

A LETTER

FROM

THE EASTERN TOWNSHIPS

OF

LOWER CANADA,

CONTAINING HINTS TO INTENDING EMIGRANTS AS TO THE
CHOICE OF SITUATION, &c.

ACCOMPANIED WITH A MAP.

BY

W. G. MACK.

Admirable position du Nouveau Monde, qui fait que l'homme n'y a encore d'ennemi que lui-même ! pour
être heureux et libre il lui suffit de le vouloir.—TOURVILLE.

GLASGOW:

DAVID ROBERTSON;

JOHN ANDERSON, Junr., EDINBURGH; ANDREW LAING, GREENOCK;
AND ISAAC FORSYTH, ELGIN.

MDCCCXXXVII.

GLASGOW :
FULLARTON AND CO., PRINTERS, VILLAFIELD.

P R E F A C E.

IN offering the following Letter to the public, the author feels convinced that the motives which induce him to do so, are not those of vanity or avarice, but spring from a sincere and certainly disinterested wish to call the attention of intending Emigrants to a tract of fertile territory which, till within these very few years, was almost totally unknown to our countrymen, owing to the French Canadian population on the south bank of the St Lawrence, opposing an almost insuperable barrier against the introduction of British settlers and British enterprise. The consequence of this was, that the land might have remained untouched for centuries, had it not been for our ever active neighbours, the Yankees, who very soon discovered, and took advantage of the great capabilities of the Eastern Townships of Lower Canada.

All obstacles, however, have now been removed from the path of the "Old country settler," by the exertions of the British American Land Company. The author's object then will be completely answered, if he can induce people about to emigrate to America, at least to make inquiries regarding the comparative merits and advantages of the Upper and the Lower Provinces, satisfied that any unprejudiced man will come to conclusions much in favour of the latter.

The author has only to add, that being totally unconnected with any speculations either in land or commerce, he cannot be suspected of having any sinister motives for lauding one part of America or depreciating another; and if prejudice could have influenced him in his choice, he assures the reader, that he went out to Canada with his feelings very much biased in favour of the Upper Province, and only yielded with a feeling of impatience to the recommendations of some of his friends in Montreal, who urged him, before proceeding farther, to visit the Eastern Townships of Lower Canada.

LETTER, &c.

SHIPTON EASTERN TOWNSHIPS,
Lower Canada, October, 1836.

You will no doubt, my dear friend, be a little surprised at finding me settled down in such an out-of-the-way place as you and many others at home imagine the Eastern Townships of Lower Canada to be. That idea, however, arises solely from the circumstance of their being so little known; and as I am naturally anxious that when you put into practice your intention of coming out, you should be as near a neighbour to me in Canada as you were in the rainy strath of ——, I shall tell you my reasons for preferring this part of the world to Upper Canada or the United States, in the hopes of inducing you, at all events, to take a look at us here before you proceed farther.

You are aware that when I left Scotland it was with the full intention of going “far west”—clearing a few acres in the depths of the forest—building a log house, and living a life of comparative solitude, with charming independence; but this “château en Espagne,” like all other day-dreams, could not stand the test of reality,—a few weeks travelling among the Backwoods-men fairly destroyed the illusion, and I soon made up my mind that a cleared farm in a populous part of the country, would be much more desirable than a wild lot and solitude; with the view, therefore, of finding a suitable place, I wandered along the banks of Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, and up the river St Clair, into Lake Huron, as far as Goderich, which at present is the Ultima Thule of British settlers in Canada: thence I returned over land by what

the Canada Company call an excellent road to Hamilton. I found, as you have often heard before, that the soil was almost always rich and highly productive, and when I say that, I have told you all that I can in its favour. I found the roads wretched every where, except for a mile or two around such places as Toronto or Niagara; the country, with very few exceptions, flat and uninteresting, your view being always limited to the number of acres cleared around the unseemly-looking log houses; the black stumps and ragged patches of grain or potatoes giving the whole an air of desolation and discomfort, enough to damp the hopes of a much more sanguine emigrant than myself. I do not, however, mean to say that there are not many exceptions to what I have now said; for among the old settlers I have seen very beautiful farms cleared of stumps, laid out into neat fields, with good frame houses and large barns upon them; but in what I write, I mean particularly to refer to those who have emigrated within the last six or seven years, as I could only ground my hopes of being comfortable by looking into their condition, which, so far as I could see or judge, is far from enviable. Their houses in general consist of only two apartments, or what you call a "but and a ben," and in many cases of only one room, in which I have found families of great respectability packed like sheep. One of the first instances of that kind that met my observation was in going to dine with a Captain —— of the navy. He lived in a small log house without a servant to assist his wife in the management of eleven children, six of whom seemed to be under eight years of age. His eldest daughter, a lady-like girl of sixteen or seventeen, acting as cook and waiting-maid, while his wife played the part of nurse; and this is no solitary instance, but one of hundreds that may come under any one's observation.

