

tinue to hold lands under such circumstances, while there are such numbers of persons constantly coming into the colony, and so many others already among us, who would gladly settle upon them, and immediately commence their improvement.

The proceedings in order to obtain escheats, when sought for by individuals, have hitherto been so dilatory, and in general so troublesome, and expensive, that many have by reason thereof been deterred from making applications to procure them. It would not therefore be politic, to abstain from causing them to take place, until the lands which were liable to suffer them, should be applied for by the persons desirous of settling thereon; but, would be highly beneficial, and proper, for reinvestments by that course of proceeding, to be immediately ordered and effected on the part and at the expense of the government; so that they might be free for the settlement of persons upon them, so soon as applications for that purpose were made.

The difficulties and inconveniences, which emigrants as well as others have heretofore had to contend with, in procuring ungranted and uncultivated land, for the purpose of settling thereon, together with the expenses of obtaining grants of the same, have also operated to retard the Agricultural improvement of the colony.

With respect to the emigrant, even if he makes his application for land immediately on his arrival in the country, several months in general elapse, and not unfrequently even more than a year, before he either obtains the tract for which he applied, or is even so fully assured of obtaining it, that he can venture to settle thereon. In the mean time, if he is a person in indigent circumstances, which is generally the case, he and his family continue burthens upon some relatives or friends