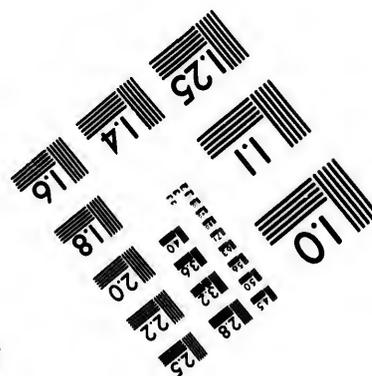
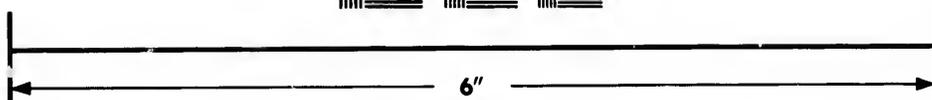
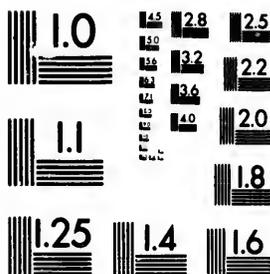


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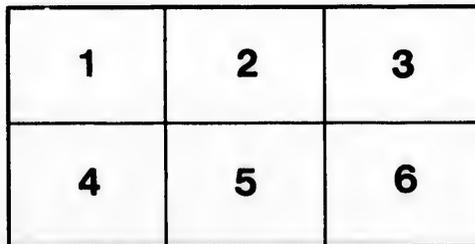
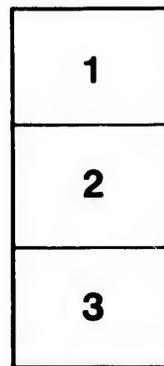
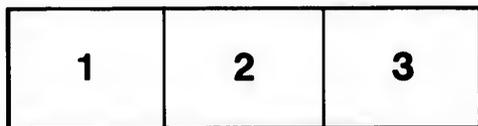
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A  
CHEERING VOICE  
FROM  
**UPPER CANADA;**

ADDRESSED TO

*ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,*

IN A

LETTER FROM AN EMIGRANT.

---

“ Better is an handful with quietness and content, than both hands full  
with travail and vexation of spirit.”

---

London :

PUBLISHED BY T. GRIFFITHS, WELLINGTON STREET,  
STRAND;

*To be had of all the Booksellers.*

PRICE ONE SHILLING.

PRINTED BY ALFRED ROBINS, 29, TAVISTOCK STREET, COVENT  
GARDEN.

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1834.

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As correct information respecting the *climate, soil, productions, &c. &c.* of *Canada*, is to be so very easily acquired, by means of the variety of cheap tracts now in general circulation, nearly all, which treat thereon in the following Letter, has been omitted, as well as what is of a strictly private nature.

—

The following paragraph having appeared in all the London journals, *while this was in the press*, has been here copied, in consequence of the direct and public *corroboration* it gives, as to the flattering picture drawn of the Colony of *Upper Canada* in this Letter:—

“*Canadian tribute to Captain Ross.*—Most gratifying will it be to the lovers of science, and to the province in general, that a notice has been given by an honourable member of our assembly, to bring in a bill authorizing his Excellency Sir John Colborne to convey the thanks of our legislature to *Captain Ross*, of the Royal Navy, accompanied by a gift of £1000. Considering the extraordinary merit it is intended to reward, and the singularly flourishing condition of our affairs, we should have been better pleased had the sum moved for been rather larger, as better betokening our deep sense of the services of *Captain Ross*, and more symbolical of our prodigiously increased wealth.”—*Upper Canada Patriot*.

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A  
CHEERING VOICE  
FROM  
UPPER CANADA.

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*Home District, Upper Canada.  
Nov. 7th, 1833.*

MY DEAR AND VALUED FRIEND,

SINCE the Atlantic has separated us, you will have learnt from the various letters I have sent to you, as well as to other friends and relatives, and to which, as you tell me, you have had access, that I have never lost sight of you, or of the serious promise made you on the eve of our separation, that I would, as soon as I felt myself capable by means of some length of experience, send you an account more in detail, not only of myself and family, but of the opinions I had formed, after a year or two sojourning therein, of this country of my adoption, and of the future prospects I should have discovered in it of providing for a growing up family, &c.

With the view of better complying with this promise, and instigated too by a feeling of the responsibility, which must ever be attached to giving opinions calculated to influence others, on such a *serious* and *weighty* matter, as that of quitting permanently their native land, I adopted the practice, as I before wrote you word I had done from my first arrival in the Colony, of making notes, or memorandums of all that, from time to time, reflexion induced me to consider might be in *any way* useful for you, or other friends, to know. Habit soon rendered this rather an amusement to me, at the few *leisure* hours I have had; and although I dare say you will find a repetition of much that you have already learnt, through the medium of books and pamphlets on Canada, (for I find the English press teems with such) still as you were pleased to say, that you should not rest satisfied until you had under my own hand what you did find in such books, confirmed by

my experience, and as I shall take care to send this through the means of some friend, and thereby save any postage, I shall only condense my lucubrations, leaving it to yourself to separate the *grain* from the *chaff*, if any of the former you should discover; you will of course, however, make all due allowance for the disjointed form in which this will come into your hands, much of it having been written at long intervals, and part of it having been copied off by little *James*.

On what is so disagreeable to recall to memory I shall not dwell, but you, who were one of the last of my best friends, whom I shook hands with in old England, knew well the cause which led to, and the motives which influenced my becoming an *Emigrant*, the slightest necessity for which I never could have contemplated a few years back. Adverse and little to be foreseen events had so much encroached upon and diminished my capital, that I found it impracticable to live upon the *income* derived from it—my family, although still young, were fast growing up, and annually becoming more expensive to me, so that I thus found, that with the best management I could not avoid a still further and constant invasion on *capital*. It is true that had I been heedless of after consequences to my children, I might, by this means, and by the assistance of my truly liberal friends, have kept up appearances; luckily however, I was allied by wedlock to a partner, who joined with me in deprecating such selfishness; but such a state of things could not fail to harrass the minds of us both with corroding anxiety and everlasting perplexity, from a want of knowing how to manage for the best; and thus our lives were almost daily becoming more and more full of trouble and discomfort, with all their usual train of accompaniments, except, thank God, that worst of evils, discord. Thus situated, I was first led, as you already know, to turn my thoughts towards what I found becoming, not only common, but almost fashionable, viz. *Emigration*; and after reading most I could lay my hands on, which treated thereon, and bustling about to enquire more, I became so thoroughly satisfied, that carrying it into execution in my own case, would tend, more than any other means I could discover, to ease both *pocket* and *mind*, that I made up mine, as deliberately as possible, to go boldly to work, not to procrastinate, but at once to proceed in a plan, which mature reflexion made both me and my wife believe to be a paramount duty, which, as parents, we were called upon to perform courageously, whatever sacrifice it might involve to our own personal feelings.

One of the best of women, and for whose gift I can never be too thankful to Providence, so far from embarrassing my mind at this anxious crisis, by raising peevish difficulties in the way of proceeding with my purpose, hastened me on by coalescing in all my arrangements, most cheerfully aiding me with the councils of her good and cool judgment, and cordially joining heart and hand in all my schemes; thereby, keeping up my then drooping spirits, by the invariable sunshine of her good temper and activity—and this too, when I could not fail knowing, what a sacrifice the quitting for ever, the beloved relatives and friends of her youth, entailed upon her sensible mind; certainly, such heroism and noble-mindedness, I did not altogether expect, even from her. With such a coadjutor, and with such an example, after our resolutions and plans were once fairly fixed, I may almost venture to say, that the toils attendant upon the preliminary arrangements, and which, generally speaking, are no doubt vexatious, became to us a sort of pleasure, filling our minds with more agreeable hopes and anticipations of the future, and in a very great measure supplanting our dismal forebodings.

For the first time in my life, I thus became, I may say, a man of business; for the first time, I really found out the happiness to be derived from the full occupation of my time; and from that day to this, I may add, what I could not have advanced as a truth before, that I have never found one hour to hang heavy on my hands, or a day that I thought too long. One of the effects of this is, that my wife now assures me, I am more in danger of becoming in shape like *Daniel Lambert*, of ponderous memory, than him I before bore some sort of resemblance to, the *anatomie vivante*; and the real truth is, my looking glass accuses my face of expanding.— I shall now proceed with what I find to be **NOTE FIRST.**

Let every man who has a *wife*, and who intends to settle in Canada, *bring her with him*; and let him who has not the article, and can get it good, and of a suitable temper, &c., provide himself before he starts; but mind, she must neither be a fine lady, nor one who cannot help, or has no resources within herself; in fact, she should be a proficient in the art of *shift making*, her skill in which, may often be put to the test. Let her come here also, as mine did, with the fixed determination to be pleased, and as the sailors term it, *to rough it*; and both she and her husband will then discover, what a bug bear nine-tenth of the perils and dangers they had previously imagined to themselves, or had conjured up to them by others, will turn out to be on experience. Already I have heard of numerous instances of Bachelor Settlers,

who have discovered the want of the "*one thing needful*," and some have either returned for that one thing, or contemplate doing so. Not that wives, and good ones too, are not occasionally to be had here, as elsewhere; but there are few young men who have not left behind them some favoured fair one, who occupies his thoughts by day and his dreams by night; and that he flatters himself may one day not turn a deaf ear on a backwoodsman's persuasion.

