

a number of lives to this Province, and prevent the distress of a much greater number of suffering infants and anxious parents, must, as to Canada, remain almost wholly inefficacious.

THE very thin and limited population of this Province, and the comparative ease with which its inhabitants can procure the necessaries of life, render the diffusion of knowledge more practicable here, than in many other countries. In many of the great nations of Europe, the crowded state of population, and the prevalence of poverty, will, in all probability, for ever exclude multitudes from the benefits of education. But the vast extent of unappropriated lands in Canada, opens a more cheering prospect for our posterity. They need not fear a crowded population, or a monopoly of the soil for centuries to come. Now, therefore, while our number is small, and while land is cheap and plentiful ; now is the time to plant the gerin of knowledge, which will enlighten, enrich, and felicitate the future multitudes, that will one day cover this fertile portion of the globe. Being once fixed in the soil, and having once struck a firm root, this plant will not soon wither or decay. Knowledge has a natural tendency to propagate itself ; and having once found a favourable soil, will not be easily eradicated : But, if we delay to disseminate its seeds, till vice and luxury shall have poisoned the soil ; we shall in vain expect to cultivate it, with the same prospect of success.

I hold it to be a very reasonable expectation, that the riches and population of this country should long continue to increase. Our climate, indeed, is severe : but the soil is excellent ; the