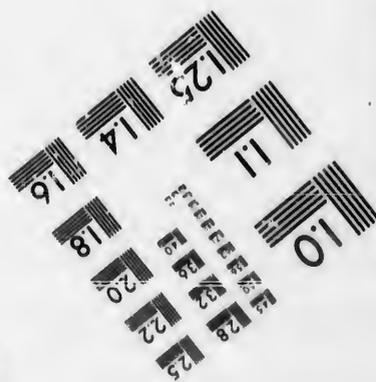
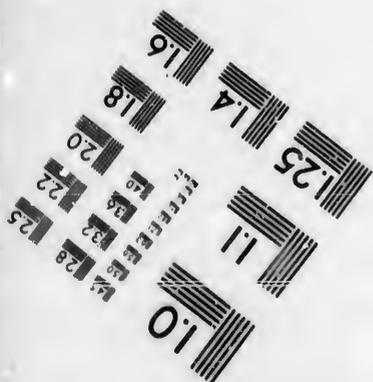
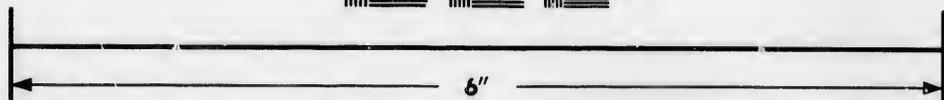
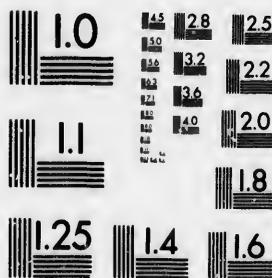


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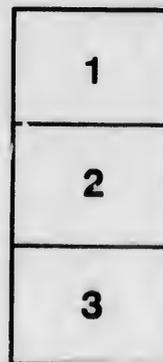
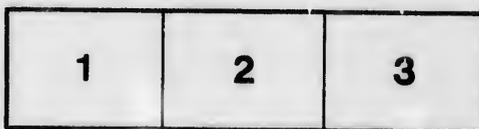
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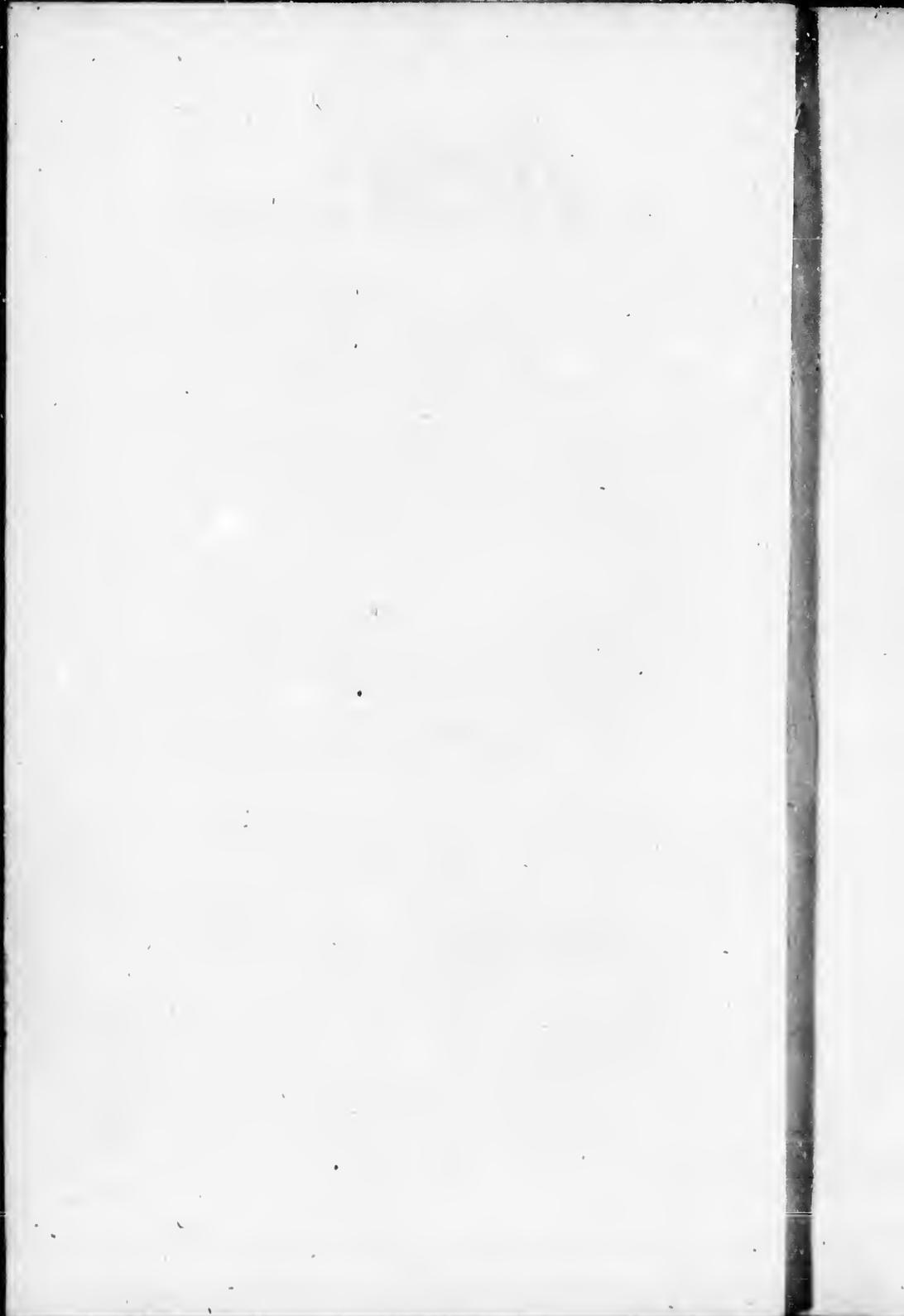
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THE  
**Emigrant's Guide**

TO THE

**British Settlements**

IN

**UPPER CANADA,**

AND THE

**UNITED STATES**

OF

*America,*

INCLUDING SMITH'S GEOGRAPHICAL VIEW OF UPPER CANADA,  
WITH EXTRACTS OF ORIGINAL LETTERS OF A LANCASHIRE  
FARMER, AND OTHER RESIDENTS ;

ALSO,

EXTRACTS FROM BIRKBECK'S NOTES AND LETTERS FROM THE ILLINOIS, AND  
A RECENT LETTER IN REPLY TO MR. COBBETT, WITH MR. RICHARD  
FLOWER'S LETTEES IN REFUTATION OF THE SAME ;

AND REMARKS ON THE SUPERIOR ADVANTAGES OF THE ABOVE PLACES,

TO THE

**CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, NEW SOUTH WALES,**

&c. &c.

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"The only ties which ought to bind men to their Country are the  
benefits they receive from it, and this is the only *genuine and rational*  
patriotism."

"England could spare 5000 people annually, while she would be  
refreshed and strengthened by the discharge."—*Gourlay's Letter.*

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**London:**

PRINTED FOR T. KEYS, COLEMAN STREET, BANK.

1820.

## Address.

WHEN it is considered the immense sums of money which are annually expended to ameliorate the condition of the poor and unemployed, without causing any permanent benefit, and whilst want and distress are obliging them to quit their native soil in search of a better home in distant parts, it has often surprised the Editor of this small Work, that the tide of Emigration has not been more directed towards our Settlements in Upper Canada: its superiority and advantages to any other part are even acknowledged by the Americans themselves, who call it the *Garden of North America*, and are daily settling there, must be a sufficient proof. When the British Parliament last Sessions granted £50,000 for encouragement of Emigration to the Cape of Good Hope, their object could not have been wholly disinterested, otherwise they would have cast an eye to their Settlements in the Canadas, and seen the advantages which must accrue by dedicating a similar sum for the encouragement of Emigration there. However, after five years of peace, from certain permanent evils, distress and dissatisfaction still stalks abroad, therefore it behoves the Philanthropist to adopt some permanent remedy. As such, the Editor recommends the forming of a Society for promoting of Emigration to Upper Canada, uniting with the Society already formed at Quebec. The superior advantages to the Cape of Good Hope, Botany Bay, or the Western territories, every person must acknowledge who have impartially viewed the subject; besides, the salubrity of the climate being more congenial to the constitutions of Europeans, the difficulties of the journey considerably less, not being half the distance—besides, the land being granted to settlers free of expence: before this Address is concluded, it will necessary for Emigrants to adopt such a plan, by which they may avoid the evils and distresses heretofore encountered in the United States, by forming themselves into a body sufficient, if possible, to freight a vessel, and go direct to the spot fixed upon previous to departure, without delay and unnecessary expences on the way. Could it be expected that Mechanics would meet with immediate employ in a country already overflowing with articles of English manufacture, to the ruination of the Manufacturers themselves both here and there: had they directed their course to the Upper Canadas, or Birkbeck's Settlement, the evil might have been avoided.

*The Editor is willing to receive Communications, (Post paid) or give instructions to those persons desirous of joining a party now forming to sail early next Spring for Montreal, from thence to London District, Upper Province, Canada.*



## OBSERVATIONS, &c.

**A**FTER a war unusually protracted, which had desolated the fairest portions of the globe, which, in its progress, had been marked by the destruction of millions, and which had been productive of evils the most terrible ever sustained by suffering humanity, the nations of the earth fondly contemplated the return of peace as an event which would, in some degree, compensate for the sacrifices which they had made, and the privations which they had so long and so patiently suffered.

Among those who had endured with unexampled fortitude the evils attendant on a state of warfare so protracted, were the British people. The blood and treasure of England had been lavishly expended during the contest, but she sustained the hour of trial with magnanimity, and came out of it triumphantly. During the



progress of the war, her victories both on the land and on the ocean had been unprecedented, brilliant, and decisive. But they had been achieved with uncommon exertion, at an enormous expence, and repose was absolutely necessary. The hour of peace at length arrived—but it brought not with it those benefits which had been so eagerly contemplated.

The commerce of England had covered the seas, from the commencement to the termination of hostilities, and her thousand ships of war while they so gloriously added to her naval fame, protected her commercial fleets, and enabled them to traverse the sea in comparative security. London became the emporium of the globe, and the commercial monopoly of England was complete. The return of peace, therefore, by admitting the belligerent powers to a participation in the advantages of commerce, was scarcely felt, and the diminution of the commerce of England naturally kept pace with the activity of those maritime powers, who, during the continuance of hostilities, were almost in a state of absolute inaction.

The cry of distress was soon heard from all quarters, and the bankruptcy of our merchants and tradesmen occurred to an extent hitherto unknown. These failures involved the fate of thousands connected with the machine of trade and commerce; the rich became insolvent—many of the middling classes descended to poverty—the poor filled the workhouses—the local taxes pressed with intolerable weight upon those who were unable to pay, and the situation of many who were obliged to contribute to these was scarcely superior to the wretched inmates of the workhouse.

The aspect of affairs at this moment is not much improved in appearance. Commerce has revived in an inconsiderable degree, and there is an increased demand for our manufactures, but a frightful national debt still presses on an already exhausted people, and the united demands of local and national taxes have influenced, and do still influence thousands of our countrymen to abandon their native shores, and to commence as it were a new existence on those of the Atlantic.

Among the many causes leading to the immense emigration which is taking place, must be particularly noticed, an excess of population, and the use of machinery in our manufactories. The mill machinery of a single mill now completes the work of thousands. Machinery also used in the operations of agriculture is hourly lessening the demand for hands. An excellent writer (Mr. GOULRAY) observes, in a letter from Canada, that England could spare 50,000 people annually, while she would be refreshed and strengthened by the discharge. In war, England sent abroad annually more than 20,000 of her youthful sons to be slain, and more than 20,000 of her youthful daughters shot after them the last hope of honourable love. In these 25 years of war, the population of England rapidly increasing, what is it to do now, when war is at an end, when love and opportunity are no longer to be foiled, and the poor laws have provided sustenance for children independent of the parent's care? Under existing circumstances, it is absolutely necessary, for the domestic comfort of England, that a vent should be immediately opened for her increasing population, and the

colonization of Canada, if once begun upon a liberal footing, will afford this vent. It is, however, impossible to behold the affecting spectacle of so many myriads of our fellow citizens embarking for foreign shores, without experiencing distressing emotions. With what agonized feelings do they quit their homes—their fire-sides—the abodes of their ancestors—the country to which a thousand recollections—a thousand heart-rending associations still rivet them.

“Behold the duteous son, the sire decay’d,  
 The modest matron, and the blushing maid,  
 Fore’d from their homes, a melancholy train,  
 To traverse climes beyond the western main,  
 Where wild Oswego spreads her swamps around,  
 And Niagara stuns with thund’ring sound!  
 E’en now, perhaps, as there some pilgrim strays  
 Through tangled forests, and through dangerous ways,  
 Where beasts with man divided empire claim,  
 And the brown Indian marks with murd’rous aim:  
 There, while above the giddy tempest flies,  
 And all around distressful yells arise,  
 The pensive exile, bending with his woe,  
 To stop too fearful, and too faint to go,  
 Casts a long look where England’s glories shine,  
 And bids his bosom sympathize with mine.”

The great stream of emigration is evidently towards the United States, but many thousands of emigrants arrive yearly from England, in Canada. The population of the provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, received an accession of 5000 persons in 1817. At the present moment, settlers are embarking in considerable numbers from every part of the United Kingdom, and during the year 1818, it is apprehended that the number of persons who will embark for America, will far exceed any thing of the kind ever known. This little work, therefore, cannot fail to be of singular service to those whom circumstances may impel to quit their beloved country. To the industrious enquirer, it may afford instruction—to the visionary a salutary check, but it cannot fail to afford amusement to all.

The author does not claim the merit of exclusive originality in this unassuming production. Where so many have written, and so well on subjects connected with America, there cannot be much said that may claim the need of uncommon novelty. Having, however, twice crossed the Atlantic, he has inspected in person most of what

he has described, and thus can at least vouch for the fidelity of his little work, which he again asserts, was undertaken expressly for the information of persons about to emigrate to America, and who have not leisure for the inspection of more voluminous works.

### *Lower Canada.*

The face of Lower Canada is remarkably bold and striking. The noble river St. Lawrence flows more than 400 miles, between high lands and lofty mountains, sometimes divided into channels by large islands, and at other times intersected by clusters of small ones; numerous rapid streams rolling from the neighbouring mountains, breaking over steep precipices, and mingling their waters with the grand river; its bold and rugged shores, lofty eminencies, and sloping vallies, covered with the umbrageous foliage of immense forests, or interspersed with the cultivated settlements of the inhabitants, pre-

sent altogether to the eye of the spectator, a succession of the most sublime and picturesque objects, that imagination can conceive.

The soil of lower Canada is very various, and is more or less fertile, as it approaches to the North or South, from Father Point (the lowest settlement on the south shore) to Kamouraska; but little is cultivated, and that yields a crop only with considerable labour\*.

From Kamouraska to the Island of Orleans, both on the North and South shores, the soil gradually improves and great quantities of grain are produced. The average crop is about 12 bushels. Emigrants from Europe greatly excel the natives in all agricultural operations—the prejudices of the Canadians in favor of old systems will not however permit them to adopt European

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\* The labour of manuring is not however to be included. Mr. B. an intelligent native of Plymouth-Dock, who has lived ten years in Canada, observes in one of his letters: I have often requested the Canadians to throw Compost on their lands, as I do, to which the uniform answer is, "there is no necessity for it, our fore-fathers never did it, why should we?"

methods. Of the soil in the vicinity of Quebec, that of the island of Orleans is reckoned the best. This island is diversified with high and lowlands, covered with woods, or converted into meadows and corn fields; the soil is sufficiently fertile to afford the inhabitants a large surplus of productions, beyond their own consumption, which they dispose of at Quebec.

The meadows of Canada, which have most commonly been corn fields, are reckoned superior to those in the more southern parts of America. They possess a fine close turf, well covered at the roots with clover. They cannot be mown more than once a year, in consequence of the Spring commencing so late. In Autumn they exchange their beautiful green, for a light brown hue, which gives them the appearance of being scorched by the sun. It is two or three weeks after the snow is gone, before they recover their natural colour; this is the case all over America, whose pastures, during the Autumnal and Winter months, never possess that rich and lovely verdure, which they do in England.

The high lands, with good management, yield tolerable crops, but the Canadians are miserable farmers. They seldom or never manure their land, and plough so very slight and careless, that they continue year after year, to turn over the clods which lie at the surface, without penetrating an inch deeper into the soil. Hence their grounds become exhausted, over-run with weeds, and yield but scanty crops. The fields of wheat which I have seen in different parts of the country, appeared much stunted in their growth, and were often much choked with weeds. When cut down the straw was seldom more than 18 or 20 inches long, the ears small, and the wheat itself discoloured, and little more than two thirds of the size of our English wheat. The wheat about Montreal, appeared to be the best that come under my observation. There is however a month difference in the climate between Montreal, and Quebec: the former is situated in lat. 45, 36, Three Rivers in 46, 25, and Quebec in 46, 35. The French-Canadians sow only summer wheat, though I should think that winter wheat might be sown in winter with success.

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Peas, Oats, Rye and Barley, are sown more or less by every farmer, though the largest crops of these are in the vicinity of Montreal.

The towns of Montreal and Quebec including their suburbs, are said to contain 14,000 inhabitants each, nearly three-fourths of whom are French.

The British inhabitants of Quebec consist of the government people, the military; a few persons belonging to the church, the law and medicine;\* the merchants and shop-keepers.

The French comprise the old noblesse, and seigniors, most of whom are members of the government; the clergy; the advocates and notaries; the storekeepers.

The houses at Quebec are, with few exceptions, built of stone; the roofs of the better part are

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\* Better medical practitioners of character and skill, are much wanted, both in Upper and Lower Canada, and the Canadians would do well to encourage professional gentlemen by such liberality as would induce them to settle among them.

generally covered with sheets of iron or tin. The streets of the lower town are scarcely deserving of that appellation; they are rugged, narrow and irregular. A heavy sameness prevades all the houses in Quebec, which is seldom relieved by any elegance or beauty in the public buildings. The upper town is the most agreeable part of Quebec, both in summer and winter. The markets of Quebec are well supplied. In the summer the following articles are brought to market by the habitans, (country people) and generally sold at the prices affixed to them.

*Sterling Money.*

MEAT.	Beef, per lb.	1d. $\frac{1}{2}$ to 4d.
	Mutton, per lb.	4d. to 6d; per sheep, 8s. to 10s.
	Lamb, per quarter,	3s. 6d. to 4s. 6d.
	Veal, per lb.	6d. to 7d.
	Pork, per lb.	5d. to 6d.
	Sausages.	
POULTRY AND GAME.	Turkies, per couple,	3s. 6d. to 5s.
	Fowls, do.	1s. 3d. to 2s.
	Chickens, do.	7d to 10d.
	Geesc, do.	2s. 5d. to 4s. 6d.
	Wild, do.	do.
	Partridges, do.	10d, to 15d
	Pigeons, per dozen,	1s. 6d. to 4s.
Hares, each,	5d. to 9d.	

- FISH. { Eels, price according to their size  
 Trout do.  
 Perch do.  
 Poisson Dorée do.  
 Maskinongé do.  
 Shad, each, 1d. to 2d.  
 Sturgeon  
 Actigan } Of various prices, ac-  
 Black bass } cording to the size.  
 Salmon } At some periods Cod  
 Fresh Cod } and Salmon are as  
 Salt Cod } dear as in London.  
 Cat Fish }

- VEGETA-  
 BLES. { Potatoes, 18d. to 20d. per bushel  
 Cabbages 1d. to 2d. each  
 Onions, per hundred, 10d.  
 Leeks, per bundle, 4d.  
 Carrots, but very little cheaper than  
 in London  
 Turnips, do.  
 Peas do.  
 Beans, do.  
 Beet, do.  
 Celery, do.  
 Sallad do.  
 Asparagus, per bundle  
 Cotannier do.  
 Parsnips do.  
 Boiled corn, herbs, &c.

- FRUIT. { Apples, 18d. per barrel  
 Pears, but few at market  
 Strawberries about 6d. per quart  
 Currants  
 Gooseberries  
 Raspberries

FRUIT.	}	Blubberies
		Blackberries
		Plums
		Melons
		Maple Sugar, 2d. to 3d. per lb
		Flour, per Cwt. 18s. to 25s.
		Lard, 6d. to 9d. per lb
		Tallow, 9d. to 10d. do.
		Tobacco, 9d. do.
SUN-DRIES.	}	Butter, 9d. to 14d. do.
		Oats, per minot, 2s. 6d. to 3s.
		Hay, per bundle, 6d. to 7d.
		Straw, per do. 2d. to 3d.
		Wood, per cord, 12s. to 15s.
		Soap, magasins, furs, &c.

In winter, a few only of the above articles are brought to market. As soon as the river between Quebec and the Island of Orleans is frozen over, a large supply of provisions is received from that island. The Canadians, at the commencement of winter, kill the greatest part of their stock, which they carry to market in a frozen state. The inhabitants of the towns, then, supply themselves with a sufficient quantity of poultry, and vegetables, till Spring, and keep them in garrets or cellars. As long as they remain frozen, they preserve their goodness, but they will not keep long after they have thawed.

I have eaten turkies in April, which have been kept in this manner all the winter, and found them remarkably good. Before the frozen provisions are dressed, they are always laid for some hours in cold water, which extracts the ice; otherwise, by a sudden immersion in hot water, they would be spoiled.

The articles of life are certainly very reasonable in Canada, but the high price of house rent and European goods, together with the high wages of servants, more than counterbalance that advantage. A person must pay at least 70 or 100 per cent. upon the London price for every article of wearing apparel, furniture, &c. unless he attends the public sales, which are pretty frequent, and where articles are sometimes sold very low; but there he is often liable to be deceived, and many a keen economist has been confoundedly bit.

The lower town market place is reckoned cheaper than the other. It is not so large, but is generally well supplied. Fish is at certain seasons abundant, particularly salmon and shad;

the latter is classed among the herrings, which it somewhat resembles in flavour, though widely differing in size, the shad being as large as a moderate sized salmon. They are a great relief to the poor people, in the months of May and June, as at that season they are taken in shoals. In the river of St. Lawrence, from the entrance to more than 200 miles above Quebec, large quantities are salted down for the use of the upper province.

Fresh cod are very rarely brought to market. A merchant in the upper town usually gets a supply once during the summer season, which he keeps in an ice-house, and retails to the inhabitants at nearly the London price. Montreal receives a supply from the United States during the winter season; they are packed up in ice, and a few of them find their way to Quebec.

Considering the vast quantities of fish with which the river and gulph of St. Lawrence abound, the markets in Canada are very ill supplied. Though the gulph is full of mackarel, yet none ever appear at Quebec. Oysters are

sometimes brought from Chaleur Bay, but so seldom, and in such small quantities, that an oyster party is considered by the inhabitants as a very rare treat. They are however but of an indifferent quality, and though of large size when taken out of the shell, yet have so little substance in them, that when cut with a knife, the water runs out, and they diminish at least a fourth. The shells are large, and adhere to each other in great clusters. The herrings of Canada are large, but of an indifferent quality. Sprats there are none, at least none ever appear on shore.

In the Spring, the markets are abundantly supplied with wild pigeons, which are sometimes sold much lower than the price I have mentioned; this happens in plentiful seasons.; but the immense flocks that formerly passed over the country are now considerably diminished, or as the land becomes cleared they retire farther back.

The beef of Canada is in general poor and tough eating. The Canadians have not got into a proper method of fattening their cattle, which are

for the most part lean and ill fed. The butchers, however, contrive to furnish a better sort, which they fatten on their own farms. The veal is killed too young to please an English taste, and the pork is over-grown. Mutton and lamb are very good, and the latter on its first coming in, is sold at a price that would not disgrace a London market. The habitans sell their meat by the quarter, half, or whole carcase, which accounts for the different prices I have affixed to those articles. The butchers retail them by the pound.

The best butter is brought from Green Island, about one hundred and fifty miles below Quebec. That sold by the Canadians in the market place, is generally of a cheesy or sour flavour, owing to the cream being kept so long before it is churned. Milk is brought to market in the winter time, in large frozen cakes.

Large quantities of Maple sugar are sold at about half the price of the West-India sugar. The manufacturing of this article takes place early in the spring, when the sap or juice rises in the Maple trees. It is a very laborious work,

as at that time the snow is just melting, and the Canadians suffer great hardships in procuring the liquor from an immense number of trees, dispersed over many hundred acres of land. The liquor is boiled down, and often adulterated with flour, which thickens and renders it heavy; after it is boiled a sufficient time, it is poured into tureens, and when cold, forms a thick hard cake of the shape of the vessel. These cakes are of a dark brown colour, for the Canadians do not trouble themselves about refining it: the people in Upper Canada make it very white, and it may be easily clarified equal to the finest loaf sugar made in England. It is very hard, and requires to be scraped with a knife when used for tea, otherwise the lumps would be a considerable time dissolving. Its flavour strongly resembles the candied horehound sold by the druggists in England, and the Canadians say that it possesses medicinal qualities, for which they eat it in large lumps. It very possibly acts as a corrective to the vast quantity of fat pork which they consume, as it possesses a greater degree of acidity than the West-India

sugar. Before salt was in use, sugar was eat with meat, in order to correct its putrescency. Hence probably the custom of eating sweet apple sauce with pork and goose; and currant jelly with hare and venison.

Hay is sold at market in bundles of 17lbs. weight each, at 50s. the hundred bundles. Straw is sold in the same manner, at about half the price. Wood is brought to market in carts or sleighs; three loads make one cord, which sells from 12s. to 15s. Most people at Québec, however, lay in their wood from the water side, near the lower town market-place; it is brought down the river in summer, in cribs of six cords each. A cord of wood is six feet long, four feet high, and two feet deep, and is sold at the water side from 1s. to 9s. The expences of carting, piling, and saving the wood, is about 4s. 6d. more. Coals are generally brought by the vessels as ballast, and sell from 20s. to 30s. per chaldron, at Québec; they are a cheaper fuel than wood, but the latter is better adapted for the stoves which are used in Canada. The French people sell their commodities by the minot, a measure

which is one-twelfth more than the Winchester bushel. They also measure land by the arpent, which is four-fifths of a statute acre.

