

dered high, even in most parts of the Upper Province, so that after adding the expense of board, about one shilling per day, the average throughout the year appears to be considerably under 2s. 6d. But there seems to be no particular cause for keeping up the wages of emigrants dependant on public assistance, as high, or nearly so, as those common in the Colony, while there are certainly many reasons for reducing, as much as possible, the expense upon each individual.

This will hardly be disputed, if we cease to consider the settlement of all or most of the labourers in the Colony as essential, our object in that case being rather to encourage than to prevent their dispersion ; but even continuing to aim at their settlement here, I am persuaded that a high rate of wages will, on the whole, rather retard than forward it. Labourers seldom save money when on public works, at any rate of pay. A very small proportion would be so enabled to obtain the means of settlement, and a still smaller would actually settle in the Colony.

But while high wages would do real benefit only to a few, they would have the bad effect of concentrating the emigrants around the Government works. The general wages of the country, if not raised would be kept from falling, as they necessarily ought to do upon such an accession of cheap labour, and there being thus no particular encouragement (from a fall of wages at least) to open additional opportunities of employment among the inhabitants, this pub-