

30 REPORT OF THE ELGIN ASSOCIATION.

houses and clearings. Of course, it would have taken, not a few days merely, but some weeks to have visited every dwelling and made anything like a close inspection of the progress of the individual families in the settlement. But the deputation saw enough to enable them to form a general opinion of the present position and future prospects of the settlers, having also had an opportunity of examining the books of the association.

The opinion formed by the deputation is, on the whole, favorable. With very few exceptions, indeed, the settlers appear to be advancing in prosperity. Not a few who have not paid much as yet on their lands, have made considerable improvements, which place them in a very favorable position for meeting future engagements, and raising themselves to independence and comfort.

Many of the clearings are of considerable extent, and not a few of the farms are indeed well cultivated, and produce excellent crops. Several might be named, but the deputation would only specify Mr. Laison, whose whole establishment really evidenced great industry as well as taste. Of course, among such a large number of settlers, there will be a variety of characters, and some rather unpromising appearances; but, from the observations of the deputation, and the information given them by various competent parties, they confidently believe that, with few or no exceptions, the settlers will be in circumstances to take out their deeds by the end of the ten years granted by the Elgin Association.

The deputation could not but see that the Buxton settlers had to contend with difficulties of various kinds, not all of a purely physical nature. From their previous training and position, they are peculiarly liable to be imposed upon and deceived by their neighbours, who may have some interest in throwing obstacles in the way of the success of the interesting experiment that is being tried. But as education and intelligence

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