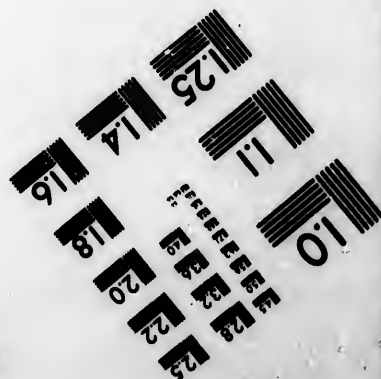
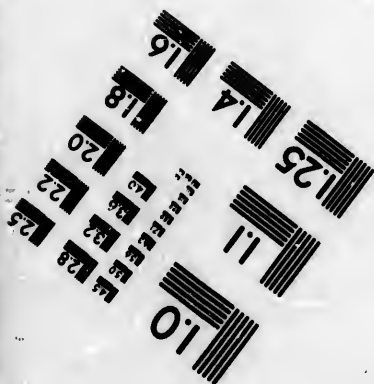
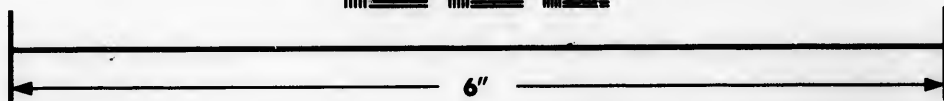
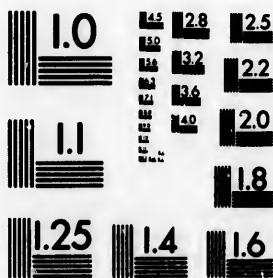


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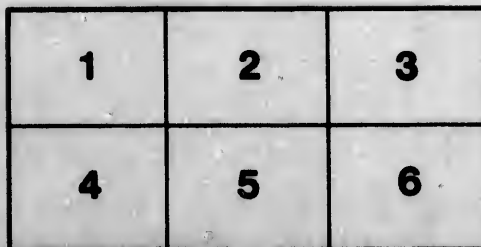
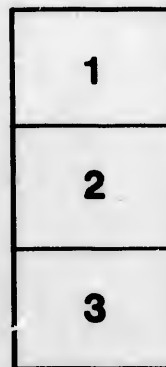
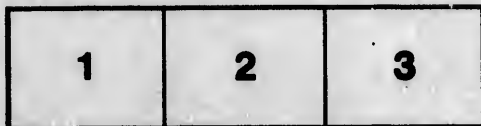
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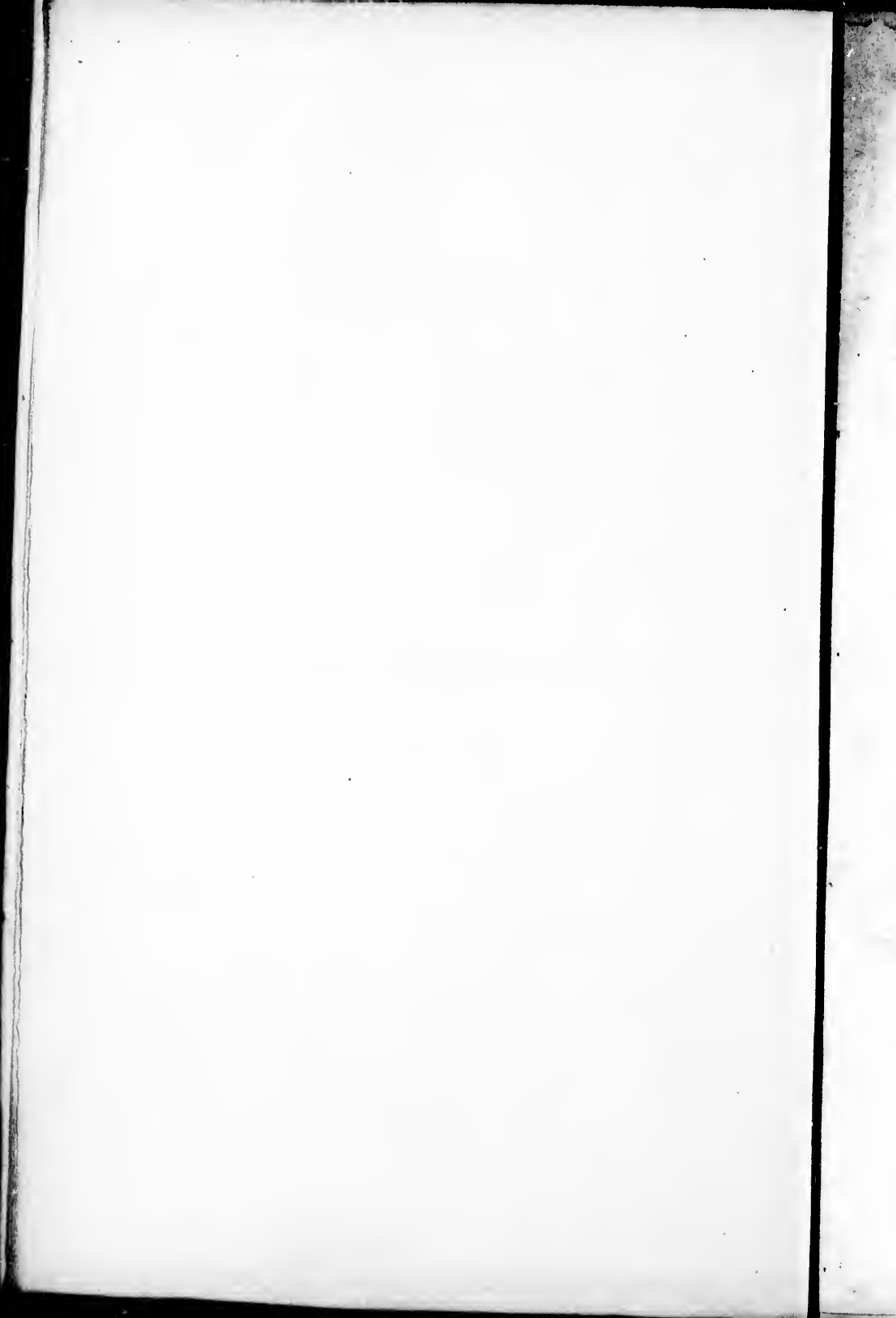
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EMIGRATION.