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NOTE 2.—Few are the rules without exceptions, but speaking generally, I should advise any man to bring *all his children* with him: young, healthy, light-hearted, and susceptible of deriving nothing but amusement from novelty, and with the care and assistance of their mother, I found the transport of mine hither was attended with but little trouble. By being brought young, you gradually habituate them to the climate, as well as to the manners and the customs of that country, which they are destined, in after life, to play a part in. If well disposed and well managed, they are here out of the way of learning much of the depravity that is generally to be found in schools in a luxurious and over-refined country, like England; they do not acquire wants and wishes, which they never could possess the means to gratify; and they consequently have the better chance of contentment and happiness, and of doing well their duty in that state of life into which it has pleased God to remove them.

One of the greatest banes of my native country I consider to be, the fancied necessity which *pride* entails on almost every poor man's child, (and I call every one of small income now comparatively a poor man in England) of apeing others of thrice the means. It is this irresistible but unconscious dread of degradation, which fills her gazettes with bankrupts and insolvents, and her jails with debtors, if not with criminals. But here, thank God, things have not as yet arrived at such a height of refinement and sophistication. There exists less disparity in the pecuniary circumstances of the multitude, from which it results, that people feel more on a par with each other, and that too without any abasement, or being subject, so far as I can perceive, to any thing like intentional disrespect, unless deliberately provoked—"civility and not servility" being one of the established maxims of the land; and, I think, compared with its population, no country in the world contains so large a proportion

of individual content and happiness, caused, no doubt, mainly, from plenty being within every industrious man's reach.

NOTE 3.—*Servants*.—If complained of generally as plagues in England, what name shall I give them here? but of what I might expect on this head, I had heard so much before we started, that we came fortified, and prepared, in some measure, to meet the annoyance.

*Men servants*.—They no sooner land here, than all sort of notion of any thing like dependence vanishes—is annihilated, and seldom, if ever, returns to its former owner. All are ambitious, or very soon get it put into their noddles, to become at once landed proprietors, *estated* men; and to which they are encouraged, certainly, by the numerous instances they hear, of those who came in similar circumstances being now “well to do in the world.” To all cases of a contrary description, as a matter of course, they turn a deaf ear; the consequence is, they hurry to take land before they can properly stock it, &c. and thus scarcely ever succeed *half so well* as those who wait until they have gained, by servitude or labour, or working at their trades, some little capital.

This observation is equally applicable to all agricultural labourers, or others who commence with little or nothing in their pockets. Far better would it be, both for themselves and the country, if they were to confine themselves to working at their respective callings (and for which they never can here want opportunities) until they were possessed of sufficient pecuniary means to enable them to enter upon lands with comfort, and they would then get on more rapidly and successfully in one year, than they can expect to do in *three* by adopting the other course. Amongst the few grumblers and discontented it has fallen to my lot as yet to encounter, are such people as I have here described—men who thought they were to gallop themselves, as if by magic, into all the good things of this world.

*Female Servants*.—Susan, although good-looking, is still with us, and, *mirabilé dictu*, has no idea of changing her “situation.” I believe she entertains a real and disinterested regard for us all, and for her mistress in particular, and says, that as ours has been her first place, if we allow of its depending on herself, it shall be her last. This is not an every day instance of gratitude and good feeling; but she was well brought up, and with good example. She is de-

lighted with this country; indeed, so much so, that she has written home, it seems, such persuasive accounts of her travels and opinions, that I find she expects to see two of her brothers here next spring; and even her old mother is anxious to come, if circumstances would admit of it.

Speaking generally, I certainly should not advise the expense of bringing out even *female* domestics; for the fact is, that girls all have the opportunity of marrying here, and few can resist this first law of nature; and thus, however well suited you may be, you never can tell how soon you may be deserted. The best chance is, by taking them either before their marrying days are come, or when past, if you are clever enough when here, to tell when that period is. Children from ten to sixteen years of age are very useful, and, if steady, sure to get good places and be well taken care of. Many of the Emigrants who died last year of cholera, left families quite unprovided for; and almost all who were willing and capable of making themselves useful, found no difficulty in engaging themselves. One of the chief wants in this new country is *labour*; so that none, disposed to work, need be unemployed. And this, by the way, leads me to call your observation to what *Mr. Dunlop*, commonly called *the Backwoodsman*, says, in his admirable little book concerning *Infant Emigration to Canada*: and in all which sentiments I coincide, excepting that I think it would be at present best confined to children of both sexes, *not under the age of ten*, and who would then be so useful, in a variety of ways, as to be able to earn both their food and clothing, and ensure good treatment by their value to their employers.

To return, however, to the aforementioned subject. Mind, I do not say never bring out female servants; but make your mind up beforehand not to expect to retain them long. If you can, be guided by the knowledge of their previous characters and dispositions, and hold in view that the older and uglier they are, the better perhaps is your chance, although I would in no case ensure you for so long a period as six months certain after landing. There is one thing, servants who are town-bred will miss here; I allude to High Life Below Stair parties and balls, which I learn are become quite common, especially in London; both the *ladies* and *gentlemen* appearing dressed in, and mimicking all the airs of the highest fashions. Surely, if this is true, we cannot wonder at female domestics increasing their wages by prostitution, and the men, by exacting a large per-centage from their master's tradesmen, on all bills paid; which, as a matter of course, comes out of the master's pocket, in shape of an

overcharge, on every article he buys. The wheels of society, where such a state of things exists, must surely stand in need of repair; for what better name does it merit, than a preconcerted conspiracy of two parties to rob a third; and long before I left London, this was considered a practice almost invariably acted upon, and *systematized*.

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NOTE 4.—*Education and Prospects for Children*.—I need scarcely tell you that my wife is sufficiently talented to qualify her, not only to make her daughters accomplished, but also to lay the superstructure of a tolerably good education and religious principles in her boys. My own time, I need scarcely say, is unavoidably too much occupied by day, to admit of my giving them much attention, but of an evening, and as occasions offer, I contribute my mite to assist her. She finds the greatest source of her happiness in this occupation, and they repay her by all of them evincing considerable abilities, and (their ages considered) much attention and assiduity. Whether they hereafter become farmers, merchants, or traders, a tolerable education will not render them less likely to prosper, or less happy. I also find a thousand little things in which, as they are handy, they can aid and assist me, and which they consider play, so that between us, we take special good care they shall never be a moment altogether idle. Amongst other things, when not at their lessons, I have put into the heads of the boys, to learn a little of *turning, carpentry, netting, stuffing birds, gardening, &c. &c.*; and I should recommend all, contemplating coming over here, to cultivate well any mechanical turn that may shew itself in the family. At a proper age, and to finish, I shall most probably send them to the College at York, the capital of this province; but indeed, as the *old country*, as we call it here, is sending annually, not only part of her riches, but of her learning also amongst us, and as I have no manner of doubt, but that henceforward, we shall have no lack of schoolmasters or schools, I feel quite at ease on the subject.

As yet, it is too early for us to fix on their pursuits when approaching manhood, but as almost all who come to these provinces, have in view either *agriculture* or *commerce*, so I take for granted, will also either one or other be their destiny; but guided of course by the particular bent of their own inclinations. To establish them in the *former*, I need not go far from home, although the surprising rapidity with which land is rising all around me in value, makes me in some mea-

sure lament not having wherewithal at command, or comeatable, to enable me to make a still larger investment at the present time; for it certainly does not require for any of us here, on the spot, to be gifted with any depth of prophecy, to foretel that ten or twelve years hence, when my youngsters have reached manhood, it will be quite *une autre chose* as far as price goes. In short, you in England can have no notion, as brother Jonathan would say, of the manner in which we are *progressing*, it is neither at the pace of walk, trot, or gallop, but downright *racing*. You will however, say that I have no cause to blame fortune, having refused near 50 per cent. profit for some of my purchase; but, as I have already seen many who could not resist the temptation of such offers, sell and repent, and that too, before three months had elapsed; and as the rise in value of all lands in the province is now, I think, put beyond a doubt, and as I trust I am not *now* likely to be driven to it by necessity, I have determined not to part with an acre, but rather to increase my stake, if at all practicable. I hold it to be altogether a folly, to suppose it to be indispensable, *as regards Canada*, that a man should have been brought up to agriculture, to ensure him a fair share of success. All you may have read will have told you, that it is only within these few years, that this province has began to emerge from a state of nearly universal forest; and although an emigrant may now, according to the capital he brings out with him, invest it, either in partly cleared, or wholly uncleared lands; still, as yet (and more particularly this season) want of labour compels him to confine his operations within certain and moderate limits; so that, if he has the common share of brains, and applies them, as he will see others around him do, and if he moreover looks out for a *good* example to follow, rather than a bad, or indifferent one, and he will, as everywhere else, meet with some of all sorts here, he cannot go far wrong. The main requisites are, sufficient capital to stock well, clear and crop his lands, industry, patience, and attention to business, oblivion of the nonsense and fooleries he may have kept where he came from, and a fixed determination to be pleased, and to please others, and to rest contented in the society of his domestic circle, with the abundant fare that a rich soil, fine climate, and the return of seasons will yield to his hands. With these requisites, and adopting this line of conduct for his guide, I do not hesitate to pronounce that a man is as sure of success as any man can be sure of anything in this world; and this too, without the drawback of that everlasting care and feeling of despondency, with dread of the future,

