotion of this object, would, in the eyes of that class from which we receive the most numerous and valuable portion of emigrants, have the semblance of compulsion, and thus its purpose would be defeated, as the people will not submit to be, what they consider, *driven* out of the country ; but to be *led* they have by no means the same objections.

Whatever, therefore, can be done to promote this desirable object, must be done in this country ; and it would appear, from one of the first public acts of our late governor, that he entertains the same opinion ; I refer to the appointment of Dr Rolph, from whose talents and exertions important results are anticipated. But something more is surely necessary, by means of some efficient plan on a large and liberal scale, for the immediate provision and location of the crowds annually coming among us ; and this, I conceive, can only be effectually accomplished by a board of emigration, composed of plain practical men, well acquainted with the feelings and prejudices of the emigrant, and fully empowered to *settle* him in such a manner as would evidently be for his advantage.

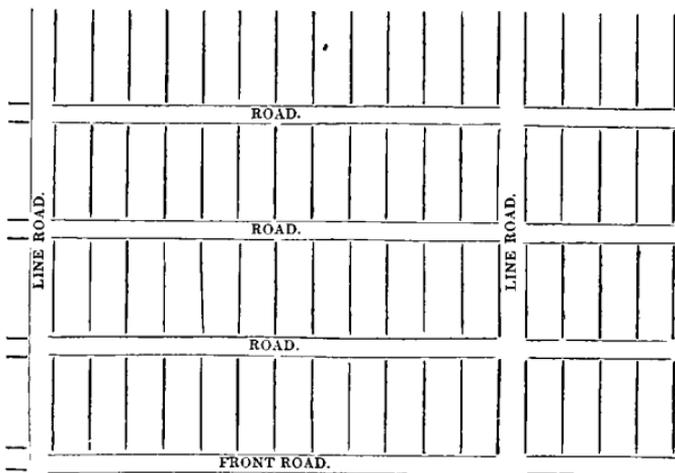
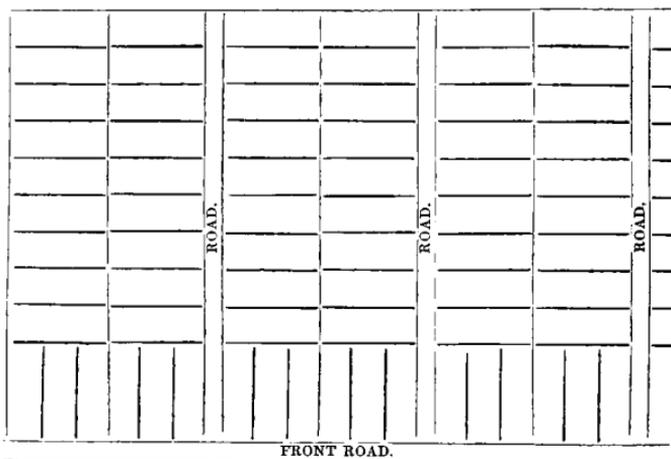
To this end a sufficient fund should be placed by the provincial government under proper and necessary precautions, at the disposal of such board, for the purpose of intersecting new townships with good roads, not to the extent of 150 miles, according to the

present mode of laying out a township 9 miles by 12, but 48, consisting of 4 roads from front to rear, upon which all the lots except the front would abut, which would not only bring such lands to immediate sale, but would induce a higher and more respectable class to purchase them, by which means the greatest and most important obstacle in the way of carrying such a plan into successful operation would be effected, namely, the refunding of the money. Another beneficial effect would accrue from my scheme: the making of such roads will afford employment for the poor labouring emigrant, and enable him also to pay at least one instalment for his land, as in no case ought he to get it free.

Many facts have come under my observation, which would illustrate my meaning and give weight to my suggestions. I will therefore submit one of them to the consideration of the intelligent reader.

A half-pay officer bought a block of land of 5000 acres in the tenth and eleventh concessions of a township in my neighbourhood for 1s. 3d. an acre, while the lands in the ninth, eighth, &c., brought an increase of price at the government sales in the ratio of their approach to the front, while those in the second concession were sold for 10s. and in the first, which a good road intersected, for from 5 to 6 dollars an acre, according to their quality. Whereas if half the labour had been expended in making roads from front to rear, according to my suggestion, which has been laid out in those running parallel with the front line of the township, this very block of land would have been worth, and would have sold for, ten times the amount.

The following rude sketches of a portion of a township laid out, the first, according to the mode here suggested, and the second, according to the plan hitherto observed, will most fully illustrate my meaning: —



## Note C.

I would here direct the reader's particular attention to the following caution against re-emigrating from the British Colonies into the adjoining States, as more to the purpose than any thing I could say.

Extract of a Despatch, dated 30th September, 1841, from the Consul at New York, to the Lieutenant-Governor of new Brunswick.