A

LETTER

TO A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT,

CONTAINING
A STATEMENT OF THE METHOD PURSUED BY THE

PETWORTH COMMITTEE,

IN SENDING OUT EMIGRANTS TO

UPPER CANADA,

IN THE YEARS 1832 AND 1833.

AND

A PLAN UPON WHICH THE SUMS REQUIRED FOR
DEFRAYING THE EXPENCE OF EMIGRATION
MAY BE RAISED.

SOLD BY J. PHILIPS, PETWORTH, and LONGMAN
AND CO. LONDON.

1833.

PRICE SIXPENCE.

PETWORTH :
PRINTED BY JOHN PHILLIPS,
CHURCH STREET.

LETTER, &c.

SIR,

I have drawn up the following statements and observations, in consequence of the letter of enquiry on the subject of emigration from this neighbourhood to Upper Canada, which I had the honor of receiving from you ; and shall feel peculiarly gratified should they, in any degree, contribute towards promoting the important object you have in view.

In the beginning of 1832, The Earl of Egremont having expressed his willingness to afford liberal assistance to such artizans and laborers, living on his estates, or in the immediate neighbourhood, as might be disposed to endeavour to better their condition by emigrating to Canada, a committee was formed at Petworth, under his Lordship's patronage, for the purpose of effecting this object.

The Committee was aware, that the plan which had been adopted by some parishes, of sending out laboring emigrants to Quebec, putting a few pounds in their pockets, and then, in the language of Mr. Fergusson, of Woodhill, (Report to the Highland Society) " casting them absolutely adrift," without having made any previous arrangements, either for locating them, or for providing work, was liable

to great objections; that the poor people were quickly relieved of their cash by the tavern keepers, and others, who are ever on the watch to impose upon the ignorant and unwary, and "then left destitute, a burthen to themselves, and "a nuisance to the province": and also that various travellers in Canada, complain of having met large parties of these people wandering about, in a state of misery and destitution, highly discreditable to the country which had sent them forth into a strange land, (apparently) utterly careless of their future fate.

