

neither the means nor inclination to bring them under cultivation. If, on the other hand, the tax be generally paid in money, it will be seen that even a very trifling assessment will at once create a fund available for the promotion of public works and emigration.

A tax of one halfpenny per acre levied upon all the lands in British North America, which have been already granted, would produce upwards of £80,000 per annum; and this fund would continually increase, in proportion as the public land now undisposed of shall be appropriated by individuals.

Upon this revenue above a million sterling could be at once raised, or such lesser sum as may from time to time be required for the improvement and settlement of the districts from which the tax may be levied. We have reason to believe that if the provincial legislature should consent to the imposition of such a land tax, there will be no difficulty in raising, among the capitalists in the city of London who are connected with the provinces, whatever amount may be required, proportionate to the security so afforded,—on the strict condition that this fund shall be applied to the purposes above specified.

In urging your Lordship to recommend to the provincial legislatures some such proposal as that which we have ventured to suggest, it has given us great satisfaction to observe that this proposition much resembles that which has been already submitted by the Commissioners of land and emigration. In their report, dated the 25th of April, 1840, we find that they advised that £50,000 should be applied, out of the general revenue, in aid of emigration to British North America.

They recommend that half the expense of the passage of the emigrants should be defrayed by the government, the other half being borne by the emigrants themselves, or by the parties locally interested in their removal, whether landed proprietors or poor-law unions; that the emigrants should make their way to the port of embarkation at their own cost; and that, upon their landing in the colony, they should be immediately placed under the guidance of the Colonial Emigration Agents, whose duty it would be to convey them to those parts of the colony in which certain employment awaits them.

We do not concur with the commissioners in thinking that the emigrant should be called upon to contribute any portion of the passage money, because many emigrants would be found unable to provide such contribution; and we deem it of the utmost importance that emigrants should have at their disposal on landing in the colony, any funds which they may be able to command,—but we think that the expenses of outfit, provisions and conveyance to

the port of embarkation may fairly be thrown upon the emigrant. In other respects, we are happy to find that the views of the commissioners are almost entirely in accordance with those of your Committee.

It ought to be observed that, by placing the stream of emigration under the superintendence of a responsible board, much of the suffering and danger to which the emigrant is now exposed from the designing practices of some of the ship-owners and masters engaged in the conveyance of emigrants, as well as from the employment of unsafe vessels, would be obviated, and thus the emigrant would be placed under a protecting care from the port of embarkation to the place of his ultimate location.

We have only to add in conclusion, that in soliciting assistance on the part of the State in aid of emigration to British North America, it is very far from our wish to deprecate similar assistance towards promoting the settlement of the other Colonies of Great Britain. We regret to be compelled to believe that there are in the United Kingdom, a number of industrious men of good character unable to find employment at home sufficient to supply the utmost demand for labour that can for several years exist in the various Colonies of Great Britain. We therefore claim no partiality for British North America; but in viewing this subject with reference to the interests of the Mother Country, it cannot be forgotten that, in consequence of the nearer vicinity of the American Colonies, a contribution on the part of the State, which would only facilitate the conveyance of hundreds of the unemployed poor to more distant settlements, would aid the emigration of thousands to British North America.

We have now laid before your Lordship, in as brief a form as we could adopt, without omitting particulars which we deem it important to mention, a distinct proposal for the conduct of emigration to British North America. It has not been adopted hastily, but is the result of much consideration; and we leave it in your Lordship's hands with a feeling of perfect confidence, that as a British Statesman you are deeply sensible of the value of Colonization as a means of increasing the power and resources of the great empire whose Colonial interests have been entrusted to your charge.

We are glad to perceive the caution and correct judgment displayed in the fifth paragraph of this Memorial, and the general spirit and principles it developes. There are some deficiencies, however, which we now proceed to notice. The Memorial assumes, that because about 23,000 emigrants were accommodated in