

PREFACE.

That matter more attractive than the matchless scenery of the Canadas, than the great river and the roaring cataract, towering woods, stupendous cliffs, lakes like inland seas, and islands of surpassing beauty, should be found in the under currents of real life and colonial enterprise, disclosed in attentively following the Royal visit of 1860, is not therefore surprising. Out of dependant toil and common drudgery to step into the position of an industrious, but independant settler, may well be an honest man's ambition, however poor. In remodelling the following pages, and adapting them therefore to the purposes of the present time, it has been our aim to point out to the emigrant how to proceed in settling in Canada. The facts and statistics regarding the provisions for education in the several provinces; above all, the arrangements for preserving to the colonists the exercise of the religion in which they have been matured, have appeared especially worthy of being signalised, because there is no other colony in which the emigrant can calculate with equal certainty, upon obtaining for his children education, and for himself and family the means of grace, precisely as at home. In Canada, he may do this with certainty; but it is only in the experience of colonial life, that the full extent of such a blessing can be felt. The most heartrending part of many a colonial existence is, that the sound of the Sabbath bell is never heard; whilst the children grow up in dense and irreclaimable ignorance, from the want of schools and instructors. It is to the infinite credit of Canada and the Canadians, that a noble provision has been made, and an effective system organised, securing—as a first point in civilisation—the instruction of youth. This circumstance of itself, commends the Colony to all who would not only better their own condition in the world, but leave behind them an improving race. We take some pride, in conclusion, in being able to lay before our readers a series of Routes, and Water and Land Communications for the interior, which no other similar Work—not even the official Canadian publications—have attempted to give. The reason of this may possibly be that the writers of works emanating from the other side of the Atlantic, are scarcely alive to the bewildering difficulties that beset the stranger in a strange land. By closely following our routes, however, from place to place, the emigrant travelling in search of an occupation in Canada, will be securely guided to the place of his destination in the tables; and so we wish all who may go forth, most heartily “God speed.”

W. W. F.

Glasgow, Nov., 1860.