The want of ready money, too, among the settlers, struck me greatly as a proof of both the want of markets, and the want of produce to send to market. In the Huron district I had an opportunity of observing this fact, and I believe it

will apply, with few exceptions, to all the remote districts of Upper Canada. As an example of this, I travelled with a Mr M——, from Goderich to Hamilton; he has been out for two years with his wife and family, and he was glad to get me and another passenger to help him to defray the expenses of his journey. He told me that people in Goderich owed him various sums to the amount of ten or twelve pounds, and that before starting he attempted to collect some of it; but all he could raise was fifteenpence! He was a very gentlemanly man, and I have no doubt of the truth of what he stated; but if a more incontrovertible proof were wanted, the intimation which is stuck up at every post-office that no letters will be delivered except for cash, would abundantly prove it.

I have already told you that I saw nothing in the Backwoodsman's life to tempt me to enter into it, and as to settling near any of the towns where one might be within "humanity's reach," I found a very serious objection to that, namely, the enormous price of land as compared with what it was to be bought for in the Eastern Townships,—improved farms near Dundas, Waterloo, and many other places, consisting of 150 or 200 acres, with a house and barn, being seldom offered under £800; and wild lots, even in the Huron or Fenelon districts, are sold at two and three dollars per acre, while the expense of clearing amounts to eighteen and twenty dollars an acre, thus making the price of your land alone amount to upwards of six pounds per acre.

As a still stronger objection to Upper Canada, or the Western States, and one which of itself would have prevented me from choosing it as my home, I may mention its *sickly springs and autumns*; and though there are places more healthy than others, I have no hesitation in saying that the people of Upper Canada are all more or less exposed to fever and ague, and the mere fact of the inhabitants of that province speaking of it with so much familiarity, proves the truth of my assertion. True it is, that the disease is found to be partially eradicated in those parts of the country where extensive clear-

ances have been formed; but this applies to such a small portion of the territory, comparatively speaking, that though it may be a goodly prospect for generations unborn, it cannot in any way affect the present or rising generation; and I confess, like the Irishman, I cannot see what posterity has done for me, that I should do so much for posterity; even supposing that I had no other objections to banishing myself to the Backwoods, a prey to mosquitoes and black flies; but I daresay you are by this time tired of my objections, and impatient to hear what induced me to choose the “*Eastern Townships.*” Let me, however, remark, that though I say little about the United States, it does not arise from any want of objections which might be brought to the sickly Michigan, or the parched and thirsty prairies of Illinois, but because I trust you have too much love to the land and the laws of our fathers, ever lightly to seek a home among strangers whose customs and feelings will be in little unison with yours; where you must throw off your allegiance to the “Meteor flag of England,” and kiss the harlequin colours of democratic America. If such considerations weigh nothing, I at least will not attempt to influence you by any other arguments;—although I must here notice a most erroneous idea that prevails among the labouring classes at home in regard to the wages paid in the United States: they are told that common bricklayers or barrowmen can earn 7 or 8 shillings per day,—this is very true, but unfortunately the people who tell them so *forget* to explain how much a shilling is. This appears strange to an Englishman’s ear,—every child knows that 12 pence make a shilling—but every American knows that 12 pence sterling make upwards of two York shillings, that is to say, the dollar is divided into eight equal parts, each of which is called a shilling; therefore when you hear of people making 6, 7, or 8 shillings per day in the States, divide by two and you will have the true wage; to return, however, to the reasons of my choice.

In the first place, then, I could not help being much struck with the highly picturesque appearance of the country, con-

trasted with the tedious monotony of the flats and swamps of the Upper Province. Here you have something to relieve the eye; nay, I may safely say that the scenery which presents itself to the traveller is rarely surpassed in any country; from Durham to Sherbrooke the road winds for the greater part along the banks of the beautiful river St Francis, at every turn presenting new features for admiration; here it rushes in heavy rapids over its rocky bed,—there it expands itself into a broad and silent stream, enriching the meadows on its banks, and the numerous rich islands with which it is studded, and which are for the most part cultivated, and yield large crops both of hay and corn. To increase the beauty of the vale of the St Francis, you feel that though enough of the ancient forest remains to give grandeur and wildness to the whole, still the numberless cleared farms around, sometimes placed high on the hill-sides in the most romantic situations, inform the traveller that he is in the midst of a thriving and populous country; and if he is struck with this in the comparatively newly settled townships of Melbourne, Shipton, and Brompton, he cannot fail to be astonished at the advanced state of cultivation in the townships of Compton, Eaton, and around Standstead; there he will find whole tracts of country cleared in all directions, with stone-fenced fields, free of black stumps; neat white-washed houses surrounded with gardens and orchards; large herds of sheep and black cattle grazing in the fields; and flocks of geese and turkeys feeding along the road sides, at once proclaiming the comfort of the inhabitants;—nor do I confine this remark to the immediate vicinity of the villages, for, standing upon the heights near Eaton or Compton, a circuit of at least twenty miles, characterized by the above features of advanced cultivation and wealth, may be seen.

