

H. J. Boulton,
Esq.

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known emigrants save 10*l.* or 12*l.* and remit it home to their friends, in the hope of their coming out to join them.

60. Are there any societies established there to assist emigrants that go out?—Yes, I belong to one myself; it is an humble imitation of a Society here for the relief of Strangers in distress. Our society is established for the purpose of aiding casual arrivals, who have no means of assisting themselves, and I believe that we have been of a great deal of service to poor emigrants. When they arrive we do not give them money, but we have made an arrangement at York, with the Commissariat, to issue them rations at the price the Commissary gives for them; and the mode is usually this: When a man arrives with his wife and family, he goes to some of the committee, and they give him a ticket to the Commissary to furnish him with a fortnight's provisions, according to the number of his family, and before the end of that fortnight, if the man is in health, he can generally get employment.

61. Is it one general society, or does it divide itself into Scotch and Irish?—There is no distinction of any kind; whether he is an Irishman or a Frenchman that comes there in distress, he gets the same relief, if there is nothing known against him.

62. Where do you reside?—I live in the town of York.

63. Do you ever make circuits in the country?—Every year; one year I go to the east, and another to the west; and therefore, at the return of two years, I see the whole province.

64. When you speak of the climate being healthy, do you speak of the climate of York?—Yes, I include York; I know certain persons have prejudices against it, but I have lived there a number of years, and I have never had any of my family ill, from any local cause; there are, occasionally, fevers and agues; but I believe it is not at all necessarily because it is at York. I consider the town of York a healthy part of the country; there are other parts, certainly, that may be more so; there is a large marsh near York, but I do not think it affects the health of the town very materially. All the officers of the government live there; and I have never known any of them die, or experience any great inconvenience from any local disease.

65. Is not there, every Autumn, a fever and ague there?—No; I have known York for four or five years before the war, and during that time I only recollect one grown person to have died, and that was quite an old man, who probably died from old age. Whenever I have known York to be unhealthy, other parts of the country have been generally healthy, and when those other parts of the country have fever and ague, York will be healthy; I never knew ill-health pervade the whole country at the same time. I have known it healthy in the western district, when it was unhealthy in the eastern, and *vice versa*.

66. When you are talking of York, you are talking of the population which has been in Canada for a length of time; but have not the new comers been a great deal afflicted with fever and ague?—They have been a good deal afflicted at times, because they are necessarily in a state of great want and indigence when they come there; they have not proper houses to live in, or proper nutriment. I keep five or six servants myself; and my servants, who live in the same manner that I do, with one exception, have never had any disease of that kind; I never had any of my family at all afflicted with local complaints or such as they might not have been subject to anywhere else; and I impute most of the disease in York, and all over the country, to a want of proper attention to diet, and to not having proper nutriment, drinking too much water, perhaps, and sometimes too much whiskey.

67. Is it not a very common disease among the emigrant settlers, throughout that part of Canada?—It is the most common disease, but it is not a disease which at all impedes the progress of the settlement, in any manner.

68. Of the settlers that have gone out since the Peace, have any great number left you, and gone over to the United States?—I think a great many of them go to the United States; and the reason, I think, is this, that in the United States they find more readily immediate employment at ready-money wages; the United States being so much more populous, and there being there a number of large towns, they naturally resort to the place where they can get the quickest return in money for their labour, to answer their immediate wants, and particularly as the Americans are often looking out for them as they go up the River St. Lawrence, when we take no means to retain them; and many go there from a possibly groundless predilection for their government; but I have known many instances of their coming back again, when they have been there two or three years, and have spent what little money they might have brought with them; and I can speak of a whole settlement of Irish, about fifteen miles from York, who came entirely from the United States