"I beg to say, that my office is daily beset by numbers who have landed at Quebec, St Johns, and other ports from the United Kingdom, who merely remain as long in Her Majesty's possessions as they can either earn by their labour, or as they can obtain without labour, as much money as will pay their passage to the States. I may state that in nine cases out of ten the poor people deplore how they have been duped, while, from their having left Her Majesty's possessions, I do not feel it my duty to render them any pecuniary aid.

"Several emigrant associations have been formed in this city, but they have been short-lived from being so borne down with applicants, and one established last year will, I presume, expire with the year.

"It may appear extraordinary to your Excellency, that more persons receive charitable aid in this city than in Dublin, or any city in Her Majesty's dominions of the same extent of population. The numerous charitable institutions have entailed this evil upon the city.

"There is continually arriving in this city a class of British emigrants, whose condition here is truly distressing, namely, persons above the rank of the labouring class, the sons and daughters above the scale which furnish servants. Some of them have been well educated, some are well qualified to act as teachers in various branches; but all such are miserably disappointed; not a few are provided for by death, in the unhealthy climate of the Southern States, to which they have to resort, while many enter the service of the United States army.

\* \* \* \* \*

"For above twenty-five years I have witnessed the misery and disappointment of thousands who have arrived here, while the most deplorable sufferers are females, and those men who will not labour. I know not how it is in New Brunswick, but in Upper Canada

females are sure of employment, and, if prudent and well conducted, certain of getting comfortably married, while their distress drives hundreds to the most degrading haunts of prostitution. If females are good looking, and out of employment, they are picked up at the office for servants, and carried to the South for prostitution, without their being aware of it, until entangled in a net from whence they cannot extricate themselves; and houses of ill fame are generally supplied by girls from these offices.

“A labouring man may work hard all his life, in the United Kingdom, or Ireland, and never will acquire fifty acres of land; while five years of such labour, if he avoids spirituous liquors, will enable a labouring man in Canada, and I presume also in New Brunswick, to acquire fifty acres, if not more, with a dwelling — I speak from actual observation. Labouring with the ax and hoe is so different, I may say so gentlemanly a description of labour, that our respectable young men do not view it as working with a spade and reaping-hook in Ireland is considered, while in a short time an active young man may obtain L.3 per month,\* steady wages, with board, and be regarded as one of the farmer’s family.”

Note D. — A SUMMARY VIEW OF THE PRINCIPAL SUBJECTS  
ADVERTED TO IN THE BODY OF THE WORK.

Wild lands are for sale in every section of the united province, either by government, land companies, or private individuals, and the price varies according to quality and situation, as to their vicinity to settlements, roads, lakes, and navigable rivers, from two to fifteen shillings an acre, Halifax currency, in which money is always reckoned throughout this work.

The same may be said of such improved farms as have about one-half cleared upon them with a small dwelling-house, barn, and stable, all of wood, except that the price is naturally much higher, and varies from twelve to eighteen dollars per acre. These are the farms I should always recommend to the notice of emigrants with a capital exceeding L.250, and wild lands to those who have less.

Clearing wild lands, by which is to be understood, cutting the underwood, piling it in heaps, *chopping* up the large timber into twelve or fifteen feet lengths, drawing it together, piling it, and burning it with the brushwood, leaving only the stumps, about two

\* The Consul must, I think, refer only to the harvest months.

feet and a half high, with the roots, to encumber the ground, constitutes altogether a very laborious operation, the cost of which, per acre, varies according to a variety of circumstances. In the immediate vicinity of old settlements, it may be stated at about L.2 per acre, on moderately timbered lands, increasing with the distance from such settlements to L.2, 10s. ; and in the most remote locations, to L.3, and even L.3, 10s., fencing included.

Soils are similar to those in the mother country, and quite as various. The lighter are generally preferred by the oldest English inhabitants, especially such as have been born in the country, not only as being more easily cleared, and more easily cultivated afterwards, but as producing more uniform crops than heavier ones, which are not unfrequently too wet or too dry to be equally productive ; not but that the latter do bring by far the heaviest crops when the season happens to be propitious in every respect. There is also another consideration bearing upon this point, which is of great weight, arising from the fact, that where heavy soils generally prevail, the situation is not so healthy.

Crops, which are the same as at home, (with the addition of Indian corn producing about 30 bushels to the acre,) vary much in the average quantity per acre, owing to the difference of seasons and cultivation. They may however be considered at about one-half of those in the old country, with the exception of the potato crop, which is nearly the same. Startling as this assertion may seem, because so much at variance with what every body else has said of them, I most solemnly pledge myself to its truth, as far as my knowledge and experience extends, and yet a bushel of wheat can be grown here for about one-fourth of what it would cost to produce it in England.

