

uncertain alike in the yield and in the price, reduces the business of the merchant almost to the level of gambling, where all is staked upon a single die. If crops are good we can meet our engagements, but if poor we must go to the wall, is the feeling of thousands of Upper Canadians at the present moment. We earnestly hope that an abundant harvest will restore to us a measurable prosperity, and that, taught in the expensive school of experience we shall all emerge from "under the cloud" "wiser, if not richer men."

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## EMIGRATION AND THE SETTLEMENT OF OUR WILD LANDS.

The question of Emigration and the Settlement of our Wild Lands, has lately elicited considerable discussion in the Canadian Press. The great falling off in the number of emigrants arriving at our ports, and the simultaneous increase of emigration to the Western States, clearly demonstrate that, from whatever causes, Canada has lost much of her prestige as a home for the surplus population of the Old World. We have already pointed out the necessity of encouraging the introduction of capital for manufacturing purposes, but while this would greatly promote the prosperity of the older settlements, it is clear that, to sustain any large immigration, we must place those large tracts of country yet unsettled, within the reach of the emigrant, on at least as favourable terms as he can secure equally fertile lands in the Western States. We do not refer merely to the *price* of the land, that is a small matter, compared with other circumstances, which the intelligent emigrant is not slow to take into consideration. Among the most important auxiliaries to the settlement of our wild lands, is the securing a large influx of population at one time. Man is a gregarious animal, and delights to accompany or follow the crowd. Through the operation of this principle, have the Western States, California, and Australia been settled; and to this also, at an earlier period, was Canada indebted for her rapid increase of population.

We must not be understood as counselling for a moment the practice of anything having even the semblance of deception in securing the speedy settlement of our country, but we maintain, that, unless by some means or other