Being anxious therefore, to prevent the occurrence of such scenes, with regard to any emigrants who might go out under their management, the committee engaged a person to take charge of their party, whose duties should not be restricted simply to attending to the people on board ship, and seeing them safely landed at Quebec, or Montreal, but should extend to the accompanying them *the whole distance to York, in Upper Canada.*

The committee then engaged the LORD MELVILLE, 425 tons register, to take the emigrants on board in *Portsmouth Harbour*, and to sail from thence, to *Montreal direct*, and subsequently, the number of persons wishing to avail themselves of their arrangements, being much greater than could be accommodated in one ship, they also engaged the EVELINE, and provided a superintendent to take charge of the party in her, in the same manner as they had already done, with respect to that in the Lord Melville.

By the favor of Lord Goderich, the then Colonial Secretary, the superintendent of each ship was provided with letters to the Governors of the respective provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, strongly recommending those under his charge to their care and protection.

On the arrival of these emigrants at York, Upper Canada, very great attention was paid to them by the Gover-

nor. Some were sent through the Welland Canal to Kettle Creek, and from thence conducted to the New Settlement of Adelaide, in the London District, and placed under the management of Col. Mount, to whose care and attention, many of the letters received from thence bear honorable testimony; others were forwarded to the neighbourhood of Galt, and the township of Waterloo; and some were employed on the government works. All the letters that have been received (many of which have been published) speak of the writers having greatly improved their situation, by this removal to another part of the British empire, and we have not yet seen a single one, in which any regret at the change has been expressed.

The natural consequence of such favorable reports, was a wish on the part of many persons, to imitate the example that had been set them; especially among those whose relations or friends had gone out so recently; and on the 25th. April last, the ship ENGLAND, 384 tons register, sailed from Portsmouth, under similar arrangements as the two former, but with several improvements in them, which experience had suggested.

A superintendent was engaged, who had been several years owner and master of a merchantman, and who, in addition to his general nautical knowledge, is particularly acquainted with the Canadas. He had last year conducted a party from Portsmouth to Buffalo, and from thence over land to Nelsonville, in the Ohio Territory; and although cholera was superadded to the usual contingencies of such a voyage and journey, delivered them all safe at their place of destination.

The superintendent of this last ship was also favored, by the present Colonial Secretary, with a letter of recommendation to the Governor of each Province.

The number of persons who emigrated from Portsmouth in the last and present year, under the management of the Committee, or under similar arrangements, is as follows :

Date.	Above 14 <i>yrs of age</i>		Under 14 <i>yrs of age</i>		Total.	Ship.
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.		
April 11th. 1832	231	117	132	114	594	Lord Melville & Eveline.
	Cabin Passengers				9	
May 9th. 1832	164	England.
April 25th. 1833	98	37	40	21	196	England.
	Cabin Passenger		Infants		6	
					1	

Total 730 Passages, or 970 Individuals.

Among the Females above 14 years of age, were 1 widow and 14 single women, not belonging to any of the families on board. The greater part of the males above that age, consisted of agricultural laborers. In addition to whom were

Artist	1	Pensioners (army)	3
Blacksmiths	2	Printer	1
Bricklayers	13	Sawyers	9
Brickmakers	3	Schoolmasters	2
Butchers	2	Shoemakers	8
Carpenters	7	Tailor	1
Farmers	2	Turners	2
Gardeners,	6	Weavers	1
Landscape Painter	1	Woolstapler	1
Miller	1	Wheelwrights	2
Painter (house)	1		

It may be proper here to explain that by the term *passage* we mean *one* individual above 14 years of age, or *two* under that age.

The following is the bill of fare allowed by us on board the England, printed copies of which were freely distributed.

Emigrants in the Ship England.

Every person above 14 years of age—reckoning two for one under that age, and exclusive of infants, is entitled to receive, during the course of each week, the following rations, but to be given out at such times, and in such proportions as shall be found convenient.

Meat7 lbs.	on Meat5 lbs.
Flour and Bread7 lbs.	Bread and Flour5 lbs.
Oatmeal1 lb.	Oatmeal1 lb.
Potatoes4 lbs.	Potatoes10 lbs.
Tea2 oz.	Cheese1 lb.
or $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. Coffee	Butter or Lard $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
Sugar1 lb.	Tea2 oz.
Brandy, to those } $\frac{1}{2}$ pint. above 14 yrs. only }	or Coffee $\frac{1}{4}$ lb.
	Sugar1 lb.
	Raisins $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
	Brandy, to those } $\frac{1}{2}$ pint. above 14 yrs. only }

Onions, soap, tobacco, vinegar, &c. in such quantities as may be directed by the superintendent.