As to the climate, we must of course admit that our winters are too long, but for no other reason than that we require too much fodder for our cattle, the snow being so great a convenience. that every one is glad when it comes, and sorry when it goes away, and the cold is on an average not half so much felt as in the north of England and in Scotland. As regards its salubrity, there is not its superior, or its equal, on the whole continent of the "new world," not perhaps even on the old. Intermittent fevers and agues do notwithstanding prevail ; but they are confined to particular locations, circumscribed within very narrow limits, such as low swampy shores of lakes, or low lands in undrained valleys ; and consequently, as the country improves, the evil will cease to exist. In the whole country, there is a superabundance of excellent water, a blessing which would require a year's residence in New South Wales to

enable us to appreciate. The winters, the great stumbling-block in the way of emigrants coming out to Canada, are not only misunderstood, but exaggerated. The time of the setting in of the frost and its departure is of course in a degree uncertain, but no prudent farmer ought to calculate on being able to do any thing in the open field after the first of November, or before the first of April, and fodder for cattle must be provided in sufficient quantities to last till the middle of May, and for working horses or oxen till the crops are all in, or till the 10th of June. Sometimes great distress prevails, both in the United States and Canada, as did last spring, from the want of proper attention to this particular branch of farming economy. In short, every prudent farmer ought always to have a ton or two of hay to spare.

The settler's avocations during the winter months are generally confined to taking care of his cattle, thrashing his grain, getting it manufactured into flour and oatmeal, for the summer's consumption, cutting and drawing home firewood, cutting and splitting rails for fences, and hauling them to where they will be wanted, all which must be attended to, and then, whatever time he can spare from his amusements, visiting, &c. is devoted to *chopping* on his intended new clearing, where the underbrush must have been cleared away before the snow fell. His family within doors, when industrious, find their time fully employed in spinning, and other female occupations; and when it is considered, that every article of convenience, not to say of luxury, must be made at home, or be dispensed with, it may easily be imagined that the duties of a farmer's wife and grown up daughters are numerous and unceasing; for in proportion to their industry and abilities, will be their domestic comfort and happiness. In summer, from the scarcity of labour among poorer settlers, all assist in the fields, the child of even six years old being employed in some useful and healthy occupation befitting his age and strength.

The wild beasts of the forest constitute as frightful a bugbear in the minds of the ignorant as our winters. Although the wolves sometimes annoy the farmer by worrying his sheep, which puts him to the trouble of yarding them every night, and the bears and racoons too may make sad havoc in his Indian corn and late oats, especially if near the woods, yet as to any fear or apprehension being entertained for our own personal safety from their attacks, it is quite out of the question, as I never heard of a single instance of their behaviour being sufficiently rude to warrant a conscientious man to swear the peace against them.

The game in most places is plentiful, consisting of deer and wild

rabbits, partridges or wood grouse, woodcock, snipe, and plover, wild ducks, and geese. Wild turkeys and quails also are numerous in the most western parts of the province. Fish of almost every description abound in all the rivers and lakes ; such as trout, bass, whitefish, dorys, pickerel, chub, sturgeon, eels, &c. &c., as well as salmon in the eastern parts of the province, and salmon trout in the western. The common trout is sometimes caught in the small lakes in the bosom of the mountainous districts, weighing as much as 25lbs. I have dwelt longer on this particular subject now, little as I have said upon it elsewhere, than my old neighbour I have so often mentioned thinks necessary, as he says that a man, though he may be a good hunter, can at any time earn a quarter of beef in less time than it will take him to get a haunch of venison, and I dare say, according to the strict rules of utilitarianism, he is perfectly right ; yet as we old country emigrants do not always enact the sportsman solely for the *pot*, and being a source of amusement to even the most industrious settlers in this country, the intelligent reader who is fond of his gun, and whose hair has not been blanched by the vicissitudes of so many seasons as have revolved over the head of my aged and esteemed friend, will thank me for these observations.

The wages for a good agricultural labourer are from L.20, to L.22, 10s. a-year, and board, or from 8 to 10dls. a-month in summer, and from 25 to 30 a-month in winter, (we generally divide the year, in this country, into two seasons only, winter and summer,) they are somewhat higher when labourers are engaged for a less period than a year ; hence we often give from 2s. to 2s. 6d. a-day, for daily labour. Mechanics, 5s. a-day, and board. Women servants, from 12s. 6d. to 20s. a-month, and in towns a little more.

