

Our Country.

WHAT CLASSES OF PEOPLE MAY ADVANTAGEOUSLY EMIGRATE FROM GREAT BRITAIN TO CANADA?

Having recently spent several months in the old country, on a tour of observation, I may be reasonably supposed to have some qualifications for answering the question which stands at the head of this communication. In doing so, I must premise that in travelling through large portions of England and Scotland, I found scarcely anywhere a redundancy of labor. The people seemed, generally, to be fully employed, both in town and country, and wages in most branches of industry have of late received an advance. There are, of course, exceptions to this remark, but there never was a time, perhaps, when the working classes of Britain were generally so well employed and remunerated as at present. Under such circumstances the motive to emigration becomes necessarily weakened.

In a country like Britain, however, with a teeming and constantly increasing population comprised within a comparatively small area, and having commercial relations with every part of the world, a migratory spirit will always more or less animate the hearts of her people. At particular periods, when the agricultural or mercantile interest has been depressed, large numbers have left their native homes to seek livelihood and health in other lands, chiefly the colonies or the United States. In this, as well as in other ways, the United Kingdom has largely contributed to the civilization and happiness of a great portion of the habitable world.

The class of people at home that would most immediately benefit themselves by emigrating to Canada, are the agricultural laborers. There, as a general rule, they have little or no chance to rise above the condition in which they are born; and, notwithstanding the causes which of late have very much tended, in many instances, to ameliorate their condition, that condition still remains a hard one to no inconsiderable number. With a large and young family the labourer has a constant struggle to procure the means of the barest subsistence. Now, I never held out a hope in my late intercourse with this class, that by going to Canada they would have to

work less, but that the same amount of labour would, in general, command more of the necessities and comforts of life, with a prospect of becoming the occupiers, and even owners, instead of being the mere tillers of land. Among the strongest motives to human exertion is the desire to rise, to improve one's condition, and thereby make some provision for a family and for old age. A life without the probability of attaining, in some degree, at least, these objects, must be, to a great extent, aimless and hopeless. I often mentioned to these people instances that had come under my own observations in Canada, of men originally in their own position, but now the occupiers or owners of well-cleared-up farms, affording them and their families an abundance of the necessities and many of the comforts and even luxuries of life. The fact is that the majority of our now well to do farmers came to this country with little or no means. Often they commenced operations in the unbroken forest, and by the exercise, at first, of some self-denial, accompanied by frugality and persevering industry, they gradually won for themselves a solid independence, and made "the wilderness to blossom as the rose."

Another strong inducement Canada holds out to this class is in the facilities afforded to boys and girls of getting situations in which they can, from the first, maintain themselves, learn the ways of the country, and by degrees become prepared for commencing something on their own account. How many happy mothers of families have I seen in this fair Province of Ontario, surrounded by all the solid comforts of life, and with equally good prospects for their children, who, had they remained in the old country would scarcely have had a chance of rising higher than becoming the wives of farm laborers, who must struggle hard for the barest means of physical existence. I told the people at home that Canada was pre-eminently the country for the poor man, who, possessing the qualifications of health and strength, sobriety and industry, need have no fear of making progress, although he might arrive among us without a penny. The experience of thousands will confirm this statement. But it must never be forgotten that success essentially depends upon the possession and exercise of the qualities be-