

glance at the map of 1858 will amply illustrate this. All our great public works are completed, and scarcely one other undertaking of the kind may be looked for, for many years at least; and along the whole length of the St. Lawrence, and for many miles into the interior, the land is taken up and already half exhausted of its virgin fertility. There may be yet abundance of land unoccupied; but it is far behind in the back townships, difficult of access, promising many additional hardships, and not offering the same ultimate advantage that the earlier settlers obtained along the front, or that are now offered them in the Western States. The consequence is that Canada is fast assuming the humiliating position of a medium or half-way establishment for passing on the emigration from Europe into the United States, to say nothing of the emigration thither of our own settled population. The Emigration Returns show that out of twenty-seven thousand emigrants passing through Hamilton last year, something less than five thousand were all that fell to the share of Canada. How many loyal Canadians passed off in the same direction it is impossible to estimate. We understand that the greater portion of the passenger traffic Westward this Spring is composed of parties leaving the country for the West.

With these facts before us we have good subject matter for reflection as to our future operations, and the means whereby we may re-assume our position as a home for the surplus population of the old world.

The natural order of the growth of nations has always been—first, agriculture, then manufactures, then the arts and sciences. The United States have long since passed the exclusively agricultural stage, and the second—manufactures, may now be said to be largely developed. The arts and sciences have as yet been but little cultivated, and they cannot yet be said to have arrived at that period of their growth at which these higher developments fairly begin.

Canada has just now arrived at the transition period between the exclusively agricultural and the next stage—the manufacturing. Up to the present time manufactures of all kinds have succeeded but indifferently in this country. There were many violent obstacles to be overcome, such as adverse tariffs, want of capital, imperfect communication, want of skilled labor, foreign competition, and worse than all, a dogged indifference, if not direct obstruction on the part of the whole population of the country to anything bearing the stamp of home production. These obstacles, and especially the last, are now fast palpably giving way before the pressure of public opinion on the one side, and public and private necessity on the other. Our tariff