

General Reflections upon Upper Canada.

In making some general observations upon this Province, we must be allowed to speak of it as an interesting, rising country, yet in its infancy, but full of promise. It has been so highly blessed by a beneficent Providence, that when its natural resources become fully developed, and all its peculiar advantages improved, it will doubtless be regarded as a most important part of the British Empire. It is, indeed, a favored land; for with all the advantages by which it has been distinguished, it cannot be said to have inherited any one prominent blemish to mar the perfection of its character, or retard the prosperity of its inhabitants. It has no bleak and barren mountains; no inarable bogs; but almost every acre of land is adapted either for the raising of grain, or the pasturing of cattle; and there is nothing in our physical or geographical situation unfavorable to our agricultural pursuits. Nor are we less favored in having a mild and equitable form of government.—We can complain of no exactions—are burthened with no taxes—oppressed with no tythes;—justice is administered alike to all; our persons are safe, our property secure; and the proprietor of the soil—a distinction to which every industrious man may aspire—can boast of an independence, and enjoy the fruit of his toil without molestation.

The number of resident inhabitants in this Province, according to the latest returns, is 350,000, a majority of whom are cultivators of the soil. This part of the population, however, bears but a small proportion to the field that lies open before them, inviting their operations. Our settlements are extensive, it is true, and some Districts of the Province may be said to be in a high state of cultivation; but still there are large tracts of most excellent land lying in different sections of the country, unappropriated and unimproved. It is exceedingly difficult, owing to its irregular shape and imperfect surveys, to form a correct estimate