

must be sensible that more than the labouring classes want relief. "More than half the farmers have been thrown out in the late bad times, and will not require much persuasion to emigrate." These are the words of my friend—a man of the first-rate intelligence upon such a subject. These words should seriously be considered by your Lordship, and they may be submitted to the Chancellor of the Exchequer with my offer of a scheme for mitigating distress. His Majesty's ministers can determine immediately as to granting land in Canada, and all that would be required at present, would be an assurance that as many people as were willing by April next, should be allowed to settle down so compactly together as best to promote the general good. Your Lordship must know that one-seventh of all the wild land in Canada, when it comes to be surveyed for settlement, must be set aside, and appropriated for the maintenance of a Protestant clergy; and this being settled by law, cannot be altered, but by the interference of the Imperial Parliament. My plan could proceed without any alteration of this law; but were it shown that it would be for general good that the law should be changed, this, I doubt not, could readily be accomplished during the next session of Parliament, in time to let settlement in Canada proceed free of obstruction. I have not supposed that your Lordship is ignorant of my peculiar situation connected with Upper Canada. Did your Lordship labour under any prejudice or misapprehension as to this, it would still be wrong to allow any thing of the kind to intercept schemes of public beneficence. If my schemes can be shown to be angelic, your Lordship is welcome to believe me diabolical. My schemes can be executed very well, even without my personal engagement in the performance of them. I have spoken of going out to Canada forthwith, to prepare the way for emigrants, but any other person might go in my place. I have spoken of it rather to show my zeal for public good than with any particular relish for winter voyages; and more than a year ago, I told Sir James Mackintosh that I should submit to go out in chains rather than that the cause of well-conducted emigration should fail. If a million of acres seem too many at once to contract for or to talk about, a township of 64,000 acres would give room sufficient to make an experiment on. To arrange for the settlement of a single township, I should go out to Canada, if required by Government, without a farthing of emolument, and merely upon payment of my expenses. The important point is, to have matters determined on within the present month of October. I shall be again in town by the end of this week, and shall be happy to have a definite reply to my suggestions by Monday or Tuesday next addressed to me as before.

I am,
Your Lordship's obedient Servant,
ROBERT GOURLAY.

Earl Bathurst.