It may appear of little consequence to the settler whether he is situated upon a picturesque farm or not, provided it is of an excellent soil. I shall not contend for the advantages of scenery as a ‘sine qua non’ to the farmer; but it must at least be admitted, that it is a great desideratum, and one

which, if combined with other advantages, is not to be slighted; and I therefore mention the beauty of the country, not as a consideration of the first importance, so much as its being the first thing to attract the attention. The next thing that draws one's observation is, of course, the nature of the soil; and, comparing it with that of Upper Canada, I should feel disposed to say that, except in its capabilities of raising heavy crops of wheat, it is in all other respects equal, and from the undulating surface of the country, and the innumerable streams and springs, it is infinitely superior as a *grazing country*; and when I say that our crops of wheat are lighter than those of the Upper Province, I am not quite sure whether that is not to be attributed more to the practice of sowing in spring instead of the fall,—a practice which has arisen from a very mistaken notion of our winters being too severe for sowing wheat in the latter season. Where experiments have been made, the grain has been found to resist the frost here, as well as in England; and it is natural that it should, seeing the deep and continued covering of snow which it has to protect it during the winter, from the intense cold. At all events, the soil is capable of producing crops of oats, potatoes, turnips, &c. equal and superior to those of the upper Province. Hay also is raised in great abundance, with the least possible labour, and furnishes an abundant supply of food for cattle during the winter, which is of the greater importance as it seems to be the opinion of most of the people of the Townships, that cattle will be the most profitable article we can bring to market, to which we have at all times easy access, and most particularly so over the snow when it has once fallen in sufficient quantity. In the meantime, indeed, from the great influx of emigrants this year, we have no occasion to send any of our produce to a distance; on the contrary, the "*British American Land Company*" have been, and now are, importing large quantities of flour and pork for the use of those people to whom they have given employment in their extensive and highly spirited improvements during the summer; but as this state of things cannot last many years, it is

a most essential advantage to us to have such ready and easy access to both the markets of Montreal and Quebec, the most populous and consuming cities of Canada; and when the railroad from Port St Francis to Stanstead, through the vale of the St Francis, is completed, which will be in the course of three years at farthest, the markets of the above-named places will be brought to our very doors. Even as things are, it is only a two days' drive from Sherbrooke to Montreal, in summer, and passengers may leave the latter place at eight o'clock in the evening of every day, enjoy a comfortable night's rest, take the stage from Port St Francis, and arrive at Sherbrooke at 8 in the afternoon,—that is to say, in 24 hours! and as he may have slept 10 or 11 hours if he chooses, he actually encounters only the fatigues of about twelve hours of land travelling; and, thanks to the spirited Company already alluded to, the roads are so good that the fatigues of even that mode of travelling are here very little greater than in England; in fact, we can drive the whole way very comfortably at the rate of nine miles an hour. Contrast the above fact (and I do not speak from hearsay, but from painful experience) with the roads of the upper Province. I shall take, for example, the road from Goderich to Hamilton, which the Canada Company advertise as an excellent turnpike road, and I may say *ex uno disce omnes*. The distance is ninety miles, and to perform this journey with a pair of very good horses, travelling from daylight to sunset, it occupied me three whole days! that is, 30 miles per day, and supposing us to have been actually travelling 10 hours per day, which is within the mark, it gives as our rate of travelling no more than three miles per hour, which over a turnpike road you will think rather slow work! But a turnpike road in America is a sorry representative of a turnpike road in England, being in fact nothing more than a line laid out, the trees cut down and rooted up, and then the ground thus cleared, ploughed into a ridge. You may easily suppose that in wet weather this *road* becomes a mere quagmire; but the most insufferable parts of this journey are the numerous tracts

of "Corduroy," that is, a road made by felling trees and laying them athwart, one tree close to another, to acquire solidity enough to support carriages over a cedar swamp. On the rough and uneven surface thus made no particle of metal is laid, and consequently the unfortunate traveller goes jolting over it at the rate of one mile per hour, and at the end of a day's journey feels himself much in the same situation as if he had undergone the discipline of a beetling engine, besides finding his teeth loose and refusing their assistance in masticating the tough pork, which in nine cases out of ten awaits him for his supper.