which hangs like an incubus on the spirits of every right-minded father in England, who may have there, the dire misfortune to be "*blest with a large family, and curst with a small fortune;*" whereas, truly here, although the sneerer may ridicule such an assertion, it is no less the fact, that "*children constitute riches;*" and such a land, in my estimation, bears a far nearer approximation to that described as "*flowing with milk and honey;*" although, as yet, humble and modest in the pretensions it puts forth, than even *merry England*, with all its high state of luxury and refinement, and low degree of morals and debauchery; rendering one portion of its society a prey to money-lending *Jews* and *extortioners*, and another, to usurious *pawnbrokers*; the former to supply the higher ranks with the means for prodigal waste, and the latter, to aid the destitute, and the half fed mechanic, to drive the cold out of his stomach, and the care out of his mind, by pouring slow poison down his throat. Nevertheless, "England, with all thy faults, I love thee still!" and trust, I shall never cease inculcating on the minds of all my offspring similar feelings towards the land of *their* birth; as yet, mind, I have only in prospect the hopes of being father to a young *Canadian*.

*Trade and commerce* are so much out of my beat, that I give you my sentiments thereon with more diffidence. As yet they are only in their infancy in the *Upper Province*; *stores*, alias shops, are in all the towns and villages, but these places are, at present, chiefly confined to the borders of the great lakes, or rather fresh water inland seas. Their profits are said to be very great, but against which must be placed long credits, and, no doubt, occasional bad debts. *York* and most of the other towns are increasing rapidly, and the opening of new stores quite keeps pace with these, besides which, many of the large houses in *Montreal* have branch establishments, or agents, in most towns of this province; in fact, if you inspect the map, you will perceive that that city is destined, by its locality, to be always an emporium for the supply of the *Upper Province* with merchandize. Should I, therefore, hereafter, have to look to *commerce*, for any of my youngsters, *Montreal* is the place I should, in the first instance, turn attention to, as offering the most promising opening. On my way up here, I tarried there some days, keeping all my eyes and ears open, and was delighted with the bustle and activity I witnessed amongst all classes. On the part of the *Upper Province*, a strong feeling and desire has been manifested, and which I believe has been sent to England, in shape of a memorial, to have this city annexed to it, as a *port of entry*,

but which, as a matter of course, is not palatable to most of the legislators and big wigs of the *Lower Province*; for, in arrangements of this kind, however much they may be for the *public* good. I need scarcely tell you, there is sure to be found some wheel within wheel, somebody that will lose a good job, or be deprived of customary pickings. Others I must tell you, however, are for having the two provinces *united*, and, in my opinion, it does not require a conjuror to pronounce that one or other of these two measures must be adopted ere many years pass by, especially if *Upper Canada* continues to be such a favorite place of resort for our countrymen, and which I make no manner of doubt about, since its vast resources and *utility to Great Britain* are only *beginning* now to develop themselves; but of this more in the sequel. I was given to understand at *Montreal*, that its trade was rapidly increasing, and some of your great men about Change will be startled to be told, that merchants are often at business by five or six o'clock in the morning. Winter suddenly breaks up, the ice disappears, and the majestic *St. Lawrence* opens; ships arrive out, crowded with Emigrants, and all is bustle and hurry; the price of labour instantly rises enormously, and the man who is an idler deserves to starve, for, if he can turn his hand to any thing, there is full employment for him. So expeditiously are the return cargoes shipped, owing to previous arrangement, that vessels are often on their way back to Europe in a week or ten days. The consequence of this flourishing state of its commerce is, that the improvements made of late years are very great, and it bids fair to become a city of very considerable consequence to the British empire, for the imports, from England alone, in 1832, are calculated at upwards of *two millions* sterling, and must naturally go on increasing as the population of the *Upper Province* gets more numerous, and as those wants require to be satisfied, which industry and a fertile soil must inevitably superinduce. By the bye it would delight some of my friends to see the steam vessels on the *St. Lawrence*. To view nature and steamers on a truly grand and majestic scale you must come to America.

And now as to *daughters*—mine I hope never to part with, nor shall I find it at all necessary on the score of education, for the reason I have before stated, so long as they have a mother. She very judiciously holds in view, in the course she pursues with them, mere what is likely to be really useful, and to obtain for them the character of good wives, should wedlock ever be their lot, than what is showy and ornamental, but often frivolous, and a positive waste of precious time, as

is generally the fashion in English boarding schools, and even in private families, and which entitles them to be called anything rather than *helpmates*. As it was ordained by Providence that ours should quit England, we both now think it fortunate, that they have done so, before they could possibly have acquired either tastes or habits, that could in any way counteract this wise and wholesome policy. While on the subject of daughters, I must just mention, that I am told of numerous instances of recent settlers and gentlemen too, who have already disposed of theirs by marriage, and that, moreover, with every reasonable prospect of happiness to the parties concerned. N.B. Some of the ladies on your side the water, who hang heavy on hand, might perchance find a trans-Atlantic trip to end in a pleasurable excursion.

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NOTE 5.—*Voyage across the Atlantic, &c.*—We came you know by what has been the usual way, via *Quebec* and up the *St. Lawrence*, and were fortunate in our ship, captain, and passage, which we paid liberally for. With those, however, who are not hard run for cash, and who are destined for *Upper Canada*, the route by *New York* seems to be getting most in favour, certainly what are called the *New York* liners, both from *London* and *Liverpool* are *splendid vessels*, well found in every thing, live like fighting cocks on board, and do every thing in the best style of comfort that a ship can admit of, and managed too by the most skilful seamen. I strongly recommend any of my friends, who are curious and enjoy sight seeing, to pay a visit to the London Docks, and go on board one of these ships, and if they are not surprised and delighted with the visit to this daughter of Neptune, I should pronounce them very hard indeed to be pleased. *New York* lying so much further *South* than *Quebec*, these vessels generally make the passage quicker; and, early in the season, are likely to escape more from getting amongst icebergs and fogs. Arrived at *New York*, the poorer class of Emigrants should be especially cautioned against a host of two-legged sharks, who will most likely beset him, all of course with professions of the most disinterested motives, but to the end of prevailing on him to desert his colours and become a citizen of the *Union*, alias a settler in the *far off West* of *Ohio*, *Indiana*, or *Michigan*, &c. Of course they will make it all out to him to be *couleur de rose*, and as I never have yet extended my travels near so far, I cannot, and will not take on me to deny all this. But, I must tell you,

that since I have been here, I have met with numerous instances, and heard of still more from the best authority, of persons, who after spending almost all they brought with them from Europe, in the States, left it in disgust, and have since become settlers here; the truth is, that in these very far off back settlements, the schoolmaster has not yet made sufficient progress: and consequently, the extreme rude manners, and uncouth propensity to inquisitiveness, boasting, meddling, and self-conceit of their *yankee* neighbours, is, on a long trial, not found to be, by any means, congenial to the old habits, or feelings, of even, the but moderately educated Briton. But take notice, that I now only speak of this particular class of Americans, for since I crossed the seas, I paid a short visit to our neighbours on the opposite side of the lakes—experienced much pleasure, and met with much kindness during my trip, and should be proud to boast any where of the acquaintances I made, as I think they would do honour to any society in any part of the world. I am no disciple of *Mrs. Trollop's*, for, in my opinion, an American might as fairly expect to describe English manners, by running from town to town, and mixing only with the gentlemen and travellers, usually known by the cognomen of *bagmen* or *riders*, and learning the habits of our ladies, through the medium of the introduction of this fraternity to the wives and daughters of the tradespeople, they call and sip punch, toddy, and ale with. I trust such writers as this *lady* will be but few, and appear far between, for they cannot tend to conciliate, or do good in any way, so far as my judgment goes. A Yankee remarked to me, when speaking of her volumes, that “she should have changed her name again before she published, for no one cared much what a *Trollop* said of them, and she should have told us too, that England’s high polish has cost her 800 millions of *ponderous debt*.” I must, however, admit, that one of their great failings is the thinness of their skin and touchiness; it is, notwithstanding, delightful to know, that since their struggle with us, there never was a time when our two great nations understood each other so well, comprehending fully, that the true policy of both is cordial friendship and harmony, and a mutual and liberal intercourse.

