

FIRST REPORT.

THE Special Committee appointed to inquire into the causes which prevent or retard the settlement of the Eastern Townships in the Districts of Three Rivers, St. Francis, and Quebec, and to report on the most effectual means of promoting the settlement of the said Townships; and to whom were referred several Petitions on the same subject, with power to send for persons, papers and records, and report thereon from time to time, have the honor to present their First Report:

Your Committee have begun to investigate the subject submitted to their consideration, and have this day examined A. Polette, Esquire, M. P. P., as a witness. This gentleman has given his evidence before the Committee, and laid before them as forming part thereof, a certain document, headed, "*Le Canadien émigrant, ou pourquoi le Canadien-Français quitte-t-il le Bas-Canada?*" published on the 31st of March last, by the Reverend James Nelligan, Curé, and others, Missionaries in the Eastern Townships; both the evidence and the said document are annexed to this Report.

Your Committee think that the translation into English of the said evidence, with the document accompanying it, would be of great advantage to such of the Members as do not understand the French language; the researches and investigations which the Committee are desirous of pressing as much as lies in their power, would thus suffer no delay.