As those emigrants who intend settling upon wild lands will have, in the first place, to build themselves some sort of a house to shelter them, until they can erect a better, as well as to buy their provisions during the greater part of the first year, or for rather more than a year, if they commence their operations at the best season for doing so, namely, in July or August, they would like to know something about the probable amount of expenditure required for these purposes, as well as the mode of accomplishing them. Suppose the emigrant's family to consist of a man and his wife, and five children, among these two well grown boys, (if the family be smaller, two should unite and help each other,) and that he takes a house or lodgings for his wife and younger children, as near his location as he can, and then purchases a few weeks' provisions, hires a good ax-man, whom he takes, with his two sons, into the *bush*, with what necessaries they may require for a stay of two or three weeks, or

more, according to the distance from the rest of the family. They then make a sort of cabin to sleep in, covered with bark, or with brushwood, if the season is too far advanced for the bark to peel, then clear a small spot for their house, which is made of unhewn logs, notched into, and across each other at the corners, and roofed with boards and shingles. The openings for doors and windows are then cut out with a saw, the uppermost log in each opening being half sawn through at the time of erection, before the next log was put on, in order to admit the saw to cut them out afterwards; the joints or openings between the logs, when too far apart, are then *chinked* up with large splinters, and plastered with mortar, and the whole white-washed, the floors laid with unplanned planks; and the family moves into the house, frequently without either doors, windows, or partitions, a bed-quilt or two, or a carpet, suspended across from the ceiling, being substituted for the latter, and any thing, or nothing, for the former, till they have time to get all finished; the cost, besides their own labour, would be about L.12, 10s. for a house of this description, 17 feet, by 23 feet long exactly, so as two 12 feet boards will reach the whole length, and project 6 inches over each end. The cost of provisions for a year, for such a family, will amount to L.50, with care and good management they might do with something less. I mean, of course, a family with a little capital, say L.150, to L.250; if with less, a much cheaper method would be resorted to. For instance, all the family would go into the *bush* at once, without a hired man, and erect a much less expensive house or hut, here called a shanty, and live chiefly upon oatmeal and potatoes, with a very little animal food, at a cost probably not exceeding L.20.

The cost of household furniture depends upon the quantity and quality required; no family could well do with less than L.5 worth, to be at all comfortable, and none would require to expend more than L.20 out of such limited means as I have mentioned. If they could afford more, it would be better to lay it out upon the house.

Taxes are very trifling, and to an emigrant from home, or from the United States, are scarcely felt.

As to markets, — the first thing an old countryman inquires after when he comes here, and the very last an old settler thinks about; the fact is, farming produce of all kinds is always saleable at our doors, with the exception perhaps of a year of extraordinary depression like the present.

The society, — and this is a matter of the utmost importance, however little attention is paid to its consideration by the emigrant in locating himself: having always lived among people of habits and manners similar to his own, he knows not the value of

such a blessing till he has irretrievably lost it. The Englishman, Irishman, or Scotchman, may however settle in a neighbourhood where his own countrymen form the great bulk of the population, but never without a sprinkling from almost all other countries.

Churches, and other places of public worship are to be found in every settlement of any magnitude, as may well be inferred from the fact of there not being fewer than one hundred and sixty clergymen of the Church of England alone, in the province. Presbyterians, under different names, are the next in point of numbers; then the Methodists—I speak only of Protestant denominations. The Roman Catholics have churches in all the towns of any note, and in a few country settlements, besides, of course, the French Canadian portion of the country, which is inhabited almost exclusively by Roman Catholics.

Schools were formerly to be met with almost at every step, throughout the whole length and breadth of the country, supported in some measure by government, and are now being established again; but during the late administration, or the greatest part of it, all government support was withdrawn; and so many years were spent in the most expensive commission, to make inquiries upon which was to be founded a new and less imperfect system of general education, that one generation at least have had to be reared without the means of learning to read and write; and the grand result has been an act of the legislature to establish them again, but so cumbered with burdensome machinery, that few can understand it, and fewer still obtain the benefit it was *professedly* intended to convey. We now, however, are led to entertain better hopes, which I doubt not will be realised.

Fruit and garden stuffs are the same as in the south of England, but grow here in greater luxuriance, and melons ripen without glass, which, however, is much used for hotbeds, owing to its cheapness, (100 feet for 5s.) Wild fruits and nuts of various descriptions, some of which are delicious, abound every where.

There are many things which the stranger, on his arrival in the country, will view with wonder and astonishment, upon two of which, in particular, although he may have seen the most lucid and graphic descriptions, he will find that he has formed no adequate idea. These are the woods and the waters.

On the former, which has so intimate a connection with my subject, I have already said enough, either to accomplish the difficult task of conveying to the mind of my reader, some competent idea of them, or, if I have failed, to satisfy him of my inability to do so. But on the latter, I have as yet said nothing, nor do I know

