

to settle these emigrants upon land of their own. The previous habits of English labourers are not such as to fit them for the severe and painful labour to which they would thus be exposed, or to give them the forethought and prudence which such a position especially requires. Habituated to provide for the subsistence of the week by the labour of the week, they are too often found to shrink from a toil cheered by no prospect of an immediate return ; and having exhausted all the means furnished for their temporary support, to leave the land upon which they were placed, in order to obtain subsistence as labourers for hire. The exceptions to this result are few and unimportant. They rather confirm than invalidate the rule, and have been procured at a cost utterly disproportioned to the object attained. It is rather to be feared, that in spite of any measures that can prudently be adopted, the majority of the labouring emigrants will be tempted, by the desire of becoming independent landholders, to settle themselves upon farms of their own at too early a period for their own comfort and prosperity. It cannot, however, be the duty of Government to precipitate this period, nor in any way to interfere with the natural and profitable order of things—that the possession of capital, and an acquaintance with the modes of husbandry practised in the Colonies, should precede settlement."

The cost alluded to above was great. The Peter Robinson settlers, as they are sometimes called, cost the Government £ 1 per head, reckoning man, woman, and child. Such an expensive plan of settlement would absorb the revenues of a nation.

That this settling upon land is no holiday task has been proved by recent instances. Last year the Government offered free grants of 50 acres of land to all persons who would settle on the Garrafraxa road, leading from the township of that name to Owen's Sound on Lake Huron. Above three hundred persons availed themselves of this offer, and took out tickets of occupation. Of this number how many do the public suppose have actually settled on their lots? Just *fifty-eight*, one in six of those who took out tickets. A few others have said that they will return to their lots in the spring : but if they do, still about five-sixths of the whole number abandoned the attempt at settlement, on an actual survey of its difficulties. Yet the land

is of the finest quality, part of the Saugeeng territory, and the commencement of the Garrafraxa road is only about eight or ten miles from a settlement in the township of Nicholl. Settlement in a heavy timbered country will task a man's powers to the uttermost, if he has not capital to assist him ; and many who have had capital have expended it, and at last have been beaten off their ground by the severe demands upon their strength, skill, courage, and patience. We need not wonder then that persons without capital are deterred from attempting the task, and decline a free gift of 50 acres of land on the condition of actual settlement.

There is another point which this Memorial does not touch at all, but which is of the first importance to the Colony, and which must be decided before its funds can be pledged to a system of emigration ; that is, some security must be had that the emigrants shall be of a class adapted to benefit the colony instead of being a burden to it. The people at home look chiefly to relieving themselves from the pressure of surplus population ; but we on this side must look chiefly to the benefit which these emigrants can confer on the Colony, especially when its funds are required to assist in distributing them here. It is notorious that in former years no care has been taken in this respect, and the Colony has been burdened instead of benefited by many of the emigrants sent out here. Henry Jessopp, Esquire, Collector of Customs at Quebec, in his evidence before Lord Durham's Commission, speaks as follows on this point : "The parishes have sent out persons far too old to gain their livelihood by work, and often of drunken and improvident habits. These emigrants have neither benefited themselves nor the country ; and this is very natural, for, judging from the class sent out, the object contemplated must have been the getting rid of them, and not either the benefit of themselves or the colony. An instance occurred very recently which illustrates this subject. A respectable settler in the eastern townships lately returned from England in a vessel, on board of which there were 136 pauper passengers, sent out at the expense of their parishes, and out of the whole number he could only select two that he was desirous of inducing to settle in the eastern townships. The conduct of the others, both male and female, was so bad, that he expressed his wish that