The fish in the seas, gulphs, rivers, and lakes, of Canada, are innumerable; they consist, indeed, of almost every species and variety at present known. Those brought to market I have mentioned before. They are mostly the fresh water fish, and considering the immense quantities that might be procured with the greatest facility, it is surprising that so few are offered for sale. The salt water fishery is carried on chiefly for the purpose of exportation, but no great quantity is exported from Quebec.

The two Canadas abound with almost every species and variety of trees, shrubs, and plants; among the timber trees are the oak, pine, fir, elm, ash, birch, walnut, beech, maple, chesnut, cedar, aspen, &c. Among the fruit trees and shrubs are walnut, chesnut, apple, pear, cherry, plum, elder, vines, hazel, hiccory, samach, juniper, hornbeam, thorn, laurel, whortleberry, cran-

berry, raspberry, gooseberry, blackberry, blueberry, sloe, &c. Strawberries are luxuriantly scattered over every part of the country, but currants are only met with in Gardens. Such innumerable quantities of useful and beautiful plants, herbs, grapes, and flowers are also to be found in the forests, that where the botanist is presented with so rich a field for observation and study, it is to be regretted that so little is known concerning them,

The pine trees grow to the height of 120 feet and more, and from 9 to 10 feet in circumference. In several parts of Lower Canada, bordering on the states of Vermont and New York, they make excellent masts and timber for shipping; but the quantity procured in the lower province is very trifling to the supplies received from Upper Canada and the United States. In other parts, particularly to the northward and westward of Quebec, the forest trees are mostly of a small growth. There are several varieties of the pine and fir trees, from some of which are made large quantities of pitch, tar, and turpentine. *The clearing of lands has of late years been carried on to*

great advantage, by those who properly understand the true method, for there is scarcely a tree in the forest but what may be turned to some account, particularly in the making of pot and pearl ashes, which have enriched the American settlers far beyond any other article. The trees of a resinous quality supply pitch, tar, and turpentine. The maple furnishes sugar, and with the beech, ash, elm, &c. will also serve for the potash manufactory. Cedar is converted into shingles for the roofs of houses; oak into ship timber; firs into deal planks and boards, and in short almost every kind of tree is brought into use for some purpose or other.

In the clearing of lands, however, it is always necessary that the settler should first look out for a market for his produce, and for some navigable river, or good road to convey the same; otherwise it is of little consequence that he obtains four or five hundred acres of land for four or five pounds. So much land for so little money, is highly prepossessing to an European, but appearances, particularly at a distance, are often fallacious.

The American oak is quicker in its growth, but less durable than that of Europe; one species called the live oak, which is, however, found only in the warmer parts of the country, is said by many to be equal, if not superior to the English oak for ship-building. The white oak is the best that is found in the Canadian settlements, and is chiefly used for the building of vessels at Québec and Montreal.

One of the most useful trees in Canada is the maple tree, *acer saccharinum*, which supplies the inhabitants with abundance of excellent sugar, and the best fire wood. I have, in a former chapter, adverted to the mode of procuring the sap of this tree, and manufacturing it into sugar. It is not cut down for fire wood, till exhausted of its sap, when it is generally preferred, and fetches a higher price than any other fire wood sold at market.

### *Roads and Distances in Canada.*

#### *From Québec to Halifax.*

MILES.

From Québec to Point Levi, cross the River  
Thence to the Portage at Riviere du Cap 121 1/2

	MILES.
Thence to Timispuata .....	36
—— to the Settlement of Maduaska .....	45
—— to the great falls in river St. John .....	45
—— to Frederick Town .....	180
—— to St. Johns .....	180
—— to Halifax .....	189½
	708

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*From Quebec to Michillimakinak, at the entrance of Lake Huron.*

To Montreal .....	184
— Coteau du Lac .....	225
— Cornwall .....	266
— Matilda .....	301
— Augusta .....	335
— Kingston .....	385
— Niagara .....	525
— Fort Erie .....	560
— Detroit .....	790
— Michillimakidak .....	1107

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*From Quebec to New York, by way of Montreal.*

To Cape Rouge .....	9
— St. Augustin .....	9
— Jacques Cartier .....	15
— St. Anne's .....	30

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	MILES
To Three Rivers.....	22
— Riviere du Soup.....	27
— Berthier.....	22
— Repentigné.....	32
— Montreal.....	18
	184
To Laprairie.....	9
— St. John's.....	14
— Isle au Maix.....	14
— Windmill Point.....	12
— Savage's Point.....	6
— Sandbar.....	20
— Burlington, the first post town, in the States.....	14
	89
To Skenesboro.....	78
— Fort Anne.....	12
— Dumant Ferry.....	24
— Waterford.....	24
— Albany City.....	12
	150
To Hudson City.....	34
— Rhinebeck.....	31
— Poughkeepsie.....	17
— Peckshill.....	34

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To Kingsbridge ..... 34  
 — New York ..... 15

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The expence of travelling post, in Lower Canada, is one shilling currency per league.

The American packets, on Lake Champlain, charge from three to four dollars for the passage from St. John's to Skenesborough, a distance of nearly 160 miles.

From Skenesborough, the traveller proceeds to New York, in a waggon or stage, at the rate of threepence sterling per mile.

Of the inhabitants of Lower Canada, not more than one-tenth are British or American settlers from the United States. In Upper Canada, the population is almost entirely composed of the latter and British subjects, who have emigrated from various parts of the United Kingdom. Very few French people reside in that province, and it is a remarkable circumstance, that among all the British residents in the two colonies, not

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two hundred Englishmen perhaps can be found. I was told, that, at Quebec, there were not more than twelve or fourteen of that country. The rest are either Irish or Scotch, though the former bear no proportion to the latter, who are distributed from one end of the Canadas to the other. *The Irish emigrate more to the United States than Canada.* Being discontented with their own government, they endeavour to seek relief under a foreign one, whose virtues have been so greatly exaggerated, and whose excellent properties have been extolled to the skies. A few months, however, convince them of their error, and those who are not sold to their American masters, generally find their way into Upper Canada.

Of all British emigrants, *the Scotch are the most indefatigable and persevering.* In poverty, they leave their native home; yet, seldom return to it without a handsome competency. Their patient diligence, and submission, in the pursuit of riches, together with their general knowledge and good sense, render them highly beneficial to the mother country, while their natural partiality for their ancient soil, secures their steady attachment and adherence to the British government.

The expences of the civil government in Upper Canada, are defrayed by direct taxes; by duties upon articles imported from the United States, and a sum granted by the lower province, out of certain duties. In Upper Canada, lands, houses and mills; horses, cows, pigs, and other property are valued and taxed at the rate of one penny in the pound. Woodlands are valued at one shilling per acre, and cultivated lands at fifty shillings per acre. A house, with only one chimney, pays no tax, but with two it is charged at the rate of forty pounds per annum, though it may be but a mere hovel.

The inhabitants of Lower Canada pay no direct taxes, except for the repair of roads, highways, paving streets, &c. and then they have the choice of working themselves, or sending one of their labourers with a horse and cart, &c.

The timber and staves which are brought into Canada from the States, are cut down in winter or spring, and collected into large rafts, on Lake Champlain, whence they are floated down the river Richlieu, into the St. Lawrence, and depo-

sited along the shores of Sillery and Wolfe's Cove, for an extent of more than five miles. There they are culled and sorted for the merchants. Standard staves, of 5½ feet long, 1½ inch thick, and 5 inches broad, sell in Canada, from \$40 to \$50 the 1200. The freight is about the same amount.

The rafts when coming down the river, exhibit a curious scene: they have several little sheds or huts, erected with boards for the accommodation of the rowers, whose number on large rafts, frequently consists of 100, or 150.

The following extract from a letter, received from the intelligent friend resident in Canada (whom I mentioned before,) will be found interesting:

QUEBEC.

Dear Sir,—“As to what goods will sell best here, it is impossible for me to speak accurately. In one season articles sell well, in another very indifferently. Cargoes that have arrived from England this year (1817,) are selling at sales as cheap as in England! The market is glutted, and indeed some articles are going off 20 per Cent

under Prime Cost. The course of exchange is at par at present; the difference of currency and sterling is 1s. 9d. An English Guinea if weight, is worth £1. 3s. 9d.

In Canada all gold is taken by weight. Salt is now going off here at the sales at 7s. 6d. per bushel: this article is procured chiefly from Liverpool. In some years 226,000 bushels have been exported. During Winter, it has been known to sell as high as 12s. 6d. per bushel, and even at 14s. but in the ensuing Spring it fell to 3s. 6d. which is generally the price, at which it is retailed. Ships from Liverpool are most commonly ballasted with salt, and during the season of their arrival at Quebec, some of the merchants purchase it from 1s. 3d. to 1s. 8d. per bushel, and monopolize it until the season is over, when no more supplies can be obtained, till the following Spring.

The fruit of Canada is not remarkable either for goodness or cheapness, except strawberries and raspberries, which are brought to market in great abundance, during the season. They are gathered on the plains, at the back of Quebec, and in the neighbouring woods, where they grow upon the ground, or among the shrubs, in wild

luxuriance. The poor Canadians send their children to gather them, and afterwards sell them to the inhabitants at a moderate price. It is an agreeable sight to view the fields covered with strawberries, in blossom, or ripe: few persons keep them in gardens. The raspberry bushes are intermingled with the underwood of the forests, and afford an agreeable treat to those who are fond of rambling in the woods. That pleasure, is, however, more than counterbalanced by the musquitoes and sand-flies, which never fail for three or four months in the summer to annoy those who venture to penetrate their abode.

Apples and pears are procured from Montreal, where they grow in more abundance, and in greater perfection, than in any other part of Lower Canada. They are sold for much the same price as in England. The apple, which is most prized, is what they call the "pommegris," a small light brown apple, somewhat resembling the russetin in appearance. Many persons say that it is superior to any English apple, but I never could agree with them in that particular. In my opinion it is not equal to many of our ap-

ples, and cannot be compared with the nonpareil, an apple which is not known in Canada. Several species of wild apples and pears are found in the woods, but they are of inferior quality to those cultivated in the gardens and orchards.

The grapes brought to market are mostly of the wild species, which are gathered in the woods, or from vines that have been planted near the houses. Little care has been taken to improve the latter, so that very trifling alteration is discernible. They are scarcely larger than currants, but when ripe, have a pleasant flavour, though rather sharp and pungent. There are a few European vines cultivated in the gardens, but the grapes are seldom to be purchased. Oranges and lemons are imported from England, and are always extremely scarce; for the damage which they sustain on the voyage, renders them a very unprofitable article for sale. They frequently sell (particularly oranges) at one or two shillings each. The lemons, which generally keep better, are sometimes as low as six-pence, but they are often not to be purchased at any price.

Gooseberries, blackberries, and blueberries,

are in great abundance, and grow wild in the woods. Those cultivated in gardens are much superior. Currants came originally from Europe, and are to be found only in gardens; there is of course but a scanty supply of them at market. Plums are plentiful in the market, they are of the wild species, though often introduced into gardens. They are generally of two sorts, the white and black, and resemble the most common of our plums. Walnuts and filberts are by no means common in Canada, and are procured principally by importation from England. Hickory and hazel nuts are met with in the forests. Cherries are grown in gentlemen's gardens only: wild cherries are, however, scattered over the country, and a very agreeable liqueur is made with them, which in flavour resembles noyau.

Vegetables may be obtained in tolerable quantities at the markets. The potatoe is now generally grown in Canada; it was introduced by the English settlers. Onions, leeks, peas, beans, and cabbages, are much esteemed. Gardening is, however, as little understood as farming, and nothing is brought to market in perfection. Gardeners of skill, sobriety, and industry, would

meet with considerable encouragement, both in Upper and Lower Canada. Scotch gardeners, so celebrated for their superior intelligence, their sobriety, and their perseverance, would effect wonders with the soil of either province.

Large quantities of wheat are raised in Canada, and exported to Great Britain, and yet the article bread, is not so cheap as it ought to be.— Upper Canada is particularly luxuriant in the production of the finest wheat. There is no deficiency of mills for grinding wheat. The price of bread is regulated monthly by the magistrates.

If the emigrant farmer should be poor, he *will have difficulties to encounter in establishing himself.* Arrived at his land, he has no shelter till he erects his house; he then cuts down trees, and clears his ground of brushwood, &c. by fire. By degrees he ameliorates his land, obtains shelter for his cattle, &c. Enterprising men who have courage to surmount difficulties, will in the end do very well, as thousands have done.— That farmer will best succeed who can command a small capital, from £200. to £400. With this

he can purchase a farm in the neighbourhood of Montreal, where the ground is luxuriant, and the frosts do not injure the crops, as is often the case at Quebec: he will also find a market for his productions.

The price of the best land averages from 25 to 30 dollars per acre. Perhaps the best land is in the neighbourhood of Montreal. The farms are generally cleared of trees about a mile back. Few trees are suffered to grow near the houses. In the clearing of land, the Canadians are very fond of white-washing, but do not trouble themselves about painting them.

Sugars are obtained at a reasonable rate. Green tea is generally drank in Canada, and differ considerably in price: the highest is 10s. per lb. Hyson sells from 12s. to 14s. per lb. Tea comes from the United States, and considering that no duty is paid on it, is certainly dear. Chocolate and Coffee also come from the United States, and average at 2s. per lb.

Soap and Candles are made at Quebec and

Montreal, not extremely good in quality, and in price as high as in England. Tobacco is universally grown in Canada, and yet it is imported from the United States in considerable quantities.

Some cheese is also obtained from the United States, which is nearly of the same quality as Suffolk cheese. This sells from 7d. to 9d. per pound. English cheese sells high, from 2s. to 2s. 6d. per pound.

The trades likely to flourish in the Canadas, are those of the shipwright, block and mast maker, blacksmith, house carpenter, joiner, millwright wheel-wright, boat-builder, cabinet makers, saddler, painter, baker, tailor, tanner, hair dresser, and whitesmith. There are others, no doubt, which I do not immediately recollect, that would answer extremely well. Skill and industry will make their way every where.

I have known, in several instances, an association of the house carpenter and blacksmith to expedite considerably the formation of an infant settlement. They have emigrated together from

England, and their union has materially facilitated the progress of their establishment in their adopted country.

Ship builders, in Canada, are in general an indifferent set of men. Many of them are from the river (Thames) and the dissolute habits of these, are proverbial. Shipwrights, of sober steady habits, cannot fail of doing well in the St. Lawrence. The Canadian Shipwrights, however, make up for lack of skill, by habit, the very reverse of those of the Europeans.

There is certainly a great want of useful hands in Canada, but, perhaps it is not so great as is apprehended in England.

The wages of artificers are good, *but they must imitate the ants.* Those who cannot save during the Summer, are miserable during the Winter, when many are out of employment.

For a small society like that of Canada, the number of unfaithful wives, kept mistresses, and girls of easy virtue, exceed in proportion those

of the old country, and it is supposed that in the towns more children are born illegitimately than in wedlock. Trials for *crim. con.* are however unknown.

Good female servants are very scarce in Canada. Following the example of their mistresses, few can be found who are exempt from the vices of the age. Their wages are from £12 to £20 per annum, and notwithstanding they are so liberally paid, they seldom remain above a month in a place. A servant that remains in her place four or five months is looked upon as a pattern of excellence. Farmer's servants get from £36 to 40 a year currency, and provisions. A careful man may of course lay by something.

Blessed with a luxuriant soil, which he obtains on easy terms, the habitant of Canada raises the productions of the earth with inconsiderable labour, and satisfied with the practice of his fore-fathers, obstinately rejects the advice which would lead to improvement and profit. It will therefore be readily perceived what singular advantages await the *industrious* agricultural emi-

grant on his arrival in Canada. What effects must be produced by the introduction into that country, of the superior modes of husbandry adopted in England, and what wonders will not these methods produce, when associated with the characteristic perseverance and industry of the farmers of the United Kingdom!

They will have difficulties to encounter, but "*Nihil impossibile industriæ est*,"—nothing is impossible to industry. The increase of agriculture and commerce has caused many in Canada to emerge from poverty and neglect, to opulence and esteem; and he that dares to be resolute in the teeth of obstacles, will find that success will generally crown his efforts.

*"The wise and prudent conquer difficulties*

*"By daring to attempt them."*

The emigrant will also find the habits of the people with whom he is called to associate very different from those of the people whom he has quitted; but it should be his business to accommodate himself to circumstances, and he will find, that, in a great degree, his comforts will

be proportioned to the disposition which he may carry with him into his newly-adopted society. With him, prudent conformity to new habits will often be wisdom.

The observations which have been rapidly made on the soil, the scenery, commerce, trade, &c. of Lower Canada, will nearly apply to the Upper Province.

The climate of Upper Canada is much more temperate and soft than that of the Lower Province, and it is on that and on many other accounts preferred by emigrants. Vegetation is extremely rapid, the harvests remarkably abundant; and, by many, Upper Canada has been termed the garden of North America. The principal towns are York, Kingston, Queenston, and Niagara. The capital (York) is on Lake Ontario, and is rapidly increasing in importance. All the towns are populous, and the commerce of the whole province has considerably increased within the last ten years, and is still increasing.

Direct taxation is very trifling, and any man

with a moderate sum of money, has it in his power to acquire a handsome competency.

The manners, customs, and amusements of the people, resemble those of the British nation: and though society is yet in its infancy, it is not wanting in those requisites which make it agreeable to strangers.

England derives considerable benefit and assistance from the productions and commerce of Upper Canada. Yet Government does not appear to be sensible of the high importance of this rising state. Greater encouragement must yet be held out to those who are disposed to emigrate, and the fostering hand of a paternal Administration must cheer and animate the mind of the adventurer.

That there yet unaccountably exists a want of due attention, on the part of Government, to this national concern, may be inferred from the perusal of the excellent letter of Mr. Goulray, to the Gentlemen of Canada—a letter which is so conclusive on the subject, that I must beg leave to recommend it to my readers particular attention.

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“ QUEENSTON, October, 1817.

“ GENTLEMEN—I am a British farmer, and have visited this province to ascertain what advantages it possesses in an Agricultural point of view. After three months residence, I am convinced that these are great—far superior, indeed, to what the Mother Country has ever held out, either as they concern speculative purchase, or the profits of present occupation. Under such impressions, it is my purpose as soon as circumstances will permit, to become a settler; and in the mean time would willingly do what lay in my power to benefit the country of my choice. When I speak in this sanguine manner of the capabilities of Canada, I take it for granted that certain political restraints to improvement will be speedily removed. Growing necessity, and the opinion of every sensible man with whom I have conversed on the subject, gives assurance of this. My present address, therefore, waves all regard to political arrangements: it has in view, simply to open a correspondence between you and your fellow subjects at home, where the utmost ignorance prevails with respect to the natural resources of this fine country. Travellers have published passing remarks; they have told wonderful stories, and amused the idle of England with descriptions of the beautiful and grand scenery which nature has here displayed; but no authentic account has yet been afforded to men,

of capital—to men of enterprise and skill, of those important facts which are essential to be known, before such men will launch into foreign speculation, or venture with their families, in quest of better fortune across the Atlantic. In this state of ignorance, you have hitherto had for settlers chiefly poor men driven from their home by despair—these men, ill-informed and lost in the novelties which surround them, make at first but a feeble commencement, and ultimately form a society, crude, unambitious, and weak. In your Newspapers I have frequently observed hints towards bettering the condition of these poor settlers, and for ensuring their residence in the Provinces. Such hints evidently spring from benevolent feelings; they are all well meant, and may tend to alleviate individual distress, but can produce no important good to the country. Canada is worthy of something better than a mere guidance to it of the blind and the lame; it has attractions to stimulate desire, and place its colonization above the aids of necessity.—Hands no doubt are necessary, but next to good laws the grand requisite for the improvement of any country, is capital. Could a flow of capital be once directed to this quarter, hands would not be wanting, nor would these hands be so chilled with poverty as to need the patronage of charitable institutions. At this moment British capital is overflowing; trade is yielding it up; the funds

cannot profitably absorb it; land mortgages are gorged; and it is streaming to waste in the six per cents. of America. Why should not this stream be diverted into the woods of Canada, where it would find a still higher rate of interest, with the most substantial security?

“Gentlemen! The moment is most auspicious to your interest, and you should take advantage of it. You should make known the state of this country; you should advertise the excellence of the raw material which Nature has lavishly spread before you; you should inspire confidence, and tempt able adventurers from home. At this time there are thousands of British farmers sickened with disappointed hopes, who would readily come to Canada, did they but know the truth; many of these could still command a few thousand pounds to begin with here; while others less able in means, have yet preserved their character for skill and probity, to entitle them to the confidence of capitalists at home, for whom they could act as agents in adventure. Under the wing of such men the redundant population of Britain would emigrate with cheerfulness, and be planted here with hearts unbroken. We hear of 4 or 5,000 settlers arriving from home this season, and it is talked of as a great accession to the population of the provinces. It is a mere drop from the bucket.

“The extent of calamity already occasioned

by the system of the poor laws, cannot be even imagined by strangers. They may form some idea, however, when I tell them, that last winter I saw in one parish (Blackwall, within five miles of London) several hundreds of able-bodied men harnessed and yoked, fourteen together, in carts, hauling gravel for the repair of the highways; each 14 men performing just about as much work as an old horse led by a boy could accomplish. We have heard since, that £1,500,000 has been voted to keep the poor at work; and perhaps the most melancholy consideration of the whole is, that there are people who trust to such means as a cure for the evil. While all this is true; when the money and labour of England is thus wasted; when thousands of our fellow-subjects are emigrating into the States of America, when we even hear of them being led off to toil with the boors of Poland, in the cultivation of a country where the nature of the Government must counteract the utmost efforts towards improvement—is it not provoking that all this should go on merely from a reigning ignorance of the superior advantages which Canada has in store, and a thoughtlessness as to the grand policy which might be adopted for the general aggrandizement of the British nation? Some have thought the exclusion of American citizens a great bar to the speedy settlement of Canada; but a liberal system of colonization from Europe,

would render this of small importance. Before coming to a decided opinion on this important subject, I took much pains to inform myself of facts. A minute enquiry on the spot where Government has endeavoured to force a settlement, satisfied me as to the causes of the too notorious failure there. It convinced me that the fault by no means rested with the incapacity of the settlers, but resulted from the system pursued. I have since spent a month perambulating the Genesee country, for the express purpose of forming a comparison between British and American management. That country lies parallel to this; it possesses no superior advantages: its settlement began ten years later: yet I am ashamed to say, it is already ten years before Canada in improvement. This has been ascribed to the superior loyalty of the American people, but most erroneously. The art of clearing land is as well understood here as in the States:—men direct from Britain are as energetic, and after a little practice, sufficiently expert with the axe, while they are more regular in their habits and more persevering in their plans than the Americans. No improvement has taken place in the Genesee country, which could not be far exceeded here, under a proper system. It was indeed British capital and enterprize which gave the first grand impetus to the improvement of that country: much of its improvement is still proceeding un-

der British agency; and one of its most flourishing townships is wholly occupied by men who came with slender means from the Highlands of Scotland. In the Genesee country the Government pocketed much, but *forced* nothing, and charity there has been lent without an object.

“Gentlemen—The inquiries and observations which I have recently made on the subject of settlement, assure me that neither in these provinces nor in the United States, has a proper system been pursued. The mere filling of the world with men, should not be the sole object of political wisdom: This should regard the filling of it with beings of superior intellect and feeling, without which the desert had better remain occupied by the beaver and the bear. That society of a superior kind may be nursed up in Canada, by an enlarged and liberal connection with the mother country. I am very confident; and its being realized is the fond hope which induces me to come forward with my present proposals, and which, if these proposals meet with support, will continue the spur of my exertions to complete the work which I have now in view. Many of you, Gentlemen, have been bred up at home, and well know how superior, in many respects, are the arrangements and habits of society there, to what they are on this side the Atlantic. Such never can be hoped for here under the present system of colonization, which brings out only a

part, and that the weakest part of society—which places poor and destitute individuals in remote situations, with no object before them but groveling selfishness—no aid—no example—no fear either of God or man. Is it not possible to create such a tide of commerce as would not only bring with it part of society, but society complete, with all the strength and order and refinement which it has now attained in Britain, beyond all precedent? Surely Government would afford every facility to a commerce which would not only enrich, but eternally bind together Britain and its Provinces, by the most powerful sympathies of manners and taste, and affection.

Government can never too much encourage the growth of this colony, by a liberal system of emigration. When we come from home we are not expatriated: our feelings as British subjects grow more warm with distance, and our greater experience teaches us the more to venerate the principles of our native land—the country wherein the Sciences have made the greatest progress, and where alone are cultivated to perfection the arts of social life. At home, we have experienced evils: we know that influences are there, which war against the principles of the constitution and counteract its most benevolent designs. Here, we are free of such influences, we are perfectly contented, and a fine field lies open to us for cultivating the best fruits of civil and religious liber-

ty. An enlarged, and liberal connection between Canada and Britain, appears to me to promise the happiest results to the cause of civilization. It promises a new era in the history of our species: it promises the growth of manners with manly spirit, modesty with acquirements, and a love of truth superior to the boasting of despicable vanity. The late war furnished the strongest proof of the rising spirit of this colony, even under every disadvantage; and pity would it be, were so noble a spirit ever again exposed to risk. The late war shewed at once the affection which Britain bears to Canada, and the desire which Canada has to continue under the wing of Britain. When a connection is established between the two countries worthy of such manifestations, all risk will cease. Britain will no longer have to expend her millions here. This country will not only be equal to its own defence, but the last hope of invasion will wither before its strength. While Canada remains poor and neglected, she can only be a burden to Britain; when improved and wealthy she will amply repay every debt, and become the powerful friend of the parent state. What I conceive to be the first requisite for opening a suitable communication with the mother country, is the drawing out and publishing a well authenticated statistical account of Upper Canada. This cannot be effected by a single hand: it must be the work and have the authority

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of many. To give it commencement, I submit to your consideration the annexed queries; and, could these be replied to from every township in the Province, the work would be far advanced. These queries have been shewn to many of the most respectable individuals in this Province, and the scheme of collecting materials in this way, for a statistical account, has, by every one, been approved. Some have doubted whether there exists sufficient energy and public spirit in the remote townships to reply to them. I hope there is; and certainly no organized township is destitute of individuals qualified for the task, if they will but take so much trouble. Some Gentlemen have met my ideas so cordially as to offer to collect information, not only for their own, but for other townships. Correct information, however, is not the only requisite: authority is also wanted of that species which will not only carry weight with it to a distance, but remain answerable on the spot for whatever is advanced. The desirable point, therefore, is to obtain replies separately from each township, and to have these attested by the signature of as many of the respectable inhabitants as possible. To accomplish this in the speediest and most effectual manner, a meeting might be held in each township, and in the space of an hour or two the business might be perfected,—The queries have been drawn out as simple as possible, with a view to the practi-

capability of having them answered in this general way. They embrace only such matters as it must be in the power of every intelligent farmer to speak to, and the information to be obtained by them will be sufficient to assure farmers and others at home who have money to engage in adventure, that adventure here will not only be rational and safe, but that they themselves may sit down in Canada with comfort and independence. Although to prevent confusion in the general fulfilment of the scheme, I have confined the range of queries, it would still be very desirable if intelligent individuals would communicate their sentiments with regard to any measure of improvement which occurs to them, or any remarkable fact or observation they have made concerning the climate, soil, or cultivation of the province. Should any correspondent dislike my using his name publicly, he need only give a caution, and it shall be observed.

