

This is a fine country for any industrious man, especially with a growing family. The climate is all one could wish for. Wm. Aim

We are all pleased with the country ; it is healthy and well adapted for farming and stock raising, and is a better country for people with a little capital than Scotland, especially those with a growing family, as there is always plenty of work. We have no regret in coming. . . . John Meil, Sr., Henry Meil, John Meil, Jr.

This, in my opinion, is the healthiest country in the known world. There is twelve of us and not one has had a cough the whole winter. Land is good and stock raising will pay well. We are all in the best of spirits, as we expect a bright future not very far distant. We do not regret leaving the old country, only wish we had come sooner Wm. Wilson

I am perfectly satisfied with the country. Any well-to-do settler no doubt has a good prospect before them, either in farming or stock raising, and one of the healthiest countries in the world. Alex. Moore

I have no regret in coming to this country ; I only wish I had come sooner Thomas Mars

I like the country well, only sorry I did not come sooner John Paterson

I have no doubt of getting a good living here, and my family have been healthier than in England ; winter is better able to be borne than represented Wm. Cross

The soil is excellent, crops grow well ; a better country for farming and stock-raising than England Thomas Brown

I like the country well, and if I went back I would make the people in Northumberland jealous. I would not stop in England. . . . John Dunn

Mr. Charles Ritchie, one of these settlers from Scotland, soon after his arrival writes to the *Orkney Herald* as follows :

"The country here, so far as I have seen it, far surpasses all my expectations. The people are kind-hearted and obliging, and very fond of the new settlers. Everywhere you go the land is good, and yields fine crops of some sort or other. A great deal of it is pasture, and that of excellent quality. There are great stretches of good woods, every kind of wild fruit, and water in abundance, both from springs and lakes. The cattle here are of a very superior description, and you can judge of their capabilities when I tell you that one cow will yield ten pounds of butter in a week, and if I had the money I could keep a hundred beasts—so far as feed is concerned—part of the summer and winter. Meat of all kinds is cheap, labor is well paid, and tradesmen of all kinds make a comfortable living. We have never felt the heat to be uncomfortable, but quite the reverse. It is, in fact, very agreeable, and we are looking forward to an abundant harvest. I have twenty acres under crop, and am breaking more for next year. We are all, as I said before, very highly pleased with our new home."

Already three school houses are being built within a radius of six miles from Saltcoats, and including the school district of Saltcoats there are now four districts formed and two more being arranged for.