

*From James Helyer, who with his wife and 8 children, emigrated with the Petworth Party, in 1833.*

Sept. 29th. 1833.

Toronto, near York, Upper Canada.

DEAR SIR.

I embrace the present opportunity, according to promise, to write you a few lines, hoping they may find you and family in good health. I have the pleasure to inform you, that I arrived with my family, safe and well, by the providence of God, in this country, after a roughish passage of 10 weeks, and arrived by the steamer Great Britain, at York, the capital of Upper Canada, the 1st. July. Many of our passengers proceeded to the London District, to settle on the Canada Company's lands; but for my part, I have rented a farm in shares, as it is called here, from a Mr. Maquire, an Irish gentleman, for 3 years. I have put in 16 acres of wheat this fall, and have a tolerably comfortable log-house, and plenty of provisions. My daughters, Eliza and Jane, are at service, one in York, and the other near where I live, which is within 15 miles of York. I bought a cow and calf for £5. 7s, and 4 hogs for about £4, and 100 bushels of potatoes, at 1s. 3s. per [bushel]. I went into the State of New York, about 500 miles, to enquire after my son James, but could get no intelligence of him, but have advertised him in the newspapers. I saw John Saunders in York, 2 weeks ago, he was in good health. Wm. Hetzel is well, lives in my neighbourhood. You will expect me to mention something concerning this country, and as far as I can judge from my short residence in it, I have every reason to be satisfied: it is a fine healthy climate, and a fertile soil, after it is brought into a state of cultivation, but requires a good deal of labour to clear, and bring it into that state. Those who emigrated to this country a few years ago, though poor, and having to undergo many privations, are now in a state of comfort and independence, having fine farms cleared, plenty of stock, and all the necessities of life in abundance; but earn it by the sweat of their brow. But there is one comfort enjoyed there, that taxes are a mere trifle: and as to the hateful tithe system, and poor rates, they are unknown this side of the Atlantic. There has been a very abundant harvest this season; good wheat rates at 4s. 6d. a bushel, oats 1s, peas 2s. 6d. There has been a great many emigrants arrived in this country this season, many of them persons of