“ If the queries obtain notice, and sufficient documents are forwarded to me, I shall arrange them and publish them in England, whither I am soon to return. Had this task required superior ability, such an offer would be presumption. I think it requires industry alone, and that I shall contribute most willingly. - Whoever thinks well of this scheme, and feels a desire to promote it, let him not hesitate or delay: prompt assistance will be every thing; and as to trouble, let individuals compare theirs to mine.

"Though I gratuitously make offer of my time, I must be relieved of expence as much as possible, and shall expect all communications to be post paid. No person, I think, who interests himself at all in the matter will grudge his item in this way. Divided among many, such charges will be trifling, but accumulated upon one, they would be serious.

"Should the work succeed to my wish, I would propose not only publishing it in the English, but German language. It is well known that the people of that nation are most desirable settlers, and it is a fact, that many of them have not the means of communicating to their friends the very superior advantages of this country. One of them, who has been in Canada thirteen years, lately told me, that "tousands and thousands would come over, did they but know how good a country it is for poor peoples."

*United States.*

The principal stream of emigration flows to the United States, and here, are concentrated, adventurers from every part of Europe,—the visionary—the bankrupt in fortune and in fame—the idle and the vicious. Happily here are also to be found, emigrants of very different character—the industrious, sober, skilful mechanic;—the honest, plodding, ingenious manufacturer;—the pains-taking, indefatigable peasant, and the invaluable respected farmer—men of sound moral and religious habits, whom the cruel necessity of the times has driven from the old world, to seek competence and happiness in the new.

A very intelligent and respectable farmer, lately of the county of Surry, has settled in a delightful situation in the Illinois territory, and observes in a work just published, that a nation; (the English) with half its population, supported by alms or poor rates, and one fourth of its income derived from taxes, many of which are dried up in their sources, or speedily becoming

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so, must teem with emigrants from one end to the other; and for such as myself who have had nothing to do with the laws but to obey them, it is quite reasonable and just to secure a timely retreat from the approaching crisis—either of anarchy and despotism.

An English farmer, to which class I had the honour to belong, is in possession of the same rights and privileges with the Villeins of old time, and exhibits for the most part a suitable political character. He has no voice in the appointment of the legislature, unless he happen to possess a freehold of forty shillings a year, and he is then expected to vote on the side of his landlord. He has no concern with public affairs, excepting as a tax-payer, a parish officer, or a militia man. He has no right to appear at a county meeting, unless the word inhabitants should find its way into the sheriff's invitation; in this case he may show his face among the nobility, clergy, and freeholders:—a felicity which occurred to myself when the inhabitants of Surry were invited to assist the gentry in crying down the income tax.

Thus having no elective franchise, an English farmer can scarcely be said to have a political existence, and political duties he has none, except such, as under existing circumstances, would inevitably consign him to the special guardianship of the secretary of state for the home department.

In exchanging the condition of an English farmer for that of an American proprietor, I expect to suffer many inconveniences, but I am willing to make a great sacrifice of present ease, were it merely for the sake of obtaining in the decline of life, an exemption from that wearisome solicitude about pecuniary affairs, from which even the affluent find no refuge in England; and for my children a career of enterprise and wholesome family connections, in a society whose institutions are favourable to virtue, and at last the consolation of leaving them efficient members of a flourishing, public-spirited, energetic community, where the insolence of wealth, and the servility of pauperism, between which in England there is scarcely an interval remaining, are alike unknown."

Such are the affecting remarks of a most respectable and intelligent English Farmer, and though high national prejudice may be ready to exclaim—

*“England, with all thy faults, I love thee still!”*

there is unfortunately too much truth in his observations.

Powerful indeed must be the motives which thus induce men to abandon their native soil, endeared to them by the ties of kindred and connections, and by the numberless associations which they form from infancy to manhood.—Local and national prejudices more or less attach themselves to every man; they are among the best feelings of our nature, and the *philosophy* of that being is not to envied, who has almost divested himself of such delightful prepossessions. How acute then must be the feelings of those who cast a last longing look at the shores of their beloved country, and feel an indescribable thrill—a death-like pang shooting over the soul, at the thought of a final, an eternal separation, GOLDSMITH has some exquisite lines on the subject:—

E'en now the devastation is begun,  
 And half the business of destruction done:  
 Ev'n now, methinks, as pondering here I stand,  
 I see the rural virtues leave the land:  
 Down where yon anchoring vessel spreads the sail,  
 That idly waiting flaps with every gale,  
 Downward they move, a melancholy band,  
 Pass from the shore, and darken all the strand,  
 Contented Toil, and hospitable Care,  
 And kind connubial Tenderness, are there;  
 And Piety with wishes plac'd above,  
 And steady Loyalty, and faithful Love.

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Good heaven! what sorrows gloom'd that parting day,  
 That called them from their native walks away!  
 When the poor exiles, every pleasure past,  
 Hung round the bowers, and fondly look'd their last,  
 And took a long farewell, and wish'd, in vain,  
 For seats like these beyond the western main;  
 And, shudd'ring still to face the distant deep,  
 Return'd and wept, and still return'd to weep.  
 The good old sire, the first prepared to go  
 To new-found worlds, and wept for others' woe;  
 But for himself, in conscious virtue brave,  
 He only wish'd for worlds beyond the grave.  
 His lovely daughter, lovelier in her tears,  
 The fond companion of his hapless years,  
 Silent went next, neglectful of her charms,  
 And left a lover's for a father's arms.  
 With louder plaints the mother spoke her woes,  
 And bless'd the cot where every pleasure rose,

And kiss'd her thoughtless babes with many a tear,  
 And clasp'd them close, in sorrow doubly dear ;  
 Whilst her fond husband strove to lend relief  
 In all the silent manliness of grief.

And, notwithstanding the immense change that takes place in the situation of the emigrant; though relieved from the pressure of want, and the rigour of that taxation which assailed him in Europe, he must for some time continue to be the victim of solicitude. Amid the most luxuriant scenes—the happiest combinations of nature—the grandeur of mountains and lakes—the waving of venerable foliage—amid flowers and herbage, and the music of earth and sky, he will send moments when his thoughts will involuntarily turn to the land of his fore-fathers—to his beloved—lost—country. Mr. Birkbeck, in his “Notes on America,” has a touching passage to this effect:—

“The world we have left at so remote a distance, and of which we hear so little, seems, to my imagination, like a past scene, and its transactions, as matter rather of history, than of present interest; but there are times, when the ro-

collection of individuals, dear to us, and whom we cannot hope to meet again on earth, *might be too painful*; but the occupations which surround us soon demand our attention, and afford, —not a *cure*—for this, which is the only serious ill which we experience from our change, but a *sure alleviation*.”

Quitting this subject, which has in it something of an oppressive nature, it is extremely interesting to contemplate the emigration which is taking place, not only from our island, but from the continent. Europe seems to be precipitating itself in America. Vessels from every part of the former are winging their course over the Atlantic, laden with human beings, who voluntarily expatriate themselves to become the citizens of the country of Franklin and Washington. Should this emigration continue, and there is every probability, not only of its continuance, but even of its increase, it is easy to perceive its *future effects* on the destinies both of Europe and America. Already there are twenty transatlantic republics, and already does an active, hardy and intelligent population swarm on the face of the

new world, while tens of thousands are annually augmenting its numbers.

New York appears to be the port at which the greatest number of emigrants disembark. Many of those who land at this and at the other ports pursue trades, and hope for immediate and lucrative employment. But it should be most distinctly understood, that the great cities, towns, and ports in the United States, are full and have long been full of the very best workmen. A foreign tradesman on arriving at a great port in America, is astonished to find that there is no lack of workmen—that house rent is as dear as in London—that provisions are not so cheap as he expected, that clothing is extravagantly dear, and to crown all, that wages are not very superior, to that which he has quitted. He desponds and regrets that he left home for “the land” which was said “to flow with milk and honey.” It is his own fault however: he has been too sanguine, and has made false calculations. The press of emigrants for so many years, into the large towns, has filled them with numerous and valuable workmen—a fact which cannot be too well known. But if the

emigrant has the means of penetrating into the interior, he will find employ and good wages.

It has been remarked that notwithstanding the immense emigration of workmen to the principal cities and towns of North America, few large manufactories have been successful. Many have been erected, and much valuable machinery has been obtained from England, &c. but in a short time these manufactories have been deserted, not only by the workmen, but even by the overseers, or foremen who directed them. The fact is, that farming offers very superior advantages, and the manufacturer exchanges his confined and sedentary life, for one of activity and independence, and in which health, and the means of acquiring competence, are united.

As a great proportion of the emigrants from Europe land at New York, a short account of this noble city, the Tyre of North America, may not be uninteresting.

New York is the first city in the United States, for wealth, commerce, and population; as it also

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is the finest and most agreeable for its situation and buildings. It has neither the narrow and confined irregularity of Boston, nor the monotonous regularity of Philadelphia, but a happy medium between both. When the intended improvements are completed, it will be a very elegant and commandous town, and worthy of becoming the capital of the United States, for it seems that Washington is by no means calculated for a metropolitan city. New York has rapidly improved within the twenty years, and land which then sold in that city for twenty dollars, is now worth 1,500.

The Broadway and Bowery road, are the two finest avenues in the city, and nearly of the same width as Oxford-street, in London. The first commences from the grand battery, situate at the extreme point of the town, and divides it into two unequal parts. It is upwards of two miles in length, though the pavement does not extend above a mile and a quarter; the remainder of the road consists of straggling houses, which are the commencement of new streets already planned out. The Bowery road commences

from Chatham street, which branches off from the Broadway to the right, by the side of the Park. After proceeding about a mile and a half, it joins the Broadway, and terminates the plan which is intended to be carried into effect for the enlargement of that city. Much of the intermediate spaces between these large streets, and from thence to the Hudson and East Rivers, is yet unbuilt upon, or consists only of unfinished streets and detached buildings.

The houses in the Broadway are lofty and well built. They are constructed in the English style, and differ but little from those of London, at the west end of the town, except that they are universally of red brick. In the vicinity of the battery, and for some distance up the Broadway, they are nearly all private houses, and occupied by the principal merchants and gentry of New York; after which, the Broadway is lined with large commodious shops of every description, well stocked with European and India goods, and exhibiting as splendid and varied show in their windows, as can be met with in London. There are several extensive book stores, print

shops, music shops, jewellers, and silversmiths, hatters, linen drapers, milliners, pastry cooks, coachmakers, hotels, and coffee houses. The street is well paved and the foot paths are chiefly bricked. In Robinson-street, the pavement before one of the houses, and the steps of the door, are composed entirely of marble.

New York contains thirty three places of worship, viz: nine Episcopal churches, three Dutch churches, one French church, one Calvinist, one German Lutheran, one English Lutheran, three Baptist meetings, three Methodist meetings, one Moravian, six Presbyterian, one Independent, two Quakers, and one Jews synagogue,

Every day except Sunday is a market day in New York. Meat is cut up and sold by the joint, or in pieces, by the licensed butchers only, their agents, or servants; each of these must sell at his own stall, and conclude his sales by one o'clock in the afternoon, between the 1st of May and the 1st of November, and at two, between the 1st of November and the 1st of May. Butchers are licensed by the mayor, who is clerk of

the market, he receives for every quarter of beef sold in the market, six cents; for every hog, shoat or pig, above 14lbs. weight, six cents; and for each calf, sheep or lamb, four cents; to be paid by the butchers, and other persons, selling the same. The sale of unwholesome and stale articles of provision, of blown and stuffed meat, and of measly pork, is expressly forbidden. Butter must be sold by the pound, and not by the roll or tub. Persons who are not licensed butchers, selling butchers' meat on commission, pay triple fees to the clerk of the market.

There are upwards of twenty newspapers published in New York, nearly half of which are daily papers, besides several weekly and monthly magazines, or essays. The high price of paper, labour, and taxes, in Great Britain, has been very favourable to authorship and the publication of books in America. Foreign publications are also charged with a duty of 13 per cent; and foreign rags are exempted from all import. These advantages have facilitated the manufacture of paper, and the printing of books in the United States; both which are now carried

on to a very large extent. The new works that appear in America, or rather original productions, are very few; but every English work of celebrity is immediately reprinted in the States, and vendued for a fourth of the original price, the booksellers and printers of New York are numerous, and in general men of property. Some of them have published very splendid editions of the Bible, and it was not a little gratifying to the American patriot to be told, that the paper, printing, engraving, and binding, were all of American manufacture. For several years past, a literary fair has been held at New York and Philadelphia. This annual meeting of booksellers has tended greatly to facilitate intercourse with each other, to circulate books throughout the United States, and to encourage and support the arts of printing and paper making.

Mr. Moore, speaking of the torpid state of intellect in America, is equally beautiful, severe, and unjust:—

All that Creation's varying mass assumes  
Of grand or lovely, here aspires and blooms:  
Beh! rise the mountains, rich the gardens glow  
Bright lakes expand, and conqu'ring rivers flow;

MIND, mind alone, without whose quick'ning ray  
 The world's a wilderness, and man but clay,  
 MIND, mind alone, in barren still repose,  
 Nor blooms, nor rises, nor expands, nor flows!"

This, it is true, is poetry,—poetry of the first class; but then, a certain author observes that “Poetry is the art of lying.” The country of Franklin, of Washington, of Jefferson, of Adams, of Randolph,\* (the Demosthenes of America) of the Author of the Columbiad, is represented as being destitute of MIND. Every spark of genius that is emitted from the western continent should be hailed with satisfaction, and instead of being extinguished by the pestilential breath of partial castigators, which, like the parching blast of the Arabian Simoom, destroys every thing within its reach. it should be fanned into a flame by the mild and gentle treatment of judicious critics. We might then hope to see the genius of the ancient world engrafted upon the new hemisphere; and if ever the day should come that the modern powerful nations of Europe are compelled to transfer their sceptres,

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\* “I heard the American Demosthenes,” says a tourist, “but I heard Demosthenes, who had sacrificed to the graces.”

like those of Greece and Rome, to a more western rival, it would be some satisfaction to Englishmen to know that that rival was descended from the ancient stock of their own nation, and had preserved the language, manners, genius, and laws of their ancestors.

Much has also been said of the deficiency of the polite and liberal accomplishments among both sexes in the United States. Whatever truth there may have formerly been in this statement, I do not think there is any foundation for it at present, at least, in New York, where there appears to be a great thirst after knowledge. The riches that have flowed into that city for the last twenty years, have brought with them a taste for the refinements of polished society; and, though the inhabitants cannot yet boast of having reached the standard of European perfection, they are not wanting in the solid and rational parts of education, nor in many of those accomplishments which ornament and embellish private life. It has become the fashion in New York, to attend lectures on moral philosophy, chemistry, mineralogy, botany, mechanics, &c. and the

ladies in particular have made considerable progress in those studies. Many young men who were so enveloped in business, as to neglect or disdain the pursuit of such liberal and polite acquirements, have been often laughed from the counting-house to the lecture room, by their more accomplished female companions. The desire for instruction and information, indeed, is not confined to the youthful part of the community, many married ladies and their families may be seen at philosophical and chemical lectures, and the spirit of inquiry is becoming more general among the gentlemen. The majority of the merchants, however, still continue more partial to the rule of three than a dissertation upon oxygen or metaphysics. Most of them have acquired large fortunes by their regular and plodding habits of business, and are loth to part with any portion of it, at their time of life, in the purchase of knowledge, or the encouragement of the arts and sciences. Some, it may be allowed, are exceptions, and others, if they will not partake of instruction themselves, are not sparing of their money in imparting it to their children. The immense property which has been intro-

duced into the country, by commerce, has hardly had time to circulate and diffuse itself through the community. It is, at present, too much in the hands of a few individuals, to enable men to devote the whole of their lives to the study of the arts and sciences. Farmers, merchants, physicians, lawyers and divines, are all that America can produce for many years to come; and, if authors, artists, or philosophers, make their appearance at any time, they must as they have hitherto done, spring from one of the above professions.

Colleges and schools are multiplying very rapidly all over the United States, but education is in many places still defective, in consequence of the want of proper encouragement and better teachers. A grammar school has recently been instituted at New York, for the instruction of youth upon a similar plan to the great public schools in England,

A taste for reading has of late diffused itself throughout the country, particularly in the great towns, and several young ladies have displayed

their abilities in writing. Some of their novels and fugitive pieces of poetry and prose are written with taste and judgment. Two or three, at New York, have particularly distinguished themselves.

It seems, indeed, that the fair sex of America have within these few years, been desirous of imitating the example of the English and French ladies, who have contributed so much to extend the pleasures of rational conversation, and intellectual enjoyment. They have cast away the frivolous and gossiping tittle tattle which before occupied so much of their attention, and assumed the more dignified and instructive discourse upon arts, sciences, literature, and moral philosophy.

Some of the young men too, whose minds have not been wholly absorbed by pounds, shillings, and pence, have shown that they possess literary qualifications and talents, that would, if their time and fortune permitted, rank them among some of the distinguished authors of Europe.

*Rates of Postage.*

*Rates of postage for single letters to be*

	Cents.
For any distance not exceeding 40 miles	12
Over 40 miles and not exceeding 90 do.	15
Over 90.....do.....150 do.	18 3-4
Over 150 .....do.....300 do.	25 1-2
Over 300 .....do.....500 do.	30
Over 600 .....	37 1-2

Double letters, or those composed of two pieces of paper, double those rates.

Triple letters, or those composed of three pieces of paper, triple those rates.

Packets, or letters composed of four or more pieces of paper, and weighing one ounce or more, avoirdupoise, are to be rated equal to one single letter for each quarter ounce.

*Newspapers.*

Each paper carried not exceeding 100 miles, or for any distance, not carried out of the state in which it is printed. 1 1-2

If carried out of the state where printed,  
and over 100 miles. 2 1-4

*Magazines and Pamphlets*

Carried not over 50 miles, for each sheet, 1 1-4  
Over 50 and not exceeding 100 miles. 2 1-4  
Over 100 miles. 3

But pamphlets are not to be received or conveyed by post on the main line or any cross road where the mail is large.

Letters and newspapers are derived out of the office every day, (except Sunday) at all hours, from the rising to the setting of the sun; and on Sunday from 9 to 10, and from 1 to 2.

Newspapers, to be forwarded by the mail, should be inclosed in a cover and left open at one end, and the number of free papers, and of those for subscribers respectively, endorsed on each packet; and all newspapers for each post-office, should be inclosed in one package, provided they do not exceed twenty in number. If a *letter* or *memorandum* in writing, is contained in any

newspaper, the person who deposits the same, forfeits *five* dollars, and the package becomes liable to letter postage.

Letters to be sent by mail, should be addressed to the places of their destination *in the clearest manner*—they should always be directed to the nearest post-office, if the person to whom addressed does not reside where there is an office; and the name of the state ought not to be omitted; letters are often mis-sent from their ambiguous direction; a punctual attention to this rule may prevent delays and miscarriages.

Letters to be forwarded by mail, ought to be delivered at the office, at or before the time of *closing*, to ensure their going by the mail of the day; as before the departure of a mail, all letters composing it are to be *rated* and *marked*, accounts of them entered, and those accounts made out to be transmitted to the respective post-offices—and newspapers should be delivered at the office an hour *at least* previous to the hour of *closing* the mail.

If an abatement of letter postage be claimed,

the letter must be opened, in presence of the post-master, or one of his assistants; and if such letter should, instead of being *overcharged* happen to be *undercharged*, the deficiency must be made up by the applicant.

All letters which are lodged to go by the British packets, should be distinguished by writing *per packet*—for there are places of the same name in the United States, similar to those in Europe.

Letters going out of the United States, must be paid for when lodged in the post-office.

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A society is established at New York, formed of republican citizens of *all nations*, who have published an interesting pamphlet, entitled "Hints to Emigrants." These philanthropists observe—

"All that a first conversation with an emigrant can properly embrace, will fall under three heads:—

I. What relates to his personal safety in a new climate.

II. His interest as a probationary resident; and

III. His future rights and duties as a member of a free state.

Under the first, will be comprised, some directions for your mode of living, and the preservation of your health. The second would demand some description of this extensive country, which may direct your choice and industry. Under the third should be contained a brief abstract of such civil or political matters, as it behoves you to understand.

“Emigrants from Europe, usually arrive here during summer, and, every thing considered, it is best they should, for, in the middle and eastern states, the winter is long, fuel very dear, and employment comparatively scarce at that season. In winter they will expend more and earn less. But if arriving at this time bear more upon their pocket, the heats of the summer are more trying to their health. In the middle states, namely, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Maryland, a northern European usually finds the cli-

mate intensely hot from about the middle of June till towards the first of October. The thermometer frequently varies from 84 to 90, and sometimes to 96 in the middle of the day; this, to a stranger who works in the open air, exposed to the burning sun, is certainly dangerous, and requires some precautions on his part. First of all, he should regulate his diet, and be temperate in the quantity of his food. The American labourer, or working mechanic, who has a better and more plentiful table than any other man in the world of his class, is, for the most, a small eater, and we recommend to you his example. The European of the same condition, who receives meat, or fish and coffee, at breakfast, meat at dinner, and meat or fish, and tea, at supper—an abundance of animal food to which he was unaccustomed—insensibly falls into a state of too great a repletion, which exposes him to the worst kind of fever during the heats of summer and of autumn. He should, therefore, be quite as abstemious in the quantity of food, as of strong drink: and, in addition to this method of preventing sickness, he should take a dose of active physic, every now and then, especially in the hotter months of July

and August. By this prudent course an ardent climate will have no terrors; and, after some residence here, he may preserve his health by regimen and exercise alone.

The labourer, or mechanic, should put off his ordinary clothes, and wear next his skin a loose flannel shirt, while he works; it should be taken off again as soon as he is done.

The stranger, as well as native, must be particularly careful not to drink cold water after being heated by exposure to the sun or exercise. Sudden and severe pain at the stomach, and even death, are frequently the consequence of such imprudence.

The Humane Society of this city has published the following directions to be observed in such cases:—

1st. To avoid drinking water while the body is heated, or during profuse perspiration.

2nd. Wash the hands and face with cold water before drinking.

3rd. If these precautions have been neglected,

and cramps or convulsions have been induced, let a teaspoonful of laudanum be given immediately in a cup of spirits and water, and repeat the dose in half an hour, if necessary.

4th. At the same time apply hot fomentations of spirits and water to the stomach and bowels, and to the lower extremities, covering the body with a blanket, or immerse the body in a warm bath, if it can be immediately obtained.

5th. Inject into the bowels a pint of warm spirits and water, mixed in the proportion of one part of the former to two of the latter.

Do you ask by this time with a view to the ordinary business of life, What is America? What sort of people may be expected to succeed in it? The immortal Franklin has answered this question; "*America is the land of labour.*" But, it is emphatically, the best country on earth for those who will labour. By industry they can earn more wages here than elsewhere in the world. Our governments are more frugal, they demand few taxes; so that the earnings of the poor man are left to enrich himself; they are nearly all his own, and not expended on kings or their satellites.

Idlers are out of their element here, and the being who is technically called a man of rank in Europe is despicable in America.—He must become a useful member of society, or he will find no society; he will be shunned by all decent people. Franklin, whose sage counsel is the best that can be given, or observed has said, that it is not advisable for a person to come hither “who has no other quality to recommend him but his birth.” In Europe, indeed, it may have its value; but it is a commodity which cannot be carried to a worse market than that of America, where people do not enquire concerning a stranger, What is he? But, What can he do? If he has any useful art, he is welcome; and if he exercises it and behaves well, he will be respected by all who know him. The husbandman is in honour here, and so is the mechanic, because their employments are useful.” “And the people,” he adds, have a saying, that “God Almighty is himself a mechanic, the greatest in the universe.” Franklin further illustrates the generality of industrious habits, by the Negro’s observation, “That the white man makes the black man work, the horse work, the oxen work, and every thing

works except the hog, which alone walks about, goes to sleep when he pleases, and lives *like a gentleman*." F- . . .

"The only encouragements we hold out to strangers are, a good climate, fertile soil, wholesome air and water, plenty of provisions, good pay for labour, kind neighbours, good laws, a free government, and a hearty welcome. The rest depends on a man's own industry and virtue."

"It would be very prudent for new comers, especially labourers or farmers, to go into the country with delay, as they will save both money and time by it, and avoid several inconveniences of a seaport town. By spending some time with an American farmer, in any capacity, they will learn the method of tillage, or working a plantation, peculiar to this country. No time can be more usefully employed than a year in this manner. In that space, any smart, stout man, can learn how woodland may be cleared, how clear land is managed; he will acquire some knowledge of crops and their succession, of

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usages and customs that ought to be known, and perhaps save something into the bargain. Many European emigrants who brought money with them have heretofore taken this wise course, and found it greatly to their advantage; for at the end of the year they knew what to do with it. They learned the value of lands in old settlements and near the frontiers, the prices of labour, cattle, and grain, and were ready to begin the world with ardour and confidence. Multitudes of poor people from Ireland, Scotland, and Germany, have by these means, together with industry and frugality, become wealthy farmers, or, as they are called in Europe, estated men; who, in their own countries, where all the lands are fully occupied, and the wages of labour low, could never have emerged from the condition wherein they were born.

“It is invariably the practice of the American, and well suited to his love of independence, to purchase a piece of land as soon as he can, and cultivate his own farm, rather than live at wages. It is equally in the power of an emigrant to do the same, after a few years of labour and economy.

