

administer details satisfactorily. The London Board had to utilize Galt's services, but they were unwilling to trust him, even to the extent of permitting him to take a clerk from London, though the duty of dealing with a million sterling and of settling two and a half millions of acres of fertile lands all over Upper Canada had to be left to his sole management. Like most corporations of wealthy or of poor men, they demanded immediate returns on their invested capital, and it was poor satisfaction to them to have Galt point out that they could not expect rent for a house until it was built. They had undertaken to effect great public improvements, as a condition of getting their charter, and he would not let them forget it, his reputation as well as theirs being involved in keeping faith with the Crown. Perhaps the chief trouble with Galt, and the mainspring of their distrust, was that which constituted his happiness all through life. Man can have only one paradise on earth, but Galt aimed at having half a dozen simultaneously. He had so many irons in the fire that men doubted whether he could attend properly to the one in which they were interested. Besides, the average practical man is apt at all times to be sceptical of the business capacity of a novelist. Galt was poet, biographer, historian, critic, essayist, politician, as well as novelist. How could a man of letters, so full and free, be trusted as a man of affairs? Of course, the reply is obvious, that unless the Company had made up their minds to trust him, they should not have appointed him Commissioner and sent him out to a new world as their agent and representative.

In justice to Galt, it should be added that even the immediate future verified his forecasts, and proved that what was freely called extravagance was really judicious investment. His chief apparent monuments are the City of Guelph, founded by him with feelings and ceremonial appropriate to a poet, and the road through the Huron Tract, the first overland communication between the sweet water seas of Ontario and Huron. In these undertakings and in organizing the business of the Company, in attracting desirable immigrants to the Province, and in making thoughtful provision for their necessities, he proved that a literary man could be immeasurably superior to the average immigration agent who is obliged to work by the rule of thumb. His resources seemed to be as infinite