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EMIGRATION AND MANUFACTURES.

The recognition of the reciprocal character of these two elements of our future prosperity is of no small importance in the present period of Canadian history. Hitherto our broad lands, temptingly situated along the very banks of the St. Lawrence, and our extensive public works have offered sufficient inducements, and adequate employment to the large streams of emigrants who have been thrown upon our shores each successive year. The class or degree of these annual streams of labour was then a matter of but little moment. To reclaim the forest and to reap the latent wealth of our wild lands required more the capital of sinews than gold, the willing, more than the skillful hand; and for the prosecution of our public works the capital was supplied with a liberal hand from the inexhaustible treasury of the mother country. While these two sources of employment and prosperity were fairly open to the emigrant, our emigration returns showed a steady yearly influx of from thirty to fifty thousand souls. In 1858 this fell to some twelve thousand, and in the present year the emigration promises to be a mere bagatelle.

This decline is obviously nothing more than the natural operation of the great law of supply and demand. Whatever of it we may ascribe to the crisis of 1857, it is impossible not to see that, even under more favorable circumstances, Canada, at the present time, cannot offer nearly the same inducements to the same class of emigrants that she did a few years ago. A