

CANADA

AS A FIELD FOR EMIGRATION.

[FROM SAUNDERS' NEWS LETTER, July 16th, 1853.]

The following extract from a private letter, written by an Irish gentleman to a friend in Dublin, exhibits some singular facts in connexion with emigration from this country:—"Instead of my being astonished at the immense amount of emigration that has taken place from Ireland during the last few years, my surprise is that the whole of its peasant population has not already come, either to this country or the United States. During the few weeks that have elapsed since I landed, I have travelled 1,850 miles by rail and steamboat; and although I am told that I have not as yet visited by any means the best portion of Canada (Upper or Western Canada), I have seen quite enough to convince me of its inexhaustible resources, and the glorious field that it is for the Irish people. Far be it from me to wish to persuade any man to leave his native country, but if they do make up their minds to quit it, from what I gather, I should say that the Canadas are preferable to the United States, especially to the poor emigrant who lands with scarcely a shilling in his pocket. The moment the vessel arrives at Quebec, (the port to which all emigrants for Canada should come), the men are immediately engaged, either for the railroads, or for the government provincial works now in course of construction. The wages for labourers are four shillings British per day; they can be most comfortably boarded (with meat twice a day) for about one shilling, and allowing one shilling more for other expenses, it leaves two shillings per day of savings. Then again, on the Ottawa River, one of the great sources of the inexhaustible supply of Canadian timber, "Lumbermen" earn at least one dollar per day; and, as they advance in skill and experience, their wages rise to a dollar and a half and two dollars. That there need be no fear of the supply of timber becoming exhausted may be proved by the fact that recent and very accurate surveys made along this magnificent river and its innumerable tributaries, by order of the government, have shown that, if double the amount of timber now taken from the district be continued for 500 years, it would not exhaust it.

In the immediate vicinity of this river and its tributaries, throughout their entire extent, is magnificent agriculture land. The farmers, four-fifths of whom are Irishmen, or sons of Irishmen, who came to this country as lumberers, and purchased farms with their savings, sell all their produce without ever going to market as the master lumberers purchase it to feed the men in their employ. I am assured that Irishmen make better lumberers than the natives of any other country; for it appears that the good and abundant food that they begin eating from the moment they arrive here expands, not only the muscular frame, but also the intellect; and no one who has not seen the contrast between the down-cast, ill-fed, and ragged Irish peasant in his own country, and the same man after even a few months' residence in these provinces, could believe in its completeness. A few days ago, the driver of a stage-coach, between two portions of the Ottawa, unnavigable for steam vessels, but which the government is now obviating, told me that he came to this district in 1841, with one dollar in his pocket, and I learned from a gentleman with whom he had originally worked as a common labourer when he first came out that he is now worth 1000*l.*, and has a capital farm. On my expressing surprise that a man like him could have an average of savings of 80*l.* a year since he arrived, I was assured that so far from this being a solitary case, there was hardly an Irishman who is industrious and temperate (the latter is just as necessary as the former quality) that is not more or less in the same position. For myself, I can only say, that I have not seen an Irishman since my arrival who has not an air of comfort, cleanliness, and independence about him. But there is one attribute he never loses—the use of his vernacular; for the brogue of each county of Ireland is heard on every side, in all its native purity; it is indeed the true undying one. The following is a circumstance connected with emigration to the

OCEAN

