

APPENDIX.

THE FRENCH CANADIAN EMIGRANT;

OR,

Why does the French Canadian abandon Lower Canada?

To declare at once openly and frankly, that it is our intention to inflict on the public a long essay on the settlement of waste lands, tired as it must be of that endless subject, so often treated and with so little success; would perhaps be a sufficient warning to close the book at once; and yet, with that probable fate before us, we must pray for a hearing.

We cannot conceal from ourselves the truth, that our task is a difficult one. In the performance of a work, which is emphatically a labour of love and of patriotism, we expect to rouse the ill-will and the opposition of all those whose opinions, perhaps whose interests are crossed by the truths which we must tell. Criticism may excite a laugh at such labours as ours; may we hope that it will not seriously damage our cause?

On one hand, at least, we find encouragement. His Excellency the Governor General, replying in July, 1848, to a Memorial presented by the Catholic Bishop of Montreal, uttered expressions which gave general satisfaction throughout Lower Canada. "His Excellency is of opinion that the future greatness and prosperity of Canada will depend in great measure on the profitable use of the lands now waste and unproductive, and His Excellency considers that the most profitable use to be made of them, will be to cover them with a population of industrious, moral and contented settlers."