

hostility of savages and the dangers of starvation in the unbroken wilderness of a comparatively unknown continent. In some of the early emigrations, both French and English, a love of adventure and a desire for gold were the dominating impulses. But, later, a genuine determination to better the condition of their families was the main motive which brought about the emigration to Canada. Where the religious and civil conditions prevailing at home were pleasant, and where the people were in easy circumstances, the resolution to leave must have been formed after great mental struggles. Where hard times were knocking at the door, or where political or religious difficulties made life in the old land less pleasant than it ought to be, the impulse to go was made stronger; but the sense of wrong was added to the agony of parting.

Notwithstanding the profuse promises of emigration agents the going forth from the old land was essentially a leap in the dark. With no regular mail communication those of their acquaintances who had gone before them were heard from, if at all, only at long intervals; and the first impressions of Canadian forests and winters, when faithfully communicated, were sure to be uninviting. With the exception of Ireland, in the days of the famine, the old land had always bread and to spare, and the climate was comparatively mild. Although rents and taxes were high and wages low, the frugality of the people enabled them to keep the wolf from the door. Whatever the trials of the farmer or the mechanic in the old country, he knew the worst about them. He had endured them in the past and could measure his ability to grapple with them in the future. His fancy did not require to be very lively to conjure up vastly greater trials and privations than these in the new world. A soil far from being uniformly fertile, covered by primeval forests, and inhabited by uncivilized Indians, was a reality not likely to be transformed, in imagination, into a land flowing with milk and honey. Who can ever tell of the mighty deliberations amongst the neighbors in considering the pros and cons of going to America? The strongest of the men might well recoil at first thought from his half-made resolution when he looked at his wife and children. But it was just there that the grand decision was clinched. The first glance