*Upper Canada* is to be reached from *New York*, by way of that noble and interesting river, the *Hudson*, and the *Erie Canal*; for all information about which, I refer you to books, as I cannot speak from my own knowledge. On the subject of the voyage, &c. I shall only add, that to us, the apprehension of trouble and of many concomitant dis-

agreeables, turned out to be far worse than the reality ; but, I must add, we met with fair winds and tolerable weather, and usually a smooth sea, and were not sea sick after the first week.

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NOTE 6.—*Purchase and Settlement of Lands.*—On this subject I shall again direct your attention to books, for I can say little that they won't tell you, and you may implicitly depend on what they do say about the general richness of the soil, productions, seasons, &c. Money will procure almost any sort of farm that the colony contains, it being very much the practice for many to sell their partly improved locations, and at fair reasonable prices, and commence *de novo further west* ; so that, as some author I read before I left England says, " I know not where all this scrambling for the *West* is to terminate, until they reach the shores of the Pacific ;" and really when a man of fifty or sixty years of age goes back thirty or forty years, and looks at the map, and observes what was then the limits of the civilized part of the States of America, and what are now those limits, which are almost unlimited, he cannot but say to himself, " what an expansive scope is here offered for application of the talent, industry, and unprofitably employed capital of Europe ; and what a tempting shelter does it indeed present to the broken-down, broken-hearted, heavy taxed, and half fed, of the rest of the globe !"

I would strongly advise any friend, who asked my opinion, not to hurry, after his arrival, to buy land, but give himself time to look around him well, and there is ample scope and choice for him. Some will endeavour to frighten him at home, by telling him that, even when his land is called cleared, it still remains covered with stumps ; but please to bear this in mind, that the forest, being one planted by Nature, trees stand generally thick and run each other up to great heights, but chiefly without much tap-root, so that many of their stumps are not difficult of extraction by means of horse or bullock power ; and this also prevents the possibility of leaving, generally speaking, any great number of scattered ornamental trees, as the winds would soon, most likely level such : but pray observe the difference—with you the beauty of a country is said to be best displayed when it abounds with wood—with us, the more cleared of wood, the more we admire our lands, and the more picturesque do they appear in the eye of a backwoodsman.

NOTE 7.—*Soil, Climate, Productions, Field Sports, &c. &c. &c.*—Once more I refer you to *Tiger Dunlop's* book. You must know that this worthy son of *Scotia* is said to have once undertaken, and that too without forming a Company, to assist him by advance of capital, to clear the jungles and fastnesses of Hindostan of *tigers*. No doubt he butchered many, and frightened more of these beasts; but report says he left a few for breed, and it is from this that he has become entitled to the privilege of bearing the name of *Tiger*, in addition to that of his father's. His very name seems to have scared away the *bears* of this country; at least they take precious care to hide their diminished heads, and are only heard of now and then, as stealing out to purloin a bit of pig, of which they are said to be immoderately fond, setting at naught and wholly disregarding the *Levitical* law, after the example of their Christian brethren. Mr. Dunlop is an open-hearted, rough and ready, clear-headed *Caledonian*, and now fills the office of Warden or Ranger of the *Canada Company's little Forest*, which, if you were to undertake to beat the bounds of, would cost you a tramp of some thousand miles. His little book is written in a jocose, eccentric, but very amusing style, and will at once shew you that he is instructive on what he writes about, and speaks too, from experience, having been in this Upper Province now many years. Buy his book on my recommendation, and let it save me from entering on a description on those subjects to which this note refers, and which he explains so much better than I could do. I must, however, as to *climate*, bear testimony to its salubrity generally. As in most new countries there are unwholesome agueish situations; but there is, believe me, ample space and choice for all, without any necessity for running, with open eyes, into *Malaria*. The cholera, a present made to us last year, in some way or other, from Europe, certainly broke in on our almost uninterrupted healthy state, and was a sad drawback upon us while it lasted; indeed we are still feeling its bad consequences, in the great want of labour throughout the province, owing to the alarm it spread on your side the Atlantic. God be praised the country is now again in as healthy a state as ever, and the doctors only complaining. My household have hitherto never had one day's ailment of any consequence; in fact, we all feel that we have gained strength; but this I repeat I greatly attribute to our not being so careworn or oppressed with fears for to-morrow—a horrid sensation which I hope never again to experience. It may be as well to tell you, that we prepared the children by a little

medicine before we embarked, and the same after landing on this side, and this course I should consider prudent to adopt, both for them and for adults. In the *new townships*, doubtless, may be met more of ague than elsewhere; but this I attribute very much to the filthy and improvident habits of the majority of the Irish emigrants, who take some time to rid themselves of the nasty debasing customs they have been brought up in. The destructive practice of *spirit drinking*, which they first acquire in Great Britain—that land of gin drinkers, may also be considered the main cause for any sickness to be met with here; and unluckily, spirits of all sorts, are *mischievously* cheap. As was the case, I believe, in England, so was it here also, that the cholera committed dreadful havock amongst people of this description. I think, by the bye, there is a fair opening, in some parts of this province, for young medical practitioners, provided they are moderate and reasonable in their expectations. They must not expect to make rapid fortunes, but they may combine practice with a little agriculture, and live cheap, though well; but they must expect hard work and long rides occasionally, and will find lots of *half-learned*, impudent Yankee practitioners and quacks to compete with; but I should imagine that a regularly bred medico from Great Britain ought very soon to supplant such men as these.

The winters, which so many at home take alarm at the very idea of, are, so soon as the snow is down and the frost fairly set in, I think the most salubrious, and the most pleasurable period; the air is drier, and the cold far *less disagreeable* to the feelings than with you; for it is a damp cold that injures the constitution. In our sleighs and warm cloaks distances are no great object, and we run about in them whenever business or pleasure calls us, and it is quite surprising what journies our Canadian nags will perform in them. The province is said to be able to boast of a very fair proportion of pretty lasses, and I can assure you it is here by no means “all work and no play;” for, in winter, there is much more play than work; music and dancing keep our young people from all danger of torpidity, and I have experienced a vast deal of sociability and good feelings amongst my neighbours; in fact, I believe that true and genuine hospitality always prevails more in an infant, than an old country, and for this simple and obvious cause, that we are closer bound together by the chain of mutual dependence. I must not omit calling your notice to one of the most important of the advantages that, as agriculturalists, this province enjoys over that of Lower Canada, which is, that

winter does not overtake us before we have had time to sow our autumn wheat, which therefore lies in the ground all the winter, and all, I dare say, know that it cannot be protected by a better or more cherishing mantle than the snow. As you must remember, I was once a bit of a sportsman; but here I have had my hands so full of work, that I have seldom taken my Manton, or my rifle either, in hand. To those sportsmen who have leisure, there can be no lack of amusement here, either on land or on water, but depending of course much upon locality. I won't tell you how many *pigeons* I have knocked down at one shot, for you would think me such a *Munchausen*, as to doubt all the rest I have said; if you saw their number, you would wonder whence they could have come, and where go to for shelter. The woods abound with deer, and very sweet and good the venison is when in season, and the Indians kill a good deal of it; but here, as in every other part of the globe, where man, proud man, establishes his dominion, beasts gradually, but invariably, retrograde. Some of the most *direct* roads now used in the States of the Union are well known to have been originally only the tracts of vast herds of buffaloes, resorting from remote places, and at stated seasons, to what are called *Salt Licks*, and which nature pointed out as requisite to them; whereas these places have long been wholly abandoned, and a single buffalo, perhaps, is not to be found within hundreds of miles of their old haunts. Nearly the same observation applies to the aboriginal Indians, or red men of America, to whom certainly the introduction of Europeans has been most fatal in its consequences; few comparatively are left in *Canada*, but what few remain are of most harmless, inoffensive dispositions, and are protected properly by the government and laws; but still it is considered that even their present numbers are fast diminishing. I must confess, that while rambling in our forests, I miss the music of our British songsters of the grove, for most of the notes we do hear are in *thorough bass*; the plumage, however, of some of our birds, is splendid; and, by the aid of my youngsters, I hope to be able some day to send you specimens of them, as I know you have a taste for such things.