Here I would insist upon the great advantages the eastern townships possess, particularly to those who have families out with them, in so far as their easy access is concerned. It is a very common, but a very mistaken, idea among the emigrants, that as soon as they arrive at Quebec their troubles are over,—that as soon as they land, being in America, plenty of work and high wages pour in upon them, and that to go up the country is merely a day's work or so. They are miserably mistaken. On board ship, after their sea sickness is over, they are comparatively comfortable; but after being landed at Quebec or Montreal it is then that their troubles seriously commence. Should they be proceeding to the Upper Province, they will then have to exchange their ship with a deck over their heads and beds to lie upon, for an open boat or 'batteau,' in which I have seen them so crowded as hardly to leave room to lie down; and thus pent up together, they commence a tedious journey of eight days for Prescott, exposed to a burning sun during the day, and the dews and cold during the night, without covering of any kind. The sufferings which the unfortunate women and children undergo on this part of their journey require to be seen to be understood. Arrived at Prescott, they may again take the steam-boats for some farther distant spot, or endeavour at once to find work where they can; fortunately they need not look far for employment at good wages, when once in the Upper Province.

Now let us see how they reach the eastern townships of the Lower Province. After landing at Quebec, unless their passage has been taken to Montreal, they have only to put their luggage on board a steam boat, and in eight or ten hours thereafter, they are landed at Port St Francis. Here the "British American Land Company" have built a wharf, and have a resident agent, an active and humane man, who receives them, shows them where they may lodge and cook their provisions, and provides carts for the women, children, and luggage; the men of course walk. In two days they arrive at Sherbrooke; here again accommodation is provided by the Company for the women; the men are employed at once by the sub-commissioner or agent at 2s. 6d. per day with their board; a certain quantity of land is allotted to them, a few acres cleared, and a log house erected, so that he is in a few weeks after his arrival, in his own house, making a wage not only sufficient to support himself and his family, but to pay, (in labour) the first year's instalment on his land. Thus in the course of a year the poorest man, if industrious and sober, becomes independent. I have stated precisely what I have seen, adhering strictly to facts, without the smallest colouring, the mode of access to and the *immediate* prospects of the poor man in both Provinces:—need I ask which is to be preferred?

Let me now call your attention to the great improvements which have taken place under the liberal policy, and spirited undertakings of the British American Land Company.—Bridges are built, and roads are cut,—villages and settlements are rising in all directions under its care,—and four years have made a change in this part of Canada, which, under other circumstances, could hardly have taken place in a hundred.

I now proceed to another cause of my preference for the townships—viz. the climate. In this respect, no country in the world can be superior; but you are aware that I have not spent a winter here yet, and therefore must speak only from hearsay; and judging from that, I can state, instead of the severity of that season being looked forward to as a time of

hardship or endurance, my neighbours hail its near approach with the greatest pleasure. Then it is, say they, we have good roads and bridges wherever we choose to go. Produce of all kinds is taken to Montreal, and supplies brought back at the cheapest prices; the grain is thrashed, firewood cut, and rails got out for the ensuing summer; and what makes it a pleasant season to all, is, that all the visiting between friends in an easy and hospitable way is then in its full force; and from the dryness and clearness of the atmosphere, it is universally allowed to be the most healthy and joyous season of the year. Surely such a winter as this, is much preferable to damps and thaws which occur more or less during an Upper Canadian winter; the latter cutting up the roads to such a degree, that they are rendered impassable, both for the sleigh and the waggon. As for the length of the winter, it must be admitted on all hands, that it is a disadvantage to both Provinces, and on that subject the people of the Upper Province lay great stress, affirming that their winter is so much shorter than ours. Granting that it is somewhat shorter, (I never heard any one claim more than 2 weeks,) their spring is ushered in as I have before stated, by fevers and agues, rheumatisms, intermittent and lake fevers; in short, by all the diseases which are necessarily engendered by a flat and marshy country, and which in the eastern townships are, from the very opposite character of the surface, totally unknown; and what may still further convince you of the salubrity of our climate, is the fact, that when the Cholera was raging in 1832 and 1834, in all other parts of both Provinces, *not a single case occurred in the whole of this district.* Accustomed as you all are at home, to live in what you call a fine healthy country, it will surely be no small inducement to settle here, where you will find a climate *at least* as good as your own.

As to the prices of land, you will here also find the comparison in our favour. Wild lots in the most eligible situations, having hitherto been sold at 7s. 6d. currency per acre, payable in 5 yearly instalments—cleared or rather improved

farms varying in price, according to situation and extent under cultivation, from £50 to £500. Such a farm as the latter sum would purchase, should have an excellent two story house, with barns, sheds, and stables complete; besides being well fenced, and in a state that a settler with a little capital could step into it, and feel himself comfortable, and at home at once upon one of the first rate properties in the country. Of such locations there are so many in all parts of the townships for sale, that upon first coming out, a settler's chief difficulty is to find out which he thinks is most likely to please him; he sees so many beautiful spots around, that he is apt to change his mind three times a-day. To any one who has the command of even £100, I never would recommend a wild lot; it appears to me much preferable to purchase where there has been some clearance, however small, for there you find a house superior to what you could put up yourself the first year; and if it is from the Company you purchase, one half of the crops is for the most part included in the bargain! and thus the purchaser has an immediate interest in his farm, besides a certain quantity of produce towards his subsistence the first winter; and allowing him to occupy his time in a much more profitable way than chopping, of which he may have enough when the snow comes. In fact, the Americans are so much accustomed to clearing, and do it so cheaply, that it is poor economy for any man who has a little capital, to take to the 'bush' himself. The price of clearing, burning, and fencing, is at present on the heaviest timbered land from eleven to twelve dollars per acre, or about £2. 10s. sterling, while in many places where the timber is light, it is done for $7\frac{1}{2}$ dollars per acre, or £1. 10s. Sterling. I have myself cleared 20 acres at that rate, and my next neighbour is engaged clearing 50 acres at 8 dollars.

