

Our Country.

PROGRESS OF THE EMIGRATION MOVEMENT.

It is very gratifying to know that the efforts which have recently been put forth, for the promotion of emigration to this country, are already beginning to bear fruit. Attention is being drawn to Canada, and enquiry excited in reference to its resources and advantages. Much valuable information is finding its way into the newspapers of Britain, and more correct views of Canadian life are coming to be entertained by the people of the Old World. Many persons possessed of means are having their thoughts drawn towards this country, as a field for investment and settlement. On the whole, the prospects of our getting a considerable and most desirable accession to our population, by means of emigration, is more encouraging than it has ever been at any previous period of our history.

For this pleasing result we are mainly indebted to the vigorous measures which have been adopted by the Government of Ontario. By the issue of a large number of pamphlets and maps, which have been industriously diffused here, there and everywhere, by the appointment of a special Commissioner to Britain, who is evidently at work most indefatigably; and by doing everything in its power to make the reception of an immigrant cordial, and his circumstances encouraging on arriving here, the Government of this Province is demonstrating its thorough earnestness in this important matter. Whatever may be said as to supineness in the past, either reference to Dominion or Provincial authorities, too much praise cannot be awarded to them for the zeal and activity they are shewing now. All, however, is not bright and cheering. This could hardly be expected. We have not only to contend against ignorance of this country, and indifference to its claims, but, what is far worse, lies and wilful misrepresentation of it. Every now and then, a spiteful communication from a disappointed person, who expected to find in Canada an earthly paradise, where he could live without work, finds its way into some of the newspapers, and either creates or deepens already existing prejudice against us. Nor are there

wanting in Britain, journals that, for filthy lucre, are willing to decry this country, and hold up the United States as a far more inviting field for British emigrants to settle in. *Reynold's Newspaper* is a notable example of this. This periodical, once rather respectable in character, seems to have become utterly unscrupulous, and is toadying to the United States in a way which leaves no doubt that it is paid for what it does. In a recent issue, it describes the Province of Ontario as a "wilderness," affirms that the dockyard hands, lately sent out here, have been compelled to "take to farm labour for mere food, no wages being given;" states that owing to the influx of mechanics, wages in Toronto have been reduced one-third; and pathetically exclaims: "What is to become of the immigrants, heaven only knows! We trust they will not perish by hundreds, as others have done before them." All this is utterly false, and more, it is malicious. Abundant contradiction and disproof of it can be mustered without the slightest difficulty. The following testimony of an unprejudiced eye witness, who lately visited this country, specially to see for himself what sort of a region it was for emigrants, flatly gives the above statements the lie. The writer is an English gentleman, of good standing, resident in the City of London, and, if we mistake not, a banker. Before his departure for England he sent the following letter to Hon. Mr. Carling:—

"OTTAWA, June 19, 1869.

"DEAR SIR,—Having come out from England for the express purpose of ascertaining how the emigrants were likely to prosper, whom we have been sending to Canada for the past two years, it may interest you to know certain facts. I would premise that I live in the east end of London, and am very well known among the poor. I have either visited, or been called upon by more than 100 families in Ontario, the great majority of whom are not only at work, but are quite contented, and anxious for friends to join them. A few mechanics, principally shipwrights, are discontented, in consequence of having been misled in England as to the wages they would receive in Canada. The strong impression left in my mind is, that there is room for any number of labourers who will work, and are sober and industrious, but that they must be prepared to turn their hands to any work that offers. on their arrival, and not dream of going into the bush till they have bought their experience of the country, and learned its ways.

"The arrangements for the reception of emigrants at Hamilton are very good, but at Toron-