what to say. The ceaseless and eternal roll of waters, through the whole length and breadth of this immense territory, when collected together into one vast and immeasurable volume, which looks as if the great Pacific had burst the bounds prescribed for it, by him who hath said "hither shalt thou come, and no farther," forced a channel across this great continent, and was emptying itself into the Atlantic, converting every valley, in its uncontrollable course, into an inland sea ; for some of these lakes are equal, while others are superior in superficial contents, to the whole of the island of Great Britain ; and fancying, now, such to be their source, the wonder would yet be, that they still flow on unexhausted and inexhaustible. Only imagine a river, and that only a tributary to this mighty accumulation of living waters, half a mile in breadth, rising 17 feet in perpendicular height, and necessarily widening out to a proportionable extent and that not for a day or a week, but for a month or more, with but a trifling variation, — and the greatest wonder of all is, that when this tributary, large as it is, unites itself with the main river, it produces no visible effect upon its size ; and this is not all, for a hundred other tributaries, not of equal magnitude certainly, but which would in England be considered large rivers, are alike swallowed up by the majestic St Lawrence, without bending her from her dignity to notice their union ; so that from the dizzy precipice at Niagara, over which she tumbles her waters, till she disembogues them into the ocean, the junction of all these immense branches makes but little apparent difference in her magnitude. The tide flows up this river more than 500 miles : at the distance of 400 miles, it sometimes rises 16 feet.

Before concluding this summary, I must say a word or two to *gentlemen* farmers, although, in the *Home* acceptance of the term, they are not to be found in any of the colonies, malgre all that has been said to the contrary — all attempts to carry on farming upon a scale, and in the mode which the term implies, having signally failed. It must not, however, be inferred from this, that people of this class could not better their circumstances by coming here with a capital of from 5 to L.10,000, by laying out L.1000 in the purchase of a good house with a farm, which would keep three or four horses, six or eight cows, a few sheep, and young stock, &c. sufficient, in short, to supply his establishment with all sorts of farming produce, and that in as great profusion as they could consume, enabling him to drive a pair of horses, and in every respect live as well as he could in England, with his money out at interest at 10 per cent per annum.

## GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS TO EMIGRANTS.

As a great many copies of this work will probably be sent, by settlers in this country, to their friends at home, — I have indeed already been applied to for numbers to be thus disposed of, — I therefore here subjoin, for the information of such as intend to emigrate to this country, a few hints and directions which they will find useful, and would do well to attend to on taking their departure.

Let them take their passage to Quebec or Montreal, it matters not which, provided there be a difference in the charge, of five per cent, as that would take them from the former to the latter town.

If they find their own provisions for the voyage ; (say for one) let him take a couple of loaves of bread, 60lbs. of well cured bacon or hams, as many of biscuits, 10lbs. of cheese, 1lb. of tea, 8lbs. of sugar, 30 or 40lbs. of oatmeal, 20lbs. of salt butter, a bushel and a half of potatoes, two or three dozen eggs, and a leg of fresh mutton, or a small portion of other fresh meat, which he may consume while good, and above all, a good deal chest, and take care to keep it locked. A few bottles of ale or porter he would also find a great luxury.

This is for a single man. With a wife and family, he may reckon upon about half the quantity more for each of the rest, even although they may all be nearly grown up, as a wife, in such cases, would manage things better, and make the provisions go farther.

He ought also to provide himself with a good cod line or two, with hooks, with which he can in general add materially to his stock of provisions on the banks, where vessels generally lay too, for a short time, for the purpose of fishing. When I came out, we lay to but 17 minutes, in which time, I caught three cods, one weighing 39lbs.

He must choose a good tight vessel, and enter, in his agreement with the Captain, to be supplied with 3 quarts of good fresh water a day. See Passenger Act.

The next thing he will want, if a single man, will be a mattrass, a couple of blankets, and a coverlet, and let him take care that they are good, — the mattrass filled with curled hair, and it will serve as a bed for him for years after he gets to his destination.

If any of his provisions should be left, after he lands, let him take them also with him wherever he goes, and they will be a great saving to him.

Whatever money he may have, let him take it to some bank which will give him a letter of credit on some other bank or merchant in Quebec or Montreal, keeping beside him, however, a few sovereigns in case of contingencies.

When he arrives here, whatever doubts, and fears, and misgivings he may have, and I can assure him he will have many, all he has to do, is to call at the offices of the emigrant agents, and he will receive every assistance in his difficulties, and all the instruction and advice necessary for his guidance afterwards. Or when in the country, if he have no private friend with whom to advise, let him apply to the clergyman, if there be one, or if not, to a magistrate, either of whom will readily give him all the information he may require, and upon which he can depend.

## A TABLE

Shewing the prices of conveyance to Quebec from the different ports mentioned below, in the cabin, with all necessaries except bedding, — and in the intermediate and steerage, the passengers to provide themselves with every thing.