While I say, that I would by no means advise any man of capital to go upon a wild lot, you may suppose that to the *poor man* I *would* recommend it; decidedly not, particularly for the first year or two. Here labourers of all denominations find abundance of employment as farm servants, &c. at

the rate of 2s. 6d. per day with their bed and board,—the board being as much beef or pork and potatoes as they choose three times daily, with wheat bread and tea to breakfast and supper, and in most cases a glass of whisky at dinner-time; or if he chooses to board himself, his wages will then be 5s. —and an economical man may live much better than he can in this country upon 15d. or 18d. per day,—thus saving 3s. 6d. per day, and allowing another shilling for his clothes, which is far more than enough, he can lay up in one year more than thirty pounds! and if he continues the same course for another year, he has it in his power to enter upon a small improved farm, with a sufficiency of money to purchase a yoke of oxen, a cow, and a few pigs to commence with; having also by that time acquired a sufficient experience in the mode of managing things in this country, to enable him to cultivate his land to the best possible advantage, not to speak of having in a great measure escaped the little discomforts and privations which are usually to be encountered on entering upon wild land.

The wages I have just mentioned above, you will of course see are those given to common labourers; but tradesmen of all kinds can earn nearly double, particularly tolerable blacksmiths, carpenters and shoemakers, who are always in great demand: and as the emigration to this part of the world, of people of moderate capital, increases so much, there is now no prospect of that demand failing, while at the same time, it provides ready employment for the wives and daughters of the poorer settlers, as domestic servants, in which capacity they may earn £12 per annum.

This increase in the number of respectable inhabitants, leads me to remark the advantages which we have over our friends in the Upper Province in point of society. I do not mean to say that the people who have settled here, are at all superior to those who have gone “far west;” but we are *closer together*, so that instead of travelling a dozen or twenty miles to see our friends I can in a circuit of three miles find twenty. I speak at present of my own immediate neigh-

bourhood, which is by no means the most populous part of the townships. Of the advantages of having pleasant society around one, I need not here speak; suffice it to say, that you will no where see in this part of the country, gentlemen with their beards a week old, wearing shoes that despise Warren, or sitting down to dinner without their jackets. The reason is obvious,—we are surrounded by people who retain the ideas of propriety with which they have been brought up in the “old country.” It is solitude alone which induces habits of slovenliness.

As to our mode of visiting and associating with each other, nothing can be upon a more pleasant or easy footing. There is, in the first instance, a natural feeling of fellowship among any set of people under our circumstances which leads us to look upon each other as the crew of a ship do upon their shipmates. We have all left our dear fatherland, to adopt a new, and a distant home,—our pursuits are the same, our toils, our pleasures, our interests all alike; and as no one here pretends to riches, so no one attempts to eclipse his neighbour, and thus petty jealousies arising from envy are in a great measure unknown. Neighbour calls upon neighbour to dine or sup without invitation or fear of intruding, because we know that if our host is surprised with an empty larder, he has at least bread, milk, his brandy bottle, and a hearty welcome to offer; and above all, not having the least idea of being “caught,” both host and guest feel perfectly at ease, and comfortable. Do not however suppose that an empty larder is a common occurrence with us. Indeed, there would be but little excuse for that in the Townships, where, besides having our own bread, butter, eggs, poultry and vegetables, all sorts of animal food are supplied by the butchers as regularly as need be, at very moderate rates, and of as good quality as most of the butcher meat of Scotland; that is to say, I have paid for the best beef, sent twice a-week to me from a distance of four miles, 2½d. ℥ 15s., pork 2d., mutton 3d.; but I find the best plan is occasionally to kill a bullock or a cow one’s self; by this, besides having fifty pounds of tallow, and the skin, always worth three or four

