

Of those who have been led to consider the settlement of the waste lands of the country, some, involved in the questions which divide political parties, have hardly found time to examine the true state of things with their own eyes; others, residing too far from the sections of the country most favourable and most accessible to colonization, have failed to attain that accurate knowledge of details, which is needed in forming and in carrying out plans for moving large bodies of people to new locations, and in surmounting the obstacles which may obstruct them. Some, themselves great proprietors, had interests of their own to consult, and did consult them, to the great detriment of the settlers, and, as a necessary consequence, of the country in general; others, friends of the great proprietors, and lending themselves to their interests, combined with them to shackle and impede the movement. The number of those, comprised in these two classes, is considerable, and their influence so great, that it may be well suspected of being the main hindrance to the success of the means hitherto used. And it is for this reason, that we appeal to public opinion, well assured that their private interests will not long be permitted to rival and defeat the general good of the country, and that, whenever the public have a just notion of the right means of promoting the settlement of the waste lands of the Province, and of the obstacles which lie in the way, the task of the Legislator, in smoothing the way and removing the obstacles, will be an easy one.

May we be permitted to say that we are, more than others, competent to point out these means—these obstacles? We may certainly claim some degree of authority in the consideration of the matter. Twelve in number, spread over a part of the country which deserves, more than any other, the notice of our emigrating citizens, and having each of us passed more or less time in the Eastern Townships, knowing the situation of the settler, through our daily, and familiar intercourse with him, we consider the task belongs of right to us of making the country which we inhabit, and its numerous