To Quebec	Cabin.	Intermediate.	Steerage.
From London,	L.20	L.5	L.4
Liverpool,	18	3	2
Leith,	12		2 10
Greenock,	15	4	2
Dublin,	11		2 5
Belfast,	14		2 5
Londonderry,	12		2 10
Sligo,	10		2 15
Limerick,	14		2 10
Cork,	14		2 20

*List of the Government Emigration Agents in the United Kingdom.*

- Lieut. LEAN, R. N., (Office, East Smithfield.)
- Lieut. HENRY, R. N., Liverpool, (Office, 33, Union Street.)
- Lieut. FORREST, R. N., Leith.
- Lieut. HEMMANS, R. N., Greenock.
- Lieut. HODDER, R. N., Dublin.
- Lieut. FRIEND, R. N., Cork.
- Lieut. STARKE, R. N., Belfast.
- Mr LYNCH, R. N., Limerick.
- Lieut. SHUTTLEWORTH, R. N., Sligo.
- Lieut. RAMSAY, R. N., Londonderry.

These officers act under the immediate directions of the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, and the following is a summary of their duties :—

They correspond with any magistrates, clergymen, parish-officers, or others, who may apply to them for information as to the facilities for emigration from their respective stations. They procure, and give gratuitously, information as to the sailing of ships, and means of accommodation for emigrants ; and whenever applied to for that purpose, they see that all agreements between shipowners, agents, or masters, and intending emigrants, are duly performed. They also see that the provisions of the Passengers' Act are strictly complied with, namely, that passenger-vessels are sea-worthy, that they have on board a sufficient supply of provisions, water, medicines, &c., and that they sail with proper punctuality.

They attend personally at their offices on every week day, and, generally, they afford, gratuitously, all the assistance in their power to protect intending emigrants against fraud and imposition, and to obtain redress where oppression or injury has been practised on them.

*Government Emigration Agents in Canada.*

*Quebec*, A. C. BUCHANAN, Esq., Chief Agent for Eastern Canada.

*Montreal*, JAMES ALLISON, Esq.

*Bytown*, GEORGE BURKE, Esq.

*Kingston*, A. B. HAWKE, Esq., Chief Agent for Western Canada.

*Toronto*, DR D. R. BRADLEY.

CAUTION TO EMIGRANTS AGAINST REFUSING  
OFFERS OF GOOD WAGES.

The following is an Extract of a Report from the Chief Emigration Agent at Quebec, to the Governor-General of Canada, dated 31st July, 1841.

“The most important measure is, first, to endeavour to undeceive the emigrants in the very erroneous ideas which they almost all entertain as to the remuneration which they will receive for their labour on arrival in this country. Instances occur almost daily, of persons who, in their own country (Ireland,) were glad to work for 10d. to 1s. per day, refusing employment here at 3s., and they do not consider that, for the first season, until they become acquainted with the labour of the country, their services are worth little more

than one-half to the farmer. Many, to my certain knowledge, have been offered advantageous engagements in this neighbourhood, but refused permanent employment, preferring to proceed, in hopes of better wages, but in which very many are disappointed.

“Wages for agricultural labour in the eastern townships, and in almost every section of the western division of the province, are higher than in the neighbourhood of Montreal : six to seven dollars per month is as much as farmers will or can afford to give to newly arrived emigrants, with board and lodging. Good hands, after a year or so of residence, will generally command from 10 to 12 dollars, and found. Labourers, who board themselves, receive here from 12 to 15 dollars per month. Day-labourers always get 2s. 6d. to 3s. and at this season oftener the latter than the former ; but if they possess the means of proceeding farther, they will seldom work for this.

“It is most desirable to impress on the intending emigrants the necessity of their being in possession of sufficient means to enable them to proceed to where a demand for their labour exists, and it is extremely difficult, I may say impossible, when from 2000 to 3000, and in some instances 5000, people arrive here in a week, (as was the case this season for several weeks in succession,) that employment can immediately be found for all who stand in need.

“Facilities have occurred this season which were not formerly to be obtained in the neighbourhood of this city (Quebec) and Montreal, namely, immediate employment to all classes of emigrants on the public works and road improvements. This, however, cannot be relied on in future beyond another season.”

#### DIRECTIONS FOR PROCEEDING UP THE COUNTRY.

##### Currency.

On arriving at Quebec, the emigrant should on no account leave the vessel, unless it be to go with the long-boat direct with his luggage to the steamer for Montreal ; and not unfrequently the steamer comes alongside the emigrant ship, and thus facilitates the re-embarkation of the emigrant. The Captain of the ship can easily arrange this with the steamer. Very little difficulty is experienced by the emigrant at Quebec — a few hours suffice to provide his family with the necessaries of life, if his supplies are run

Currency.