Porter, &c. for the sick, under the direction of the surgeon.

The brandy to be given in not less than three times its quantity of water.

Provisions were put on board sufficient for 63 days, or 9 weeks, and a ton of pure water for every four *passages*, which allows of 1 gallon per day, for each *passage*, during the above named period.

It was last year found that the highly salted Irish beef, although not unacceptable to sailors, who have been long accustomed to it, was peculiarly so to our country people. Though used to fare hard at home, yet partly from want of habit, and partly from sea sickness, they could with great difficulty eat it, and would have preferred living entirely on dry bread, or biscuit, during the whole voyage—The complaints on this subject, in letters to their friends at home, were almost universal—therefore, in victualling the England, we did not put on board any *Irish* beef, but supplied its place with some that had been salted at Portsmouth for us, only the week before the ship sailed, with bacon and pork, that had been cured for the express purpose at Petworth, together with some Irish bacon and pork, of the very best quality that could be procured.

The 'tween decks of the England was divided into main and fore steerage—the former for families—the latter for single men and boys above 12 or 13 years of age—a water closet was placed at the after end of the main steerage on one side, and a *spare* berth left on the other, to be used if occasion should require, as an hospital. Six feet by two feet was allowed per passage for the sleeping berths.

A surgeon (a member of the College of Surgeons' and the Apothecarys' Company) went out with the ship, under an engagement to attend to the emigrants *gratis*—and he was furnished with a well supplied medicine chest.

Upon the above plan, we engaged to convey and provision emigrants, from Portsmouth to York, Upper Canada (emigrant tax and any other contingent expence included) for £10. per passage, charging nothing for infants under 12 months.

The foregoing details and remarks, apply solely to the *passage*—I come now to speak of the *outfit*. The scale adopted by the parish of Petworth (and which was there followed without any variation) has been considered by se-

veral of the neighbouring parishes, as too high, while others have made even larger allowances—it is as follows :

To every one above 14 years of age	£5
Under that age, including infants	£3. 10s.
Thus.	£ s
A man and wife at £5. each	10 0
Three children under 14 yrs. of age at £3 10	10 10
Total allowance for outfit	<u>20 10</u>
Conveyance	<u>35 0</u>
Whole cost	55 10

As the sums to be paid for the outfit of emigrants from the parish of Petworth, were to be raised in that parish, we made arrangements that such portion of those sums, as was necessary for providing clothes, &c, should be expended there ; and having agreed with different shopkeepers, to furnish particular articles, at specified prices (with a stipulation that they should be *home* made) we gave the people orders on them accordingly—we employed also several of our shoemakers (who were working on the highways) to make shoes, and supplied the emigrants with them at the cost of the leather, &c. This plan produced for the moment, a considerable increase of business in the town, and occupation to some of the poor, especially the females ; for many intended emigrants from the neighbouring parishes, finding that they could be provided here immediately, with ready made articles of various kinds, almost as cheap, and certainly better, than those which are usually termed slop goods, gladly availed themselves of the circumstance.

The parish engaged to pay the various bills, to the *full* amount allowed for outfit, if required ; but, in most cases, there was, on the winding up of the account, a balance in favor of the emigrant, and for this a bill was given him on the Commissioners of the Canada Company, at York, (the

directors having kindly afforded us this accommodation) the amount of which was, in several instances increased, by the addition of small sums which the emigrant had been able to raise, from the sale of his few goods, or by the kind contributions of relations and friends, as the more prudent paid these into our hands, thereby avoiding all those risks attendant upon carrying the money with them, or receiving it, either at Quebec or Montreal, which might arise either from their own inexperience, or imprudence, or the arts of evil minded persons. To protect the emigrant also against the loss he might incur, by the bill getting into other hands, it was not payable, unless countersigned by the superintendent, or unless the party holding it was identified, to the satisfaction of the Commissioners. The bills thus issued by the Committee, varied in amount from £1. to £65. The latter sum was deposited with them by a man who had been a small farmer.

The expence attendant on the plan pursued in the parish of Petworth, as stated above, may at first sight, appear high—yet, if it be considered, that this is the *whole* cost, and that the emigrant is supposed to make a sufficient reserve from his outfit allowance, for the supply of his immediate wants, on arrival at the place of his location, our expenditure will not be found materially to differ from many calculations that have been made, and to be lower than some of them.