From that moment he secures all the means of happiness. He has a sufficiency of fortune, without being exempt from moderate labour: he feels the comfort of independence, and has no fear of poverty in his old age. He is invested with the powers, as well as the rights of a freeman, and may in all cases, without let or apprehension, exercise them according to his judgment. He can afford to his children a good education, and knows that he has thereby provided for their wants. Prospects open to them far brighter than were his own; and in seeing all this, he is surely blest.

“Artisans receive better pay in America than in Europe, and can live with less exertion and more comfort; because they put an additional price on their work, equal to the cost of freight and commission charged by the merchant on importation. There are not many of the laborious classes whom we would advise to reside, or even loiter, in great towns; because as much will be spent during a long winter as can be made through a toilsome summer, so that a man may be kept a moneyless drudge for life. But this is not per-

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haps the worst; he is tempted to become a tippler, by the cheapness and plenty of liquors, and then his prospects are blasted for ever. In few countries is drunkenness more despised than in this. The drunkard is viewed as a person socially dead, shut out from decent intercourse, shunned, despised, or abhorred.

The pernicious habit is to be guarded against as scrupulously for political as moral considerations.

Civil liberty every where rests on self-respect, while degradation or voluntary debasement is one of the causes of despotism. These remarks are general; we have no reason to suppose that one people are more ignorant than another of moral duty or propriety.

It deserves notice, that two sister States have made laws investing the estate of an habitual drunkard in trustees; and it has been proposed to deprive such persons of suffrage and the privilege of giving evidence in courts of justice. An ancient lawyer was even more severe; he affixed a double penalty to crimes committed in

a state of intoxication. Such have been the methods of legislators to preserve the dignity of man.

Men of science, who can apply their knowledge to useful and practical purposes may be very advantageously settled; but mere literary scholars, who have no profession, or only one which they cannot profitably practise in this country, do not meet with much encouragement; in truth, with little or none, unless they are willing to devote themselves to the education of youth. The demand for persons who will do this is obviously increasing; although many excellent preceptors are every where to be found among the native Americans, there is still considerable room for competition on the part of well-qualified foreigners."

There is an astonishing press of emigration *westward*, from the ports in the United States. A lively idea of this vast movement may be obtained from the following remarks of an intelligent traveller:—

"We are nine in number, and thirty miles of mountain country between us and Pitts-

burg. We learn that the stages which pass daily from Philadelphia and Baltimore, are generally full, and that there are now many persons at Baltimore waiting for places. No vehicles of any kind are to be hired, and here we must either stay or walk off; the latter we prefer; and separating each our bundle from the little that we have of travelling stores, we are about to undertake our mountain pilgrimage, accepting the alternative most cheerfully after the dreadful shaking of the last hundred miles by stage.

We have now fairly turned our backs on the old world, and find ourselves in the very stream of emigration. Old America seems to be breaking up, and moving westward. We are seldom out of sight as we travel on this grand track towards the Ohio, of family groups behind and before us, some with a view to particular spots, close to a brother (perhaps) or a friend who has gone before, and reported well of the country. Many, like ourselves, when they arrive in the wilderness, will find no lodge prepared for them.

A small waggon (so light that you may almost

carry it, yet strong enough to bear a good load of bedding, utensils and provisions, and a swarm of young citizens,—and to sustain marvellous shocks in its passage over these rocky heights) with two small houses; sometimes a cow or two comprises their all, excepting a little store of hard earned cash for the land office of the district, where they may obtain a title for as many acres as they possess half dollars, being one fourth of the purchase money. The waggon has a tilt or cover, made of a sheet, or perhaps a blanket. The family are seen before, behind, or within the vehicle, according to the road or weather, or perhaps the spirits of the party.”

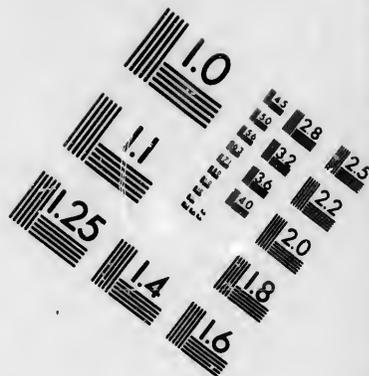
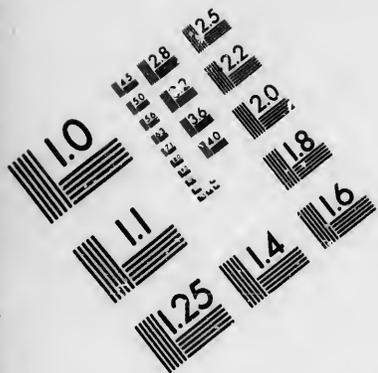
Can any description be more interesting than this? Travellers from all the nations of Europe—persons of both sexes—of all ages and conditions, pressing forward to some favourite spot on which to pitch their tent. The Americans themselves are great travellers, and in general better acquainted with the vast expanse of country spreading over their twenty states, (of which Virginia alone nearly equals Great Britain in extent) than the English with their little island.

They are also a migrating people; and, even when in prosperous circumstances can contemplate a change of situation, which under our old establishments, and fixed habits, none but the most enterprising would venture upon when urged by adversity.

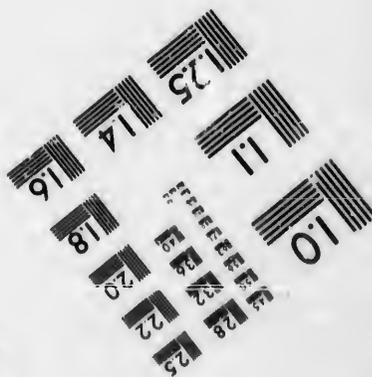
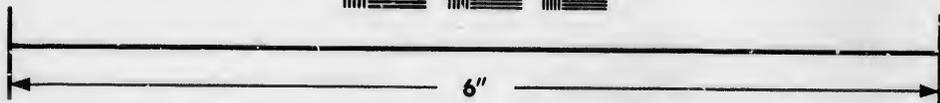
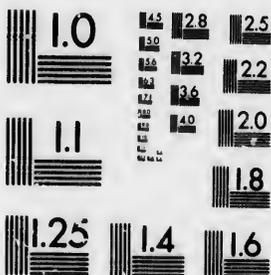
To give an idea of the internal movements of this vast hive, about 12,000 waggons passed between Baltimore and Philadelphia, in the last year, with from four to six horses, carrying from thirty-five to forty Cwt. The cost of carriage is about seven dollars per Cwt. from Philadelphia to Pittsburg, and the money paid for the conveyance of goods on this road, exceeds £80,000 sterling. Add to these the numerous stages loaded to the utmost, and the innumerable travellers on horseback, on foot, and in light waggons, and you have before you a scene of bustle and business extending over a space of three hundred miles, which is truly wonderful.

The emigrant must not think of settling in the districts adjacent to the ports of the Atlantic. The state of Ohio, for instance, contains all that





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is beautiful and fertile, all that nature has decreed for the comfort of man. Rich land, good water, wholesome air, lime, coal, mills, navigation. But then there has been an advance of a thousand per Cent. in about ten years. At Richmond, in Virginia, ground sells currently on building speculation, at 10,000 dollars per acre, and in some of the streets near the river, at 200 dollars per foot in front! The stranger must press on *westward*, where good land is to be purchased at the government price of two dollars per acre; the amazing influx of emigrants is constantly opening new markets.

America, said Franklin, "*is the land of labour,*" but then it is also the land in which labour is properly and abundantly recompensed. The mechanic and peasant do not after a long life of drudgery, retire to a workhouse, or drop into the last refuge of misery—the grave, *as into the bosom of a friend*. There is no country in the world which exhibits such delightful instances of old age basking in the rays of content and competency as the United States. And the children of the aged peasant, rising round his table like

olive branches, have the heart cheering assurance that by treading in the steps of their venerable and prudent ancestors, they also shall certainly attain to competence, and even to wealth.

There are few instances in the United States of industrious persons not meeting with the success which their exertions deserve. Want of prudence in speculations, will of course sometimes produce corresponding effects, but in no country do the enterprising and the industrious rise with such elasticity from misfortune, as in the United States. Slothful and improvident men will be found in all countries: the following description of journeymen at Pittsburg is in point:—  
 Journeymen, in various branches—shoemakers, tailors, &c. earn two dollars a day. Many of them are improvident, and thus they remain journeymen for life. It is not, however in absolute intemperance and profligacy, that they in general waste their surplus earnings, it is in excursions, or entertainments. Ten dollars spent at a ball is no rare result of the gallantry of a Pittsburg journeyman. Those who are steady

and prudent, advance rapidly. A shoemaker of *my acquaintance*, that is to say, whom I employed, left Ireland, as poor as an Irish emigrant four years ago,—staid one year in Philadelphia, then removed hither, and was employed by a master practitioner of the same calling, at 12 dollars per week. He saved his money, married, paid his master, who retired on his fortune, three hundred dollars for his business, and is now in a fair way of retiring too, as he has a shop well stocked, and a thriving trade, wholesale and retail, with vast profits!

I have another instance before me of the success attendant on industry in the United States: The person to whom I allude, is about 30, he has a wife and three fine children; his father is a farmer, that is to say, a proprietor, living five miles distant. From him he received five hundred dollars, and “began the world,” in the true style of American enterprize, by taking a cargo of flour to New Orleans, about two thousand miles, gaining a little more than his expenses, and a stock of knowledge. Two years ago he had increased his property to 900 dollars;

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purchased this place; a house, stable, &c. and two hundred and fifty acres of land, (sixty-five of which are cleared and laid down to grass) for three thousand five hundred dollars, of which he has already paid three thousand, and will pay the remaining five hundred next year. He is now building a good stable and going to improve his house. His property is at present worth seven thousand dollars; having gained or rather grown, five thousand five hundred dollars in two years, with prospects of future accumulation to his utmost wishes. Thus it is that people grow wealthy without extraordinary exertion, and without any anxiety.

The working farmer by the amount of capital required, as a *renter*, may *own* and cultivate a *much better one* in this country. Let this be well understood: the emigrant on repairing to the Government office where land is sold, pays down one-fourth of the sum agreed on at two dollars per acre, and discharges the rest at several instalments, to be completed in five years. Thus, what is RENT in Europe is here discharging the Purchase Money. I am, in fact, working for *myself*, and not for another. Is it surprising, then, that with a rapidly increasing population,

with new markets arising around him, and with the heart-cheering impulse of conscious property and independence, the American peasant should attain ease and competence, and even wealth to shed their benign influence on the evening of his days.

A large family is, in England, another term for a large share of poverty—in America the birth of children is hailed as in the patriarchal ages—they are towers of strength. They assist in agricultural and other duties when young, and when arrived at manhood, the parents feel no solicitude respecting their settlement.

Little farms, from eight, to one hundred and sixty acres, with simple erections, a cabin, and a stable, may be purchased at from 5 to 20 dollars per acre, the price being in proportion to the quantity of cleared land.

Land (government land) is sold in sections of 160 acres, being one-fourth of a square mile. The poor man who enters his quarter section of 160 acres, pays down his eighty dollars, pursues his road to the spot which he has bought, builds a cabin for himself and family, and having cleared his ground, proceeds to sow Indian corn, which is the first year's support. With his gun he pro-

cures game in the evening, and at the end of five years generally succeeds in paying the rest of the purchase money, besides laying by two or three thousand dollars. Such is the natural progress of a settler. There is no part of the Union, in the new settlements or the old, where an industrious man need be at a loss for the comforts of a good livelihood.

It has already been observed, that this little Work was almost exclusively undertaken for the information of persons about to embark for America; and the Author flatters himself that he has attained the object which he had in view, and has compressed much valuable information in a small compass. Having himself visited America, he is enabled to vouch for the correctness of general facts: he does not however hesitate to acknowledge that he has occasionally availed himself of the remarks of others, when he found these remarks to agree with what had fallen under his own personal observation.

Among the thousands that are about to leave the United Kingdom, for America, there are doubtless many, who have formed extravagant, unfounded notions relative to the land which they purpose to adopt as their future residence. There

may be others hesitating between their wishes and their fears, and perhaps there are few who are so well informed on American affairs, as such an important step as emigration demands. This unassuming publication, may, therefore, by its undeviating attention to TRUTH, be of service, in preventing the visionary from experiencing sensations of disappointment and regret, in giving confidence to the timid, and in diffusing at a moderate price, that information to all which cannot fail to prove of singular utility.

Circumstances prevented the author from sending this Work to the press, until within a fortnight of his second embarkation for America. Owing therefore to the uncommon rapidity with which his publication passed through the press, he has most respectfully to claim the forbearance of the public, in regard to his column of errata.

BYERS, PRINTER, DOCK,

# Additional Extracts

FROM

Mr. BIRKBECK'S NOTES AND LETTERS

From the ILLINOIS,

TOGETHER WITH HIS REPLY TO MR. COBBETT,

Dated July 13th, 1819.

SMITH'S VIEW OF UPPER CANADA,

WITH

EXTRACTS OF ORIGINAL LETTERS

Of a LANCASHIRE FARMER & other RESIDENTS:

REMARKS, &c.

EMIGRANTS from Europe are too apt to linger in the eastern cities, wasting their time, their money, and their resolution. They should push out westward without delay, where they can live cheaply until they fix themselves. Two dollars, saved in Pennsylvania, will purchase an acre of good land in the Illinois.

The land carriage from Philadelphia to Pittsburg, is from seven to ten dollars per cwt. (100 lb.) Clothing, razors, pocket-knives, pencils, mathematical instruments, and light articles in general, of constant usefulness, ought to be carried even at this expence, and books which are scarce, and much wanted in the west. Good gun locks are rare and difficult to procure. No heavy implements will pay carriage.

A pocket compass is indispensable for every stranger who ventures alone into the woods of America, and he should always carry the means of lighting a fire: for the traveller, when he starts in the morning on a wilderness journey,

little knows where next he may lay his head.—Tow, rubbed with gunpowder, is good tinder:—a few biscuits, a phial of spirits, a tomahawk, and a good blanket, are necessary articles. Overtaken by night, or bewildered, if thus provided, you may be really comfortable by your blazing fire; when without them, you would feel dismal and disconsolate. A dog is a pleasant and useful fellow-traveller in the backwoods. You should make your fire with a fallen tree for a back-log, and lie to leeward, with your feet towards it. The smoke flying over, will preserve you from the damp air and mosquitoes. Tie your horse with a long rein to the end of a bough, or the top of a young Hickery tree, which will allow him to graze or browse; and change his position if you awake in the night.

*Pittsburg.*—At the junction of the Alleghany and Monongahala, forming by their union the Ohio, stands the “city of Pittsburg, the Birmingham of America.” Here I expected to have been enveloped in clouds of smoke, issuing from a thousand furnaces, and sturned with the din of ten thousand hammers.

A century and a half ago, possibly, the state of Birmingham might have admitted of a comparison with Pittsburg. I conceive there are many, very many, single manufacturing establishments in Great Britain, of more present importance than the aggregate of those in this town: yet, taken as it is, without rhetorical description, it is truly a very interesting and important place. Steam engines of great efficiency are made here, and applied to various purposes, and it contains sundry works:—iron foundries, glass-houses, nail-cutting factories, &c.; establishments, which are as likely to expand and multiply, as the small acorn, planted in a good soil, and duly protected, is to become the majestic oak, that “flings his giant arms amid the sky.”

At present the manufacturers are under great difficulties,

and many are on the eve of suspending their operations, owing to the influx of depreciated fabrics from Europe.

Pittsburg contains about 7000 inhabitants, and is a place of great trade, as an entrepot for the merchandize and manufactures supplied by the eastern states to the western. The inhabitants of Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, are their customers, and continually increasing in their demands upon the merchants and the artisans of Pittsburg.

Shawnee Town is 1200 miles from New Orleans, which distance may be performed in twenty days, provided there are no delays. This is the nearest point on the Ohio to our intended residence, (45 miles distance,) and may therefore be considered as our shipping port, from which we have navigable communication, by the Wabash, into our immediate vicinity.

Thus situated, in the interior of a vast continent, we may have communication with Europe, either for the export of produce or the introduction of merchandise, calculating on the addition of a month to the voyage across the Atlantic.

In reply to a letter, Mr. B. observes—

In the first place, the voyage.—That will cost, to Baltimore or Philadelphia, provided you take it, as no doubt you would, in the cheapest way, twelve guineas each, for birth, fire, and water, for yourself and wife, and 10 or less for your children; besides provisions, which we will furnish.

Then the journey.—Over the mountains to Pittsburg, down the Ohio to Shawnee-Town, and from thence to our settlement, fifty miles north, will amount to five pounds sterling per head.

If you arrive here as early as May, or even June, another five pounds per head will carry you on to that point, where you may take your leave of dependence on anything earthly but your own exertions.

With eighty dollars you will "enter a quarter section of land;" that is, you will purchase at the land-office one hundred and sixty acres, and pay one-fourth of the purchase-money; and looking to the land to reward your pains with the means of discharging the other three-fourths as they become due, in two, three, and four years.

You will build a house with fifty dollars; and you will find it extremely comfortable and convenient, as it will be really and truly yours.

Two horses will cost, with harness and plough, one hundred.

Cows, and hogs, and seed corn, and fencing, with other expenses, will require the remaining two hundred and ten dollars.

This beginning, humble as it appears, is affluence and splendour, compared with the original outfit of settlers in general. Yet no man remains in poverty, who possesses even moderate industry and economy, and especially of *time*.

You would of course bring with you your sea-bedding and store of blankets, for you will need them on the Ohio; and you should leave England with a good stock of wearing apparel. Your luggage must be composed of light articles, on account of the costly land-carriage from the eastern port to Pittsburg, which will be from seven to ten dollars per 100lb. nearly sixpence sterling per pound.

A few simple medicines of good quality are indispensable, such as calomel, bark in powder, castor oil, calcined magnesia, and laudanum: they may be of the greatest importance on the voyage and journey, as well as after your arrival.

Change of climate and situation will produce temporary indisposition, but with prompt and judicious treatment, which is happily of the most simple kind, the complaints to which new comers are liable are seldom dangerous or

difficult to overcome, provided due regard has been had to salubrity in the choice of their settlement, and to diet and accommodation after their arrival.

*Mr. Birkbeck's Terms to Settlers.*

A township comprises thirty-six square miles, or sections, of six hundred and forty acres each; in all, twenty-three thousand and forty acres.

These lands, we propose to offer (on terms proportionably favourable) to a number of our countrymen, whose views may so far accord with our own, as to render proximity of settlement desirable.

In the sale of public lands, there is a regulation, which I have before mentioned, that the sixteenth section, which is nearly the centre of every township, shall not be sold. It is called the reserved section; and is, accordingly, reserved for public uses in that township, for the support of the poor, and for purposes of education.

This section being, of course, at the disposal of the purchasers of the entire township, we shall, by judicious arrangements, provide out of it, not only for the objects which the wisdom of the legislature had in view; but for the present accommodation of the more indigent, but not the least valued members of our proposed community. To obviate the sufferings to which emigrants of this class are exposed on their arrival, it is a material part of our plan to have in readiness for every poor family, a cabin, an inclosed garden, a cow, and a hog, with an appropriation of land, for summer and winter food for cows, proportioned to their number.

With regard to the disposal of the lands in general, we shall probably offer them in sections, half-sections, quarters, and eighths; that is, in allotments of six hundred and forty, three hundred and twenty, one hundred and sixty, and

eighty acres, making other reservations of portions for public uses, as circumstances may require.

We wish it to be clearly understood, that we have no design of forming a society of English, to be governed by any laws or regulations of our own framing. We would not bind others, nor be ourselves bound by any ties, but those of mutual interest, and good neighbourhood; nor be subject to any law, but the law of the land.

Yet, as concentration of capital, as well as of population, will be essential to the rapid prosperity of our colony, we shall make a stipulation which we hope will be generally approved:—

That no person may be tempted, by the low price at which our lands shall be offered to *possess* themselves of it as a mere object of speculation, a declaration will be required on the part of the purchaser, of his intention to reside on the spot.

We would, at the same time, impress upon him the necessity of not purchasing more than he can fairly manage.

Our opinion is, that it would be more advantageous to the resident proprietor to possess a capital of four or five pounds sterling an acre, than to incapacitate himself for carrying on his improvements for want of adequate means.

I repeat, that we have not fallen on this scheme, from a wish to form a society exclusively English, or indeed, *any* society as distinct from the people at large. We would most willingly extend our proposals to Americans or emigrants of any nation, with the requisite capital, could our plan embrace them. Concentration of capital and numbers is the only refuge from many privations, and even sufferings in these remote regions:—but, the main advantage of preparing, as we propose, for the reception of our brethren, will be to save them a wearisome and expensive travel, in quest of a settlement, but too often ending in despair.

Twelve long months spent in roaming over this wilderness, has broken the spirits, and drained the purses of many who would have done well, had they proceeded at once to a place provided:—also, to afford immediate protection and employment to *poor* emigrants.

In reply to a letter, Mr. B. observes—

I have secured a considerable tract of land, more than I have any intention of holding, that I may be able to accommodate some of our English friends. Our soil appears to be rich, a fine black mould, inclining to sand, from one to three or four feet deep, lying on sandstone, or clayey loam; so easy of tillage, as to reduce the expense of cultivation below that of the land I have been accustomed to in England; notwithstanding the high rates of human labour. The wear of plough-irons is so trifling, that it is a thing of course to sharpen them in the spring once for the whole year. Our main object will be live stock, cattle, and hogs, for which there is a sure market at a good profit. Two-pence a pound you will think too low a price to include a profit; but remember, we are not called upon, after receiving our money for produce, to refund a portion of it for rent, another portion for tithe, a third for poor's rates, and a fourth for taxes; which latter are here so light, as scarcely to be brought into the nicest calculation. You will consider also, that money goes a great deal farther here, so that a less profit would suffice. The fact is, however, that the profits on capital employed any way in this country are marvellous: in the case of live-stock the outgoings are so small, that the receipts are nearly all clear.

The idea of exhausting the soil by cropping, so as to render manure necessary, has not yet entered into the estimates of the western cultivator. Manure has been often known to accumulate until the farmers have removed their yards and buildings out of the way of the nuisance. They

have no notion of making a return to the land, and as yet there seems no bounds to its fertility.

For about half the capital that is required for the mere cultivation of our worn-out soils in England, a man may establish himself as a proprietor here, with every comfort belonging to a plain and reasonable mode of living, and with a certainty of establishing his children as well or better than himself—such an approach to certainty at least as would render *anxiety* on that score unpardonable.

Land being obtained so easily, I had a fancy to occupy here just as many acres as I did at Wanborough; and I have added 160 of timbered land to the 1,440 I at first concluded to farm. I shall build and furnish as good a house as the one I left, with suitable out-buildings, garden, orchard, &c. make 5,000 rods of fence, chiefly bank and ditch, provide implements, build a mill, support the expenses of housekeeping and labour until we obtain returns; and pay the entire purchase-money of the estate, for less than half the capital employed on Wanborough farm. At the end of fourteen years, instead of an expiring lease, I or my heirs will probably see an increase in the value of the land equal to fifteen or twenty times the original purchase.

In the interval my family will have lived handsomely on the produce, and have plenty to spare, should any of them require a separate establishment on farms of their own.

Thus I see no obstruction to my realizing all I wished for on taking leave of Old England. To me, whose circumstances were comparatively easy, the change is highly advantageous; but to labouring people, to mechanics, to people in general who are in difficulties, this country affords so many sure roads to independence and comfort, that it is lamentable that any, who have the means of making their escape, should be prevented by the misrepresentation of others, or their own timidity.

In answer to a letter from Mr. Fearon—(See note at the end.)

To the first, as to the most eligible part of the United States for obtaining improved *farms*, or uncultivated lands for Englishmen, &c. I reply, that with a view to the settlement of the number of families you mention, it will be vain to look for improved farms in any part that I have seen or heard of. Probably a single family might be suited in almost any large district, as the changes which are continually occurring in human affairs, will occasionally throw eligible farms into the market every where. But you can have no *choice* of cultivated lands, as those you would prefer are the least likely to be disposed of; and it is altogether unlikely you should meet with a body of such lands, for the accommodation of thirty or forty families; considering too, that, by travelling a few days' journey farther west, you may have a *choice* of land of equal value at one-tenth of the price, where they may settle contiguous, or at least near to each other. I have no hesitation in recommending you to do as I have done: that is, to head the tide of emigration, and provide for your friends where the lands are yet unappropriated.

After traversing the states of Ohio and Indiana, looking out for a tract suited to my own views, and those of a number of our countrymen who have signified their intentions of following our example, I have fixed upon this spot in Illinois, and am the better pleased with it the more I see of it.

As to obtaining *labourers*. A single settler may get his labour done by the piece on moderate terms, not higher than in some parts of England; but if many families settle together, all requiring this article, and none supplying it, they must obtain it from elsewhere. Let them import English labourers, or make advantageous proposals to such as are continually arriving at the eastern ports.

*Provisions* are cheap of course. Wheat three and four-pence sterling per bushel. Beef and pork two-pence per pound, groceries and clothing dear, building moderate, either by wood or brick. Bricks are laid by the thousand, at eight dollars or under, including lime.

*Privations* I cannot enumerate. Their amount depends on the previous habits and present disposition of the individuals: for myself and family, the privations already experienced, or anticipated, are of small account compared with the advantages.

Horses, 60 to 100 dollars, or upwards; cows, 10 to 20 dollars; sows, 3 to 5 dollars.

*Society* is made up of new comers chiefly, and of course must partake of the leading characters of these. There is generally a little bias of attraction in a newly settled neighbourhood, which brings emigrants from some particular state or country to that spot; and thus a tone is given to society. Where we are settling, society is yet unborn as it were: It will, as in other places, be made up of such as come; among whom English farmers, I presume will form a large proportion.

*Roads* as yet are in a state of nature.

*Purchases* of land are best made at the land-offices: payments, five years, or prompt; if the latter, eight per cent. discount.

*Mechanics' wages*, 1 dollar to 1½. Carpenters, smiths, shoemakers, brickmakers, and bricklayers, are among the first in requisition for a new settlement: others follow in course;—tanners, saddlers, tailors, hatters, tin-workers, &c. &c.

We rely on good *markets* for produce, through the grand navigable communication we enjoy with the ocean.

*Medical aid* is not of difficult attainment. The English of both sexes, and strangers in general, are liable to some

bilious attacks on their first arrival: these complaints seem, however, simple, and not difficult to manage if taken in time.

The *manufactures* you mention *may hereafter be eligible*; cotton, woollen, linen, stockings, &c. certainly not at present. Beer, spirits, pottery, tanning, are objects of immediate attention.

