

The important point for persons intending to emigrate is to be *certain* as to the quantity of land which they will receive for *certain* means; and that before they leave home. Crossing the Atlantic is a serious matter, and disappointment after having crossed it, is still more so. My brother went out to Upper Canada, in 1817, applied regularly by petition for land, took the oath of allegiance, and paid fees; but had nothing, save insolence, in return. He remained in the province eleven months, and then left it for want of employment and object.

The terms upon which land is granted are changed from time to time; and the fees, which in 1816 were very trifling, are now raised for large grants, to a serious sum, nearly equal to the price at which the best wild land in the United States can be purchased. Were settlers to sail next spring, in expectation that on the arrival in the colony "they would receive, on applying to the Governor, a grant of land, in proportion to the means of cultivation," upon the same rule that was followed this year, their expectations might be blasted by a change of rule. It may be by next year determined to grant no more land, or to grant it on such terms, as to render it not worth the fees, or price put upon it.

By correspondence with various parts of the country, I am assured that I could get a large body of the people to go with me by next spring, and it is now time to be making arrangements for an undertaking so arduous and decisive of fate and fortune. Your Lordship, no doubt, has control over all rules for granting land in Canada, and can, therefore, assure me upon the subject of my inquiries.

May I, therefore, beg the favour that your Lordship will take matters into serious consideration, and in another communication give me those assurances which are requisite for my plans being carried into execution, without risk of such disappointment as I have above supposed possible.

I have in view to settle towards the higher part of Lower Canada, and should wish a grant of land out of that still in possession of the Crown which lies nearest Montreal. It may be in your Lordship's power to determine as to the location in this country, and the comfort which settlers would have from such determination would be very great indeed. It would enable them to have preparations made on the granted land before they got out to take possession of it, very essential both for comfort and economy.

I am your Lordship's obedient servant,
ROBERT GOURLAY.

Earl Bathurst.

No. 4.

Downing-street, September 15th, 1821.

Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 7th instant, addressed to Lord Bathurst, I am directed by his Lordship to acquaint you, that it is impossible to give you any more definite answer than what you have already received respecting grants of land to individuals proceeding