Mr. Fergusson estimates the cost of removing and settling 50 families, such as I have described, at £2800. He allows a sum for purchase of land, implements, and seed, and 60 days provisions after arrival—but makes *no allowance* whatever for *outfit*.

	£
Mr. Fergusson's estimate for 50 families, each consisting of man, wife and 3 children	} 2800
Our actual expenditure for one such family is £55 . 10 making for 50 families	} 2775
Less than Mr. Fergusson's estimate	25

We are inclined to think, that if the emigrant be conveyed, *at once*, to the Upper Province, where work is abundant, and have a moderate sum at his disposal, on arrival, this will prove, on the whole, a cheaper plan; and that the individual will be more likely to exert himself, when thus left to his own resources, than if located in any particular spot, and provided for, for a time, by the care, and, at the cost of others: and the complete success of many of the families thus sent out, as described in the letters, that have been received, confirms us in this opinion.

It being practicable then, to enable such a family as is named above, to emigrate *comfortably*, to Upper Canada, with good hopes of doing well there, for the sum of £55. 10, the next question is, what expence the family is to the parish at home. This cannot be calculated at less than £25. per annum, even without allowing any thing for contingencies from sickness, or accident, or for the probable increase of the family: to enable it to emigrate therefore, with every prospect of enjoying an abundance of the necessaries of life, will cost a sum very little, if at all, exceeding that which would be necessary for providing a bare subsistence at home for *two* years.

Let us now look at the case of a single man, of whom we have numbers, necessarily *employed* by the parish, and not *earning* one farthing.

A single man in the poor-house costs us 3s. 6d.	} £9. 2
per week, and per annum	
Or on the highways, at 5s. per week only, and,	} £12.
deducting a month for harvest, per annum	

Several such have emigrated to Upper Canada, and the cost has been for each,

Passage	£10.
Outfit	£ 5.

Total . . £15.

A sum only exceeding by 1-4th. the cost at home for *one* year.

I come now to speak of the mode in which the expense of emigration, from this neighbourhood, was provided for, in the last and the present year.

In Petworth, and four adjoining parishes, where Lord Egremont possesses the whole, or a very large proportion, of the land, his Lordship has paid the *whole* expence of the *passage*. The outfit has been supplied (being considered in the nature of an advance of relief) from the poor's rate. In other parishes, in this neighbourhood, where Lord Egremont possesses property, he has paid a portion of the expence of *passage*, far exceeding his proportion of property; and the remainder has been made up by other land owners; the *majority* of whom, as well as of occupiers, have been disposed to bear their share of the present burthen, with the hope of future advantage.

Still there is, and always will be, a *minority*, who from various causes, throw difficulties in the way.

Among the owners, some will not contribute any thing; some cannot afford much; some have only a life interest in the property to be relieved;—some are only trustees, and are not authorized to discharge any but legal claims:—and the occupiers, in many parishes, are so oppressed by the poor's rates, that, although fully convinced of the ultimate saving that would ensue, from an increased outlay at the present moment, it is not in their power to make it.

These difficulties have been surmounted in some instances, by one or more land owners advancing the sums necessary for payment of the passages, and also those for the outfit, out of their own pockets; and taking their chance of being repaid, partly by the other land owners, and partly from the poor book. It is obvious, however, that emigration cannot long be carried on, by such means; and, in point of fact, several families, in some adjoining parishes, who were very desirous of going out this last spring, to relations and friends

already settled in Upper Canada, and whose going, it was generally admitted, would have been highly beneficial to themselves, and a great relief to the parishes they belong to, could not be sent, owing to the impossibility of raising the necessary funds—The money indeed, would have been immediately lent, at low interest, and with arrangements to make the repayment very easy, if *sufficient security* could have been given; but as that could not be done, and as the parties who would have advanced the money, had a considerable debt still due to them, for similar advances last year, they naturally declined to run any further risk. There seems therefore, to be an evident necessity for some legal provision on the subject.

Strong objections have been made, to granting permission to present owners and occupiers of land, to burthen future ones, for their own immediate benefit; but a plan might be devised by which the *relief* would be *immediate*, while the *burthen* should be so equitably apportioned, between present and future owners and occupiers, as to fall unfairly on no one.