out. The steamboat goes up the river to Montreal in about 16 hours, a distance of 180 miles. The charge for deck passengers is 7s. 6d. and no charge is made for luggage, . . . . .	L.0 7 6
The fare is reduced, when there is any competition. The emigrant, before going on board the steamer, should boil as much pork or beef as will serve him for a day or two, which he can do before leaving the ship ; in a few minutes he can procure fresh bread ; and if he has a large tin tea-pot, with a few tins, he can with ease get hot water in the steamer to make some tea, to refresh the members of his family on the way up. On his arrival at Montreal, he should, with as little delay as possible, get his luggage transported to the barges of the forwarding company. He will find many carters in readiness for this purpose, and must take care not to be imposed upon by them ; 1s. 6d. . . . .	0 1 6
should be sufficient to take all things to the station of the barges. Here the fare is, from Montreal to Bytown, per adult, 8s. Allowance for luggage, lewt or 1½cwt., free, . . . . .	0 8 0
and for any quantity over and above this, 2s. per cwt. The barges* arrive at Bytown about 60 hours after leaving Montreal. The same barges continue through to Kingston. The fare from Bytown to Kingston is, per adult, 10s. ; same allowance of luggage as above, and 2s. 6d. for each cwt. extra : add 1s. per day for meals from Quebec to Bytown, say 8 days, . . . . .	0 10 0 0 8 0
When the emigrant gets on board the barge at Montreal, his luggage need not be moved until he reaches Kingston. He will find utensils for cooking, and the female part of his family will find shelter in the cabin of the vessel.	
The barges there take seventeen or eighteen hours in getting up to Grenville. On the way, the emigrant can buy a few potatoes from the farmers on the canal. The prices of provisions do not vary from Montreal to Kingston : potatoes, 1s. 6d. and 2s. per bushel ; pork, 5d. to 7d. per lb. ; butter, 8d. to 10d. ; flour, 2½d. to 3d.	
* There are now several small steamers which go the whole distance, and in much less time. These are more comfortable, and the charges the same.	

## Currency.

per lb. ; tea, 4s. per lb. ; sugar 6d. per lb. ; eggs, 6d. per dozen ; butcher meat, 3½d. per lb. All these articles are easily procured on the way. From Grenville to Bytown is 63 miles, and the barges are towed by a steamer, and reach in about 15 hours.

A great error is committed by the emigrant in asking exorbitant wages on his arrival ; he should content himself at first with from six to seven dollars a month, with board, which is all he can expect for the first year. Many emigrants, on arriving at Quebec and Montreal, have not the means to carry them forward, but they find no difficulty in getting work, and are very soon enabled to lay up sufficient to carry them up the country. They should on no account remain in Quebec or Montreal during winter, as they would assuredly have much privation and hardship to contend with. However high the wages may be in the busy season, the winter presents to them a barren prospect.

At Kingston, there are steamers for Toronto, distant 170 miles, and for Hamilton, at the head of Lake Ontario, distant from Kingston 210 miles. The time occupied at Toronto is 23 hours : the deck fare is usually 7s. 6d. 0 7 6  
Last season it was only 5s. for each adult, exclusive of provisions. Two children under fourteen years of age are charged as one passenger. The distance from Quebec to Toronto is 606 miles. Time occupied in performing it about ten days. Total expense for each adult including provisions, . . . L.2 6 4

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Mr Widder, one of the Commissioners of the Canada Company, has furnished the following statement with reference to tillage, which he states he procured from a very intelligent and respectable yeoman, settled in the London district, Western Canada, and it corresponds so nearly with my own experience, that it will apply to both portions of the province :—

Cost of clearing 10 acres of heavy timbered land, in the usual Canadian fashion, with an estimate of the crops to be produced therefrom during the first three years after clearing :—

## FIRST YEAR.

## DR.

Chopping, clearing, and fencing 10 acres, so as to leave it fit for the drag, at L.4 per acre,	L.40	0	0
Seed, $1\frac{1}{2}$ bushel wheat to the acre, say 15 bushels, at 5s. . . . .		3	15 0
Sowing and dragging, at 5s. per acre, . . . . .		2	10 0
Harvesting, at 7s. 6d. per acre, . . . . .		3	15 0
The value of the straw, tailing, wheat hulls, &c. on the farm, are supposed to be equal to the thrashing and cartage to the barn. To timothy and clover seed, at 2s. 6d. per acre, . . . . .		1	5 0

## CR.

By 20 bushels wheat per acre — 260 bushels, at 3s. 9d. . . . .	L.37	10	0
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## SECOND YEAR.

## DR.

To mowing and taking off hay, at 7s. 6d. per acre, . . . . .		3	15 0
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## CR.

By $1\frac{1}{2}$ ton per acre of hay, at 6 dollars per ton, . . . . .	22	10	0
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## THIRD YEAR.

## DR.

To mowing and taking off the hay, at 7s. 6d. per acre, . . . . .		3	15 0
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## CR.

By $1\frac{1}{2}$ ton per acre of hay, at 6 dollars per ton. . . . .	22	10	0
	L.82	10	0
Balance in clear profit,		58	15 0
		23	15 0
	L.82	10	0
		82	10 0

## ABSTRACT OF PASSENGER ACT.

The following is an outline of the principal Regulations of the Passengers' Act, 5 and 6 Vict. c. 107, *so far as relates to voyages to North America*.—

No vessel proceeding to any place out of Europe, not being within the Mediterranean Sea, to carry more than three persons (master and crew included) to every five tons burden, nor, whatever be the tonnage, more than one passenger to every ten clear superficial feet of the space appointed for the use of the passengers, under a penalty not exceeding L.5 for every passenger in excess.