The *minerals* of our district are not much known. We have excellent limestone; I believe we have coal: wood will, however, be the cheapest fuel for some years.

*Implements* are cheap till you commence with the iron. A waggon, 35 or 40 dollars, exclusive of tier to wheels. A strong waggon for the road complete will amount to 160 dollars or upwards.

The best *mode of coming* from England to this part of the western country is by an eastern port, thence to Pittsburg, and down the Ohio to Shawnee town. Clothing, bedding, household linen, simple medicines of the best quality, and sundry small articles of cutlery and light tools, are the best things for an emigrant to bring out.

I can hardly reply to your inquiry about the *manner of travelling*; it must be suited to the party. Horseback is the most pleasant and expeditious; on foot the cheapest: a light waggon is eligible in some cases; in others the stage is a necessary evil.

The following is in reply to Mr. Cobbett's partial statement, lately given in one of his Registers; and, being dated so late as the middle of July, 1819, must be interesting to many thousand persons, whose ardour for emigration is not cooled by circumstances:—

#### MR. BIRKBECK'S SETTLEMENT.

MR. EDITOR—Permit me to request the insertion of the following letter from my friend Mr. Birkbeck, addressed to

the British emigrants arriving in the Eastern States of America. From many years acquaintance with this gentleman, I have always been an admirer of his superior talents; and I am well assured that he would not, from any motive, lead others into error by any incorrectness of statement. I well know that an idea has been entertained by many, that he has represented the Illinois district in more fascinating colours than it is entitled to. Within these few weeks, I have had an opportunity of hearing the statement of others residing in the vicinity of Mr. Birkbeck's property, and, without exception, all have corroborated the correctness of his account. I am, Sir, &c.

*Burlington Street, Bath.*

C. H. WILKINSON.

TO BRITISH EMIGRANTS ARRIVING IN THE EASTERN STATES.

*English Prairie (Illinois) July 13th, 1819.*

My Friends and Countrymen—For your service I exhibited in two publications, an outline of the process of emigration, from its commencement up to the final settlement. My first opinion of this, the spot of our choice, and the reasoning on which that choice was grounded, are before you; and sufficient time has elapsed to try those opinions by the test of experience; by which they are confirmed in every particular. I shewed you my own tract through a gloomy forest into a delightful country, better prepared for our abode by the hand of nature, than the heavy woods by half a century of labour. I built a cabin "and blazed a road" to it; for it was my ambition to be surrounded by my old friends and neighbours. In this too I am gratified; and we are contented with our allotment, both as to our present state and future prospects. This small district, which two years ago was nearly without inhabitants, contains a thriving population of from six to

seven hundred persons. We have been blessed with health most unusual for a new settlement, or for any settlement of equal numbers in any country; and no doubt is entertained by us, or by any judicious observer, of its salubrity. We have several wells of excellent water, and many more are in progress. Our soil is fertile beyond my own expectation; but our exertions have hitherto been chiefly directed to the permanent objects of building and fencing, of which much has already been done. We have, however, collected a stock of cattle and hogs; and I think more acres of corn are now growing than there are individuals in the settlement.

I have been informed that the active pen of Mr. Cobbett has been borrowed by certain land speculators, to direct your course from the western country to a settlement in the back woods of Pennsylvania, on the Susquehanna, 170 miles N. W. of Philadelphia. I have not yet been so fortunate as to meet with the publication. Report says that he holds me out as a man of inferior judgment; and has descended so far as to throw a doubt over my veracity. The latter I can hardly credit. But however that may be, the question, both as regards my judgment and veracity in this instance, is decided, and in my favour, on the incontrovertible evidence of fact.

The Susquehanna may, for aught I know, be quite eligible for you; but unfair means taken by the promoters of any undertaking, to depress a competitor, shakes and ought to destroy all confidence in their honour and truth. I have just received a publication on this subject by Dr. Johnson, who, by mis-application of partial extracts and dishonest comments, has laboured to show that this country is not such a country as I have stated it to be, but that I have chosen a bad situation, and described it as a good one: this gives me a mean opinion of Dr. Johnson. But it is the

interest of these speculators to fix you on their lands, and their proposals may be worthy your attention; therefore as the distance is comparatively small from the eastern ports, I advise you to examine the thing for yourselves, or, at least, to obtain an account of it through honest hands. If you are poor, I would recommend you to find out some of the Susquehanna proprietors, who may possibly undertake to pay the charges of a journey thither, should you find Dr. Johnson's favourable report prove as false as I know his *unfavourable* to be. I hear of advertisements in the daily papers inviting settlers; but why do annual thousands of New York and Pennsylvania farmers pass these eligible settlements, at their own doors, and make their way into the west, even as far as this place! I feel no anxiety as to the peopling of this neighbourhood; our prosperity is out of the reach of Mr. Cobbett and Dr. Johnson; but I think it right to offer these hints to your attention.

It would be well for you to inform yourselves what the Emigrant Society consists of, which possesses so much good-will towards you. The preface to Dr. Johnson's book is called an address to you from this society, but it is not authenticated either by signature or date. It is probable, that the owners of the lands in question are the Emigrant Society. If so, you will understand the whole affair.

M. BIRKBECK.

Particular information respecting this settlement and modes of conveyance, may be learned by application to A. S. Pell, No. 476, Broadway.—(New York.)

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A late traveller observes, since Captains Lewis and Clark made their exploratory travels west of the Alleghany Mountains, other travellers have penetrated by far shorter and better roads; and it has been calculated, that, with some

little improvement of the road, waggons might travel from this Western Country to some of the head waters of the Missouri, with less trouble than they now cross the Alleghany Mountains from the Western States.

**EXTRACTS from SMITH's GEOGRAPHICAL VIEW  
of the PROVINCE of UPPER CANADA.**

**DESCRIPTION OF THE DISTRICT OF LONDON,  
(UPPER CANADA.)**

This district is bounded east by Indian land, on Grand River, north by the wilderness, west by the western district at Detroit, and south by lake Erie, along the north shore of which it extends about 90 miles. The district of London is certainly much the best part of Canada. It is sufficiently level, very rich, and beautifully variegated with small hills and fertile vallies, through which flow a number of pe. ly streams of almost the best water in the world.

In this district there is a large quantity of natural plains, though not in very large bodies, and not entirely clear of timber. This land has a handsome appearance, and affords fine roads and pasture in summer. Here the farmer has but little to do, only to fence his land, and put in the plough, which indeed requires a strong team at first, but afterwards may be tilled with one horse. These plains are mostly in the highest part of the ground, are very rich, and well adapted for wheat and clover. The surface of the earth in this district is almost entirely clear of stone; it is of a sandy quality, (especially the plains) which renders it very easy for cultivation.

This district is situated in the 41st. degree, and 40 minutes of north lat. and is favoured with a temperate climate. The summers are sufficiently long to bring all the crops to perfection, if planted in season: indeed there is hardly ever any kind of produce injured by the frost.

This is the best part of Canada for wheat, and, I believe, of any part of the world : from 20 to 35 bushels are commonly gathered from one acre of ground, perfectly sound, and clear from smut. Corn thrives exceedingly well, as also all other kinds of grain. Apples, peaches, cherries, and all kinds of fruit common to the United States, flourish very well here. Wood-land sells from two to five dollars an acre. The timber of this district consists of almost all kinds common to the United States.

The inhabitants of this district enjoy a greater degree of health, than is common to observe in most places : but doubtless there are reasons for this, founded on natural principles, and among which are the following :

1st. The inhabitants are, from their prosperous situation, exempt from the necessity of labouring too hard, and at the same time are called to a moderate share of industry, which promotes the health of the body and mind.

2d. Most of the people were poor when they first came to that province : of course had been accustomed to live on the necessities of life, and yet retain a wise moderation in eating and drinking, which also very much prevents the introduction of disease.

3d. The climate is quite temperate, and according to the observation of many who have lived in the place sixteen years, sudden changes from hot to cold, or cold to hot, is not so common as in most places in the United States, or Europe. The winter commences gradually, and goes off in like manner. The snow in this district has never been known to be more than twenty inches deep, and generally not more than twelve.

4th. All the water in this district is clear from any foreign body, and of the lightest order ; most of the people make use of springs or brooks, which are in great plenty, and are clear and cool nine months in the year : neither are

they very often made muddy by rain, the land through which they run being of a sandy quality.

5th. The soil being of a sandy quality, as observed above, naturally produces sound and sweet grain, and vegetables; the using of which very much promotes the health of the consumer.

6th. The people of this Canadian paradise are more contented in their situation of life, than is common to observe in most places, which also very much preserves the health of man, while a contrary disposition tends to destroy it.

This district is divided into three counties, viz. Norfolk, Middlesex, and Oxford, and twenty-five townships, all of which I will describe in a brief manner.

NORFOLK County lies in the south east part of the district, joining the shore of the Lake Erie, and is divided into nine townships, generally nine miles wide, where they join on the lake shore, and twelve miles in length towards the north.

Townships are as follow:—Walpole, Rainham, Woodhouse, Charlotteville, Walsingham, Houghton, Middleton, Windham, Townsend.

OXFORD County is situated north of Norfolk and Middlesex, towards the heads of the Thames and Grand Rivers, and is divided into six townships, about twelve miles square, viz. Burford, Blenheim, Oxford, Norwich, Dierham, Blenford.

MIDDLESEX County lies directly south west of Norfolk, joining the lake shore, and is exceeding rich, well watered with a number of fine streams, is level, and almost entirely clear of stone. The common growth of timber is bass, black and white walnut, with hickory, maple, and oak.

It is not more than two years from the time I write, April, 1812, since this country has been open for settlement, of course it cannot be expected that there are many

water-works, mechanics, or the like : I therefore shall omit naming the number in any Township, but proceed to name the Townships, and on what terms this excellent land may be obtained.

This County is divided into ten Townships : those lying on the lake shore are Malahide, Bayham, Southold, Yarmouth, and Dunwich : those on the north part are Dorchester, Westminster, Deleware, Winchester, and Marlborough.

The land is exceeding rich in these Townships, and the surface more level than is common, there being no signs of trees having been formerly turned up by the roots here or anywhere on the west side of the Grand River.

Some few years ago there was a road opened by the government eight miles from the shore of Lake Erie, parallel with the same, about fifty miles long, as also one on the lake shore, and another from the middle to the north. On both sides of these roads lots of 200 acres of land have been given to settlers by the King, and now may be obtained by any person, on the following terms.

First. Every person that wants a lot of 200 acres (for no one can get more from the King) must take the oath of allegiance to his majesty before some of his majesty's justices of the peace, a certificate of which he must procure.

Secondly, he must then go to Col. Thomas Talbert, now agent for the King respecting the land, who lives on the place, and shew him the certificate of the oath, and inform him of the wish to obtain a lot for settlement, who will point out those that are not engaged ; they may then take their choice.

Thirdly.—They must then pay to Col. Talbert, or some other proper person, thirty-seven dollars and a half, for which a receipt is given.

Fourthly.—They then must within the term of two years,

clear fit for cultivation, and fence ten acres of the lot obtained, build a house 16 by 20 feet, of logs (or frame) with a shingle roof, also cut down all the timber in front of, and the whole width of the lot, (which is 20 chains) 133 feet wide, 33 feet of which must be cleared smooth, and left for half of the public road.

Fifthly.—They must, with or without a family, be actual settlers on the said lot, within and at the end of two years.

When all the things are done (no matter how soon) Col. Talbert will give them a certificate of the same, which they must take to the Land Office in York, upon which they will get a deed for the said lot, which is a deed of gift from the King. The 37 1-2 dollars called the fees, is what necessarily arises as an expense from the surveying and giving it out.

In the spring of 1812 there were 600 lots taken up for settlement, and were then 400 more to be disposed of by government, besides about 300 in the possession of Col. Talbert to be sold at private sale.

The settlers of these lots are almost altogether natives of the United States.

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#### GENERAL REMARKS ON THE GEOGRAPHICAL STATE OF THE WHOLE PROVINCE.

*Situation and extent.*—The province of Upper Canada lies between 41° and 40 minutes and 47° north latitude, and extends along the northern banks of the river St. Lawrence, the lakes Ontario and Erie, and the water communication from lake Superior about 700 miles, and is 500 miles wide, according to an imaginary line that divides it from New Britain on the north. The line that divides it from the lower province begins in latitude 45 at lake Francisco,

and takes a north west course by lake Tomis, canting until it meets the imaginary line just mentioned.

The line that divides the upper province from the United States commences near the above lake, and is a ground line a considerable distance, some distance above the St. Regis village of Indians: then through the middle of the river St. Lawrence to the beginning of lake Ontario, thence through the middle of it to the out-let of lake Erie, then through the middle of the out-let to the beginning of the said lake, then through the middle of it to the head near Detroit, so through the middle of the water communications and lakes St. Clair, Huron, Superior, Long Lake, and Lake of the woods: thence a due west course to the head waters of the Mississippi river.

*Soil and Surface.*—There are no mountains in the province of Upper Canada, and but very few hills of any considerable height: yet the country is not of a clear level, but affords enough of small hills and high bodies of ground to render it agreeable to the eye, and convenient for cultivation, buildings, water works, &c. &c.

The mountain, slope, or sudden rise of ground, which divides the waters of Lake Erie from Lake Ontario, begins (I know not how far) north west from the head of Lake Ontario, or what is called Burlington Bay, it extends around the head of the Bay, a south east course, then an easterly course near the south shore of Lake Ontario, (one or two miles) till near and where it crosses the outlet of Lake Erie, where it is fifteen miles to the south of Ontario. This rise towers in some places five hundred feet high, almost perpendicular; abounding with craggy rocks; but in general, is not more than two hundred and fifty or three hundred feet, and then the ascent is very gradual, mostly in the form of an English summer garden, with natural offsets about five hundred yards wide: there are commonly two

of these offsets. On these offsets are plantations with inhabitants, who have very extensive and beautiful prospects, especially those who reside on the top.

Here the eye can gaze with pleasure on all the fertile fields below, and has an unbounded view of the Lake Ontario, to the north east and some of the northern shore. On the top of this rise of ground, the whole country is level, fertile, and beautiful, no hill to descend or rise. Nearly all the waters on the south side of this slope run into Lake Erie; though there are a few that find their way through the slope, and afford fine falls for water works.

What is called the 20, the 30, and 40 mile creeks, go through the slope and afford excellent falls, on which there are famous water works at present. A considerable part of this slope is composed of craggy limestone rock, particularly the steep parts, and from which flow a great number of fine springs and brooks, which water the fertile plains below.

South west of the Niagara Falls, about 30 miles, and not far from the close of Lake Erie, there are what are called the short hills. Some of these have the form of little mountains, though none of them are high or hard of ascent, and may be cultivated nearly all over. The hills are quite rich.

All along and not far from the north shore of Lake Ontario, the ground rises tolerably sudden and considerably high, after which the country to the north is level enough. There are few stone on the surface of the ground, in any part of the province, and on the west side of the Grand River there is no stone at all, worth naming; yet there are enough beneath the surface almost everywhere, and in many places limestone is plenty.

The soil of the province of Upper Canada is exceeding good in every part, yet if possible it is the best in the upper

part, west and south west of the Bay Quantie, around the north shore and head of Lake Ontario, and the west side of the Grand River, in the London district already described. The lower part of the province is sand and clay mixed; from the head of the Bay Quantie to the head of Lake Ontario, it is altogether a black, light, rich mould, in most places seven inches deep, after which it is brown clay. On the Grand River or Indian Land, and in the London district, the soil is sand, brown loam, and clay.

*Natural Production.*—The timber of the lower part of the province is chiefly hemlock, birch, and beach. That of the middle part, or from the beginning of Lake Ontario to the head, is chiefly beach, sugar maple, and white pine. On and west of the Grand River the chief of the timber is white pine. Elm, bass, black walnut, and the different oaks, chesnut, and the like; indeed, in this part of the province are found all the varieties in the United States; also some of the trees of the balm of Gilead—one of a majestic appearance stands 24 miles west of Niagara, on the main road. In the lower part of the province there is but little of any kind of wild fruit, but in the middle part there are several sorts, particularly huckleberries and rice. In the western part there are a great variety of wild fruits, and are the following:—cranberries, raspberries, blackberries, grapes, sarvesberries, wild potatoes, which were exceeding useful to the first inhabitants, strawberries, plums of a very good sort, as also a great quantity of the best crab apples I ever saw, which the inhabitants of new settlements use by preserving with the molasses of pumpkins.

*Agriculture.*—In the lower part of the province, there are raised considerable quantities of wheat, oats, and peas. In the middle part, wheat, rye, oats, peas, hemp, flax, and some corn. In the western parts the product is wheat, which thrives better here than in other parts; rye, oats,

and corn, come to great perfection, as also buck-wheat. All kinds of roots and vegetables flourish well in any part of the province, but especially in the west. Apples come to perfection in any part of the province, though peaches cannot be raised in the lower end, but do exceeding well within 300 miles of the west end of the province, as also cherries, pears, plums, apricots, and the like.

All kinds of tame cattle do well in any part of the province, but especially horned cattle and sheep thrive well, and are exceeding healthy. Bees do exceeding well on Lake Erie, and are plenty in the woods.

*Climate.*—The climate of the Upper Province is temperate, especially near the head of Lake Ontario, and on west joining the shore, or of Lake Erie. All this part of the province lies in the same latitude as from New York to Springfield in Connecticut, yet as it is several degrees to the west, it is warmer than the weather in the same latitude east. It is also evident, from the experience and journal of several discerning persons, that have lived nearly twenty years in this part of Canada, that the weather does not change so often and sudden, from heat to cold, and cold to heat, as in most other places; nor are the seasons of wet and dry so extreme as they are in the United (especially the southern) States. The showers of rain are moderate and plentiful, owing perhaps to the bounty of heaven, and the multitude of fine lakes of water with which the province abounds.

The air of the lower part of the province is rather too sharp in the winter, yet truly salubrious and healthy; the air in the Upper part, 4 or 500 miles to the south west, is quite pleasant. What is a little remarkable, but which is true according to a diary of the weather which I kept for two years, the wind blew more than two thirds of the winter or for four months, from the west, but hardly ever from the

north or north west; yet in summer it blew almost constantly from the north. All the snow storms in Canada come from the north east, and the coldest winds from the south east and south. Rain storms come from the north and north west.

When the western part of the horizon is red, at the setting of the sun, it forbodes foul weather for the next day. In the upper part of this province, in the summer time, there is a continual though moderate gale of wind, similar to that in the State of Georgia; occasioned, perhaps, by the many lakes of water: this being the case, the hottest days are rendered pleasant. Hurricanes or tornadoes have not been seen in Canada since it has been settled by white people. Yet there is every appearance of them on all the north shore of Lake Ontario having once raged with great fury, as all the timber has been torn up by the roots, from supposition about 600 years ago.

*Commerce.*—The commerce of the upper province has of late years been considerable, and of great benefit to the inhabitants as well as to Great Britain. Within eight years, the exports of both provinces have amounted to about two millions and a half of dollars, though the greatest part of these exports belong to the upper province.

It appears that there were exported from both provinces, in the years 1802-3-4-5, 1,012,000 bushels of wheat each year on an average, 40,000 barrels of flour, and 34,000 weight of biscuit, besides much potash, timber, fur, &c.

In the years 1809-10-11, there has been timber for vessels and casks, taken to England, to the amount of £200,000 sterling.

In these years, there were 320 vessels employed in taking away this produce, amounting to 4,500 tons. The common price of wheat is 1 dollar per bushel, and sometimes 1 dol-

lar and 25 cents—corn, 50 cents, and rye, 75 cents—pork, 6 dollars per cwt.—These prices are common in every part of the province.

Dry goods and groceries are brought to Canada, in great quantities, from England and the United States, which, considering the great distance they come, are sold very cheap. At Niagara and other places, green tea is sold for one dollar per pound, molasses ten shillings per gallon, and brown sugar one shilling per pound, or eight pounds for a dollar, but since the war it can be had for eight cents per pound.

Tolerably fine calicos are often bought for 25 cents per yard, and salt has been generally sold at one dollar per bushel, but since the war it has sold at four.

*Animals.*—I believe that all the variety of animals common to most places in the United States, are found here, except rats, which are not to be found in the province of Upper Canada.

A few years ago, there was a she-bear caught near York, and dissected by a surgeon of the place, which was found to be with young; and which is the only instance, I believe, that has occurred of the like in North America. Bears are plenty in all parts of the province, but more abundant in the south west part. It is very remarkable, that bears do not often destroy hogs, in Canada; however, they are troublesome to the inhabitants in the fall, by infesting their corn fields, yet the people lose but little by them, as they kill many for food.

There are also an abundance of hedge-hogs in the province, and which the Indians eat, counting them good. In the south west parts there are plenty of deer, an abundance of which are taken every winter by the Indians.

There are also plenty of all kinds of birds which are found in the United States, except turkey-buzzards, which

are very scarce. There is also a kind of bird found here about the size, and has the same motion and voice as the parikite, so plenty in the state of Kentucky, yet not of the same colour, but is grey; it is called by some the frolic. Wild ducks are found in great plenty in and around the shores of all the Lakes. Geese are not plenty in the waters of Lakes Ontario and Erie at present, but used to be before the country was settled by white people, yet they are plenty enough in all the lakes north of the settlements.

In the north end of the province there are no snakes of any kind to be found, but different sorts are found plenty enough in the south west end. A number of years ago there were several people of respectability, who reported that they saw in Lake Ontario several large snakes, about 20 yards in length. In June, 1811, a snake was seen in this Lake, near the mouth of the river Credit, 16 miles above York. I was acquainted with some who saw it, and believe them to be people of truth. It came within seven yards of the boat that they were in, and played about it, and was judged to be 30 feet in length, and three in circumference. There are seals in this lake, some of which have been caught.

*Fish.*—Lake Ontario abounds with fish of almost every kind, but the salmon and salmon-trout are the most and far the best. The salmon appear in very large quantities in the fall of the year, and penetrate up all the waters that run into the lake so high, that they are often thrown out with the hand; but they are commonly taken near the mouth of the rivers by the Indians in the night, by means of spears. They commonly weigh from 10 to 20 pounds, and may be purchased of the Indians at one shilling each, or for a gill of whiskey, a cake of bread, or the like trifle. They are of great benefit to the inhabitants, especially the poorer class.

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The salmon trout appear in the spring, though not in so great plenty, but are larger, weighing from 15 to 30 pounds, and are much fatter than salmon.

There are several other fish of an excellent quality, and plenty, particularly bass and herring: the latter very much resemble the sea herring, though they are not so full of small bones. In the month of November, they are taken in great abundance from the water communication between the main Lake and the little Lake, otherwise called Burlington Bay, at the head of Lake Ontario. They are taken with the net, the channel of water between the two Lakes being not more than eight feet deep, about 60 wide, and 300 yards long.

Very good and large eels are also taken out of the Lake, yet they are but little valued, except by the Indians.

There are a great number of fish in Lake Erie, some of which are very valuable, particularly what is called the white fish.

There are not many eels in this Lake; what few there are have multiplied from 20, which a British Officer put into it from Lake Ontario, 37 years ago.

*Mines and Minerals.*—In the Johnstown district there is an iron mine of considerable value, from which iron has been dug for many years.

In the district of London, Charlotteville township, there was a large and rich body of iron ore discovered in the year 1810, and from which there has been a little iron made of an excellent quality. There are several more mines or bodies of iron ore found in different parts of the province, yet there is but little attention paid to them, though they might be valuable, should they fall into the possession of men of an enterprising spirit. There are also some lead mines that are said to be very rich and good.

In the forks of Grand River, which empties into Lake

Erie, and about 50 miles from the same, on the land owned by the Six Nations of Indians, there has lately been discovered a body of plaister, or what is called plaister of Paris. It lays in the bowels of a large hill, but how much it contains is not known. This plaister has been used in different parts of the country adjacent, and answers every valuable purpose, as well as that which is brought from France or Nova-Scotia does in the United States. No soil can be better adapted to the use of plaister, than that of the district of London, which joins on the Grand River.

In the township of Townsend, there is a clay that paints nearly as well as Spanish brown, and many people use it instead thereof. Also in some other parts there are clays that paint very well.

There are a number of salt springs in almost every part of Canada, although there has not been much salt made in the province hitherto, it having been brought from the different salt-works in the state of New York, in great abundance. However, there has been salt made from some, of an excellent quality, particularly in Lincoln county, near Niagara, and in the township of Percy, Newcastle district.

There are a number of medical springs in the province, of an excellent quality. One in the township of Woodhouse, is of a sulphureous nature—a quart will purge well: and of the same sort is the one in Middleton, on Big Creek. Twelve miles east of York, there is a spring of great medical virtue.

*Lakes.*—There are seven lakes of considerable size in the inhabited part of the province, and many more in the wilderness. Lake Ontario is about 230 miles long, from north east to south west, and 80 wide about the middle; being of an oval form, it is exceeding deep, and in most places it appears to be without bottom, as there has been great length

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of cord let down without finding any. The water is very clear and cool at all times of the year, having the appearance of a large spring. This lake never freezes except near the shore where it is shallow; nor does it freeze there, only a few weeks in the most severe weather. It is pretty certain that there is more water runs out of this lake than runs in; and when we consider its very extensive surface, it is also certain that there is much of its water evaporated by the sun: of course it must hide many exceeding large springs.

Lake Ontario has sunk within its banks since the notice of its present inhabitants, say 37 years, and some Indians inform that their forefathers say, that it was once as high as the height of Niagara Fall, and that the waters of Lakes Ontario and Erie joined in most places; but as to the truth of this assertion I will not pretend to say; yet I am of the opinion that the water of Lake Ontario once reached to the foot of the mountain or slope of ground already named, and I am led to this belief from the circumstance of pebble stones being dug up from every part of the surface, and underneath the same, between it and the shore. The foot of the mountain is 20 feet higher than the lake.

There are not many islands in this lake, except near the lower end, where they are plenty.

In many places the ground descends to the water very gradually, and there is no bank at all, except a sandy or gravelly beach; but in other places the banks are 15 feet high.

The wind has a great effect upon this lake, and the waves sometimes run high; yet it is tolerably safe for navigation, there being but few shoals or rocks at any distance from the shore.

There are a number of vessels on this lake, and some of considerable size. The sight of so great a body of water

in the midst of the wilderness, enriched with ships sailing, and colours flying, is truly pleasing and romantic.