Assuming that the sum of £15. is the *whole cost* for enabling a single man to emigrate; and that it is considered equitable for the *owner* of the land, the benefit to whom is in perpetuity, to pay 2-3rds, of the expence, or £10.; and the *occupier*, to whom the advantage may be only temporary, to pay the remaining 1-3rd, or £5.; and that 20 single men wish to emigrate from any particular parish, the total cost will be £300.

To raise the above sum, might not the *owners* of property in any parish, be authorised by consent, in writing, of _____ in number and value, to make a rate upon all the property in that parish, to the amount of 2-3rds. of the sum required; and the occupiers, at a meeting in vestry assembled, after due notice, by consent of _____ be authorised to borrow, and give security

upon the poor's rates, for the 1-3rd. This might be done by bonds, of £50. each, or even £25., if thought expedient, bearing interest, as the parties might agree; conditioned for repayment of the principal, by such a number of annual instalments, with interest, (not exceeding some fixed number, to be specified by the legislature,) as should be settled among the parties respectively; and which shares or bonds should be transferrable: or, if the immediate payment of the landlords portion should seem to press hard, upon those among them, who had only a life interest in the property; might not the *whole* sum required, be permitted to be borrowed, upon the joint security of both owners, and occupiers; and repaid as before suggested, and in such proportions, as the legislature might direct.

A plan similar to this has been often adopted by *parishes*, under the 22. Geo. 3. commonly called "Gilbert's Act," for the purpose of building united work houses.

Suppose then, this sum of £300. were borrowed, at £4. per cent, to be repaid by *ten* annual instalments, the account would stand thus.

Years	Payment for Interest and Principal.	Proportion to be paid					
		By the Owners.			From Pooers Rate.		
	£ s d	£ s d	£ s d	£ s d	£ s d	£ s d	
1	42 0 0	28 0 0	14 0 0	14 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	
2	40 16 0	27 4 0	13 12 0	13 12 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	
3	39 12 0	26 8 0	13 4 0	13 4 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	
4	38 8 0	25 12 0	12 16 0	12 16 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	
5	37 4 0	24 16 0	12 8 0	12 8 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	
6	36 0 0	24 0 0	12 0 0	12 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	
7	34 16 0	23 4 0	11 12 0	11 12 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	
8	33 12 0	22 8 0	11 4 0	11 4 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	
9	32 8 0	21 12 0	10 16 0	10 16 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	
10	31 4 0	20 16 0	10 8 0	10 8 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	
	366 0 0	244 0 0	122 0 0	122 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	

I will now point out what can be done with the above sum.

A man and wife and 3 children can be enabled to } £55 10
emigrate for

If we add an infant, the expence of the passage will }
not be increased, but the *outfit* will require, *in* } 3 10
addition

Total for 6 individuals 59 0

But let us say £60. Five such families, or 30 *indi-*} 300 0
viduals can emigrate for

One such family as above stated, would cost in the } 1 1
poor house per week

In *one* year 54 12

Five such families would cost 273 0

A large portion of the *whole* sum required for their emigration.

But this is supposing an extreme case.

The *lowest* estimate of the annual expence of *one* } 25 0
such family, and without allowing any thing }
for contingencies, will be

Five then would cost *annually* 125 0

On this supposition, then, they could emigrate for little more than they would cost at home in *two* years.

One single man above 14 years of age, at 5s. per } £13.
week, only, costs the parish in *one* year }

Twenty then will cost in that time £260.

For, though some deduction might be made for the *harvest month*, that will not do more than cover contingencies for the year.

Twenty such single men would cost *in the poor-*} £182.
house in one year, at 3s. 6d. per week each }

The above five families, or twenty single men, can emigrate, for a payment on the part of the owners of property, of £28, and of the occupiers of £14, for the first year; which payments would go on gradually to diminish as above stated.

If some such plan as has been here pointed out, were adopted, the pressure on the poor's rates would be greatly lightened, even the *first* year; and the annual payments would go on to *diminish*, somewhat in the same proportion as the expence, for those who might emigrate, would continue to *increase*, if they remained at home. The advantage, therefore, to owners and occupiers of property would be considerable; but by far the greatest benefit accrues to the emigrants themselves. By enduring a few weeks of inconvenience and fatigue, they are elevated to a class in society, far above that they before occupied. *Here* they are regarded by many, as an incumbrance, and their rapid increase as a national evil: in *Upper Canada* they are looked upon as the main strength of the country, and a national benefit. *Here*, however industrious and frugal, a laboring man may be, there is no longer a demand for his labor, sufficient to enable him to bring up a family, without assistance from a parish; much less, to lay by any provision for old age: and, especially, if he marry, and have several children, he has no prospect before him, but hard labor, and hard fare, during his youth and middle age, and the work-house in the close of his days. By emigrating to Canada, he gets at once into a situation, where, as is expressed in many letters from that country, *a large family is really a treasure to a man*; and where, by industry and care in his youth, he will be able to lay up for himself, repose and comfort in the decline of life:—may see his children and his children's children flocking around him, without feeling one anxious thought for their future support.