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NOTE 8.—*Religion and Politics*—It will suffice me to say but little on these subjects—as to the former, we have no restraint, and yet get on very well without feuds, for we leave each other alone, and mind our own respective duties,

according to our consciences, without troubling our neighbours, and I augur you will say, we are neither the worse men or Christians for so doing. And now as to *politics*—we have no time to attend to them, we must be blind and ungrateful indeed to a beneficent Providence, if we did not see, that as compared with the rest of the world, we enjoy a large share of her blessings, together with a mild and fostering government, administered by an amiable, accessible, and prudent governor, and one, who has shewn by his mild sway, ever since he has been in the colony, that he is himself deeply interested in its welfare and prosperity; and the consequence of this is, that the laws are cheerfully obeyed. Not that we are without meeting with, here and there, a few crazy-pated, self-called, enthusiastic patriots and reformers; would be *cobblers* of a constitution, and who, like a man named *Mackenzie* here, think themselves qualified to mend any code of laws that wisdom ever framed, by *heel-piecing* and *toe-piecing* them; but the utter insignificance of such *meddlers* renders them too contemptible to cause one moment's uneasiness. We are too busy, I tell you, and *too well fed* to be politicians. It is in those countries, where there is not sufficient employment for the people, where one half the world is preying on the other half, where Jews, pawnbrokers, gambling houses, open at all hours, and to accommodate all ranks, and gin and beer shops abound, that politicians congregate and thrive. The rise and fall of stocks concern not us, it is the *rise of corn* and the *fall of timber*, that we have to attend to. We have no interest in taking note of such important events, as that, we will suppose for instance—of some Israelite, whose services are deemed indispensable on the occasion, being summoned by a minister, to concert and concoct schemes for making a new loan, as little pinching, and to set as comfortably on the shoulders of the people as possible; and which gets buzzed about and causes all, who are watching and laying wait for some of the pickings, to prick up their ears, and lay plans for getting earliest into the whole secret, or, at least, a *quantum sufficit* of it, to enable them to over-reach their neighbours.—*Politics* are the trade and calling of such men as these, who can turn them to such prolific account; but here their occupation would be lost; so again, I say, speaking generally, we are not troubled with, or about politics.

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NOTE 9.—*Miscellaneous* —Those who may be interested, and among whom may be numbers of poor people, who are

looking to Emigration for the surest and most effectual relief, should be advised to possess themselves of a little tract, published by *Martin Doyle*, and, if I recollect right, at price only one shilling; I read it before I left England, and have found it substantially correct in the information it contains, and for that sort of knowledge which they will require, they may like it, and it may suit better than even *the Backwoodsman*; but *both* should be perused by all who can get at them.

All who look to settlement in the Upper Province, should come direct to *Montreal*, for landing at *Quebec* cannot answer any one good purpose, that I can foresee.

As ships for the most part come out in ballast, there can be no difficulty in passengers bringing almost any quantity of baggage they may think fit, but the less they have, of course, the less is their trouble in moving about, till settled.

Take special good care to learn the real character of both *ship and captain*, before a passage is engaged, and then have a clear and positive understanding about all you are to expect as a matter of right when on board. For recollect, "that prevention is far better than cure," and that when once at sea, quarrelling or bad feeling towards any one that absolute necessity compels you, more or less, to keep company with, renders a ship worse than a prison. We ourselves, when we came out, had one proper troublesome fellow on board, whom we were obliged, in self defence, to send to Coventry, or he would have set us all by the ears together. You may have heard there is a small tax levied for every Emigrant, who arrives in the St. Lawrence, and much has been written *pro* and *con* on the subject; many object to it highly, because, they say, it drives Emigrants into the *States*, and that every such individual is a loss, not only to the colony, but to Great Britain, both as a subject, and as a future consumer of her manufactures. There may be some truth in this view of the case, but as the proceeds of this tax are allowed to be honestly expended, in forwarding helpless and pauper Emigrants to their destinations, or to places where employment is open to them, or in assisting those who are sick and helpless, I have myself taken rather a favorable view of this impost, and have considered it in the light of a turnpike toll, laid on for public uses and general accommodation.

It is understood here, that during the last season, there were many instances of people, who came out, with a view of settlement in this province, but who actually became *home sick* when they had reached *Montreal*, and so thence turned back. But this is not all, it is added, that some such have published their travels, to deter others from risking

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such hair-breadth escapes as they had to encounter; now I need not tell you, that this is something like *Pal's* setting off post haste for *London*, and writing a true and particular description of that city, while lying sea sick at *Liverpool*, and without ever journeying one mile beyond it. Such travellers, ridiculous as they are, may still, however, do more or less mischief, unless their utter ignorance, as well as impudence, is exposed.

For a proper selection of the articles desirable for an Emigrant to bring with him, I must refer you again to books and published letters; for, of course, very much should depend on the finances of the individuals. There are few things not now to be had here for money, in the clothing and furniture lines. A good assortment of garden and grass seeds, and cuttings of *vines*, *gooseberries*, and *currants*; &c. may be brought, as well as saddlery, plate, and a picked selection of books. Before I sailed, I went into a very large *furnishing ironmonger's*, and made a selection of small, but not expensive articles, that I never should have dreamt of, had I not seen them, and almost all of which I have since found turned well to account; and any monied Emigrant I would advise to look about in the same way, and not limit his researches to ironmongery.

In one of your last, you ask my opinion about the advantages I think might be derived to the colony from the encouragement of *German* settlers in it, and give me your friend's views on the subject, in which I fully coincide. We have amongst us some *Germans* and a good many *Dutch*, and most excellent colonists they make. From all I have seen and heard of them, they possess all the ingredients for thriving and successful settlers; such as *patience*, *perseverance*, *industry*, *frugality*, *sobriety*, *honesty*, and *punctuality* in their engagements, and the natural result of these qualities, *contentment*, arising from *success*. They are likewise *quiet* and *inoffensive* both in *public* and *private* life, are attached to the government, and consequently good and obedient subjects. I need add no more to prove that I think they make a most useful mixture in an infant colony like this, if only from the good example they set to others, who so much need it, and it would therefore please me to see them coming here in thousands, for we have quite space enough for them all. The contrast would astonish you, between such men as these and a fresh imported Irish bog trotter, before he gets a little of the rust and dirt rubbed off by the good fare and good usage he meets with, and to which he most likely has been always before a stranger. I therefore think decidedly with him, that it would

have been likely to have been attended with advantage to the colony, and of course I should say to the company also, had they printed and circulated on the continent, and in *German*, some of their prospectuses. Are they aware what numbers of *Germans* and *Swiss* are said to flock annually to the *States of America*, and to settle in most unhealthy regions, compared with *Canada*? I should think the new company, who have more men among them that know what this country *really is*, and which they have acquired, not alone from *paper experience*, will show a little more *foresight*, the best quality a director in such undertakings can possess. The expence of it, you may take my word for it, would never ruin the proprietors of *two millions* of acres of *Upper Canada* land.

I shall now proceed to a very interesting subject, as regards both this Colony and Great Britain, namely :—

*The Earl of Egremont and his Sussex Settlers.*

NOTE 10.—What a splendid example has been exhibited by this venerable Peer, who may well be called a pillar of the state. I allude to his sending to this colony, and I believe at his own charge, some hundreds of his pauper parishioners, conferring thereby an immediate benefit on England, Canada, and a host of poor people, who, had they continued where they were, might have gone on to the end of their days just keeping body and soul together, and, at the same time gradually, but certainly increasing the parish burthens; while here, it must be their own faults if they do not render themselves useful and independent members of society. The relief, thus beneficially effected to the parish poor rates, I should conceive would even reimburse the Earl and all who may have aided him in this work of judicious charity, in a very short space of time, but which by no means takes from the merit due to him. I understand he has done the thing well too, and through the assistance of a Committee of Gentlemen of his neighbourhood adopted every precaution, and which will no doubt every season be improved upon, to have his protegés taken good care of until they reached their destination. Many of those of last year have written home such favourable accounts of their change and future prospects, that they have been joined by some of their friends this season, thereby furnishing the most convincing *practical* proof, that the most sceptical unbeliever can require, that all said of this colony have not been mere delusions, but that it is really and unequivocally able to furnish all born on the soil of Great Britain who need it, with that grand *desideratum* she so notoriously wants

for her constantly increasing redundant population, calculated, as I have read, to be going on at the rate of 800 per diem, namely, fertile and cheap land, and at no excessive distance off, but rendered easy of access by the improved facilities of navigation. How is it to be accounted for, that numerous others of your Nobles and Gentry have not followed so bright and useful an example? Are they *all* asleep upon their posts, waiting to be aroused by some awful convulsion? Surely they are not only losing sight of the duties expected from those upon whom wealth has been profusely poured, but of their own proper interests too; if they have no other motive for bestiring themselves, let them consider *self*. They should have witnessed, as I have done in this distant land, the honest and spontaneous effusions of the heart, bursting forth in imploring blessings on the head of their benefactor. I should rejoice, and so too would they, to see one of our principal districts bearing the name of *Egremont*, and serving as the most durable monument the colony could raise, and the best compliment it could pay, to the memory of the man who has been *first* in such a race; and which testimonial would outlast the most solid column ever erected to the proudest warrior. We have lately learnt here that a plan has been adopted, by the Committee acting for his Lordship, of collecting and publishing all the letters they can procure, and whether *favourable* or *unfavourable* as to the reports they contain of the colony, and which have, beyond doubt or suspicion, been received by their numerous friends in England from the parties who were sent out here—a plan more replete with good judgment, and beneficial consequences that must infallibly result from it, could not have been devised; and I trust to hear it is put into active operation; as what are called the lower classes, and many others also, are prone to set it down, that all they see and hear has been written and sent over for interested purposes, or at the instigation of those who only want to rid themselves of a burthen. In my opinion it would repay the Government amply, and in more ways than one, by the obvious good which must spring from it, were it to afford the means and facilities of circulating, from time to time, such sets as these of *verified authentic* letters, through every parish in the three kingdoms, *by means of the clergymen or churchwardens*. No one acquainted with the rural districts especially will venture to deny, that they contain thousands who are thirsty for such information as these letters contain, and only await anxiously the means to enable them to make the voyage hither. I also think that if the *Post Office* de-