The Little Lake, or Burlington Bay, lies at the south west end of this lake, and is divided from it by a causeway, five miles long, and in most places 300 yards wide. The surface of this causeway is completely level, of a light sand, matted over with grass, and beautifully decorated with groves of timber, chiefly oak of a middle size, but of an endless variety of forms—some six feet in circumference at the butt, yet not more than 12 feet high, with extensive limbs, crooking and turning in all directions. A great number of these trees are entirely encircled with grape vines, and produce great quantities of grapes of an excellent quality. The former residence of the noted Colonel Brandt is near this place. This causeway is broken off in one place, as already noted, about a mile from the north west shore, and is about five feet higher than the water. It is a beautiful place for a summer seat. The Little Lake to the west of this causeway is about 20 miles in circumference, and is generally shallow, although deep in some places.

It is thought that there are salt springs in the bottom of this Lake, because the herring chiefly reside in it. It is famous for ducks and eels.

There are a considerable number of harbours in Lake Ontario, but the most noted and curious is that of Presqu'isle, in the district of Newcastle, Cramahe township on the Lake shore, about 75 miles south west of Kingston. There are two points of land, about four miles apart, which extend out from the main shore, but draw nearer each other as they extend into the Lake, and finally meet in a rounding form, about five miles from the shore. These arms of land are level on the top, and are about five or eight feet above the water. About three miles from the shore, there is a channel of water which runs through the east point of land,

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about 150 yards wide, and 30 feet deep. This channel lets in the vessels, which can sail all over the harbour with safety, and in going up to the top, or where the two arms meet, which is in form like a horse-shoe, the largest ships may come close up to the banks, which are perpendicular of solid rock. A plank is put from the shore to the vessel, when it is to be loaded.

The Bay Quantie connects with Lake Ontario, a small distance west of Kingston, and extends 70 miles west up towards the south west, parallel with it. It is one mile wide in some places, and six in others. There are a considerable number of arms, or smaller bays, which put out from it, some 10 miles long. This bay is very safe for navigation, being very deep, and secure from the effect of high winds. Most of the traders, with small vessels, who go from Kingston to York, Niagara, or Detroit, pass up this bay to the head, which is only one mile and three quarters from a small lake, called Willow's Lake, that puts into Lake Ontario, and here the vessels are carried across by means of wheels and oxen. The road is quite level and sandy. Those traders which come down Lake Ontario, generally cross this carrying place into the bay. Although the Bay Quantie, and the Lake Ontario are so near here, yet they are 30 miles apart in some places, owing to an extensive projection of some points of land into the lake, and no doubt, their being so near at the head of the bay, is a divine interposition of Providence for the benefit of the inhabitants.

There are several small lakes in the peninsula between the lake and bay, which abound with fish, one of which deserves particular notice, called the Mountain Lake. This lake is situated in Hollowell township, Prince Edward county, Midland district, 34 miles from Kingston, on the bay shore. It lies on the top of a mountain, judged to be

about 200 feet high : but in the month of December, 1812, I stood on the ice of the bay, in front of it, and after taking the height, I found it to be only 160 feet. This lake is about three miles in circumference, and very deep in most places, abounding with fish of different sorts. How fish could get into this lake, is a matter of deep speculation, as it has no connexion with the bay or lake, only by the small stream that flows from it into the bay, by a fall of 160 feet, nearly perpendicular.

Under these falls there is now a grist mill, near the bay shore, in the possession of Mr. Vanalstine.

Near the head of the Bay Quantie, on the north side, there is a lake of considerable size, called the Hog Lake, as also several others not far distant. About 20 miles west of the head of the Bay Quantie, and 15 miles north of the shore of Lake Ontario, is situated what is called the Rice Lake, on account of the great quantity of rice which grows in it. This lake is from three to nine miles wide, and 36 in length, though not very deep. Its course is from east to west, the west end is not far from Lake Simcoe. At the east end there is a fall of 18 feet perpendicular, in the form of a half moon. Below the falls, begins what is called the River Trent, which is tolerable large, and affords many falls fit for water works : it empties in the Bay Quantie, at the head. This lake communicates with a chain of small lakes, called the Shallow lakes, which afford rice also, and extends near the north end of Lake Simcoe : Lake Simcoe lies still west of Rich Lake, and is some larger. It communicates with Lake Huron, to the south west, by the River Severn.

Lake Erie, which lies 30 miles from any part of Lake Ontario, on the south west, is nearly 300 miles long from north east to south west, and from 20 to 40 miles wide. This lake lies nearly 300 feet higher than Lake Ontario,

which is the reason of the Niagara Falls. It is also pure and clear water, though not so deep as Lake Ontario, nor is it so safe for navigation, or affords so many fine harbours. There are some islands near the west end of this lake, that contain many bad snakes. The shore of this lake, in most places, is nearly level with the land, and very smooth and sandy. It is thought, that full as much water runs out of this lake as runs in.

There are other Lakes in Canada. The Lake St. Clair lies in a north westerly course from Lake Erie. Still farther to the north west is Lake Huron, 100 miles in circumference, in latitude 42. From Lake Huron, through the straits of Marie, it is 70 miles to Lake Superior, which lies between 48 and 50 degrees north latitude, and between 84 and 90 degrees west longitude from London. The Isle Royal, which is near the middle of this lake, is 100 miles long, and 40 wide. In the middle of this island is the line between the United States and Great Britain.

*Rivers.*—Although Canada is a level country, yet it is not so low and flat as not to afford any streams of water, but, on the contrary, has many which run clear, and afford excellent falls for water works, the principal of which are the following:—

The Ottaways River is a large stream that rises out of Lake Tomis canting, and runs a south east course. It is the line between the two provinces for some distance, and crosses into the lower province, and empties into the River St. Lawrence, above and below Montreal. The spring floods in this river rise in the month of June; it inundates its banks, and often spoils the farmer's young crop. The reason of this is, the river extends so great a distance to the north west, where the spring does not begin until the last of May, and by the time the snow is thawed, and the ice in the lake broken up, and the water descends to the

settled parts of the province, near the mouth of the river, it is the middle of June. There are a great number of fish, of various sorts, in this river. There are considerable falls in it, though none of a perpendicular descent.

There are several more rivers in the lower part of the province, which empty into the St. Lawrence, and abound with fish. The River Cananoqua, which empties into it 14 miles below Kingston, is of considerable size.

What is called Myer's Creek, which empties into the Bay Quantie, from the north, 50 miles from Kingston, is considerably large, very clear and pure, and runs near the surface of the ground; affords fine falls for water works, and abounds with fish.

The River Trent, already named, empties into the head of the Bay Quantie, from the Rice Lake, is large, and abounds with fish.

Many hundred barrels of excellent salmon are taken out of this river every fall.

From the head of the Bay Quantie, for 70 miles towards the south west, up the Lake Ontario, there are no rivers of any considerable size that empty into the lake; yet there is an abundance of small and pearly creeks and brooks—indeed it is the best watered part in Canada. Smith's and Lion's Creeks are streams of some note.

What is called Duffen's Creek, is a fine stream, abounding with fish; it empties into Lake Ontario, 30 miles below, or north east of York.

The River Rush empties into the lake 18 miles below York; it is tolerably large, and navigable for boats 20 miles up.

From this river there is an abundance of salmon taken every fall. Still up towards the head of Lake Ontario, there are a number more of fine streams.

Sixteen miles above York, empties into the lake the River

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**Credit.** This is one of the best rivers in Canada for salmon; it is tolerably large. The salmon are taken out of this and other rivers in the night by means of spears. The fishermen have an iron frame fixed in the fore part of their canoes, in which they place pine knots and fire for light. They then paddle along in the river, and see the salmon floating near the surface of the water, where they come by the influence of the light. They are quite tame and are struck with ease. The salmon come up the rivers in large quantities together on purpose to spawn.

Ten miles still farther up the lake, empties in what is called the 16 mile Creek, which is tolerably large and famous for fish. Five miles farther is what is called the 12 mile Creek, a beautiful stream abounding with fish, and many fine falls for water works.

There are several fine streams that run into the head of Lake Ontario and Burlington Bay.

The Chippeway river runs into the Niagara river, three miles above the falls, and is tolerably large and long. What is called the 20 mile Creek, rises near the head of the Chippeway, from a large pond, flows a north east course, and plunges down the slope of ground already described, by several perpendicular pitches in different places, affording excellent seats for water works. It empties into Lake Ontario, 16 miles west of Niagara.

The 15, 16, 17, 30, and 40 mile Creeks, all run into Lake Ontario, and plunge over the slope, and afford fine falls.

The River Niagara, or outlet of Lake Erie, is very large before it empties into lake Ontario, but is still larger after it leaves the lake, or River St. Lawrence.

There are several considerable streams that run into Lake Erie.

The Grand River is a considerable large stream of exceeding clear water rising from the small Lake St. Clie. It is

navigable for vessels of considerable size for 50 miles from its mouth. It empties into Lake Erie, 60 miles from the east end, and contains many fine fish. This river is in the possession of the Six Nations of Indians; they own six miles of land each side of it, from the mouth to the head.

The Thames is large and beautiful, rising near the head of the Grand River, and runs nearly a south course into the waters that come from Lake Superior, into the head of Lake Erie. It empties 30 miles above Sandwich. There are a number more fine streams that run into Lake Erie; such as Big Creek, passing through Middleton and Houghton townships, as also Kettle and Outer Creeks, in Middlesex county.

*Indians.*—There are seven distinct nations of Indians in the inhabited part of Canada, six of these nations live on the Grand River already noted, viz. the Mohawks, the Chippewas, the Delawares, the Massasaugas, the Tuscaroras, and Senacas. Each of these nations have their king or chief, and their village, and council house. They also speak a different language, yet understand each other very well. These six nations of Indians on the Grand River, in number 1976, have attained to a tolerable degree of civilization. They speak the English language with some propriety, and have schools, and the gospel continually among them. The school teachers are paid by the king, and also their preacher. A number of these Indians have very good English learning, and are very industrious: some of the families have raised in one year 300 bushels of wheat. They are very kind to strangers, and will give the best of their food or drink to them. They are all firmly attached to the interest of the British government, and are exercised in the military use of arms, several times in the year. They can muster 600 warriors; though the Massasaugas are not good to fight, nor for anything else. There are a con-

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siderable number of this tribe residing in other parts of the province, some on the 16 mile creek above York, already named, others on the bank of the Lake Simcoe, and others on the Rice Lake.

Besides those of the Mohawks on the Grand River, there are a considerable number living near the Bay Quantie, on the north side, about the middle. They own a tract of land 12 miles square, and have schools, and the gospel among them also.

There are a small tribe of Indians, called the St. Regis Indians, living on the River St. Regis, near the lower part of the province. There is also a small tribe, called the Moravian Indians, living in the western district; they have the gospel preached to them by the Dutch Moravians, among whom they live: they are of the Delaware tribe. On some islands near and in Lake Huron, there are a considerable number of Indians, called the Huron Indians, and are great warriors.

Near the head of the Ottaway River, there is a small tribe of Indians, called the Nepisingui Indians: they live on a lake of the same name, and were once converted to the Roman Catholic religion, at which time they were a numerous tribe. They are of the Algonquin nation, some of which now reside about Lake Superior.

There are a number of Indians of different nations, besides those that I have named, though they have but little intercourse with the British, except that they trade with them by the agents, and make them yearly presents of a great amount.

There are various accounts respecting the number of Indians in Canada, some suppose that there are 100,000, and out of these there may be raised 30,000 warriors, yet I think this is not correct; indeed, I believe the British government do not know the number of all that consider

themselves connected with it, as all the different nations never meet together at once.

The Canadian Indians cost the British Crown about £3,000 sterling each year. This sum is expended in furnishing them with fire arms and ammunition, by means of which they kill their game, also in blankets and clothes to cover their nakedness, as also bread, meat, and tobacco. These things are called gifts from the King, but are chiefly the interest of money in England belonging to the Six Nations, for land sold to the King. However, I am of opinion, that those things which they get from the king's stores do them more harm than good, as thereby they are encouraged to live in idleness, depending on those gifts, which they receive twice a year.

Should part of this amount be given to them in horses, cows, sheep, and hogs, as also farming utensils, and the rest to all such that at the end of each year had raised more produce than they needed; this would be a discouragement to idleness, and a stimulus to industry.

The most of the Indians in the province of Upper Canada have been converted from idolatry to the belief of the Christian religion, by the labour of the Roman Catholic priests, when the province belonged to the French: but ever since the province has fell into the hands of the British, there has not been so much attention paid to the religious instructions of the Indians as formerly. What are taught in the Christian faith are of the Protestant cast, yet the young Indians do not know or care anything about any kind of religion.

Notwithstanding the Indians have formerly been taught by the Catholics in the principles of the Christian faith, and at present the Protestants preach among them, as do some other sects, they still hold some of those traditional notions relative to God and the soul, which are very curious.

In the summer they lay about the lakes, and now and then catch sturgeon and eels.

These Indians are considerably troublesome to the white people, especially the tribe of Massasaugas, as they are wandering through the country almost continually, and begging something to eat, and when they get drunk, which is as often as they can get a chance, they are quarrelsome, and many times dangerous.

The armour of the Indians, in time of war, are a rifle, a spear about 18 inches long, with a handle eight feet, a tomahawk, and a scalping knife, all of which they use as instruments of death.

The Indians in Canada, like all other Indians, dress very indifferently, though they get much fine cloth from the king's store, which they only throw over their dirty bodies, and in a little time all is filthy together. In the summer they are chiefly naked, except a little covering round the waist. The women are particularly careful of their legs below their knees, if all other parts are naked.

*Villages.*—There are not many villages in the province of Upper Canada of much note, the inhabitants finding their greatest advantage in agriculture, as the land is very cheap and fertile.

**CORNWALL** is situated about 130 miles down the River St. Lawrence, is handsome, but not large.

**PRESCOTT** is 70 miles down the same river, and stands opposite to Ogdensburg, on the United States side; it is small. There is a fort and garrison kept here.

**BROCKVILLE** lies 12 miles higher up the river, and is handsomely situated, containing about 60 houses.

**KINGSTON** stands a few miles below the head of the St. Lawrence, opposite to an island, which is the means of forming a safe and commodious harbour. It contains about

150 houses, a court house, jail, and two houses for public worship. The fort in this place is temporary, the cannon are small. It is a place of much trade. There are several more small villages on the banks of the Bay of Quantie, and are places of some trade, all of which increase and flourish rapidly.

YORK is situated 170 miles south west of Kingston, on the north shore of Lake Ontario, and is something larger than the former. This village is laid out after the form of Philadelphia, the streets crossing each other at right angles; though the ground on which it stands is not suitable for building. This at present is the seat of government, and the residence of a number of English gentlemen. It contains some fine buildings, though they stand scattering, among which are a court-house, council-house, a large brick building, in which the king's store for the place is kept, and a meeting-house for Episcopalians, one printing and other offices. This city lies in north latitude 43 degrees and some minutes. The harbour in front of the city is commodious, safe, and beautiful, and is formed after a curious manner. About three miles below, or east of the city, there extends out from the main shore, an arm or neck of land, about 100 yards wide, nearly in the form of a rainbow, until it connects with the main shore again, about a mile above, or west of the city, between it and where the fort stands. About 300 yards from the shore, and as many from the fort, there is a channel through this circular island, merely sufficient for the passage of large vessels. This bason, which in the middle is two miles wide, is very deep, and without rocks, or anything of the kind. While the water of the main lake, which is 30 miles wide in this place, is tost as the waves of the sea, this bason remains smooth. The fort in this place is not strong, but the British began to build a very strong one in the year 1811.

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NIAGARA is situated nearly opposite York, on the south side of the lake, at the point of land formed by the conjunction of the outlet of Lake Erie and Ontario. It is a beautiful and prospective place, being surrounded on two sides by water, the lake on the north, and the Niagara river on the east, and which affords a fine harbour for shipping.

Fort George of this place stands about a half mile from the mouth of this river, near the bank, where it is 34 feet above the surface of the water; it is nearly square, enclosing a space of about 150 yards long, and an 100 broad. The pickets are high and strong, defended by a ditch on the outside, and breast works on the inside. It is well provided with cannon, ammunition, water, provision, and the like. This village is a place of much trade, and is inhabited by a civil and industrious people. It contains a council-house, court-house, and jail, and two houses for public worship. There are several squares of ground in this village adorned with almost every kind of precious fruit. The front part of the village, on the east, looks towards the fort, over a beautiful plain of nearly one mile wide.

QUEENSTON is situated seven miles further up the Niagara river, close by the foot of the mountain or slope of ground already noted, at what is called the landing. It is a small but handsome village: most of the houses are built with stone or brick, large and well finished. It is also a place of considerable trade, and inhabited by a civil and rich people.

CHIPPEWAY lies 10 miles above Queenston, and three above the Niagara Falls: is a small village at the mouth of the Chippeway creek: it has some handsome buildings, and is a place of considerable trade.

FORTE ERIE.—There is a small village at this place of

some beauty, the inhabitants of which carry on a considerable trade from the lake.

**TURKEY-POINT** is situated about 60 miles of Fort Erie, on the lake shore in the district of London, a little east of Long Point. It stands in a beautiful place, adjoining an excellent country of land, and has a handsome court-house and jail.

**PORT-TALBERT** lies 64 miles farther to the south west on the lake shore. It has been laid out about three years, and bids fair for a considerable village. It has a fine harbour for shipping.

**MALDEN.**—This fort and village is situate at the south-west end or head of Lake Erie, 14 miles south of Detroit. It is a pleasant place, though not large. The fort here is strong.

**SANDWICH** is situated still up the river, opposite Detroit, and is a handsome village, of considerable age, inhabited principally by French, who settled this country 103 years ago.

There are several other villages in the province not immediately on the water, which are of considerable size and beauty; but those already named are the principal.

*Settlements.*—In the lower part of this province, the settlements do not extend back or north from the River St. Lawrence. Above Kingston, the settlements extend from Lake Ontario, (counting the peninsula between the lake and the Bay Quantie, which in some places is 10, and in others 30 miles wide) 50 miles. Above the head of the bay, on the lake shore, for about 100 miles, the settlements do not extend more than six miles from the lake. North from York, the settlements extend farther back, particularly on what is called Yonge Street, which runs a due north course to Lake Simcoe. On both sides of this street the farms are thick and well improved, the soil being very good, although the climate is not so favourable as it is farther

to the south west. From York, west along the lake shore, there are but small settlements on the shore for 20 miles; after which, what is called Dundas Street, four miles from the shore, is thickly settled on both sides for 20 miles; as also between this and the lake it is thinly inhabited, although this has not been settled more than six years from the present date (1812.) Above 10 or 15 miles, at the head of Burlington Bay, is what is called Goot's Paradise. It is fine, rich, sandy plains, thickly settled seven miles from the shore, to the foot of the slope already named; and on the top, west and north west for 15 miles, there are fine settlements in two townships—East and West Flambeau. Farther south around the head of Lake Ontario, or more particularly Burlington Bay, the settlements are thick, extending west sixteen miles. About 40 miles up the Grand River is a thick settlement of Dutch, in Brant's township. Still to the east, as the road leads to Niagara, the settlements are thick near the shore of Lake Ontario. After one gets thirty miles east of the head of Burlington Bay, and 20 from Niagara, the settlements of an old date are made, and pretty thick, all the way across from lake to lake, which is more than 30 miles. From the thick settlement west of the head of Lake Ontario, towards the London district, the inhabitants are thin for twenty miles, through the tract of land belonging to the six nations of Indians. The settlements in the London district have already been described. The settlements in the west end of the province are chiefly on the St. Lawrence, on its course through Huron and St. Clair.

*Civil Division.*—The province of Upper Canada is divided into eight districts, 24 counties, and 156 townships, generally about 12 miles square. These townships are surveyed into concessions, the width of the township in front towards the lake, and one mile and a quarter wide, back

from the lake to the north, but in some places they are not more than three quarters of a mile wide. Each township is divided into 14 concisions, the whole of which make 2184. These concisions are subdivided into 24 lots of 200 acres each, the whole of which amounts to 32,416, which number, multiplied by 200, will produce 10,483,200, the number of acres surveyed in the province, besides considerable, called broken fronts, not yet surveyed, granted to those who owned land in the rear thereof. It may not be amiss to remark here, that in every direction from the lands now surveyed there are great quantities of wild or unsurveyed land, which is equally as good as that now improved. Between every concision there are four roods left for the public road, and also between every fourth lot, which is one quarter of a mile wide.

*Districts.*—Of these there are eight, as already noted. The *Eastern District* is situated at the north-east end of the province, joining the St. Lawrence and Ottoways River. It is in the coldest and most unpleasant part of the province, the land being sandy, cold, and stony, in general producing peas, potatoes, oats, and some wheat. Most of the inhabitants are Scotch and French.

The *District of Johnstown* lies up farther on the River St. Lawrence, and will bear nearly the same description as the other, but is something better.

The *Midland District* lies from a little below Kingston, up west to the head of Bay Quantie, comprehending that beautiful peninsula between the Bay and the Lake. This district is large, and thick settled with rich farmers. The land is very fertile, producing wheat in abundance, also apples and other summer fruit. The bay, and the several rivers that run into it, afford plenty of fish.

*Newcastle District* extends from the head of the Bay Quantie, 50 miles to the south-west, along the shore of the

lake, and is divided into two counties, Northumberland and Durham. This district is well watered, rich, though a little hilly, and more stony than any other.

*Home District* is still farther up the lake, and is divided into two counties, York and Simcoe. It is large, and tolerably thick settled; it has an abundance of white pine upon it, and a number of beautiful streams of water.

*Niagara District* is situated south of Home and the lake, in the peninsula between the two lakes. It is very large, and divided into two counties, Lincoln and Halderuan. The latter is on the Grand River, in possession of the Six Nations of Indians, already named.

The County of Lincoln lies in the east part of the peninsula, joining on the outlet of Lake Erie, and is divided into 25 townships, all which are tolerably thick settled, and well improved, though not so well watered as other districts.

*London District* has been already described.

*Western District* is situated at the west end of the province, joining the River St. Lawrence, as it comes from Lake Superior to the head of Lake Erie; it is large and rich, and some part tolerably well improved: it affords fine plains, and has been settled by the French more than 100 years. It is divided into two counties, Essex and Kent.

*King's Roads.*—When the upper province was first settled, the people laboured under considerable disadvantages for the want of roads: nor could it be expected that the inhabitants could open any of great extent, as the timber in most places is heavy, and they had as much as they could do to clear land to raise enough produce to support their families. Yet the opening of roads was necessary, and the king knew that this could not be effected by the people without his assistance. He therefore gave large sums of money to be laid out for that purpose, and for a number of years past, nearly the whole amount of the revenues of the province,

which is the king's money, amounting to 5,000 pounds, has been laid out in opening and repairing of the public highways. This, with the statute labour, which the inhabitants of every township perform, is the means of making tolerable good roads in almost every part of the province. There is no toll taken for passing on any road or bridge in the province.

What is called the king's roads or highways are four roads wide, and lead in the directions now to be described: there is one road that leads from Montreal, which is in the lower province, up the river St. Lawrence, near the bank on the north side, through Cornwall village to Prescott, so on to Brockville and Kingston; from hence there are several roads which lead different ways, though they are opened by the inhabitants, except one which is the king's, and extends up towards the south west about twenty miles, when it divides into two. One crosses the Bay Quantie, and extends nearly through the middle of the peninsula to the head. The other turns to the right, and extends up the bay on the north side, through the Mohawk's or Indian land, crosses Myer's Creek and the river Trent, where it empties into the Bay Quantie, extends a few miles to the south, and joins with the other on the carrying place. From hence it leads on through woodland (thinly settled) by Presqu'isle Harbour, for about fifteen miles, when the country appears more improved, and the road tolerably good. Within about sixty miles of York the road is bad, as the ground is very rich and soft, and but thinly settled; and about 46 miles from York, there are two roads—one extends along the lake shore, and is the best—the other leads about eight miles to the north; but they meet again at what is called Lion's Creek and Tavern. For nearly thirty miles to York, there is but one road (and that quite bad) till within nine miles of the city. From York there is one

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road which extends 40 miles a due north course, to Lake Simcoe: this road in most places, is tolerably good. The other road extends up the Lake shore 16 miles to the River Credit, where it leaves the shore a little to the north, and extends to the head of the Lake; this road is not very good. Two miles from York, on the road which leads to Simcoe, called Younge's Street, another road leads out, extending to the head of the Lake called Dundas Street, which is completely straight for 260 miles to the river Thames, near Detroit. Although it is not passable in all places, yet where it is not opened, there are other roads near by, which lead the same way, and enter it again. Where it crosses the Grand River, over which there is a good bridge, three miles above the Mohawk village of Indians, there is another road turns to the south, through beautiful, sandy, and dry plains, to Turkey Point, near Long Point, in Lake Erie, which is thirty-five miles. This road extends up the Lake shore to Port Talbert, although it is not passable the whole way. From Fort Erie, two miles below the ferry at Black Rock, there extends a road up the shore of Lake Erie, more than twenty miles, and another eighteen miles, down to the Niagara Falls—where it divides: one extends to the west through the Beaver Dams, towards the head of Ontario, up the stream of the twenty milk creek to a little village called Aswago, and on the main road from Niagara to Grand River. This is a tolerable good road.

From the Falls another extends down the Niagara river by Queenston to Fort George: from hence there is a good road up and near the Lake shore for forty-five miles, when it turns to the south over the mountain, and connects with the one just noticed. Forty miles from Niagara, at what is called the Fifty Mile Creek, one road turns to the right, and crosses the beach already mentioned, between the head of the Lake, through what is called the Black

Lake and Burlington Bay, towards York. There is also a road that extends from Queenston towards the Swamp, and joins with the one from Niagara, about ten miles from it, a little short of the Twelve Mile Creek at Shipman's Tavern.

These are all the king's roads or public highways: yet there are many more roads throughout all the province, which lead in every direction, and many of them are very good and convenient.

*Bearings and Distances of Places.*—From Montreal to Prescott (100 miles,) the river has a strong current, and some dangerous rapids. It cannot be passed with ships, though large rafts and boats of considerable burthen pass it in safety.

The village and fort of Prescott are on the north bank of the St. Lawrence, opposite to the river Oswegatchie, or the old garrison at Ogdensburg. The St. Lawrence is two miles wide here, and has a small current. Sixty-five miles further up the river, stands Kingston, near the bottom of Lake Ontario, nearly opposite (though a little to the east of) Sackett's Harbour. The distance from one to another, on a straight line, is 27 miles, though the nearest way that can be passed by land on the north (and a bad one) is 34 miles, and thirty six by water or ice.

