

as well as in some parts of Germany, have experienced a considerable augmentation. In England the recruiting for the army tends not less to keep at home the families from whom perhaps their chief support is taken.

The extent of the year's emigration having been so limited, it is satisfactory that it may be reported as having been largely composed of the classes directing themselves to early settlement in land, and possessed of the means of doing so independently. Of the labourers a fair proportion have been of the agricultural ranks, and have generally met with ready employment. The artisans have been less numerous than for some years past; and of those having no trade or calling the number has been fortunately small.

A feature in the season's immigration is the stay within the province of a larger number of German families than hitherto, and also the settlement of a further number of Norwegian families within the Eastern townships of Lower Canada. All are of the working classes, possessing but small resources, but if industrious, as they generally are, hardy and economical, they cannot fail shortly to be independent. The Norwegians have all acquired land from the British American Land Company, and have made considerable progress in settlement, and appear well satisfied with their future prospects.

A larger portion of the people who emigrate from North Germany and Norway is composed of farmers, as distinguished from labourers, than is the case in the emigration from the British Isles; and they more generally seek for land for immediate settlement, than the English or Irish families. Many of the Germans arrived within the year brought out money in considerable sums; and among the Norwegians, numbering about 500 families, there was paid in Quebec on letters of credit more than 10,000 £, independently of the specie brought out with them, which, I am informed, was of considerable amount.

It is highly desirable that means should be found for communicating with the immigrants from the continent of Europe, generally, who pass by way of Quebec, in order that they might be put in possession of the means of judging how far they promote their own interests by engaging through passages to the distant West. The interest of those who now furnish information of America, to Germans and Norwegians at home, engages them in recommending the most distant settlements which the funds of the emigrant can reach; and a similar interest in all the agents of the transportation lines in Canada, operates to carry settlers entirely beyond the province, even if they have remained unfixed in respect to their destination up to their arrival at Quebec.

If the foreign emigrants could be induced to accept information from reliable sources, before they quit Europe, they would be more secure from imposition on their route, and would less frequently meet with disappointments, after having passed, within this province, the most favourable openings which their means and objects could have desired.

There is no doubt that many persons who, having engaged their transportation to the most remote territories of the United States, are allowed neither time nor opportunity for inquiry on their route, would afterwards be glad if they had the means to retrace their steps, and settle permanently within the province, either on the fertile wheat soil of Western Canada, the heavily timbered lands of both banks of the Ottawa, or within the superior grazing districts comprised by the townships south-east of the St. Lawrence. To all these parts of Canada there is easy access; they all now have markets within reach for every description of agricultural produce; and in salubrity they undoubtedly excel a large portion of the far West. Their inhabitants enjoy an independence not exceeded by that of the citizens of the United States, and all their institutions are of the most popular character. There is no domination in religion, and large public provision is made for education without distinction of sect or origin. The public charges are defrayed almost wholly from the revenue arising from Customs duties. Every direct tax is applicable alone to local improvements, in which the payer has a direct interest. In the western part of the province the market price for wild lands has been and continues comparatively high, in the other districts an average price for select lots may be stated at 10*s.* per acre. Much land may be bought for less than this price, and to actual settlers on new lines of road, opened into unsettled tracts, the Canadian Government still makes free grants of 100 acres to each adult settler.

The anticipations which were formed at the close of 1857 with reference to