

of the numbers who have come to the Province, there are many districts in which a single emigrant has not made his appearance, and not a few farmers who could get help neither for love nor money. We have known persons at first in difficulties, as will be the case with new comers in any country; but we have not heard yet of the sober, industrious man, willing and able to work at whatever comes handiest, either out of employment or unpaid for his work. The idea of Scotland being a better place for farm labourers than Canada is too absurd. For those who are perfectly reconciled to being hired servants for life, this may perhaps be the case, but every farm servant who comes to Canada is understood to aim at having a farm for himself in due time, and how impossible the realization of such a thing in Scotland need not be said.

The letter of "Murdoch Stewart" bears evident marks of want of genuineness. No man of ordinary honesty, and in the slightest degree acquainted with the country, could write as this professedly illiterate "axe man" does. He acknowledges indeed that the old settlers are on a "good footing" every one his own laird; but then he says the present times are not to be compared with what they were 20 years ago. Then 200 acres could be got for each *bona-fide* settler without any difficulty and "mostly free." This is absurdly far from the fact. Then it is said further that the good land has all been taken up, when men the most reliable, and who have no interest in falsifying, have, from actual examination, declared again and again that there is still any quantity of good land. What are we to think of a man who says that the timber in our backwoods is of no use but for fuel, and that all who settle on free grants are the "most degraded class of people, driven out to those backwoods by their own misconduct?" "I have seen," says Murdoch Stewart, "more idlers and more poverty in winter and spring in Canada than I have seen on the west coast of Sutherland, Ross or Inverness, and I have gone over them all." Of course, when a letter is dated simply from "Ontario," we cannot refer to any particular place; but we challenge "Murdoch Stewart," or any other man, to specify any locality in Ontario where even an approach to such a state of things is or has been known. The idea of saying that a man cannot get even the wages he works for is too absurd when any one knows that he can recover by a summary process at our Division Courts, and with little or no delay. There is not much use in meeting each statement in detail, though, as curiosities, we give two or three more. "Murdoch" says:—

"There are two months in the fall (harvest) in which an ordinary workman will be paid from 4s to 6s. per day and board, but all the rest of the year is spent in search of work, as the case may be, one day here, and two days there, and so forth. He is counted a lucky bird who finds constant employment for six months in one place."

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"Taxation is almost an unbearable burden

and there is no exemption. If you are two days in a place you are to work the statute labour or pay 8s sterling for every adult member of your family. If you want to pay an honest debt in silver, you will pay four per cent. on the dollar; no silver is taken at par."

We need scarcely say that the mention of unbearable taxation is all nonsense, and the statute labour talk is equally wide of the mark. We only wish that throughout Canada "no silver were taken at par." Unfortunately, Toronto is the only place where that holds good; and among all the grievances, real or imagined, we have yet to learn of any one who thinks it a grievance to take and receive American or States silver simply for what it is worth. Were there nothing in this letter but this last touch about the silver of a suspicious nature, it would be sufficient to make us doubt whether "Murdoch Stewart" ever wielded an axe in Ontario, or had any experience either of its "yellow fever," or of its "smart bosses."

We do not say that no hardships are met with in Ontario, and should be far from averring that there are no rogues ready to pounce upon and fleece the unwary; but we do assert, and challenge any one to show that we are wrong in the assertion, that for the industrious, hard-working man a better field for improving his circumstances could not be found than this Province at the present day. Let "Murdoch Stewart" go into the Zorras, mostly occupied by Highlanders, who were "cleared" out of the Sutherland estates, and he will see what is the difference between Canadian farmers and Sutherland labourers, and let him go into the homes of Highlanders and Lowlanders settled in bodies all over the country, and he will learn whether or not Canada has been a good place for the working man. We, too, know something of the Highlands of Scotland, both northern and western: we know what the remuneration given for work, in those quarters, is; and what the general amount of comfort among those who have to live by the sweat of their brow; and we say that to compare the average condition of the same class in Canada and Scotland is utterly absurd, as tens of thousands of Canadian Highlanders can honestly testify.

THE MUSKOKA AND PARRY SOUND SETTLEMENTS.—A great number of settlers have arrived at both places this Fall, and we are in receipt of letters by every mail from the old country informing us of the intention of numbers to emigrate to this section in the Spring of 1870, and asking for information about the Free Grant Lands. Some of them are men of considerable capital. It is gratifying to know that most of those who came in search of land have been located and like the place.—*Advocate, Parry Sound.*

SPECIAL INDUCEMENTS TO EMIGRANTS.—A London journal says:—"As then, emigration is open to all, and there is room for all of us across the seas, we arrive apparently at the odd