dollars, I calculate my beef to stand me at only 2d. \textsterling 15 : then if a person chooses to take his gun or fishing rod, he can be always sure of both fish and game to assist his larder. Of the latter, partridge, pigeons, snipes and a few hares, constitute our present variety, but in spring and autumn, we have abundance of wild duck and quails ; and during the season, the rivers and lakes abound in fish, particularly salmon, black bass, and pickerel. But do not suppose that either shooting or fishing afford so much sport in this country as they do at home ; in both pursuits you must submit to the annoyance of being half devoured by mosquitoes, and black flies. If you go to the '*bush*,' you must labour slowly through the thick underwood, and scramble over fallen trees till you meet a covey of partridges, and then your bag is filled ; for they very politely fly into the trees, and you may very deliberately shoot them all, for they seldom go far, and are very little disturbed by the report of your gun ; in fact, they are so tame, that I have on various occasions stepped back a dozen yards from one, before firing, to avoid blowing him to pieces, and thus rendering him unfit for the cook,—this of course is no sport, but they are very good eating. The only real sport that I hear of, is the deer hunting, and that can only be pursued in the winter time with any success, and then they are killed in great numbers,—the hunter being able to keep up with his dogs, upon his snow shoes, while the deer sink deep, become fatigued, and are soon overtaken. Moose deer are also frequently taken, but the labour of hunting them is very great, and the flesh by no means repays the fatigue of the chase. My friend C—— killed one last winter, but it was after following him three days, and sleeping three nights in the snow ; and after all, he and his man were only able to bring home his hind quarters and horns, which took them three days more ; this, to a less enthusiastic sportsman than Mr C——, would appear to be making a labour of a pleasure.

Bears we have also plenty of, but they are for the most part trapped ; within the last six weeks twelve or fourteen

have been thus taken, and three or four shot in the Township of Shipton alone. The young bears are excellent eating, though perhaps too rich for many. I may finish what I have to say upon our sports by advising you to bring a good plain double-barreled gun out with you—a handsome one always gets destroyed in Canada. As for a rifle, it is of no use whatever in deer shooting, the smooth bore with a couple of bullets in each barrel is here always reckoned most certain. If you bring a fishing-rod so much the better, but bring no flies. American fish prefer, like Yankees, a bit of fat pork; but I need not tell you what to bring out with you, till I furnish you with all the information in my power to induce you to come here, and I therefore proceed to notice what you may suppose I ought to have mentioned before, viz. Education. In this respect then, I assure you, we are as well provided as any parish in Scotland. We have schools in all directions, where the common branches of education are taught, by competent persons, at an easy rate of payment for the children of the poorer people, so that none need under any circumstances allow their families to be ignorant; and I am happy to say, that I have seen very few, in either of the Canadas, or the States, who cannot read and write. The younger children of the better classes are readily received by the resident clergymen, as boarders; and to the older ones, Montreal and Quebec offer excellent institutions, for pursuing their studies, to the higher branches. Burlington College is also within 120 miles of Sherbrooke, where a complete classical education can be had under the ablest teachers, at an extremely moderate expense; that it is a Yankee college, is the only objection that one could find to this institution, and that arises probably from mere prejudice.

Churches, generally Episcopalian, are also to be found in every Township with a resident clergyman attached to them; and there are besides several congregations of Dissenters, and at Melbourne there is a Scotch preacher, though I fear his hearers are very few, there being almost no Scotch in the country yet, which however I hope may not long be the case,

as, laying prejudice aside, they are perhaps the quietest and most useful settlers we could have; the kind of country seems particularly suited to their habits, and they are at all events great favourites. The greater part of the emigrants who have come out this summer are natives of Norfolk and Suffolk, a set of fine able-bodied fellows with clean and cheerful looking families. They have all gone to '*Victoria*,' a new and beautiful settlement of the Company's upon the Salmon River, where they are already comfortably settled. Those whom I have seen express themselves quite happy and contented in their new dwellings, and '*Victoria*' will very soon be a large, as it is already a thriving village. A small colony of fifty families of Germans has also been formed this summer upon the Salmon River. They constitute quite an independent society of themselves, as they have millwrights, blacksmiths, shoemakers, &c. among them. Their "location" I have not yet seen, but it is said to promise well, or as Jonathan says, it is likely to "go ahead," as they are a most persevering and industrious race. Indeed their countrymen in the Upper Province around Waterloo and Dundas have by far the finest farms of any I have seen.

Of Irish the few we have among us seem industrious and thriving upon their farms as well as their neighbours. And they deserve to do so, for they work hard at any thing they are set to, and always appear merry and contented. When one compares their situation here in the midst of plenty with their former poverty and misery in Ireland, one cannot help wondering why thousands more do not come over. If Government, instead of trying to legislate for them at home, could only send a million or two of them to the Canadas, while it placed them in comfort for the remainder of their lives, it would of course ameliorate the condition of those left behind, by removing the superabundant wretched population; but I will not enter into any discussion upon that topic, as I have already swelled my letter to a most un contemplated length, and therefore I hasten to a conclusion, but not till I have once

more advised you to come and settle down among us; and when you feel the pleasure of looking upon your own land and crops, unincumbered by taxation, titles, or landlords, you will agree with me in saying, "It is good to be here:" and in the hope of your coming, I shall proceed to give you a few hints as to how you should proceed before embarking, satisfied as I am, that if they are of no use to you, they may be of some service to any of your friends who may think of leaving your neighbourhood.

