

When I came on deck the following morning, I found it quite crowded with passengers. Several vessels with emigrants had arrived, even at this early period of the season, and we had one party with us of about 150 paupers, from the county of Somerset, sent out at the expense of their parish. I had a long conversation with a very respectable-looking person who had charge of them. The plan, if it merited that term, seemed to be marvellously defective. The men had the appearance of healthy agricultural labourers, hedgers, ditchers, or husbandmen, well adapted for colonists, and who could not have failed, under a right system, to have speedily acquired a competent provision for themselves and families. The overseer informed me that his instructions were limited to a due superintendence of the people during the voyage, to securing a fair fulfilment of engagements on the part of the master of the vessel, and finally to land the paupers at Montreal, paying each man L. 4, and leaving them to shift for themselves. The inevitable consequence would be, that these poor fellows would be generally and speedily fleeced by low tavern-keepers and others of their small pittance, and then turned adrift, useless to themselves, and a mere nuisance to the province. Had some regular chain of communication been established between government and the parishes, how easily might these families have been placed upon government-lands, in a way productive of the greatest mutual advantage.

The influx of emigrants at Quebec is very great, and a large proportion landing in a state of destitution, the inhabitants are subjected to a most vexatious burden in providing some temporary supplies. Fifty thousand have been landed at Quebec this season (1831), and probably ten thousand more have passed on to Montreal, without being regularly reported.

The weather was fine, and I was again fortunate in a pleasant party. Mr Molson returned with us, having abandoned all thoughts at present of attempting to raise the unfortunate Waterloo. Another splendid steamer, I believe of 260 horsepower, also his property, was to be launched this day at Montreal, to be named the "John Bull;" and his Canada friends, who seem, by-the-by, ever ready to answer, and slow to baulk, a convivial call, considered it quite indecorous to pass over such