

There are many individuals from Ireland, Scotland, and England, whose finances are exhausted, ere they reach Canada, and who are burdened with large and young families. It is impossible for these men, immediately to pursue, what has probably been their original plan, and directly push into the wilderness. They absolutely require to have previously provided some small sum for the expense of the journey, some necessary tools and utensils, and provisions for themselves and families, until they can reasonably expect to draw subsistence from the land, they come to occupy. To obtain these indispensables, their only resource, in general, is to betake themselves to some town or village, or to its neighbourhood, and then, from what they may be able to save from their wages, to collect a sum sufficient for their purpose. Years are thus inevitably consumed by the emigrant, and very often, ere he has attained his purpose, old age presses on him, or he yields to the temptations to intemperance, which new habits and foreign manners expose him to, or he sets out prematurely, and sinks under the united pressure of severe toil, want, and disease. On the contrary, were these reserves open to him, on terms that he would choose to accept, he might proceed there immediately; his labour though not so constantly in demand would be more liberally paid when required—provisions would be cheaper, and every hour not otherwise occupied might be employed most profitably on his own farm. The possession of any property for the term, I speak of is, in arithmetical calculations nearly equivalent to the absolute property; in the estimation of the poor emigrant, it could not be very different; it would provide for himself and for his children's children, and further than this his care and ambition do not commonly extend.

By the calculations of Dr. Strachan, there are at present, in Upper Canada, 18,000 reserved lots of 200 acres each. Of these, many are in parts of the country which are well settled, or are immediately contiguous to them. Were these leases granted for the periods I have mentioned, and were proper means taken to inform those interested, of the existence, situation, and capabilities of the vacant lots, for at present, every thing is ignorance with regard to them, I am persuaded, that, in a few years, a considerable proportion of them would be leased. To make the most moderate calculation, I shall say, that in five or six years, 1500 of these lots would be occupied, by tenants paying an average rent of £5 per lot; this would make a sum of £7,500, from which I shall deduct £1,500 for the expense of management; the remainder, £6,000, would, in my opinion, form a revenue, fully sufficient for all the aid, which a Protestant Clergy, in this Province, will, probably, for some time require, or have a right to expect—and which, properly applied, would be productive of the most important advantages. The good that might result from it, however, would entirely depend on the manner, in which it were expended, as there can be no question that, if misapplied, it would be productive of more evil than benefit.