Seventy-five miles from Kingston is situated Presqu'isle Harbour, already noted. It is nearly opposite the mouth of the Oswego river on the United States' side. The Lake is sixty-seven miles wide here, but has been crossed in seven hours.

One hundred miles from this harbour, up the Lake, stands York, nearly opposite Niagara, though a little to the north west, on a straight line. The distance from one to the other is thirty-four miles, but by land around the head of Lake Ontario, it is ninety miles. Niagara, sometimes called

Newark, is opposite Niagara Fort, on the United States' side. The river is 1200 yards wide here.

*Queenston* stands seven miles farther up the river on the same side, close to the foot of the mountain already noted, and opposite to Lewis Town, on the United States' side; from which there is a good road to Batavia, an east course.

*Chippeway*, a small village at the mouth of a stream of the same name; is two miles above the Falls, and 10 from Queenston.

*Erie* stands opposite to Black Rock, on the United States' side. Here the river is 1700 yards wide.

From this place up the shore of Lake Erie for 80 miles there are no villages or forts, as the country is but little improved, especially about the middle of the above distance, at the mouth of the Grand River, which is in the possession of the Indians, as already noted.

About 50 miles of this distance, on the lake shore, there is no road: though, in the year 1811, commissioners were appointed to lay out one.

*Turkey-Point*, near Long-Point, is 100 miles from Fort George, and nearly 200 below Malden. It is opposite Presqu'isle, and Erie, on the United States' side, at the corner of the three states, Pennsylvania, New York, and Ohio.

*Malden* is near the head of Lake Erie, at the mouth of the St. Lawrence, as it comes from Lake Superior.

*Sandwich* stands 14 miles up the river, opposite to Detroit, where it is 900 yards wide. From Sandwich to the beginning of Lake St. Clair it is 12 miles; and 40 more through that lake; it is 40 more to Lake Huron, which is 40 wide, and 50 more to the Falls of St. Mary, which is rather a rapid, descending gradually 30 feet in one mile, and admits vessels of considerable size.

From this fall, it is twenty miles to Lake Superior.

## PROMISCUOUS REMARKS ON THE GOVERNMENT.

The constitution, laws, and government of Upper Canada are much better than people unacquainted with them expect. It is not my intention here to write much respecting the government, though I had taken much pains in studying it, with an intention of publishing the result of my inquiries on the subject. One year before the declaration of war by the American government against England, while in Canada, I issued proposals for a geographical and political view of the province; but, as it is now generally expected that the province will fall into the hands of the American government, I shall make only a few remarks on the subject.

In the year 1791, the then called province of Quebec was by an act of the British Parliament divided into two separate provinces—to be called the province of Lower Canada, and the province of Upper Canada. By this act, a constitution was formed for each province, each in its nature calculated to suit the situation of their respective inhabitants—one being chiefly settled by the French, the other by the English.

The constitution put it out of the power of the British parliament to impose any taxes on the people, either upon their property or trade, but what was necessary for the regulation of commerce: but this should be disposed of by the legislature of the province, for the benefit of the same. The constitution also provides for the creation of a legislative council, and a legislative assembly. The king also sends a governor, who acts in the king's name. The members of the legislative council are selected by the king and governor jointly; these hold their seats during life, if they do not forfeit it. The members of the legislative assembly are elected every fourth year by the freemen of the province. Any man of the age of 24, and who is worth property to the amount

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of 40s. a year, and has been in the province seven years, may be elected a member of the legislative assembly, or vote for one. The making of laws for the welfare of the people is the business of the legislative assembly, must be assented to by the legislative council and governor, in the king's name, before they become laws; yet the legislative council, governor, British parliament or king, cannot make any laws for the people of Canada, 'without the advice and consent of the legislative assembly.'

From hence we see that the people have got the means of guarding themselves. About twelve years ago, the assembly passed an act dividing the province into districts or ridings, every one of which sends one member to parliament or the assembly. The number of members at present, August, 1812, is 26, two thirds of which are natives of the United States; less than one third of the justices of the peace are Americans, the sheriffs are either Europeans or loyalists; the jury, according to the constitution, must be taken in rotation from each township, as their names stand on the assessment roll or list of names; of course the majority are always Americans. The majority of the courts of quarter sessions, probate, surrogate, and courts of king's bench, are Europeans; yet the proceedings of those courts are regulated by the acts of the assembly.

In the second session of the first parliament, in 1792-3, an act was passed to prevent the further introduction of slaves. The excellent words of that act being thus: "Whereas it is unjust that a people who enjoy freedom, by law should encourage slavery—That after the passing of this act, no person brought into the province shall be subject to the condition of a slave." All that were then in the province are made free at 25 years of age.

The taxes in Canada are very small; no person is taxed more than one penny upon the pound sterling he is worth,

according to the valuation of property made by act of parliament, and which at present is not more than half of what it would sell for. The taxes so collected are laid out by the judges of the court of quarter sessions, for the benefit of the district from which it is collected, and where the court is—it is to pay the wages of the members of assembly sent from the district, and half of the salary of the sheriffs of the same; to build or repair the court-house or jail, and the like. The whole expense of the government of Canada, except what is here noted, is paid by the king, which, together with the Indian department, costs him one million and a half sterling annually, and which frees the people from a great burthen.

The Moneasts, Tunkers, and Quakers, are exempted from military duty, by paying annually in time of peace five dollars, and in time of war twenty. The governor of the province has power by law to call out all the militia, and to cross them over the line in pursuit of an enemy that has invaded the province, or to destroy any fort or fortification, that may be the means of covering or assisting an invasion, but in no other case.

Stealing exposes a person to death, if the thing stolen is worth thirteen pence; yet the plaintiff may value it as low as he pleases, and if below thirteen pence, the thief is clear. No one has yet been hung in Upper Canada for stealing; however, the people are afraid to venture their lives in the hands of others.

The Author concludes his little work, with the following observations—"the mildness of the climate, fertility of the soil, benefit of trade, cheapness of the land, and morals of the inhabitants, so far exceeded my expectations, and the apprehensions of the public in general."

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The following Extracts of Letters are from a Settler, (a Lancashire Farmer) in Upper Canada, who left England in the early part of 1818, with the intention to settle in the United States.

TO THE REV. E. CH—K.

*Charlotteville, Aug. 30, 1818.*

DEAR SIR,

“ According to promise, I now with pleasure hand you a few particulars of my journey. From Quebec\* it was tedious, expensive, and disagreeable, a great part of the way being up rapid streams, only navigable for small craft; over Lake Ontario we had a pleasant sail, and good accommodation on board a Schooner, also over Lake Erie in another: it is necessary to observe, that from Quebec all the way up the country the land kept improving even to this place, which I believe to be the most fruitful and delightful country I ever beheld, and the friendship of some of the first-rate people is such, that you'll scarcely credit it. On our arrival here, we were taken into a gentleman's house, and for five weeks the whole of my family were entertained free of expense; we sat down daily to as well-furnished a table as any in Preston, with wine, &c. &c. and to the honour of Scotland, of which he is a native, and of great respectability in this province. We are seven miles from the Court-House, where the Assizes are held, to which I have been invited. I have given up all idea of the United States, and shall remain one of his Majesty's Loyal Subjects, for various reasons, some of which I shall enumerate. Government, for the encouragement of Settlers give grants of land: myself, my son Edward, and the young man who

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\* Emigrants making the voyage from England direct to Montreal, save the expense and trouble of removal of a journey of 200 miles, otherwise encountered by landing at Quebec.

accompanied us, have each received a grant of 200 acres of fine land. At present I am on an old settled farm of 300 acres, belonging to the before-mentioned Scotch gentleman, Col. Nichols. The rent is paid in grain, say one third. I purchased the crop on the ground, which puts us in possession of all the necessaries; the buildings are bad, but it produces both summer and winter keep for any number of cattle, also corn for our own wants, and fruit in the greatest abundance, of cherries, plumbs, pears, peaches, and apples in such plenty, we shall make cyder, &c. Grapes hang in clusters would astonish you, and that *Natural*, we can gather any quantity: in short, the soil and climate is such, that a great many of the flowers, as well as the fruit, which are cultivated in England, grow here spontaneously; besides a vast quantity of both, not common there, and many unknown. We have had not less than a ton of cucumbers and melons of four or five sorts. To raise them, you have only to dibble the seeds, either in field or garden, with no other preparation but plough or spade, which produces in abundance. On the other hand, we want manufacturers of every useful commodity: industry, whichever way applied, is sure to meet with more than ample reward. Wearing apparel of all kinds, brought from England, meets with a ready market at almost cent per cent. many which I brought, even above that, yet there is a little money in circulation; they generally pay in produce, as wheat, at five bushels Winchester measure; rye, flour, cyder, ashes, whisky, 2s. 6d. per gallon. Had I come here ten years ago, I should have been as independant a man as any on your side the Atlantic; I really wish all my friends on this side. On my departure from England, some of them were inclined to send such goods, on a venture, as they dealt in, which I objected to, not knowing how they might succeed—for the most part they would have proved successful. Please to

inform Messrs. P. and B. that if they had fifty ton of iron here, it would make £3,000; also Mr. Jno. The—f—ll, that his goods made up, and in hide, would produce the like. Women and Children's shoes; Men, for the most part, wear strong half boots, some shoes; hats will be equally successful. Barley and hops grow here in plenty, yet few know the use of them as regards brewing and malting, also shumacs and sassafras."

The following have been transmitted to the *Times Newspaper*, but for reasons the Editor did not choose to give, were not inserted:—

SIR,

Believing that you feel with myself keenly, the unparalleled sufferings of the labouring and manufacturing poor; and that your Paper is open for whatever is calculated to benefit this distressed part of the community; and observing a sort of comparison in the leading article of "The Times" of the 11th of September last, between the Advantages of *Emigration to the Cape of Good Hope, and Canada in America*, I am induced to trouble you with the following short remarks, which will consist chiefly of Extracts of Letters from a highly-esteemed Brother, now settled in the Upper Province of Canada.

*Extract of a Letter, dated Charlotteville, Nov, 6, 1818.*

"The state of your family and mode of living precludes the hope of seeing or inviting you here to this happy country; otherwise I would say come by all means; for, though the hardships and difficulties in the removal are great, yet, were they double, I would cheerfully undergo them to make the change.—We are under the British government, yet we enjoy only the better parts of it;—we have no tythes, or scarcely any taxes, a parliament of our own choice, and

as to soil and climate, it is certainly out of my power to do it justice in description—the land verily teems with corn and fruit of all kinds.”—After saying much more in favour of this delightful country, he states—“And then, on the other hand, this country has its disadvantages: wages are high, that we are obliged to do much of our own work; there is scarcely a man or woman servant to be had; therefore whenever met with, are valuable. Artizans of all kinds are wanted; everything in the way of clothing is very high, shoes, hats, and every other article; yet I can produce plenty of *wool*, flax, hemp, &c. but want manufacturers”—a pretty plain proof that the plan of the merchants and others of Leeds, would be most essentially benefiting those about whom they met to deliberate, by sending them out to Canada, in preference to any other part of the world, *and that* would be serving their country at the same time.

*From another Letter, dated December 29, 1818.*

“I assure you, if I feel anything like regret, it is that I did not make the move fifteen years ago. I am so delighted with the country in general, and with my lot in it, that it causes continual thankfulness to that God who shewed me the way, and led me in the right path.—The black and white-smiths’ business is excellent; it is no uncommon thing for one to earn fifteen to twenty shillings per day. Fuel is so plentiful, that a fire is kept *without any expense*. We have had more than 200 bushels of apples, much better flavoured than any in England, although not a tree has been grafted. On the 24th, Edward (his son) and I went across a marsh to Turkey Point, which extends about three miles into the Lake, and covered with timber. I had been told of the quantity of grapes on this point, but was truly astonished to see them at this time in such quantities; you might load three or four waggons; and the ground was literally stained

with the juice from what had dropt off, and the birds were feeding plentifully on."

*Extract from a Letter to another Brother, dated Dec. 26th.*

"I beg you will call upon the Rev. E. C——k, and peruse his letters, and let him read yours, as I expect him to be a traveller to this country; and the sooner the better, for where is there one like it? I every day see more and more the propriety of the change. Industry is so sure of meeting with its full reward here, whether employed in business or agriculture, that there is no anxiety of mind; for, with a common degree of industry, you see your substance rapidly increasing, and at the same time living in plenty. I wish all my friends to join me in having the comforts of this good country; it certainly is the promised land; it literally flows with milk and honey."\*

I believe it is allowed that good water and plenty of it is no small blessing.—Now contrast the third particular contained in a memorandum from the *Secretary of State* to several gentlemen, friends of emigration to the Cape, † with Smith's Geographical View of Upper Canada, published in Philadelphia, October, 1813. He says, "It is sufficiently level, very rich, and beautifully variegated with small hills and fertile vallies, through which flow a number of pearly streams, of almost the best water in the world." As to an invasion by the Americans, there is nothing to fear, if our

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\* See Smith's Account of Upper Canada, which no one will suspect of partiality, being an American who quitted Canada, at the time of the war in 1812, rather than (as he states it) take the oath of allegiance to his Britannic Majesty, and fight against his countrymen.

† See Colonial Journal, last number, or Observer, Oct. 10, 1819—enough to divert the course of emigration from the Cape of Good Hope to a better stream.

government give due encouragement to this flourishing and valuable colony. And if it even should be the case, who would not suffer this, in preference to a visit from those innumerable hordes of savage Caffres! Indeed, Sir, the want of water, as alluded to above, is a most serious objection, as well as many more which might be mentioned."

*Further Extracts from the same.*

"We are trying to get part of our land changed for another situation, not for any deficiency in the land, as it is very good, but to be more contiguous to one another, mine being on the shore of Lake Erie, which abounds with fish and fowls: we are on a bay of the Lake, formed by Long Point and Turkey Point; this bay is covered with ducks, geese, and swans; it is quite common to see 1,000 at a time. The fields and woods at this time are strewed with walnuts, chesnuts, &c. some families have gathered 50 bushels each."—"I am preparing a plantation of hops, as they will thrive, and mean to try brewing;—send me the best process of making porter and white malt; also, the construction of a malt kiln."—"It is not uncommon for a shop or store-keeper to get cent. per cent. upon all British manufactured goods: cutlery of all sorts does exceeding well."—"Wild deer are in great plenty; I have dined three days this week upon it at my own table; also, pheasants, partridges, hares, &c."

*Extract of a Letter to Mr. F—s, of Preston.*

"According to promise, I send you a few lines, as relates to this country in preference to the United States, being under the British Constitution, *stript* of its *disagreeables*, *tythes*, and *excessive taxes*: in short, the country for the industrious (for particulars see my brother's letter.) your business must answer exceeding well, for ropes, twine, sail cloth, &c. sell very high, not being many here in that

business, and the articles in constant request. Hemp and flax is cultivated by most people for their own consumption. Government, some years ago, gave a bounty for raising it, which caused large quantities to be produced, as fine as ever grew—it was so tall as to be cut in two lengths: I have seen some this season above eight feet high. I am preparing land for a good quantity, in hopes of your coming. For the information of Mr. W—r, tell him, that if he was here with a good stock of iron and steel in bars, and able to work it, for iron work he might obtain 1s. 9d. per pound. A blacksmith, who will attend to his business, will realize a fortune in a very few years. A journeyman is sure to do well, as wages are high, and provisions low—the present price of wheat 5s. per bushel of 60lb.—best flour 25s. per barrel; and indeed this is not to be wondered at. Suppose you, a settler, arrive in this province, in June you take up your lot of land, and commence clearing it, or employ others to do it, which will cost you about 25s. per acre for what is termed chopping and burning, that is, falling the trees, cutting them into lengths, tops, and others, and burning them all together. I have seen thousands as fine trees as ever grew consumed in this way; that being done, all you have to do is to sow your wheat, (without ploughing) scratching it roughly with an harrow, which will produce as fine a crop of wheat as you need wish.

*Extract of a Letter, dated 29th. Dec. to another Brother.*

“ I think, in my last, I told you we had land granted to us some distance off, which we have given up for some more contiguous, at Middleton, about 15 miles from hence, (Charlottesville.) On my lot is a fine stream of water, on which I am going to build grist and saw mills: I before observed, I was going to introduce porter brewing, the chief liquor being whisky, made from rye, which is sold at 2s. 6d.

per gallon, A baker is advertised for to bake for the Garrison, at Little York, the capital of this province.

“ As for the Winter, none need dread it, except those who require a lesson from the ant; for if proper provision is made, which is in the power of all to do, it is really a pleasant time: frost sets in about the 7th. of December, and the only complaint is, there is not more snow. So that people may jaunt about in their sleighs; its no uncommon thing to make a journey from 5 to 600 miles, drawn by a pair of horses. If you send any goods let them be flannels, stuff for women’s gowns, and blankets; in short, British goods of all kinds is acceptable. If you are travelling in settled parts, you come to a house every quarter of a mile—the lots being laid out quarter broad, and quarter long. It is not uncommon to ride eight or twelve miles through a thick wood, among trees 100 feet high—this tends much to contemplation.”

*Extract from another Letter, dated the 1st. of June, 1819,  
addressed to his Daughter and Son in Law.*

“ A few months ago I wrote to you to come here; I have now many more encouragements to offer, and reasons for wishing you here. There is a school close to us that wants a master, this would fill up part of your time to a good advantage; besides that, we are only eight miles from the country or court town, where considerable business is done, and steady men, with a little education, are so scarce, that profitable situations may easily be obtained; and that for attending four times in the year, I am put on the commission for a magistrate, and suppose, shall be made an acting one in July. We wish you to come out this summer, and take the early part of it; bring with you such goods as described in my last—also, most of your small furniture of steel, brass, lead, and tin, all those matters being dear: a clock.

will be valuable—also two or three dozen watch glasses, various sizes.”

*Extract of a Letter from another Settler, dated Aug. 1819.*

“ I have lately made a tour of a great part of the settlements in the London and Western districts of this province, under the immediate superintendence of the Honourable Colonel Talbot, and am more than gratified at what I have seen. I had heard much of the goodness of the land, and the growth of the country; but I had no idea of either the fineness of the soil, the numerous population, or the improvements the settlers are continually making. The most of the settlers are hardy young men; and the Middlesex Militia alone can muster, in less than two days, more than a thousand active fine-looking fellows.

“ The Talbot road, leading from Long Point to Amherstburgh, is as good, great part of the distance, as any of the roads in the old settlements, and divides a double row of farms. At almost any part of it, a spectator can view, at once, from 10 to 20 houses, besides, frequently, fine frame barns. The crops, at this time, promised these last to be well filled in a few weeks.

“ In a commercial point of view, Big Otter Creek, the best and largest stream in the Talbot settlement, holds out the greatest advantages. It has its source in Norwich, and from that township to Lake Erie is navigable for boats of ten tons burden. Its banks, and the land near it, are covered with extensive and valuable pineries. Its numerous branches afford every convenience for cutting boards and scantlings; its mouth, at a small expense, can be made capable of admitting the largest vessels that sail Lake Erie; and the channel of the creek would contain 500 vessels in the most perfect security. I am informed, and indeed know, that about £100 currency have been subscribed to the

clearing it of drift wood. Boats now run, with ease, as far up it as Talbot-road.

“ In the course of a few years, seven-eighths of the shores of Lake Erie must be supplied with pine boards from the mouth of this creek. There is no pine timber on the American side of the lake, nor on the Canadian for four fifths of its distance. The numerous settlements on both shores must be supplied with boards and shingles; thence it is evident, that the mouth of Big Otter-Creek must become one, if not the first, of lumbering situations in Upper Canada.

“ The country on each side of Talbot road is settling rapidly, and a stranger cannot guess at the number of settlers in it, unless he takes the trouble of going through it. The township of London, north of the Thames, is truly a beautiful tract of land. It is the best watered town I ever saw. It was surveyed since winter, and is now nearly half located. The School reserves of Southwold, Westminster, Yarmouth, and Houghton, which are now for sale, will add much to the enlargement of the settlements. They are laid out in roads, on the plan of Talbot road, with the exception of some trifling differences.

“ The eye of the traveller informs him, while passing through this beautiful country, that it will shortly be the flower of Upper Canada; and, perhaps, one of the most delightful portions of North America. Its genial climate, wholesome and salubrious air; its fertile soil, added to the regularity of its settlement, establish the presumption, and point it out as singularly favoured above all other new countries. Nothing need be said of its proximity to the waters of the St. Lawrence: the benefits resulting therefrom are obvious to every one.

“ The highest eulogium that can be passed on the honourable individual, whose unqualified exertions have alone made

this flourishing settlement, is, that he has effected his object amidst a host of counteracting influences. What pleasure must it give him, when he can look at many thousands of souls, and say, 'These are my children.'

"If the operation of sensible objects produces a corresponding effect upon the humane mind, we may augur well of the inhabitants of Talbot road, who constantly have regularity and system before their eyes: and there is no doubt that Talbot road, in point of intellect, will be even with, if not superior to, any part of Upper Canada. The settlement is wholly established upon British principles—that is, order and system, and a discrimination between the right way of doing things, and the wrong way. The democracy of confusion is not there found."

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#### NOTES OF THE EDITOR,

*Applicable to the United States, or the British Canadas.*

As much difficulty and trouble is incurred to settlers by mills being situated at a great distance, frequently from 30 to 60 miles from their settlement, it is recommended to Emigrants to provide themselves with hand-mills previous to departure, which may be obtained in England at a moderate price.

Mr. Fearon, one of the sect called Freethinkers, was deputed by thirty-nine families to ascertain whether any and what part of the United States would be suitable for their residence. —Mr. F. makes a *flying* journey of 5000 miles, over the Eastern and Western States of America, (voyage there and back included,) in nine months, in what he calls Ten Reports, price 10s. 6d. to the following effect—in collecting together from newspapers, taverns, stage-coaches, and wherever chance would admit him, all that is bad in the people and country, which may be found to exist to a certain degree in all countries: his attraction, like Mr. Cobbett's,\* most certainly was not in America, but in

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\* Mr. F. had a wife and fortune in view: Mr. C. being present at what he calls the bursting of the bubble, (Paper System.)

England, as late events have proved,—the views of those thirty-nine families must have been as varied as their trades, or they would not have imposed upon him so difficult a task. However, by this time they have found, notwithstanding Mr. F.'s cooling reports, that if there is reason sufficient to seek a home in a foreign land, they may obtain their information at home without deputing another to seek it for them.

The preceding Extracts of Letters from Canada, are most certainly worthy of public notice; and for their authenticity there is no reason to doubt, being from actual settlers who can have no interest in deceiving.

Mr. Cobbett's year's residence in America, being now completed in three parts, price 18s. it will be necessary to say something as to its contents.—The *Emigrant*, whose object is Agriculture and Farming, will find in it some valuable practical information. His *Diary of the Weather at Long Island* is likewise curious, but of all else little may be said.

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Finis:  
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# APPENDIX,

CONTAINING

*Extracts from Mr. Birkbeck and Mr. Rd. Flower's*

## Letters from the Illinois,

*Dated Jan. 21, and June 25,*

IN REPLY TO MR. COBBETT, with his STATE OF AMERICAN  
AFFAIRS, up to OCTOBER, 1819, &c. &c.

The interest excited by the voluntary expatriation of an obscure individual, shows it to be of consequence, when considered in connection with its causes. The exposure of these causes has been imputed to me as an act of hostility to my native country, by those who identify the government with the people. This imputation is unjust; for, although no longer a subject of that government, I am bound to my countrymen by ties of affection, never to be broken but by life itself. But I make no apology—hoping to do good, it became my duty to publish: and who apologizes for the performance of a duty?—In my solicitude for the well-being of our colony, I have deprecated the formalities practised in lieu of religion—I have therefore been deemed a foe to religion; that bond which connects the soul of man with the Supreme Intelligence, “in whom we live, and move, and have our being”—it is the love of God increasing our good-will towards each other.—Instead of being (as report says we are) visited by every calamity, physical and moral; by famine, disease, and strife—on the contrary, we have had an abundant supply of all the necessaries of life, and have experienced no extraordinary visitations of disease and mortality: on the whole, we are prosperous far beyond my own expectations.—With regard to pecuniary success, the capitalist is commencing his operations, but the labourer has made an establishment. It is not with him as with the capitalist, a state of hope merely from good prospects: but of enjoyment from good possessions. Numbers of this class, and of mechanics, have already realized their little freeholds, and are building cabins for themselves. The

fruits of their labour are not squandered in dissipation and excess, but expended in increasing their *real* comforts. Unfortunately for the early domestic arrangements of all classes, the female departments must remain vacant for a time, or scantily supplied.—We have received large importation of British goods, by way of New Orleans. This our national channel of intercourse with Europe, is at present greatly obstructed by the irregularities and impositions attending the steam-boat navigation, arising from the want of due competition. One hundred and ten dollars are paid for a passage from New Orleans to Shawnee Town, and from  $4\frac{1}{2}$  to 6 cents per pound for merchandize. But a steam-boat of 700 tons burthen, is building at Louisville, to ply between that place and New Orleans, besides about 100 of smaller burthen, now on the stocks: this constitutes an unprecedented demand for ship carpenters, which will occasion the rate of freight upon Mississippi and Ohio to be reduced by next summer, nearly one half. Packages sent from England should be strong—if possible, water tight, and of moderate weight, say 200 lbs. with the weight marked on each; also, all shipments made to this country, should be accompanied with an invoice, describing the contents and value, or much expense and damage may be incurred.—New articles, whether designed for sale or not, are liable to a duty of from 16 to 33 per cent. on the original cost; *but articles which have been used*, are admitted duty free.—In general, it is better to bring letters of credit, or other convertible funds, than merchandize.—Bedding, apparel, kitchen utensils, and tools, things in immediate requisition on arrival, should accompany the settler.

A falsehood has prevailed in the eastern states in England, that all prairies partake, more or less, of the nature of swamps; that they are, in fact, morasses too wet for the growth of timber. Whereas, here, prairies occupy the highest, driest, and most fertile portions of the surface, river bottoms excepted.—In the statements I have before published, I see little to correct, as far as by observation and experience I have now proceeded, excepting, that in my views of the profits of cultivation to early settlers, I have not made sufficient allowance *in time*, which, from delays and disappointments, all new undertakings are subject to, especially in a new country.—The back woodmen, or hunters, are now “clearing out,” and moving into the wilderness; their habits are not congenial with our people.

