

SOUTH KENSINGTON,  
*October 1st, 1883.*

TO THE COUNCIL OF  
THE INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,—My mission to Canada, which will be completed with the presentation of this Report, had for its especial object an enquiry into the advantages, or otherwise, which surround emigration to this colony, more especially for those who, having been educated in the Institute, are unable to command sufficient capital for farming profitably in this country. As a matter of fact, the utmost confusion had existed for many months in the minds of the agricultural public, and others who contemplated emigrating to Canada, as to the true position of affairs in that country. They had read the Reports of the Delegates of the British Farmers who had visited Canada, and those Reports showed very clearly that emigration, prudently carried out, gave unbounded facilities for securing a comfortable support, and for the accumulation of profits. The writers of these Reports were known to be persons possessing much practical experience, and thoroughly worthy of confidence. The issue of these important Reports was soon followed by a large series of letters, and other communications to the Press, giving most painful details of what were alleged to be the personal experiences of disappointed emigrants. When an explanation was sought for, as to this conflict of testimony, it was then asserted that the Delegates had been hoodwinked by Government officials, and taken to selected spots which did not fairly represent the districts in which emigrants would have to settle. It was also alleged that the kind and hospitable treatment they had received had influenced their judgments, and that their Reports were practically valueless in consequence. Statements such as these were received with just indignation by those to whom the Delegates were personally known. Hoping to throw some light upon this conflict of testimony, my enquiry took the form indicated in the following questions, to which this Report is intended as a reply :—