

lower mandible. The throat and lower parts are greyish white, inclining to yellow; wings and tail dusky, edged with yellowish olive; greater wing coverts dusky, tipped with white, and edged with olive, forming a whitish bar on the wing; another smaller bar appears also near the shoulder, formed by the tips of the upper coverts; immediately below the greater white bar, there is a large dark spot on the secondaries, below which the same feathers continue to be edged with olive.

G. W. A.

Moss Park, November, 1869.

EMIGRANT LETTERS ON CANADA.

(From the Globe.)

We have before us two epistles addressed to the (Scotch) *Inverness Courier*: the one professedly from "John Fyfe, late of Badenoch," and the other from "Murdoch Stewart, late of Ross-shire." These very conveniently date from "Ontario," which being a small piece of ground as large as the whole British Isles, with another Ireland thrown in to boot, leaves the whereabouts or character of the writers very much a matter of doubt. They are also dated within a week of each other, which is somewhat convenient.

Let us see what "John Fyfe," in the first place, says about Ontario. He speaks of the "free grants" in this Province in the following terms—the ludicrous absurdity and falsehood of which are patent to every one in the slightest degree acquainted with the country:—

"The first great inducement given to emigrants is the free grant of 200 acres of land to every *bona fide* settler. Now, I have travelled through the most of Ontario, or Upper Canada, as well as through the States of New York, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin, and for my part I would not have anything to do with free grants. They are only suitable for grazing purposes, being low and flooded lands, and very sickly for Scotchmen—ague and yellow fever making more progress than either farmer or mechanic. Of course, there are some scattered lots of refuse that might be had, but they are not worth paying taxes for. I know that in Scotland great hopes are entertained from the free grant system. Under such delusions, Scotch farmers sell out and go to Canada, but on their arrival they find things entirely different from company speculators' reports. There are different lines of free grants, leading back to the rear wilderness, but seldom desirable; and a man finds himself lost amongst a mass of drunkards and spendthrifts, driven out on these grants by their own faults and former habits. There may be some exceptions, but they are few and far between. Therefore, I say, citizens of Free Albion, and especially of the mountains of Cale-

donia, remain where you are rather than venture to live among the free grant class of Ontario!"

We have ever insisted upon the "free grant" system being liberalized, and some of the miserable reservations taken away, as well as the area of such grants made much wider; but the idea of calling those farms, at present being given out on the principle of "free grants," "low and flooded lands," and sickly to Scotchmen on account of "ague and yellow fever," is so absurd that we doubt if the man who can write so ever put his foot in one of the free grant regions of Ontario. Why, the Muskoka district, for instance, is notorious as one of the healthiest in Canada, and is being filled up at such a rate that the settlers are getting before the surveyors. As to yellow fever, it is unknown in Canada.

But let us see what "John Fyfe" says further:—

"The advantages of Canada and the United States cannot be compared with Scotland in any shape or form; our soil is not better, but ten times worse; our great heat and innumerable fevers, never felt in Scotland, are very prevalent here. Mechanics and labourers' wages are high in the fall or harvest: good hands can get 6s. a day for about two months, but during the winter you can see thousands out of employment. In the important consideration of health, it is a serious fact that a very alarming proportion of those who emigrate to Canada or the States return home, if they can, with their constitutions so shattered and enfeebled as to render them unfit for the prosecution of their former avocations. I am of opinion that, as a general thing, your young men do not better their condition by coming to Canada for employment. As a matter of course, there are some who, by the change, improve their circumstances; but so far as I can speak, from my own and others' knowledge, such cases are exceptional and not the rule. Moreover, I am not aware of any well-to-do Scotch farmers who have sold out, and come to Canada or the States, in the hopes of bettering their conditions, but who have regretted the change. From all that I have seen and been able to ascertain from those competent to form a correct opinion, I am fully persuaded that mechanics and men adapted for hiring out as farm labourers would find Scotland a more desirable field than either Canada or the United States of America."

Mr. Fyfe's experience must be very singular if he has found such a large amount of fever in Canada, and "shattered constitutions" in such abundance. There are "constitution-shattered" not however by the climate, but by cheap whiskey and irregular habits. Whereabouts thousands have been seen out of employment in any part of Ontario, we cannot imagine. Let "John Fyfe" give the facts and figures, the time, the locality and every detail, and then we shall see what we have got to say on that subject. This we know, that during this past season, in spite