*Extracts from a Letter to W. Cobbett, in Reply to his Remarks on Mr. B's two former Publications.*

You have given the public your first year's history, and I have described things as I went along, to the best of my judgment. In your mode, you have the advantage of *following* experience—as such, safe. However, I have not much to regret, as my anticipations have proved correct in every *important* particular, with *one exception*—and that is, in regard to *time*, of which I have informed the public through various channels: with all else I am quite satisfied.

With regard to the prairies of Illinois, they are, as I have before described them, rich, beautiful, healthy; and we, who, are settled on them, are not dissatisfied, or sighing for Old England; on the contrary, contented ourselves, desirous of inducing those whom we love best to follow our example.—Emigration you allow good for some—of this your own example is an evidence: I thought it good for *me*; and published my ease, because I knew many in the like condition—and I wished for society. The dangers and difficulties so easily overcome in theory, have not proved more formidable in fact; and we are now in *possession* of those “beautiful meadows,” which were to reward our toil, and our “fine freehold domain” lies smiling around us. Thus the experiment has succeeded.—Your *recollections* of Canadian prairies, and their hospitable inhabitants, might have given your sketch a truer character. You saw the shed in *Canada* succeeded by a “log-house,” and that by a “frame-house;” and *in Canada*, “they were as happy as ease and plenty could make them,” with the same advantages. Why not the like here?—Medical assistance difficult to be obtained, as you have stated, *is not so*. We have a gentleman of that profession, highly esteemed by us, and exceeded by few in his qualifications.

There can be no want of *bread*, where wheat is to be bought at a dollar per bushel, and flour at five or six dollars per barrel.

We are here a colony of relations and friends; as such, not “cut off from all hopes of hearing from them” which are left behind: a letter is a sort of common property, from the many who are interested in its contents. Friends who used to visit each other at the distance of 20, or 30, or 100 miles, are here within an easy walk. We help each other cordially, and have few causes of jealousy. We have much

friendly society, and every coming month gives us an accession.

As a competent judge from experience, I repeat, that a *house*, exceedingly convenient and comfortable, together with the requisite farm buildings, including *corn-cribs*, &c. may be executed well for 1500 dollars.

Eighteen hundred rods of line fence for 150 dollars, which you doubt, I have had and can have done as under:—

The seed may cost, collecting one dollar per  
 peck of honey locust seed, somewhat  
 smaller than a pea—five pecks will plant  
 1800 rods, at two inches apart ..... 5 Dollars.

Which leaves 29 dollars per peck for planting 145

Dollars 150

Notwithstanding all *your impossibilities*, I can state with truth as follows:—The son of a Hampshire Farmer, has now growing on prairie land, “the first year,” and under good husbandry, nearly 100 acres of very promising India corn. There have grown *this year*, on a prairie, a few miles south of us, 400 acres of wheat, besides spring grain: and there are now growing 700 acres of fine Indian corn. The *entire buildings*, to which this produce appertains, might, I believe, be erected for 1500 dollars.

In answer to Mr. Hulme’s Journal, and Mr. Cobbett’s remarks on the same, Mr. B. states:—“I came to this place almost a solitary settler, about 18 months ago, but I was soon surrounded with neighbours. For their accommodation, buildings were to be erected, tools and materials of every kind, as well as provisions, to be collected from a distance. Every fresh arrival, in some way or other, put *my team* in requisition: thus, the *horses* I had provided for *ploughing* were better employed—my hopes were not ‘baffled’: but I was engaged on more important matters; compensating me in feeling, as well as in fact, for being thus compelled to lay aside the plough for a season. In the mean time I proceeded with *permanent improvements*; as such I have built 15 cabins, with floors of plank, and mostly with two *glazed windows* each: in contrast of the sorry description which you have given of my dwelling, I have also built three stables, a corn crib, hog sties, carpenter’s shops, a forge, and various other things. I have dug five wells, from 13 to 45 feet deep, made an excellent kitchen garden,

and a good preparation for an orchard. I have also nearly finished a large house for my own family, great part of which is frame filled in with *bricks*, an ice house, and a smoke house. I have ploughed about 70 acres, partly twice, in preparation for wheat. I have about 1800 rods of ditch, 4 feet wide and 3 feet deep, with a fence of four rails on the bank of a great part of it. Corn may be grown to greater advantage *after* these preparations than before them; the same I would recommend to others.

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*Extracts from Richard Flower's Letters, from Lexington and the Illinois, dated 25th June, 1819, in Refutation to Mr. Cobbett.*

#### ON PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND SIGHTS.

Here are few public buildings worthy of notice—no Kings going to Parliament House with gilded coaches and cream-coloured horses, with a train of Dragoons at their heels.—No Lord Mayor's Show.—No Tower, filled with Royal Tigers and Lions.—No old Castles, which beautify the Rural Scenes of the Country, whose melancholy history informs the curious traveller, that their foundation was bedded in tyranny, and their superstructure the retainers of weeping prisoners, often of rank, as well as oppressed plebeians.—No Cathedrals, or old Churches, to ornament the Cities, as well as the Counties of England.—Monuments of superstition, when erected, and of injustice and oppression to this day, having, for their support, tithe proctors and surveyors, continually obstructing the progress of agriculture, and exciting contentions and law suits to an extent, for which all the preaching of clergy in England cannot present an equivalent, or balance the evil produced by a worldly and avaricious priesthood.

America has none of those costly ornaments, or beautiful monuments of oppression.—The episcopalian clergy, in this country, are chosen by the people, and supported according to their respective merits; and, I may say, they are as well as other sects, "labourers worthy of their hire."

#### TRAVELLING.

As to travelling, it has its conveniences and inconveniences. You dine at a fixed hour, as in England, and you have abundance of provisions of every kind the country

affords: the beds generally cleanly, as you travel westward; the many bedded rooms are not the most agreeable; the little expense of separating rooms would prevent many evils; but as civilization advances, this will be prevented.

As to the general *character of the Americans*, it is sober, industrious, and hospitable, although drunkenness, idleness, and gaming, are vices in existence, but by no means so conspicuous as in England.

The American notion of liberty and equality is highly gratifying to me.—The master, or employer, is kept within the bounds of reason and decency towards his labourer; no curses, or oaths towards their servants, or *helps*, as they choose to call themselves; (for every one who takes money or wages is, after all, a servant:) he obeys all reasonable orders for his remuneration; and when this obedience ceases, the contract of service is at an end.

#### LEXINGTON.

In respect to this place, twenty-five years since, it was trodden only by the foot of the savage; now it contains above 3000 inhabitants. A college, with 140 students; its professors chosen purely for their talent, and of any sect in religion.—To the hospitality and kindness of the inhabitants I shall ever be grateful. Their politeness and liberality are perhaps unequalled.—Balls, at which the fair sex are never allowed to share any expense—an Atheneum, and a considerable Museum, the benefits of which the *stranger* is invited to partake, *gratis*, may be mentioned as not customary in England.—At Tea-parties, I have known collected from 1 to 200 persons. Thus, you see, instead of being in continual broils, and exposed to the insults of rude Americans, I have received nothing but civility and hospitality, in the course of my journey through America, that is, from New York to Pittsburg by land; nor from thence down the Ohio to Louisville, a distance of 600 miles by water, and 500 by land.

#### HARMONY, A MORAVIAN SETTLEMENT.

It is worth visiting, to see and observe the effect of united industry, regulated by sound wisdom and discretion; here perfect equality prevails; no servants, but plenty of persons who serve. Every man has his station appointed him, according to his ability; and all have their wants supplied, according to their wishes. They do not forbid marriage, as some have said. They have also an aversion to

bear arms, which would not allow them to remain in Germany, (their founders being of that country) as such caused them to emigrate and live in the manner they have adopted, which certainly has the appearance of contentment and happiness—every log-house is surrounded by a well cultivated garden, abundantly supplied with vegetables, and ornamented with flowers. Besides the gardens of individuals, there is a public garden of five acres; the outside square planted with fruit trees and vegetables, the inside with herbs, medicinal and botanical. In the centre is a rotunda of the rustic kind, standing in the midst of a labyrinth, which exhibits more taste than I supposed to be found amongst the Harmonites. It is from this hive of industry, that ALBION and its vicinity have drawn their supplies, and its contiguity to such neighbours has been of great advantage.

#### ALBION.

I must now proceed to give you an account of our friends, and the English Settlement in general. I have great satisfaction to be able to inform you, that almost every individual I knew in England was much improved in appearance, all enjoying excellent health. If I may judge from six week's stay, I think this to be as healthy a spot as any America affords, and preferable to any in the Eastern States. What travellers have recorded, that the thermometer does not rise so high as in the east, is true, and we are seldom without a breeze—the nights are cool, the thermometer dropping 10 degrees, and you can obtain refreshing sleep. The average of our days are from 80 to 86—we have had it at 90, which produced a thunder gust, and a cooler atmosphere; in the *eastern states it is at 98* in the day, and 96 during the night. As to the advantages of Emigration to America, and the comparative advantages of the eastern and western climates, I prefer the west, on account of the prairies, (meadows,) and the facility with which they are cultivated;—there I can enter, either as a farmer or grazier, immediately: fine wide spreading fields of grass, inviting cattle of all kind. As to the present mode of farming, I sit, and from the place I am now writing, see a beautiful herd of cattle, of nearly 200 in number. I have a hundred tons of fine hay, collected for spring provision. Every head of cattle, the expense of herdsmen deducted, on a moderate calculation, promises a fair profit of at least five dollars per head: notwithstanding Mr. Cobbett's assertion, that "there is no farming in the west!" and "the obstruction by bush

and briar to prevent cultivation," yet I can put the plough into thousands of acres, where there is no such obstruction. One gentleman, in our settlement, has grown 80 acres of fine corn, although he only arrived last year; there is also a sufficiency of corn and grain, grown this first harvest, to supply the wants of the settlement: next year there will be a surplus for brewing or distilling.

Now, as to persons who come here, or to any other part of America, I would have them to consider, for what purpose or intent they emigrate. It is certain, as regards farming, that there are only two ways in which it can be performed: the one, labouring by the hands; the other by his capital, stocking his farm, and hiring his labourers. It is folly to tell a person, if he bring with him £100, he can place himself in comfort; but it is certain, that £100 here will go as far as £500 in England, and as such, that person is five times better off than in that country. He may enter his quarter section of land, build his cabin, enclose his garden, and keep his cows and pigs; but then he must be a man of that description, who has been in the habit of milking his cows and tending his pigs: all such will find great advantage by emigrating to this place. Every farmer, who can stock a farm in England, may here become the proprietor of his own soil, with less capital than what would only afford him a *tenant's* station, a precarious subsistence in his own country; an inducement, I should think, sufficient to make thousands follow our steps, and taste the blessings of independence and sweets of liberty. Let all who are bending under the weight of taxation, and trembling at the approach of every quarter-day, come here and partake of ease and abundance. It has been reported that we can get no servants; this is true, in a degree, because the price of service is such, as soon to elevate the servant to a state of independence: but I have found no want of persons to work for hire, even in domestic stations: those that are most wanted are farming labourers: good ploughmen are in request, and can obtain twelve dollars per month and their board; female servants, from eight to ten dollars, according to their respective merits; these are in request: and what perhaps is still more pleasing, their industry is the certain road to marriage—most of which are engaged that way, and if we lose good servants, we have the happiness to see them well settled.

Now as to the state and progress of our settlement—on a tract of land, from the little Wabash to the Bonpar, on the

Great Wabash, about 17 miles in width, and 4 to 6 from N. to S. there were but a few hunter's cabins, a year and a half since, and now there are about sixty English families, containing nearly 400 souls; and 150 American, of 700 souls; who like the English, and are good neighbours. We have nothing here like loneliness.

Industry *here* has its ample reward: *here* you will escape the *tax-gatherer* and *tithe-collector*, also the *frightful system of Pauperism*. From New York to this place I had but one application for relief, and that was from an *Englishman*. I have mentioned a scarcity of servants; this arises much from Emigrants bringing out with them a better sort, or confidential servants: the only sort wanting are females, who can work in the kitchen, milk the cow, and attend the dairy. All above this class can earn too high wages by the needle. A good sempstress earning a dollar per day, will soon quit servitude.

Log-houses are no longer erected. I have had the pleasure of laying the first brick foundation in ALBION: it is for an Inn, where travellers will find rest and comfort, free from insects. We have also completed our market-house, which is 60 feet by 30. A place of worship is began. Religion, I mean the outward form, has not been unattended to. The Americans think all who take money for preaching *hireling* ministers, and several well-intentioned farmers preach to small assemblies in the neighbourhood. All sects will be tolerated: and in our place of worship, will also be a library, for the benefit of the inhabitants, and open on a Sunday afternoon, as all persons then have leisure to read, and are clean in their persons and dress. Some may doubt the propriety of this proceeding; but what will promote moral and intellectual improvement, and keep men from the vices of idleness and drinking, is justified by him who put the question, "Is it lawful to do good on the Sabbath?"

The price of provisions here is as follows:—

A fine Turkey,  $\frac{1}{4}$ -dollar.—Fowls, 12 cents each.—Beef, 4 to 5 cents per lb.—Mutton, none yet at Market.—Eggs,  $12\frac{1}{2}$  cents per dozen.—Cheese, 30 cents per lb.—Butter, scarce, 16 cents per lb.—Bacon,  $15\frac{1}{2}$  cents in the winter.—Flour, 9 dollars per barrel.—Deer—a fine fat Buck, from 1 to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  dollar, including skin.—Melons, plenty.—Honey, 1 dollar per gallon.—Whiskey, 1 dollar per gallon.—Fine Hyson Tea, 2 dollars per lb.—Moist Sugar, 31 cents.—Coffee, 62 cents; wholesale from New Orleans, much cheaper.—Fish, 3 cents.—From the above we leave you to

judge of the danger of starving, as some interested writers have hinted.—I would not for the world invite persons, no, not a single individual, if I did not think that his happiness would be increased: it may be said that I am an interested person, and so are those who take such pains to prevent persons from coming westward.—Emigration from the Eastern States has already reduced the price of land there.

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### United States. October 1819.

Notwithstanding the sorry relation which has been given respecting the distresses said to exist in America by our Ministerial Journalists, with an intent to damp the ardour of Emigration, and direct its course to the Cape of Good Hope; (a place, by the by, which has not a tithe of the advantages, to be found either in the United States, or the British Canadas,) and although want of trade and commerce did exist to a certain extent there, it was but of a *temporary nature*, and occasioned solely by their withdrawing from circulation a *false capital* (paper currency) then afloat, which has been the means of reducing the price of labour, also of every necessary article of consumption to a wholesome medium, without that Millstone\* hanging to it which we have—a National Debt and Excessive Taxation. The following Extract from Mr. Cobbett's Letter addressed to Lord Liverpool will fully illustrate the above statement.

“ In the United States of America, there is nothing of that description; nothing of that sort of thing which, in England, is called distress. The city of New York contains, they say, a population of about a hundred and thirty thousand souls. And I take upon me to say that it does not contain one single creature, black or white, so much in distress as the average of our common labourers and working manufacturers are at this day. I have heard persons say, that they have, during a course of years, seen a beggar or two in the city of New York. I never saw one there in my life; but, during the latter part of the last summer, I have seen a considerable quantity of offal meat left upon the shambles, after the market was over, for any body to take away that chose to take it away. I, myself, bought there

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\* Rev. chap. xviii. verse 2.

as fat a lamb as ever I saw, giving a dollar and a half for a whole lamb, weighing six-and-thirty pounds. The price of mutton, wether mutton, was less than two-pence sterling a pound. Hog-meat (fatted upon Indian Corn) was seven cents, or about three-pence three farthings English money. Beef (as fine you will observe as what is killed in London) was, the best joints, the same. Bread, a little more than half the London price, and greatly superior in point of quality. At this time, and at the same place, no labourer was to be had, not even a newly arrived Irish emigrant, under three quarters of a dollar a day. Thus, then, the labourer at New York could obtain the price of more than ten pounds of pork for every day that he chose to work. Does your Lordship call this *distress*? Would to God that once happy England exhibited to the world such marks of misery and wretchedness!

“ But, we are told, that many of the English emigrants have returned back. I took the pains to ascertain the facts relative to this measure before my departure for England; and I state upon authority of the best kind, that, out of seven-and-twenty thousand who, during the last twelve months, have arrived at the port of New York, from the King’s European dominions, *eleven hundred* only have returned; and, which is a thing wholly overlooked, great numbers of these are men who, after having examined the country, have returned back in order to take out their wives, children, and relations, two men of which description were on board the ship in which I came home. However, it is not so very surprising that there should be one out of thirty, who, happening to arrive in the heat of the summer, should take fright and return. There are the caprices and the hankerings of women to be attended to. There are divers circumstances which would cause a return of one out of thirty, without leaving room for any sensible man to draw, from such return, any conclusion unfavourable to the general state of that country.

The advantages which America presents to persons who are wholly out of trade or business, and who wish to live at their ease, and still to preserve their fortunes for their children, are so great, that a person who has not actually witnessed them, can hardly believe in their reality. In a neat country house, at the distance of from three to ten miles of the city of New York, a family, of moderate size, may be maintained in the style becoming a gentleman, for a less sum annually than the assessed taxes and the poor-rates paid by

such a family in England. The manner of living, too, is so widely different. From seven hundred to nine hundred dollars, that is to say, about two hundred pounds, will give a man a good country house, garden, pasture, orchard, plenty of space for horses and cows, with coach-house, stables, and all sorts of conveniences, not forgetting dogs and sports of the field; not less than a pair of horses, with one or two convenient carriages; with a great variety of meat, fowl, and fish, with wines of all sorts; and, if he chooses, London porter, if he does not like the beer that is made in the country, and which is better than the London porter. Claret at an English seven-pence a bottle; Port-wine at an English shilling; Madeira wine in the same proportion; French brandy at about a dollar and a half a gallon; and the common spirits of the country are actually to be bought at about twenty English pence a gallon, that is to say, four English quarts, or eight English pints. While every article of dress, common to England, is (all except the labour bestowed in the making it) cheaper than in England, and while the silks and lace from France, and the silks and beautiful dresses that come from India and China are sold at a rate so cheap as to make the fine main-street at New York surpass, as to the brilliancy of female dresses, any of the ball-rooms that are ever to be seen in England, with the exception of those where aristocracy brings forth its family triquets into play. The finest streets in London; the malls, the parks, the gardens are, as to female dresses, a scene of meanness and shabbiness, compared to Broadway in New York.

“ This, my Lord, is the real state of a commercial town in America; and which commercial town, too, had, at the very time that I am speaking of, experienced a monstrous deal of that sort of distress, which had put the dismounting and accommodation gentlemen to flight, and had, thanks be to God, shut many of their shops up for ever. But, as to the *country*, as to the farmers of which America is wholly almost composed; as to the working people all through the country, what distress had they felt? They knew nothing either of poor-rates or of paupers. All that I paid for a farm of three hundred acres, in taxes of every sort, were fifteen dollars and a half for myself, and the like sum for my landlord; a part of this went to the maintenance of the government; a part of it to keep the roads in excellent repair; a part to maintain the schools in the township; and, I suppose, out of the whole, four or five dollars might be

required towards the maintenance of the free negroes who are unable or unwilling to work; for, during the whole of my residence in Long Island, I never set my eyes on a white pauper, except one Englishman, a native of Hull, as he told me, who seemed to have drunk himself half to death, and to whom I gave half a dollar to take him to the overseers of Flushing. It is curious enough, that this man had straggled down from Canada, and was, as he told me, formerly the Editor of a ministerial newspaper at Hull. In all probability, the whiskey would soon put an end to him; and, at any rate, this was the only white pauper I ever saw in Long Island; and the only one I ever heard of."

From a German newspaper we learn that several thousand persons are now preparing to emigrate to America; they have already sent agents to purchase land, &c. for them, which must appear to every one the best mode of proceeding, as they take their Society with them, and feel not the evils of a strange country as those who wander alone.

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## Extracts from GRECE'S Facts, &c. on Canada.—1819.

### CLIMATE.

I contend that neither the Lower nor the Upper Province can, with propriety, be deemed countries too cold for British constitutions. Much has been said of the cold atmosphere of these parts; but if the longevity and generally healthful state of the inhabitants may be allowed to furnish any criterion of the salubrity, or otherwise, of the climate, the Canadas are second to no part of this vast continent.

Near Quebec, it must be confessed, the air is rigorous; but proceeding towards Upper Canada, the climate may be denominated European, similar to that of the provinces on the Rhine. With respect, however, even to Quebec, it is no mean argument for its general salubrity, that the mother-country has adopted it for the seat of government; which, most assuredly, would not have been the case, had the winters been as severe as some interested writers have asserted. The grape-vine grows wild in both provinces, and always comes to maturity, a circumstance which does not occur in very rigorous climates: indeed, both the

Canadas abound with trees, shrubs, plants, herbs, and beautiful foliage, common to climates which are never deemed otherwise than temperate. Melons come to maturity in the open gardens.

During the summer months, there are times when the heat is considerable; but it is at no time what can be fairly called scorching. The rapid progress of vegetation, during those months, is almost beyond credibility.

Upper Canada, it is true, may with greater propriety be termed English; the English language being generally spoken here, which is not the case in the Lower Province. It has been frequently styled the Garden of North America: but both the provinces, as to soil, scenery, commerce, trade, and government, have a great affinity to each other. The principal towns in the Upper Province are Kingston, York, Newark, and Amhurstburgh. York is the capital: it is seated on the Lake Ontario.

It should not, however, be concealed, that no part of America offers an asylum for indolence. Every where it requires much active industry, much patient perseverance, to form an establishment, particularly in agricultural pursuits, on lands hitherto in a state of nature. With these pre-requisites, and a capital of from £400 to £1000, few people in Canada will fail of their object, who have emigrated for the purpose of employing their talents, and their capital, in the acquirement of a decent independence. The fine gentleman and delicate lady I would advise, by all means, to remain in England, or some other part of Europe.

We are further informed, that the generosity of government is frequently extended to settlers in a very great degree; and that they have been known to give as much as 100 to 200 acres of good land, on condition of the occupier's building a house, and clearing at least six acres, with an actual residence of three years prior to being put in possession of the freehold for ever.

The quantity of land in Canada, in a state of forest, is capable of containing and supporting some millions of inhabitants; its quality being equal, if not superior, to any in the eastern states, and its price far below that of the western territory. Some lands are held by a tenure similar to English copyholds, subject to an annual rent of one bushel and a half of wheat for every hundred acres: but a great part of the land is freehold.

Farms of 100 acres, with a small log-house, and a barn, thirty acres of the land being previously prepared for culti-

vation, may be bought from £150 to £200. In the townships, which are very extensive, and in many parts not more than fifty or eighty miles from the city of Montreal, the great emporium of the Canadas, farms may be bought on the above terms.

Land in a state of nature may be bought for from ten shillings to two pounds per acre, at a credit of from five to ten years, paying six per cent. interest to the owner. This land, to be cleared, and made fit for sowing, will cost about three or four more pounds per acre, in the Lower Province; in the Upper Province, about six pounds per acre: labour not being so plentiful there.

There are, at present, many opportunities of getting farms, at no great distance from Montreal, where is received the produce of the most remote settlements of Upper Canada, as well as that of the rich and fertile district of which it bears the name. Nor is there, at this time, any difficulty in obtaining farms in the district of the Three Rivers, or of that of Quebec; but as the district of Montreal possesses a more congenial climate, lying in a more southerly direction, I would, by all means, recommend emigration to those parts.

In Upper Canada, plenty of land may be had at from two to four dollars per acre, in a state of nature, and, with some clearing, for a moderate consideration.

Mr. G. then takes a view of the average expense attending cultivation. The usual price of labour on farms is from 1s. 8d. to 2s. 6d. per day, with board; by the year £15 to £24 for men-servants, and from £6 to £12 for women of all work. He has furnished a table of the expenses of entering on a farm of one hundred acres, each being four-fifths of an English statute acre; which estimate comprises agricultural implements of all kinds, with stock, seeds, servants' wages, and provisions for the family. The total amount is £485 4s. 7d. of which £104 for wages; seeds £35; for stock £139; and the remainder for carts, &c. The calculations are made for entering on the farm in May, when the stock may be expected to go abroad: but, if the entry were to take place in November an allowance must be added for the subsistence of stock. The food for the servants for one year is included, but not the expense of furniture for the house, and the maintenance of the master and his family, which depend on the style in which he may wish to live. The different kinds of grain and grasses are next enumerated,

and the quantity of seed required for every apernt or acre is stated, from which the following results are deduced:—

As a summary of these facts, we may observe, that the returns of crops are as follow : wheat from 25 to 30 bushels ; buck wheat, from 15 to 20 ; rye, 15 to 25 ; barley, 15 to 30 ; oats, 32 to 40 ; Indian corn, from 30 to 50 ; horse-beans, from 25 to 35 ; potatoes from 250 to 400 ; carrots and parsnips, from 700 to 900 ; turnips, from 300 to 700 bushels ; cabbages, from 18 to 25 tons per acre ; and hay, from  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  tons per acre.

It is evident, therefore, that the earth, when well managed, is very productive ; and the climate, during the summer months, being very warm, the rapid advance of vegetation is almost incredible. I have sown wheat on the 11th of May, harvested it in the month of August following, the produce weighing 65 lbs. per minot.

Many persons who go out from England find themselves disappointed, from a want of previous adequate investigation of the difficulties they must naturally encounter in such an undertaking ; and they increase those difficulties greatly by not making an early decision, but hesitating and halting, till delay has consumed a great part of that property which was requisite to their comfortable establishment on their arrival.

There are many facilities of improving the land, natural to the country. Lime-stone is abundant, and various other kinds of manure are easily to be obtained.

As soon as the snow is off the ground in the spring, and it is dry enough to sow, the following seeds are committed to the soil : wheat, horse-beans, pease, barley, carrots, and parsnips. The general practice of the farmers is to prepare the soil in autumn ; but the season for agricultural pursuits somewhat varies : at Quebec, the season is six months ; at Montreal, seven. Although the season appears short, and the cold intense, the winters are more pleasant and salubrious than those of England, because more uniform, and the air more clear and dry. In Canada, the farmer is never at a loss, from any apprehension of the fickleness of the weather, what kind of labour he should next pursue. Hence, there is but little occasion for the barometer in farm houses, so common in England.

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