

their new crop, and before two weeks had passed I had some of those potatoes for dinner, and I do not hesitate to say that for size, flavour, and maturity, they were excellent. The roughly sown wheat and oats were then progressing rapidly, and a good harvest awaited their in-gathering. During the summer they had raised a better class of house, they had secured a supply of food and seed for another year, and their settlement was practically completed. A total area of about 3,200 acres had thus been secured, the quality of the land was good, the surface was gently undulating over the entire area, and it was as nicely wooded as many a park in the old country. The change in their position had been so quickly accomplished, that I can readily imagine they must at times have wondered whether it was a dream or a reality. Was it really true that they were no longer small tenants and labourers struggling against pecuniary difficulties which well nigh tempted them to rebel, and that they had so suddenly become the owners of happy homes and nice farms, without the shadow of a care or a fear as to their future support? It was true, and the deep gratitude manifested by those settlers towards Lady Gordon-Cathcart, no words of mine can adequately describe. It was obviously unnecessary to enquire whether they were happy in their new homes; but I did ask one of the party whether he had sent home to his friends a full account of the place. "Why, sir," he replied, "if I only told them half they would never believe me again." Closely associated with the success of this important work, I must mention the names of Mr. W. Peacock Edwards, of Edinburgh, and Mr. Ranald Macdonald, of Aberdeen, for they have most judiciously given effect to Lady Gordon-Cathcart's good wishes. These facts show very clearly that a loan of a £100, prudently applied, is sufficient to enable a family to be brought from a condition of poverty to one of comfort and prosperity, and the money being secured upon the land, permits of a reasonable time being given for the re-payment of the loan and interest, and with perfect safety so far as regards the capitalist.

I have now to report upon a colonisation scheme in which the work is being carried out by a company having the command of a large capital. The general scheme is to bring the land into cultivation, dividing it into 300 farms, each having a comfortable residence, with stabling and shedding enough for the stock. When this has been accomplished, these farms, with the stock and implements upon each, will be fairly valued, and the men who helped to carry out the improvements will each have the offer of his own farm at the valuation price, he paying for the same in five or ten annual instalments, as may be arranged. In the meantime each man receives