partment was not to be so *screwing* in trifles, but by *means of some well-digested plan*, was to permit letters, bearing the Canadian post mark, and addressed to persons at home, either receiving the parish relief, or known therein to be paupers, to be delivered *free*, it would prove highly advantageous to the cause of Emigration, and fully make up, by the vast public good it would do, for the insignificant loss to the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Treasury. As things are, these poor creatures, cut off from their kindred and companions of their youth, and God knows, scantily enough supplied with any other enjoyments, are deterred from indulging in the luxury of keeping remembrances alive by letters, from the apprehension of distressing, or being distressed; for it must be held in recollection that those at home, who even *send* letters here, must pay the *inland postage* in Great Britain, and doing which may pinch the belly of the poor man sharply, or deprive a whole family of a meal, although beneath the consideration of the rich one. Some means might surely be adopted to guard against much abuse of such an act of grace and favor on the part of the Government, and which would tend to conciliate the good will of the people so materially. For instance—let none such have a claim for the drawback of postage, who will not shew the contents at the office which delivers it; or dispatches it, if outward-bound.

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NOTE 11.—*Lower Canada*.—Having seen so little of this province, I cannot take upon myself to pass any thing like such decided opinions on it, as those I have given free scope to respecting the sister one. What I did see, on passing up the *St. Lawrence*, pleased me greatly. I of course am often in the way of hearing comparisons made, and which generally amount to this: that from the soil and climate being so much more favourable thereto, *Upper Canada* is the best field for *agriculture*; but for proximity to market and for commerce, *Lower Canada* has rather more advantages, and is better situated. The greatest drawback on the lower province is the great length of the winter; for, by all accounts, it is a very beautiful country, *full of capabilities*, with a very excellent soil too, and very healthy and conducive to longevity.

Report here says, that the new Company, formed for the settlement of Lands in *Lower Canada*, is now certainly to go into operation, and this is one proof of the good resulting from the appointment of such a man as *Mr. Stanley* to the

Colonial department, who could not have passed through such a country, without perceiving what a source of effectual consolation and relief to Great Britain it may be turned to. The operations of this Company, we understand, are to be carried on in some of those townships bordering upon *Vermont*, in the States, and *South of Quebec*. I am told it is a beautiful and highly picturesque part, and the land very good. The proportion of shares set apart to be offered to subscribers for them in the province (and which was both a wise and just measure) were caught up with the greatest avidity, and application made to England for more, but if acceded to or not I have not yet heard; this augurs well for the concern, as it proves the opinions held of it by those, *who must be the best judges*. In the list of directors too, we see the names of men well known to be intimately connected with the province, and to have a deep interest in all that concerns the advancement of its prosperity, which is also a *wise arrangement*, and quite as it should be; for these are the men to *direct, manage, and protect* the body of proprietors, most of whom take all for granted, sleep or doze over their own concerns, and may not even really understand where their property lies, and would be puzzled to place their finger on it were the map laid before them. It is not such as the ever-ready, all-grasping metropolitan *omnibus*, who is watching to pounce a claw into every pie and to extract all its tit-bits, while perhaps his underground workings may tend to endanger the whole fabric, and who possibly (but mind solely for the *public good*) combines a dozen such official situations with his own proper calling, and therefore, unless gifted with the power of Omnipresence, must neglect either your business or that of his customers, who can make proper labourers to employ in such *vineyards as these*; but it is men who know by personal experience the real qualities and *capacities* of the field they have to till. I shall sum up my ideas on this subject, and illustrate them in a few words. When I want a good pair of *shoes*, I resort to a good workman of that craft, I don't go to a *tailor*.

All here rejoice to see, in the establishment of this Company, an additional illustration of the way in which the *Canadas* are attracting the attention, both of the people and the Government at home, and that our prospects thus go on brightening in such a conspicuous way. The various important uses we may be turned to, English statesmen have been dull and slow in finding out; but depend upon it, we are making our way rapidly now in their hearts and affections, and I confidently believe, that if my children live, they

will see the whole face of this country in *both provinces* smiling with cultivation, and affording useful employment to millions of human beings, in the course of the next twenty years.

I find it is calculated, and by means of official documents too, that within the last six years these two provinces alone have received into them from *Great Britain* nearly *two hundred thousand* Emigrants, which mind, is the fifth part of *one million!* and all of whom have been, long ago, dispersed and provided for, with a loud cry still raised for want of labour. Now am I far wrong, when I call such a country "*England's main safety valve?*" The largest proportion by far of these people, as is well known to all conversant with the subject, sought in this upper province an asylum from want, and prospective, if not present misery and distress; consequently, must not the subtraction of such a numerous body have very materially tended to lessen clamour at home, and to afford considerable relief to the public at large; and can it fail to be a subject for joy and congratulation to every humane mind? Or is not the unqualified success that has attended the laudable spirit of enterprize shewn by these *poor settlers in the West* (see published *Letters from Lord Egremont's Petworth Emigrants*) far better and more worthy of imitation than their loitering away their idle time at home, perfecting themselves and children in immorality, and training them up to crime and to set the laws at defiance?

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*General and concluding remarks.*

NOTE 12.—And now my good friend, if you have kept your patience awake to wade through the whole of these memoranda, you will be fully prepared for my telling you, that favorable as was the view I was led to take of this interesting colony, before I entered it, the two year's experience I have had, has amply confirmed it, and that so far from having cause to lament the step I took when I entered upon what I know some of my friends at the time considered to be *exile*, I now rejoice at it, and feel an indescribable self satisfaction, that in spite of misgivings and obstacles, I did screw up courage enough to surmount them all, and if I have a regret, it is that ignorance made me put it off so long. As I have before said, I feel a degree of inexplicable light-heartedness and activity about me, as if I had disburthened myself of some everlasting oppressive weight. Mine is naturally an anxiously sensitive, and what many

may call fidgetty frame of mind, and consequently the posture of my affairs before I left England was fretting me to fiddlestrings; but this is the faintly drawn picture of what *I was*, what *I now am*, and the happy change wrought in both body and mind, and of her own change too for the better, you will have learnt before, through the medium of my wife's correspondence with her friends. 'Tis true that our mode and style of life, is as different from our former one as can well be imagined, and I may almost compare it to one of primitive patriarchal simplicity; true happiness and enjoyment can never be very far removed from that man, who complains only of the too rapid flight of time; employment, full, and I trust profitable occupation for every hour, depend on it, are sovereign remedies and restoratives, and such as I shall always recommend for those to resort to, who labour under such complaints as *were* mine.

By day the clearing, cultivation, and improvement of my property fully occupies me, and as you may guess, pretty well tires me too, and this has effectually removed my old complaint of nocturnal restlessness and watchfulness, which often left me unfit to engage either in business or pleasure; such ailments have become strangers to the whole family, for *all* have enough to do, and plenty too chalked out for tomorrow. But of myself and of them I have said enough I fear to tire you, did I not know the interest you take in me and mine; suffice it for me to add, that in the boast of what I call this my regeneration, I by no means stand alone here, for numerous are the instances I meet, of those who draw a similar picture of themselves. I do not intend to say, that we have no grumblers, no discontented people amongst us, for where is the spot on this wide world that this *can* be said of? but this I may safely add, that ninety-nine times in a hundred, if you dive into the cause, you will discover, it springs from a want of energy of mind or body, a lack of resources within themselves, from careless improvidence, or from being badly brought up, and with bad example, before they ever dreamt of such a place as *Canada*. Such as these had far better stay away, as they are wholly unfitted for the life they will have to engage in; but if they should unfortunately encumber us with their visits, let them not throw blame on the country for want of success, but have the honesty to put the saddle on the back of the right horse, or rather *ass*, namely, their own.

