

water—while Windsor river empties itself into the western extremity. Also, from Halifax harbour to Windsor is but forty five miles; while the Canal, connected with the lakes and Shubenacadie river, will give a water passage of about eighty miles.

As another specimen of what no doubt passes for gospel at home, the same critic observes, that Indians and Negroes, are miserable and idle, and that “many of the Irish are not in a much better state; in 1827, four hundred and sixty were rescued from actual starvation by grants from the treasury!” We need not at all say, that the charge of misery and idleness here placed to Irish settlers, is false, as words can make it. Misery and idleness may be found among Irish settlers, as well as among other classes in Nova Scotia, but the critic’s implication is quite different, and alludes to the Irish in a body as to Negroes and Indians. Perhaps the libelling driveller would not wish to be informed, that instead of misery and idleness, the Irish settlers are not behind any other class in the Province for industry, and for the comparative happiness of humble independence. As to the Treasury grant to prevent starvation—the circumstance to which this sentence must allude, could not be charged on Nova Scotia, or Irishmen—but on the institutions of the Old Country, and on Emigration. In 1827, a number of emigrants who were induced to leave the ills they knew, for others which they knew not of, arrived at Halifax. To facilitate the transportation of the “bold peasantry,” and to benefit “shipping interests,” all regulations were removed from passenger vessels. In consequence, owners and charterers of vessels caring as little about human life or happiness, as their betters, deceived passengers into holds, crowded to suffocation, filthy and oppressive as those of slave ships—in the same spirit, Doctor and Medicine chest were voted useless; and after provision for the cabin and crew, very little care was taken what kind of water was procured for the passengers, or into what it was stowed. Empty oil casks were in some cases the receptacles, and the filthy composition which they contained, and which was called water, was doled out as if it were nectar—the entreaties of sickness or childhood being vain to procure a second draught. A passage of seven weeks under those circumstances was a noble nursery for disease and death, and both accordingly appeared at sea, and after the vessels had arrived at Halifax. Men well known to be able, active, industrious and intelligent, with, in some cases, their wives and little ones, were thus, debilitated and sick, rendered objects for public commiseration. If “grants from the Treasury” were not given, private grants and attention were bestowed to these victims of want and sickness in a manner characteristic of Nova-Scotia hospitality.

But is it a fair inference for the critic to draw, that because a few sick and dying emigrants were relieved, the Irish in Nova Scotia are miserable and idle?—It may be asked, if ignorance