

only unable to obtain throughout the year such wages as will afford them those means of comfortable subsistence which every industrious man may fairly expect in exchange for his labour, but are often reduced to the extreme privations of the most afflicting destitution.

We assume further, that in the British Provinces of America there exists a demand for labour which has not yet been fully satisfied; that the industrious labourer can there obtain good wages and the means of comfortable subsistence; that there being many millions of acres of the most fertile land still uncultivated, land is so cheap that the exercise of industry and frugality enables the labourer to purchase a small estate in fee after a short residence in these Provinces, and thus to become an employer of labour, so that the demand for additional hands, instead of decreasing with the supply, undergoes a constant augmentation.

Proceeding upon these two assumptions, which cannot be controverted, we respectfully submit that it is the duty of the statesmen of Great Britain to afford the mother country and to the Colonies the aid which they respectively require, by transferring the superabundant population of the United Kingdom to those Colonies in which they will be welcomed as producers of wealth, instead of being repelled as a burden upon the community, and in which their labour will be adequately rewarded.

We are quite sensible that such an undertaking must be conducted with the utmost caution; that if a greater number of emigrants should be conveyed in any one year to the Colonies than can be there beneficially employed, the result will be most disastrous to the individuals emigrating; most burdensome to the Colonial community as throwing on their charity a population dependent upon them for relief; and most discouraging to future emigration in the reaction produced at home by accounts of the misery and suffering which would have been in such case endured. We are also sensible that it is not sufficient to convey the emigrants to the nearest port in the Colonies, and there to leave them unaided by further guidance or assistance; that the result of such a proceeding would be to throw into seaport towns a mass of persons for whom no adequate employment could be there provided, and who would consequently be exposed to the combined evils of hunger, disease and idleness, whilst in the case of emigration to Canada, the greater part of the more enterprising emigrants would, under such circumstances, make their way into the United States as the nearest point at which they could find employment. We are therefore of opinion, that in any system of emigration conducted by the state, it is of the utmost importance that the emigrants yearly sent out should not exceed such a number as can obtain certain employment on their arrival, and that they should be conveyed

at once to those parts of the Provinces in which their labour is required.

We have taken pains to ascertain what number of emigrants could be received without inconvenience by the Provinces of British North America during the present year, and we cannot estimate the number at less than sixty thousand at the lowest computation. Exclusive of the emigration to the other Provinces of British North America, about twenty-three thousand emigrants landed in Lower Canada during last year. Of these a small number went to the United States, but an equal number came from the United States to settle in Canada. From all the accounts which have been received, it appears that these emigrants have experienced no disappointment. Though a large proportion were of that class who were dependant upon labour for their support, we have not heard that the supply of labour exceeded the demand, but on the contrary, there is reason to believe that a much larger number might have found employment. The success of the emigration of last year will probably induce many persons to emigrate during the present year who are able to defray their own expenses; but as the interposition of state assistance may possibly induce some persons to seek such assistance who would otherwise have been enabled to emigrate by the contributions of their friends, we may estimate the number of emigrants who will go out upon which could be absorbed by the Provinces of British North America, for whom provision will require to be made in the manner hereafter suggested.

The present is a moment peculiarly favourable to an emigration. The harvest of last year was most abundant in North America, and consequently provisions are, at the present moment, both cheap and plentiful. The advantage of emigration has never been so strongly felt by the intelligent inhabitants of these Colonies. In several districts, particularly in Upper Canada, associations have been formed for the purpose of facilitating the reception of emigrants from the United Kingdom. With a view to encourage the settlement of emigrants in Canada, several landed proprietors have signified their willingness to place at the disposal of these associations extensive tracts of land. They have also deputed Dr. Rolph as their agent to this country for the purpose of stimulating emigration; and in this appointment the Colonial Executive has concurred; the last act of the Legislature of Upper Canada previous to its final dissolution, was the adoption of an address to the Crown, praying that measures might be taken for promoting emigration upon a large scale to the Canadian Provinces. Under all these circumstances we are justified in believing, that when the Canadian Legislature shall assemble, there will be no indisposition to entertain favourably any proposition for the