From all these observations, it must be deduced, that the creed I have formed of this branch of the British dominions, is conclusively favorable as to its capabilities of being

turned into a prolific source of relief, and a safe and hope inspiring place of refuge for all classes of my countrymen, that are encumbered with the complaints I once myself had; for *Canada*, and I now speak of *both the Provinces*, may almost use these words of scripture to them, "come unto me all you who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

Of its political consequence to the *empire*, as well from offering itself as such a safe asylum to its destitute and unprovided for poor, as in a *commercial* point of view, both immediately and prospectively, I find myself inadequate to impart my sentiments as I could wish, but you shall have them as well as I am able to explain myself, and I suppose they will induce you to set me down as being transformed into a sylvan philosopher. It is said, that "coming events usually cast their shadows before them;" and so, to my vision at least, the quickly approaching greatness of this vast, but hitherto little used, depot of riches, is now become quite obvious and unproblematical—and for these reasons: that the mother country, with an admitted ever-increasing superabundant population, has a deficiency of land, sufficiently rich, at least, to bear of its being cultivated *with profit*, or without a greater outlay upon it, than its returns would compensate for. Her "bold peasantry, the country's pride," are therefore, for want of employment, driven to the degrading necessity of resorting to the overseer, or in other words, of *asking alms*; and what can be more demoralizing and pernicious? Look now to the state of her *manufacturing* population; here the complaint is, that there is *over production*, which, every now and then, brings on a glut, arising from various causes, and amongst others, as I think, chiefly from the great improvements in machinery, and a competition of half-famished Irish workmen, who will, therefore, toil for almost nothing; so that numbers of this class too, and their families, seek refuge in parish relief; on the other hand, again I read in your journals, that the coffers of your rich men are overflowing with *capital*, which, they know not how to lay out *safely*, as well as profitably. Of the public funds they seem afraid, at their present high price; not from the little interest it brings them, but from so many of them knowing, by experience, that there may suddenly, and before they can look around them, befall some unforeseen event, which, in as many hours, may reduce the value of their investments, 20 per cent. or even more. Now, unless the public journals are one continued tissue of misrepresentations, this, my view of the present state of things at home,

cannot be very far from correct; I, therefore ask, what can be more notoriously manifest, than that England's chief complaints, and which, all serious and reflecting minds declare, she must by some means get rid of, to avoid a convulsion sooner or later, arise from a want of that *space and scope for the profitable employment* of both her redundant *labour* and *capital*, which these provinces are by nature so eminently calculated and peculiarly adapted to supply? And what also can be clearer, than that if she does furnish us with the means of bringing into full cultivation such a fertile soil as we are blest with, by sending us what we so much want, *labour* and *capital*, it must infallibly cause us to draw every year, more and more largely on her accumulated store of *manufactures*, to supply those wants, which a progressive increase of comforts and prosperity must go on annually augmenting? As yet, it is true, our chief returns must be in the relief afforded to her parish rates, by taking off an ever multiplying number of discontented paupers, and in supplying her with good and cheap corn, in any quantity required. But are not such reliefs as these of the most paramount importance to a country, where the mass of its population, and more particularly in Ireland, never-ceasingly complain of being half starved, and who never can be prevailed upon to starve in quiet? And thus, would a new tone be gradually given to the state of society in *both countries*, and the moral and social state of the people be improved by giving them *employment*, which must also tend to render property itself more secure; cementing at the same time, their bonds of consanguinity and friendship, and strengthening, by reciprocity and commercial intercourse, their mutual good will, which is the best and surest way to render their union *permanent* and *indissoluble*; for their common origin never can be lost sight of.

So much for my political musings on this important subject, and which, I think, must every year, more and more force itself on the serious consideration of the British government, and quickly lead to the best results, to both parent and child; and I am induced to argue more favourably than ever of the country, in which is now centered the future hopes of myself and children, from the manner in which the office of Secretary of the Colonies is now filled. *Mr. Stanley* has travelled through both of these provinces, and his penetration, although not then a statesman, must instantly have seen their manifest capabilities, if judiciously taken advantage of, and properly directed. It is a pity that more of the sons of our nobility and gentry do not extend their travels in this direction, for the information they may gain, would prove, in after

life, far more beneficial to them and their country too, than what most of them pick up from kept mistresses, and splendid, but swindling gaming houses about the *Palais Royal*, and which is the limits of the travels of so many of them.

I shall now wind up what, if you have found tiresome, you have only yourself to blame for, since you so strictly enjoined me to impart my ideas fully, by desiring you and my other friends, who thirsted for this kind of information, to hold in view, that favourably as I have depicted this my adopted country, I by no means intend to say it is well calculated for every one. No, my strong recommendation of it is to those who, with frugal, persevering, and industrious habits, can *look first difficulties boldly and courageously in the face*:—to those who, let them toil, moil, and drudge ever so hard at home, are but barely able to get themselves and families but badly housed, badly clothed, badly fed, and badly sheltered from the vicissitudes of weather:—to those who, like myself, with a tolerable education, and brought up to enjoy in early life most even of its luxuries, fortune has not altogether smiled upon, but who have still *some capital left*, and too much proper pride to submit to dependence, or to quartering themselves and their necessities upon relations and friends:—to those who, with humble pretensions, are endowed with an independent spirit, vigour of mind, and a healthy frame:—to those, who have families of children to provide for, with but limited means to do it, and who would prefer seeing their offspring established with the enjoyment of all its necessities, and leading a moral and contented life, away from the temptations, vanities, and artificial wants of an over-refined country:—to those, whose narrow incomes barely suffice to eke and spin out their days in the most moderate enjoyment of the bare necessities of life, with but few of its real comforts, and without having one farthing laid by at the year's end to meet any unforeseen contingency, and this includes those *farmers* who can scarcely pay their way, and are fast getting through their *little capitals*. These, and which I lament to think, now include a very large portion of the British public, are the description of people for whom Canada (either *Upper* or *Lower*) is, according to my judgment, *peculiarly adapted*. Nor do I consider it to be beneath the notice of even your gentry, and men who, although well to do in the world, find the greatest difficulty in discovering any pursuit for their younger sons, either in the *learned professions, army, navy, or even commerce*, which is now complained of universally, as being already greatly overstocked; and, even if their pride admits of their turning their

thoughts to *trade*, will they not be told, that excessive competition already renders the profits so trifling, as to make any scarce worth following? To half-pay or retired officers of the navy and army having little beyond their pay or pensions, I also consider Canada offers a very eligible retreat.

But, in God's name let the invincible idler, the sluggard, the mere loungeur through life, the drunkard, the everlasting grumbler, the conceited pretender, the ruined or half ruined gamester, the quarrelsome and litigious, of whatever denomination, avoid us; for I wholly and absolutely exclude from my estimate every one of these descriptions, both men and women. Nor should I pretend to tempt here those whose command over money can procure them, at home, the comforts and enjoyments of life; for you must hold in mind, that every observation I have made, is intended only to have a direct reference to the relative and positive wants and necessities of my countrymen.

Man is said to be a mere creature of habit; and how forcibly is this truism exemplified in my own person, for would you, six years ago, have thought it came within the limit of *possibilities*, that the friend who now addresses you, could ever have been manufactured, by any means whatever, into a happy and cheerful *backwoodsman*? who is

“Content, and careless of to-morrow's fare;”

and, most assuredly, if the true value of a man is to be estimated by the uses to which he applies the health and understanding which is bestowed upon him by a kind Providence, you may now set your old friend down in your books, as twice the man he was when you last saw him.

I need scarcely tell you, that all my circle join in the kindest regards, although the younger part are grown and altered so much, as to give little chance of your recollecting them, were you to see them now; and

I am, as ever,

Your affectionate Friend,

J. C.

(All who are not interested can pass by this note:—)

NOTE 13.—*Canada Company*.—As your late letters have so particularly requested me, on account of certain of your friends, to furnish you with my sentiments, as to the prospects and opinions *held here* of this enterprise, I have quietly gathered what I could on the subject, and which is, in substance, as follows:—that they may rest satisfied of the

*safety* of their investments, as they have no less than *landed security* in a country in which, according to the test of the last four or five years, all such property has augmented in value, we will say, to be within compass, *twenty per cent. per annum*. Now I ask whereabouts the property in Great Britain is situated, of which this can be said, and so as to defy contradiction? But this is not all—for as money so notoriously makes money, so likewise does civilization, and the settlement of wild lands, as infallibly tend to widen the gradual, but constantly expanding circle of cultivation and improvements; and thus, the impetus being now powerfully given to the wheel, nothing, as we all think here, can stop it; and it is only now wondered at, how it came to pass, that the unlimited resources contained in the bosom of such a country, should have continued so long, either unused, or not profitably so. The simile is not inapt, which I have heard applied, and which compares it to a parent having a child he has been accustomed long to consider stupid, and void of capacity, until some unlooked for event had suddenly, and as if by magic, elicited from him, such bright sparks of genius, as to prove, beyond a doubt, that he was possessed of splendid talents, which required only to be brought into action, to lead to a successful career. If you can gain access to them, *read our Upper Canada papers*, very little from which, as we notice here, gets into the *English newspapers*, and which we think extraordinary, now that there are so many in the three kingdoms, who must feel such a lively interest in the welfare of their numerous friends in this colony; you will, by perusing them, be convinced, that what I have advanced in the course of these *notes*, is no hyperbole, for you will see improvements are contemplated, if not in positive operation throughout the entire colony, in nearly every undertaking which tends to advance a country and community; such as *new roads, canals, harbours, bridges, banks, schools, places of worship, steam boats, public carriages*, with minor ones, too numerous to mention. Now if any thing will bear me out, in what some may suspect to be too flattering an eulogium on this colony, and its future prospect of prosperous advancement, surely all this will; and I therefore do earnestly request of my sceptical friends, if any, to *satisfy themselves* by a reference to these *public documents*. If this cannot be controverted, must not the inevitable effect be, a gradual advance in the value of all our landed property? And as I understand that the Company are proprietors of about *two millions* of acres of this property, and that too scattered through nearly every township in the

province, and what is very important to keep in view, consequently mixed with, and benefiting by, so many of their neighbour's improvements, I trust I may venture, without incurring the danger of misleading your friends, to say, they may rest satisfied they have at any rate, got good security for any investments they may have made, and this I have enlarged and dwelt rather upon, as *security* I consider to be the *first* object to be looked into, in all such undertakings.