It is unnecessary for me to tell you what you probably might have known, even if the "Backwoodsman" had not already said it, that the first thing to be done, is to choose a good ship. For this purpose then I would go to Greenock or Port-Glasgow; the ships from the Clyde are better manned and "found" than those from Liverpool, and you know I have tried both places more than once; besides, you have less chance of having a number of Irish for your shipmates; and much as I like the sons of Green Erin, I should rather not have the pleasure of again sailing with a ship load of them as I did last trip. Try also to get a ship that has not upwards of thirty passengers, this will save you the intolerable infliction of being obliged to land at Gros Isle below Quebec, to wash clothes, and be inspected by the superintendent of the Quarantine station. Indeed, I would recommend you to make it almost a 'sine qua non' on the part of the Captain, that he should not carry more than thirty passengers. You see I speak to you as though you were a steerage passenger, because it is to the steerage passengers these hints will be of most use. To you and all who might go in the Cabin, I would simply say, ship yourselves with Captain Millar of the Cherokee, or the Canada, the Robertson, the Monarch, or any of the regular Montreal traders. They carry no steerage passengers, and in any of them you will find yourselves most comfortable so far as good eating and drinking are concerned, and thus I dismiss you, and resume my hints to the steerage passengers.

Having then procured a good ship from whatever port she

sails, and one that has as few passengers as I have mentioned, the next thing to be thought of, is, provisioning yourselves, which must be for 70 days. For this purpose I would recommend oatmeal and potatoes as the staple articles ; say 8 pecks of the former, and 15 or 20 stones of the latter, also 8 or 10 lbs. of salt herrings, a few pounds of treacle, a piece of good bacon, about 20 lbs. of sea biscuit, with cheese and butter as convenient ; but unless you have wives and children, do not trouble yourselves with tea and sugar.—You will also require a good large hook pot, an iron pan, a tin plate, and a knife and fork, also a keg or jar capable of containing 3 or 4 gallons of water, of which by the way you cannot be too careful.

As to bed and bedding, the better these articles are the more comfortable you will be, both during the passage out, and in the country. A ticking filled with chaff, I should think the best, because if you find it inconvenient to travel about with, it need only be emptied, and of course it is easily filled again. If you have much baggage to carry out with you, put your provisions, cooking apparatus, and the clothes that you think you are most likely to require, into one trunk or case ; this you will be allowed to keep upon the birth deck, while all the rest are struck down below, and to them you will have access twice, or perhaps only once a-week, so that the more you have at hand the better.

Some will advise you to take out as little as possible with you, but as I am recommending the eastern townships of the Lower Province ; I say, take every thing that is not “too hot or too heavy.” If you are a tradesman, take all your tools—if a farmer, all your lighter implements of husbandry, and even a plough if possible ; but at all events, all such articles as bed and table linen, knives, forks, spoons, and clothing, should be carried out along with you.—Tables, chairs, and crockery dispose of as you best can. In going to Upper Canada or the ‘*Far west,*’ the trouble and expense of transport would make the case different.

In taking out your passage, see that your birth is defini-

tively fixed. If any thing is to be done to it, get it done before the anchor is weighed; never trust to the usual promises made of seeing you all right as soon as the ship is at sea,—then is just the very time when all is sure to be wrong; and unless every thing is right and tight before sailing, the very first breeze of wind that comes, will set chests, boxes, barrels, pots, pans, and crockery-ware, all flying from side to side like peas in a bladder, to the manifest danger of the toes and shins of any unfortunate wight, who may happen to be on the 'tween-decks.—Inform yourselves also about the “Hospital-money.” This is a charge sometimes made, of one dollar upon each passenger for the Quebec Hospital; it ought therefore clearly to be understood, whether this money is to be paid by the captain for the owner, or by the passengers. The charge was frequently made by captains last spring, and not having been properly explained to those on board, sometimes led to very serious disputes with the captains; the passengers, however, being obliged to pay.*

Having now fairly embarked, and bade adieu to “England, home, and beauty,” I wish you a pleasant passage across, and will meet you on the other side, to warn you in the first place, against indulging too freely in the waters of the St Lawrence. Continue as long as possible to drink the ship’s water, and you will thus avoid the violent bowel complaints which are so apt to attack people on their first arrival. This arises from no peculiarity of the river water, the same effect I have seen produced upon seamen in every part of the world, by a sudden change, from being upon an allowance of one kind of water, to having as much as they chose of another kind. Indeed, so far from the waters of the St Lawrence being unwholesome, it is remarked both of them and of the waters of the Upper Lakes that they are singularly pure and salubrious.