Great also will be the advantage to those industrious laborers who remain at home: the *number* being reduced, there will be an increased demand for their labor; the price paid for it will be higher; the stimulus to good conduct much greater than it now is; and the laborer proportionably benefited: and some pleasing instances have been related to me,

of the improvement that has already taken place, in the character of individuals, from the circumstances of their having been, in consequence of vacancies occasioned by the late emigrations, placed in situations where they are better paid, and where more confidence is reposed in them.

The children of the laborer also, after they have attained to the age of 10 or 12 years, will readily find employment, and thereby contribute towards their own maintenance; instead of being, as many of them now are, a burthen to their parents, and a nuisance to their neighbours: numbers, from absolute want of employment, becoming first pilferers, then poachers, and eventually thieves upon a larger scale; crowding our prisons with juvenile offenders, and adding, at a fearfully increasing rate, to the accumulating mass of crime and misery.

The poor therefore, will be *immediately* benefited by emigration—and from them, the benefit will gradually ascend through all classes.—The farmer it is true, must pay *more* for labor; but that labor will be *productive*; and he will be relieved from the ruinous demands now made upon him, for the payment of that, which is wholly unproductive.

The poor's rate will then be applied to its original purpose, the support of the infirm and the aged; the expences attendant on which are generally trifling, when compared with those which have of late been incurred, in maintaining the healthy and able bodied.

Thus relieved, the farmer will be able to cultivate his ground better, to bring up his family with more comfort, and to pay, punctually, a fair rent for the land he holds: and thus will the benefit ascend to the owner of the soil, who will then again derive from it, that portion of profit to which he is justly entitled.

The advantages which would result to the British empire at large, must be so obvious to a gentleman who has turned

his mind to the subject, as to render any attempt to describe them wholly unnecessary.

Emigrants might certainly be carried out on lower terms, than those here stated; but I beg to lay it down as a principle that although, in making arrangements for this purpose, a reasonable attention must be paid to economy; yet, that it should not be the *main object*.

THAT should be, not only the *safety*, but also the *comfort* of the emigrants.

Under the most liberal arrangements, the crossing the Atlantic, with a wife and a large family, is no trifling matter; and it should be rendered as little disagreeable as possible; even, if for a moment, we were to put humanity out of the question, policy would dictate this; for sad accounts sent back, of the miseries of the voyage, will deter numbers from venturing upon it. And one vessel lost, if it were possible to suppose that the calamity had happened through any neglect, or ill judged parsimony, in the previous arrangements, would act as a most powerful check to future emigration; especially from the neighbourhood whence the sufferers had gone.

Roomy, and well found ships, therefore, alone should be engaged; (we have never employed any that were not A. I.) and their fittings up, and especially the *allowance of space*, should be as near as may be, in the proportions above described.—The principal cause of *increased expence*, is the increased space we have thought it right to allow; but, surely, no one of common humanity will consider this as unnecessary, when he reflects, that the persons who undertake the voyage, are not soldiers and sailors, accustomed to be closely stowed on board ship; but, that a considerable number of them, consists of country women, and helpless children, of all ages, who have been bred up in the enjoyment of free space, and fresh air.

From some of the Irish ports, poor emigrants have been crowded on board, in such numbers, and so miserably ill provided for, as to have caused much suffering, and loss of life.