The improvement, and making the most of this vast extent of land, over which we may call the Company the lords of the soil, until it is sold and paid for, must, of course, very materially depend upon *good management*, in which I include *economy* without *parsimony*, or the fear of judicious and moderate outlay; on obvious improvements, that cannot fail in their consequences to repay tenfold, and at no mighty distant date; a vigilant eye, on the part of every individual interested therein, to prevent or detect, and expose jobbing or *favoritism*, in the *disposal* of their lands; and a sharp look out to keeping purchasers up to their covenants for clearing, settling, and improving, &c.; and which is obviously of vital importance, I may say to the *whole province*. If this is done, there can be no necessity for being over rigid, with those I shall call *tenants* until their whole purchase money is paid; as there will be then ample protection for any reasonable indulgence they may, from a variety of unforeseen causes, possibly crave; and more particularly after the first or second season of going on their *wild* lands (which is the term used here), and *in which compass lies the chief part of the troubles and difficulties they will have to combat with*. But mind, this I say only with reference to the *poorer class* of their purchasers; for others ought to, and I should imagine by my own feelings would, be glad to get out of debt as fast as possible; although doubtless they will find, occasionally, that they have to contend with crafty, over-reaching *schemers*, who will require to be dealt with in the most decisive and positive way, and which a public Company can so much better do than individuals. I say again, they will have more than their share of luck, if, in such an extensive concern, they wholly escape such fellows as these. It rests with the proprietors to look to the servants they employ both here and at home; but I must tell you one remark I have often heard made, namely, "that there are too few men in the direction of it, who are themselves thoroughly and *personally* acquainted, and intimately connected with this colony; and in which such a magnificent enterprize is now in such active progress:"—and again, "that it would be

“ well if they had men, whose avocations were to induce them to *visit* the scene of action occasionally, and to *see* and *hear on the spot* what is going on, or what *ought* to go on.” Are your friends sure they have a set of men, who are indefatigable in promoting that grand, and almost only want here, *Emigration*? This, after all, is what is to fill their coffers, and on this mainly depends, whether that is to be done *quickly* or *tardily*; for, from what I have already said, you may perceive that I consider it to be only a question of time. I need scarcely add, that every one here considers it to be folly in the proprietors to imagine they can have too many irons of *this sort* in the fire, either for the advancement of their own particular interests, or for the general benefit of this province; and which was understood to be the *primary object* contemplated when the Company was established. Their *Huron Tract*, as is confessed by all I have conversed with, is one of inestimable value; and which must be considerably enhanced, when the Government lays out new townships for settlement on its *northern* boundary, and which is much spoken of now, although such an operation, a few years back, would have been thought insanity. I should have imagined, that it would have been practicable for the Company to have secured from the Government, by purchase, the whole of the space of land, which you will see on the map lies between the *Huron Tract* and the still more northerly *Indian Territory*: certainly they should be entitled to a preference, since they have borne the brunt of the battle; for every *liberal* and *unprejudiced* man here admits the great *public good*, that it has brought about to the colony at large, by as it were awaking the British public from a state of torpidity, and almost utter ignorance of the existence of such an immeasurable field being open for the relief of, what I will call, *British necessities*; and this certainly has been mainly effected by means of the gratuitous dispersion of the Company’s prospectuses and published tracts. Besides such a Company, by combination and *concentration of capital*, can do more in one year towards the effectual settlement of wild lands than individuals could in twenty years, and do it better too. It would be a curious illustration of the strides this noble colony has made in so short a time, to see this Company going up to Government to make overtures, and ask leave to purchase *another million* of acres of land adjoining to that, which, four or five years ago, they were so anxious to get the Government to relieve them of, by cancelling their bargain; and which I have lately heard was really in contemplation, and made a subject for grave debate at

one of those *learned* conclaves, and gathering together of wise and cunning men of the *East*, viz. a general meeting of proprietors. The Company, I am told, was reduced to the brink of bankruptcy, by a reluctance shewn to advance more capital. Good God! *what ignorance* of the true value of such a purchase—did the bare idea of such a thing display! Future times will scarcely believe it possible; and well, indeed, might the Government laugh in its sleeve, and express its readiness to accommodate, by disencumbering them of such an onerous burthen. Supposing the proprietors *were* called upon for money, (and how could such a property be made valuable without?) so long as that money was judiciously expended, how could they lay it out *anywhere* to so much advantage to themselves, let me ask? It is to all intents and purposes, like a man having an estate which brings him in only five shillings per acre, grudging an outlay of a few hundred pounds, which would ensure its then producing to him double that income, at least. It is not *quantity* alone this company possesses, but *quality* also, at least, if I am bound to credit what *every body* admits; and we have amongst us, some, who would be very slow to praise what they would rather have had a good slice of, here and there, for themselves; indeed, it is not many years back, when almost any Government hanger-on, or great man's satellite, might have secured the gratuitous possessions of thousands of our acres. Such proprietors as these, have long ago been discovered, to be the greatest nuisances that Canada has to complain of; nine out of ten of them being absentees. The Government, however, has for some time adopted quite a different system in the disposal of their lands, and *none*, I believe, is now to be had otherwise, than by *purchase*; even old *naval* or *military* settlers are compelled now to *purchase*, but have a certain pecuniary allowance in lieu of land, according to their respective ranks, so that they can now settle where they please.

Our *absentee* proprietors too, have been looking sharp about, since they have discovered that their property is of *bona fide* value; besides which, we have had *clergy reserves* in the market, all which competition, added to a less number of Emigrants this season, has somewhat diminished the Company's sales I understand. In my opinion, the disposal of all these various kinds of *reserves*, which have been heretofore only *barriers against improvements*, is the very best thing that could possibly happen for this Company, in as far that it cannot fail, by *removing a universally complained of nuisance*, to render all land in the province more valuable,

and especially what is bordering upon any of them ; and of course many parts of the Company's large possessions come under this description. Let not your friends I say, and *for these reasons*, feel jealous of the competition I have spoken of ; indeed, I am very much disposed to believe, that the last sold of their lands, and which prior selection will be almost sure to make some of the worst in quality of them, will turn out to produce the highest price. Now after this preamble, you may say this—that were *I* concerned, I should look more to the being possessed of property which has the best of *security*, as being an article that *Great Britain wants, must have, and therefore by degrees must take off their hands* ; and if it brought me in any thing like a reasonable interest at present, I should shut my eyes as to the price of the day that my property might be *called* worth, and by those, perhaps, who *can* know nothing of the matter, or who have, perhaps, formed all their conceptions of what this country may be, from a view of Epping Forest on an Easter hunt day, never having possibly extended their travels further from Change ; resting satisfied, that ere many years passed over my head, or of my children's, *unless it was all swallowed up by a convulsion of nature*, it could not fail to produce brilliant returns.—

The following is some of the *talk* concerning the said Company : that *Goderich* harbour is to be improved, or rather, I presume, a secure one made ; that a steamer is to be built to navigate *Lake Huron*, for convenience of settlers ; and that a bridge is to be built over the river *Maitland* ; but, as I before told you, the Government having it in contemplation to settle some new townships to the *Northward*, and which, if done, must partake largely of the benefits of such improvements, I presume it will contribute towards the expense incurred, either immediately or *prospectively* ; but a far better arrangement would be, for the *Government* and *Company* to bargain for the tract I have spoken of, and I cannot help supposing it might be added on *liberal terms* to their *Huron tract*. This is the marrow of what I have informed myself on, respecting this concern, and I shall not hereafter again lose sight of it.

I have received safe all the documents you sent me out by Mr. —, and which have of course told me much on this subject, that I did not before know.

THE END.

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