

my experience, and as I shall take care to send this through the means of some friend, and thereby save any postage, I shall only condense my lucubrations, leaving it to yourself to separate the *grain* from the *chaff*, if any of the former you should discover; you will of course, however, make all due allowance for the disjointed form in which this will come into your hands, much of it having been written at long intervals, and part of it having been copied off by little *James*.

On what is so disagreeable to recall to memory I shall not dwell, but you, who were one of the last of my best friends, whom I shook hands with in old England, knew well the cause which led to, and the motives which influenced my becoming an *Emigrant*, the slightest necessity for which I never could have contemplated a few years back. Adverso and little to be foreseen events had so much encroached upon and diminished my capital, that I found it impracticable to live upon the *income* derived from it—my family, although still young, were fast growing up, and annually becoming more expensive to me, so that I thus found, that with the best management I could not avoid a still further and constant invasion on *capital*. It is true that had I been heedless of after consequences to my children, I might, by this means, and by the assistance of my truly liberal friends, have kept up appearances; luckily however, I was allied by wedlock to a partner, who joined with me in deprecating such selfishness; but such a state of things could not fail to harrass the minds of us both with corroding anxiety and everlasting perplexity, from a want of knowing how to manage for the best; and thus our lives were almost daily becoming more and more full of trouble and discomfort, with all their usual train of accompaniments, except, thank God, that worst of evils, discord. Thus situated, I was first led, as you already know, to turn my thoughts towards what I found becoming, not only common, but almost fashionable, viz. *Emigration*; and after reading most I could lay my hands on, which treated thereon, and bustling about to enquire more, I became so thoroughly satisfied, that carrying it into execution in my own case, would tend, more than any other means I could discover, to ease both *pocket* and *mind*, that I made up mine, as deliberately as possible, to go boldly to work, not to procrastinate, but at once to proceed in a plan, which mature reflexion made both me and my wife believe to be a paramount duty, which, as parents, we were called upon to perform courageously, whatever sacrifice it might involve to our own personal feelings.