

may hang me as legally as they imprisoned and banished me. Of that however, I have no fear, and but for a delay in Chancery, should have returned to the Province in autumn 1823.

It is now ten years since I resolved to seek an outlet for the poor of England in America. My first intention was to sail for New York, there to make arrangements, but chance carried me to Quebec, and originated a world of misfortunes. My objects are so pure, steady, and great, that nothing appals—nothing makes me despair; I desire to rescue the poor from the oppression of the rich, and regard governments with satisfaction only as they tend to liberate and humanize, caring nothing for names and forms. Ten years of misfortune, failure, and persecution, have rather whetted my desire to proceed in the cause of benevolence. These years have indeed afforded experiences which may greatly promote ultimate success; and emigration is not a momentary concern. It is not in times of distress only that this should be thought of: the more that the world prospers in peace, the more should emigration be regarded and encouraged.

My zeal for reform in Upper Canada sprung from no disloyal source: it had no view whatever but to render that fine country a desirable asylum from the miseries of the parent state. With reform in Canada, emigration from hence would have been more immediately successful, and less resisted by our government, than emigration to the United States. Now there are fewer obstructions, and prejudices are dying away, while we have people to spare for every part of the new world—hundreds of thousands for each succeeding year.

There is a rumour of war, but this, I trust, will prove groundless; and could peace be maintained for twenty years, I doubt not but all who speak the English language may again be re-united under one government. I am told that congress proposes speedily to dispose of the remaining unoccupied lands of the Union to individuals, for little or nothing. Were I at New York, I would post to Washington, wait on the President, and advise that not another acre should be disposed of till the subject is well understood. Pardon me!—your government never has rightly understood how a new country should be most profitably settled, and that is a matter of utmost consequence to humanity and the world at large. I need not say more. If you incline to assist me, club your cents, by tens, and hundreds, and thousands, without delay.

ROB. GOURLAY.

*House of Correction, Cold Bath Fields.*

The above was published in American newspapers; and in the *Colonial Advocate*, published at New York, Upper Canada, January 10, 1828, there was the following article:—

“LATEST FROM ENGLAND.

“*New Project.*—Mr. Robert Gourlay has addressed a letter to the people of the state of New York, calling upon them each and all to subscribe one cent to enable him to raise a fund. This fund to be employed in migrating the poor of England and Ireland to the United States.” A good specimen of editorial silliness, and of general misconception.

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