

“Let us spread ourselves widely over the land,” some one has said, “that is the right way to preserve our nationality.” Yes, “let us enter on the land and possess it,” in all its breadth; dear as it is to us on many accounts, let us transmit it to our children improved, covered, embellished with national and religious monuments, the work of our hands. Our descendants loving it as we do, will bless our memory and will consider themselves bound, by gratitude, by countless traditions, which we shall leave behind us, to preserve their country, their language, their institutions, laws, customs, manners and character; and the national spirit will have gained a new element of vitality. He were no Canadian, no French Canadian, who had not at heart the speedy settlement of the waste lands of Lower Canada by his fellow countrymen. This is at least our earnest prayer, and the impulse which dictates our present address.

Like many others, seeing our fellow citizens wander forth to a foreign land, in search of bread and liberty, thus sacrificing the finest, noblest feelings of the human heart—the love of their native land—and thinning the population year by year, we have been impelled to pronounce it to be the urgent, the paramount duty of some one to labour to withstand the tide of emigration, by showing the advantages which the wanderers abroad leave behind them, the resources of certain sections of our country, and the obstacles which might prevent the easy acquisition and successful culture of the lands of their choice. Far be it from us, to say that those whose duty it more especially was to care for these matters, have failed in that duty. No: many efforts have been made, and much information collected, many schemes of colonization have been broached and set on foot, or attempted to be set on foot. But have these schemes, these efforts been successful in any degree corresponding to the sanguine hopes of the projectors? We think not. The question then arises, “Can any thing be done at this late hour to favour the settlement of waste lands?” We sincerely believe there can, and would have all true lovers of their country to believe so too.