

NORTH AMERICAN EMIGRATION.

17

CANADA.

their injury, both in time and money. Many complain of their treatment at New York. The reason they adopt that route is attributed to the want of correct information in Germany itself, and the only remedy they are able to suggest is the one recommended by Mr. Shanley's report, and adverted to elsewhere.

The season has been remarkably healthy, and there have been fewer complaints of ill-treatment and hardships than during any previous season.

I am, &c.
(signed) *A. B. Hawke*,
Chief Emigrant Agent for Upper Canada.

A. C. Buchanan, Esq.,
Chief Emigration Agent, Quebec.

No. 8.

Government Emigration Office, Hamilton,
20 December 1858.

Sir,

THE annexed statement of the arrival of emigrants from the different countries specified, together with the number of each class remaining in the province, as compared with the past year's emigration, will present at one view the nature of this year's emigration, so far as numbers and country are concerned.

In submitting this statement I would observe, that the decrease in emigration which this year exhibits would seem to be the result of that general depression of business which has distinguished the last two years. The lessened number of emigrants however who are strangers to the province, and whose necessities are more than equal to the means for their relief, may be received as a great boon under the circumstances.

The health and appearance of the emigrants generally have been good; a few cases of sickness have occurred, but with the exception of two Norwegian women, they have been restored and forwarded to their several places of destination. The two women referred to both died in hospital and were interred here.

The disparity in proportion to the number of emigrants arriving here, as shown in the tabular statement annexed, both from New York and Quebec, that in favour of the former as a point of debarkation, when compared with the latter, is striking. The difference in favour of New York is nine to one, whereas last year it was four to three in the same direction. The reasons for this difference must be sought for elsewhere than in Canada. There is however one feature in the emigration from the United States, which ought not to be passed over in silence. In looking at the tabular statement it will be seen that while the arrivals at this port from Scotland show a difference in favour of New York of about four-fifths, that from England is about nine-tenths, and from Ireland, twenty-seven twenty-eighths; for such a disparity there must be some cause, and whether it is that the commercial intercourse betwixt the United States and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland will explain the reason, it may be improper for me to hazard an opinion; but with respect to England, I have reason to believe that such intercourse is the means of devising projects, making flattering statements, and creating extraordinary exertions for securing return cargoes to the United States, and thus inducing intending emigrants to Canada to avail themselves of that route very much to their injury; and although some of the complaints made by emigrants may be unreasonable, yet in the majority of cases, the evil is too apparent to admit of a doubt.

The great majority of Irish emigrants leave Liverpool also under the same circumstances, while the Scotch emigrant generally selects a vessel in his own country, and whose destination is mostly in the British Colonies.

It will also be seen that two-thirds of Scotch emigrants arriving here settle in the province, while over half of the English, and three-fifths of the Irish, seek their homes in the Western States. Other European nations appear still less disposed to settle amongst us.

Those are facts which in some respects may not easily be accounted for, yet they nevertheless appear to be worthy of investigation, for as the generations in Europe rise to maturity, they will seek, naturally seek, an outlet for the increasing energy now fast spreading over the western portion of Europe, and which will keep the stream of emigration flowing towards this continent, and for which it would be well at all times to be prepared.

The general character of the emigration of the year just closing, so far as its adaptation to the wants of a new country, has been quite equal to the last year; the seekers for skilled and unproductive labour have not been so numerous as then, and in the midst of the great scarcity of employment which has and still does exist, yet very few cases of industrious and practical agriculturists wanting work have come to my knowledge.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

A. B. Hawke, Esq.,
Chief Emigration Agent, West Canada, Toronto.

(signed) *Th. C. Dixon*,
Emigrant Agent, Hamilton.