

nual emigration has encreased the population of the United States to an alarming extent, a great proportion of which may be recovered, and induced to settle in the British provinces. The spirit of emigration* to the United States is known to be kept up, more on the reputation of the advantages obtained by *former* adventurers, than from any benefit which that country *now* affords. It must be apparent to every attentive traveller in passing through the United States, that the labour of America is in a great measure performed by the natives of the *old* countries, who, on their first emigration, might with very little trouble have been settled in the British provinces, which are the only states in North America that furnish to emigrants good lands convenient to navigation; it becomes therefore an object of great national importance to consider of the best means to encourage persons disposed to emigrate, to give a preference to the British colonies in North America.

The circumstance of the navigation of the river St. Lawrence, being occasionally frozen over part of the year, is not so great an impediment to the trade of Canada as represented, for though it may affect lumber, the freight of which is a material consideration, yet it cannot injure the trade in flour†, which, if properly packed, is not liable to damage in a short time; besides, the trade to the West Indies from this province may, to obviate that difficulty, be so timed‡ as the trade between Canada and Great Britain, and no inconvenience or interruption can then arise.

The recent contracts entered into by different branches of the public service for white oak staves§ from Canada, and for a considerable quantity of masts, bowsprits, spars and other naval timber||, will tend in some degree to revive the trade of the British provinces, which have not been so adequately encouraged by the mother country as true policy required. To induce them to engage more extensively in the cultivation of their lands, and in the timber trade and fisheries, encouragement by bounties or otherwise should be afforded them, and *permanent* LEGISLATIVE regulations adopted, so that they may be secured, in future, from those evils

* See Earl Selkirk on Emigration.—Weld's *Travels*.—Eden on Maritime Rights.

† Report of the Board of Trade in 1784

‡ Appendix, No. 8. p. 190.

§ Ibid.

|| Ibid, 206.