The lower deck must be not less than one and a half inch in thickness, and secured to the hold beams.

The height between decks is to be six feet at least.

There must not be more than two tiers of berths; the bottom of the lower tier to be six inches above the deck. The berths not to be less than after the rate of six feet in length, and eighteen inches in width, for each passenger, and to be securely constructed.

At least three quarts of water per diem to be issued to each passenger, and a supply of provisions, not less often than twice a-week, at the rate of 7lbs. of bread stuffs per week, half at least to be bread or biscuit, the other half may be potatoes, of which 5lbs. are to be reckoned equal to 1lb. of bread stuffs.

The water to be taken in tanks or sweet casks, none exceeding 300 gallons in capacity.

The length of the voyage to North America to be computed at ten weeks.

Two children under 14 to be reckoned equal to one passenger; children under 1 not to count.

Provisions and water to be inspected and surveyed by the Government Emigration Agents, or, in their absence, by the Officers of Customs.

Seaworthiness of vessels to be ascertained by those officers, who may order a survey, if necessary.

Sufficient boats to be taken.

Two copies of the Act to be kept on board, to be produced to the passengers on demand.

A proper supply of medicines, &c., with directions for their use, to be provided for the voyage.

The sale of spirits prohibited under a penalty not exceeding L.100.

Lists of passengers to be delivered by the Master to proper officers, previous to clearance, and counterfeits to be deposited with Officers of Customs, or Consuls, at final port of discharge.

Same regulations in respect of additional passengers taken on board after clearance.

Parties contracting to find passages to North America, to give written receipts, in a prescribed form, for money received, under a penalty not exceeding L.10, and forfeiture of license, if a Passage Broker.

No person, except Owner or Master of the ship, to act as a Passage Broker or Dealer, unless licensed by Magistrates at the Petty or Quarter Sessions, under a penalty of L.10 for each offence.

Brokers liable to a penalty of L.10 and forfeiture of license, if they receive passage money as agents for others, without written authority from their Principals, or if they fraudulently induce persons to engage passages.

In case the contract for a passage is not performed on the shipper's part, the aggrieved parties, unless maintained at the contractor's expense, and provided within a reasonable time with a passage to the same place, may recover, by summary process, before two Justices of the Peace, any passage money they may have paid, with a sum not exceeding L.10 as compensation.

Passengers to be victualled during detention of ships ; but if detention (except caused by wind or weather) exceed two clear working days, to receive instead 1s. per diem, unless suitably lodged and maintained with their own consent by the Contractor.

Passengers not to be landed against their consent at any place other than the one contracted for.

Passengers to be maintained on board for 48 hours after arrival, unless the ship, in the prosecution of her voyage, quits the port sooner.

The Master is to afford every facility to the proper officers for inspecting the ship, communicating with the passengers, and ascertaining that the Act has been duly observed.

The Owners and Charterers, or, in their absence, some approved person on their behalf, and the Master of vessels carrying more than 50 passengers, must, before clearance, give bond without stamp, to the Crown, for the due performance of the Act.

The Act extends to foreign as well as British ships, but not to vessels carrying fewer than 30 passengers, nor to cabin passengers.

Passenger suing under the Act for money made recoverable to their use, not to be deemed on that account incompetent witnesses.

Their right to proceed at law for any breach of contract reserved.

A penalty not exceeding L.50 imposed for the breach of any of the provisions of the Act, except in the five cases where specific penalties are affixed.

The enforcement of this law rests with the Government Emigration Agents and the Officers of Her Majesty's Customs ; and persons, therefore, having complaints to make of its infraction, should apply to those officers, who alone can enforce the various penalties.

TABLE—Shewing the difference of Mean Temperature in Eastern and Western Canada, during one year, and the number of fine and wet or snowy days—from Mr Evans' Work on Agriculture.

	LOWER CANADA.				
	Max.	Min.	Mean.	Fine days.	Rain or Snow.
For the months of June, } July, and August, }	99.33	58.83	77.57	75	17
Winter Months, . . .	38.66	24.32	13.25	131	21 Snow.
For the Year, . . . .	62.25	11.75	42.1	309	56
	UPPER CANADA.				
	Max.	Min.	Mean.	Fine days.	Rain or Snow.
For the months of June, } July, and August, }	99.66	57.33	67.37	76	16
Winter Months, . . .	46.33	14.67 below zero.	22.49	11.8	34 below zero.
For the Year, . . . .	73.8	25.72	48.37	276	89

FINIS.

