

EMIGRATION.

No. 1.

object, the clergyman would in many instances be found willing to accompany his flock. Proprietors also would feel much more confidence and satisfaction in contributing to a plan which would relieve their tenants from the necessity of separation after reaching the province. Without wishing, therefore, to interfere with the natural flow of ordinary emigration, which disperses itself over the province, without occasioning an overwhelming pressure in any one place, Her Majesty's Government have thought that they might confer much benefit on some portion of the persons who are desirous to emigrate, as well as upon the districts where they are to be settled, if they could devise the means of offering to parties proceeding from the same village or parish in this country, especially if accompanied by their clergyman or priest, the prospect of finding ready for them an opportunity of establishing themselves in a body.

Such being the general views which are entertained on the subject, I proceed to inform you in what manner it is proposed to carry them into effect; in doing so, I must, however, remark that it is not in my power to convey to you more than very general instructions upon the subject, leaving it to your judgment when on the spot, to supply the necessary details.

It will then in the first place, be requisite that the situations in which villages are to be formed should be carefully selected. In making this selection, it should be particularly considered what prospect there might be, that the locality would afford immediate employment for the people at wages, since if the immediate difficulties of a first settlement can be surmounted, there is little reason to fear the ultimate success of the emigrants in a country where there is so large an extent of fertile land available for the supply of their wants. In laying out the villages, each should consist of a sufficient number of log-houses constructed at a moderate cost, to accommodate at least 300 souls, and to every house should be allotted a small piece of land as a garden, sufficient to occupy the tenant's spare time, but insufficient solely to provide for his subsistence, or make it unnecessary that he should also work for wages.

In every village there should be a cottage of a somewhat better description for the accommodation of a clergyman or priest, and contiguous to it there should be a plain and inexpensive wooden building to serve both as a school and a church. It is, however, absolutely necessary in order to limit the expense to be incurred, that these buildings should be of the very cheapest and simplest kind, trusting that hereafter the settlers will be able to provide better accommodation. At the rate of five persons to a family, 60 log-houses would suffice for the reception of 300 people, but the size of the villages must of course vary and depend on local circumstances of which the officers presently to be named, should judge.

The most important question is, as to the mode in which the cost of preparing these villages for the reception of emigrants, should be defrayed. It is not intended that this should be undertaken immediately by the Government, since if it were so, a very large permanent sacrifice of public money, which I do not consider to be indispensable, must be anticipated. Experience sufficiently proves that it would be most unwise for the Government to undertake the first cost of forming settlements of this description, under the expectation that the money so laid out, would ultimately be repaid by the emigrants. No such attempt, though more than one has been made, has ever been successful, nor is this by any means surprising, considering how much patient and persevering industry is indispensable for the success of a settler, and what hardships and privations he must in the first instance encounter, it can be no matter of astonishment that the energy of an emigrant should be damped, and his exertions discouraged by the thought that for some years, the result of all his toils must be not to improve his own condition, but to pay off a part of an apparently hopeless debt to the Government, so that practically, such debts never are paid.

Hence it is most important that the settler should never be induced to commence life in a new country in debt and that if the preparation of such villages as I have described, for the reception of emigrants, is to be attempted by the advance of public money, in the expectation that it will be ultimately repaid, that advance ought to be made, not to the emigrants themselves, but to some other party. Nor does it appear impossible that such an arrangement might be made. Considering how greatly the value of land in North America is enhanced by settlement, there is reason to believe that an arrangement might be made with the proprietors of large estates of wild land, by which, in consideration of an advance from the Government of a part of the money required, they should take upon