This, at length, excited the attention of the legislature, and gave rise to the *Passengers' Act*, but that Act does not go far enough. It allows three adults to be taken for every four tons of registered admeasurement, and would, consequently, permit 300 to be put on board a ship of 400 tons. This regulation is liable to great uncertainty in practice, as the tonnages of different ships, bear very different proportions to their respective spaces between decks; and, even under the most favourable circumstances, emigrants would be so crowded, if put on board to the full number permitted by the Act, as to destroy their comfort and greatly endanger their health. We, therefore, put on board the *Lord Melville*, only 260 *passages*; whereas the Act would have allowed 332: on board the *Eveline* only 180; whereas it would have allowed 250. But being convinced, that even then, both those vessels were *too full*, we made, this year, a still larger allowance: and, with respect to the *England*, (384 tons register,) were regulated, not by the tonnage, but by the length and breadth of the steerage; which being 78ft. by 26ft., equal to 2028 superficial feet, we calculated, that at 12 feet superficial for each *passage*, this ship would take 169 passages: not being able, however, to find comfortable space for more than 165, or 202 individuals, we declined several applications, and actually put on board, only that number. Under the regulations of the *Passengers' Act*, this ship might have taken 288 passages, or 352 individuals, if the same proportion of adults to children be supposed. We are aware, that, as so many ships sail in ballast, to Canada every spring, the increased expence, occasioned by this ample allowance of space, might be avoided, by putting only a small number on board different vessels; but in that case, it would not be practicable to send a surgeon

and superintendent, with each of them, or to fit them up in so comfortable a manner, in other respects : because it is only by taking a considerable number, that the extra expences, attendant upon providing extra comforts, can be defrayed.

We also think it of considerable importance, that the ship should proceed *direct* to Montreal; by which means, the people are spared the discomforts attendant upon being huddled together in a crowded steamer, before they have fully recovered from the effects of the sea voyage : that the emigrants should be forwarded from Montreal, in *covered* boats, up the Ottawa, and along the Rideau Canal, to Kingston, or by *stean boats*, or *waggon*s, to Prescott ; certainly not by *Durham boats* : and that a superintendent should go with them the whole way to York.

It has been suggested, that in any Act of Parliament for the encouragement of emigration, it should be provided, that in the event of a person emigrating by the assistance of the parish to which he belongs, he should, by accepting such assistance, forfeit his settlement.

My acquaintance with the habits of thinking of the poorer classes has been pretty extended, and of considerable duration ; and, together with all those whom I have consulted, who have had equal opportunities of intercourse with their neighbours, I am decidedly of opinion, that such an enactment would be most impolitic; and that, although the probability is, that not one in a thousand of those who emigrate, will ever return, to be a burthen to the parish they belong to, yet that *very few*, would go with a certainty, that if they did return in distress, they would be left to perish in our streets—and in truth, if such were *the law*, could it be acted upon ?

Why then encumber an Act of Parliament, professedly, and *really*, intended for the advantage of the industrious, but unemployed, and likely to remain unemployed,

poor man, with an alarming provision; which after all, must, in practice, be totally unavailable?

The object our committee has had in view, and, as far as our means have extended, laboured hard to promote, is, to remove from the minds of persons of all classes, the notion that emigration to Canada is a banishment; and to cherish the idea, that it is only a *removal* from a part of the British empire, where there are more workmen than there is work to be performed; to another, a fertile, healthful, and every way delightful portion, of the same empire, where the contrary is the case; and we are happy in observing, that even within a space of little more than 12 months, this idea is fast-growing up in our neighbourhood—so much so, that we hope, ere long, to see a constant intercourse take place between this country, and *this county* especially, and Canada, to the mutual benefit of all parties. That intercourse is already beginning: children are going out to their fathers; fathers to their children; and doubtless, in process of time, some, who have lately emigrated, will return to the old country, with improved means, there to spend the remainder of their days; while sons, nephews, various relations, and connections, will be going out to take charge of that property, which the present settlers are now busily engaged in reclaiming from the forest. Surely, then, in the present state of the business, to say one word about the odious subject of poor laws and settlement, could not be productive of any possible good, and might operate as a powerful check to that emigration which the proposed enactment is intended to encourage. It cannot be too strongly impressed on the minds of those who may think it right to legislate on this subject, that unless the benefit of the *emigrant himself*, be the *first* object, not only *ostensibly*, but *really*, it would be far better to leave the whole matter as it is.—Much harm would ensue, were an opinion to prevail, that the *sole* purpose of the more opulent

class, is to *get rid* of their poorer fellow countrymen, without any thought or care, as to their future fate.—Some narrow minded and selfish persons may be induced to support any measure that is brought forward, from such motives, but they will not, I should hope, act upon the majority—with them I trust, the good of *all parties* will be kept steadily in view.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

&c. &c.

T. SOCKETT.

Petworth.
June 3rd. 1833.



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