Before arriving at Quebec, the ship must heave to or bring

* Perhaps I might speak more correctly if I said it was a charge sometimes *not* made. Remember, however, that though a dollar in Quebec is called 5*s.*—it is only worth 4*s.* 2*d.* to 4*s.* 4*d.* sterling.

up at Gros Isle, where she will be boarded by the Quarantine officer. If the number of passengers does not amount to 30, and all are healthy, there having been no contagious disease during the passage among them, he will order all the beds and bedding up to be aired, and all the clothes worn during the passage to be washed and dried in the rigging, after which the ship may proceed. But if the passengers exceed the above number, beds, bedding, clothes, passengers and all, are ordered on shore, where they are generally kept all night, or till all their clothes are thoroughly washed and dried; the passengers are then examined separately by the head surgeon. In the meantime the 'tween-decks are cleaned, and the births white-washed, or, indeed, often broken down altogether. Before going on shore, therefore, it would be well to stipulate that they should not be injured. You may be detained on board for two or three nights after leaving the Quarantine ground; and without births to sleep in, your situation will be most uncomfortable. And even if you get up to Quebec the very day that you leave, still as the Captain is obliged to keep you on board for forty-eight hours free of expense if you choose, certainly a place to sleep in will be no small comfort. Your baggage also he is obliged to land for you wherever he may let go his anchor.

If the weather is fine, the going ashore and sleeping a night in the sheds prepared is no great inconvenience; but if it happens to be cold wet weather, you will think your reception in America very sorry indeed. From the ship the Quarantine ground looks pretty enough, and so do the white-washed sheds; but "'tis distance lends enchantment to the view;" on landing you find yourselves prisoners upon a rocky point of the island, under the surveillance of sentries. You can procure nothing to purchase, except bread, salt-mackerel, and dear dear milk and water. Bad beer is also sold and handed through the bars of the prison, and I believe there is an immense quantity of that drank during the night.—From the pleasure of sleeping here I was exempt, and through

the politeness of the Doctor enjoyed a very pleasant walk over the island, which is beautiful.

Here you will observe, and let me warn you against it, the greatest waste commences among the passengers, particularly of their provisions. Throw nothing away except what you find absolutely useless. You will require provisions going up to Quebec, and from that to Sherbrooke; or if to the Upper Province, you require them still more. Your bed I would empty at Port St Francis, if you land there, but not till then; because if you remain there a night, unless you go to the tavern, you must sleep in a house built by the Company for the reception of emigrants, where of course your bed will be much more comfortable than the soft side of a plank; but to return to the Quarantine ground.

After the beds, clothes, &c., have been inspected, you are again taken on board, and the ship proceeds to Quebec, where you may arrive in four hours or days according to the wind and weather. Arrived there (should the vessel not be chartered to Montreal or Port St Francis) lose not a moment, spend not a farthing, but as soon as you can get your luggage landed, take it on board of the first steam-boat for Montreal, and start for Port St Francis, where you will arrive in eight or ten hours for the small charge of 5s. in the steerage, or 12s. 6d. in the cabin, meals in the latter included.*—I have before told you how to proceed after reaching Port St Francis, I have now only to add, that you can get good accommodation along the road, and if you have any of your ship's provisions left, you will be able to travel cheaply enough, as you can get plenty of milk and butter at almost any farm house you chance to halt at.

If you intend to purchase from the Land Company upon any

* On landing either at Quebec or Montreal, you will find plenty of people ready and willing to intrude their officious advice and offers of service; let the unwary take heed, there are more rogues in the world than the crimps of London or Liverpool. If you wish information of any kind, go at once to an accredited agent of the British American Land Company, of the Canada Company, or to the Emigrant Society.

of their new settlements, proceed straight on to Sherbrooke. But if not, I would advise you to stop at Melbourn and look at the farms round that place, and in Shipton, in either of which places you will find lots from 50 to 200 acres and upwards, generally to be purchased upon easy terms, as the Yankees, who still hold lands in the townships, are all anxious to sell out, not because they are ill pleased with the country, but because they see a fair chance of making a few dollars—a consideration which far outweighs their love of *home*, a feeling which hardly finds place in a real American breast. If you intend working out upon Company's lands your first year's instalments, of course repair to the office at Sherbrooke, and in a few days you will find yourself in a fair way to independence, provided you go on industriously and soberly. In concluding these few hints, I may repeat what has often been most truly said before, that no idle person need come here, and hope to eat the bread of idleness. This is the poor man's country, but not the slug-gard's; nor would I advise any man to come out here, who is not fully prepared patiently and cheerfully to endure many privations, and little trials of temper at first starting.

I have now finished, what at commencing I intended to have been a letter of a single sheet, and I find it swollen into a regular essay. Its length I shall not regret, if it induces you to visit me here, for it only requires a person to see the townships, at once to pronounce them superior to other parts of America in every respect. If I have failed in convincing you of this,—at least in trying to do so, I have not wilfully exaggerated the advantages of the country, nor concealed its drawbacks, as I have no doubt you will confess if you are once here.

GLASGOW:

FULLARTON AND CO., PRINTERS, VILLAFIELD.

