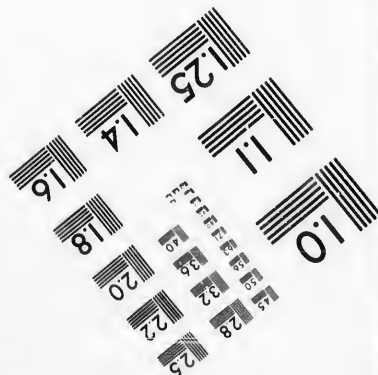


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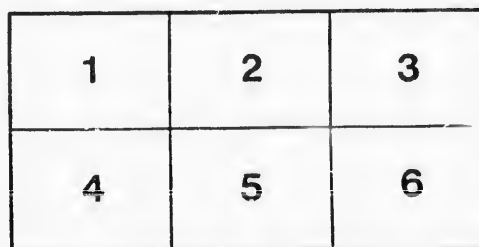
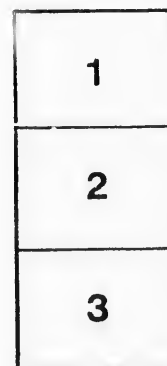
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NARRATIVE

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VOYAGE

FROM

DUBLIN TO QUEBEC,

FOR NORTH AMERICA,

BY JAMES WILSON.

~~~~~

"They that go down to the sea in ships, and do business in  
great waters, these see the works of the Lord, and his wonders  
in the deep."

—000000—

DUBLIN:

PRINTED BY THOMAS COURTNEY,  
19, Whitefriar-street.

1822.



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TO THE READER.

On leaving Ireland, my native land, being solicited by a few religious friends to send back a short account of my life, and the kind and tender dealings of a merciful God to me, I concluded that in doing so, the whole, as I respects myself, would compose nothing but the scene of unfaithfulness, ingratitude, and the most base returns of love to the best of Beings, by whose tender and loving care I have been brought through so many repeated trials in life; and knowing that many families had it in contemplation at this time to remove to America, I chose rather to send an account of my voyage to Quebec, with some useful directions to my countrymen respecting the necessary preparations for such a serious undertaking.

Wishing the whole may prove a blessing to my friends, I remain, their most humble and very obedient servant in the gospel of Christ,

JAMES WILSON.

*Quebec, July 9th, 1817.*

## NARRATIVE.

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1817. I sailed on Thursday 15th of May from Dublin, in the brig Mary and Bell, bound for Quebec, commanded by Captain Cunningham; felt my mind awfully impressed on leaving my native land; yet sensible that it is thy will, O God! do willingly commend myself and family to thee, both now and for ever.

17th.—This morning the following circumstance happened. The captain seeing a small cask or barrel floating on the waves, took boat in pursuit of it, and on examining found a human body contained therein.

I and my family are now sick, especially my companion: Lord help us to be resigned! We are in thy hands, O God! chasten us, but not in thine anger, lest thou bring us to nothing.

18th.—This day the wind is fair; the vessel sails rapidly. We passed Tusker rock, situate within nine miles of Wexford town, on which is built a light house to be a guide for shipping by night; a family resides therein, paid by government for lighting the house. This evening I was requested to hold a religious meeting, which I consented to, having obtained leave from the captain of the vessel; a great number attended on the occasion, whilst I said a few words on the 3d chapter of 2d Peter. The people waited on God in a becoming manner; I trust not in vain.

19th.—The people are mostly all recovering from their sickness, consequently there is more order and regularity observed.

20th.—This day the wind is fair; the ship sails nearly five miles an hour. The rocking of the vessel has brought on sickness again to many of the passengers. My wife is quite unwell, and



myself also; but thou art my portion, O Lord, my God!

21st.—This morning is quite calm: the sky clear. About twelve o'clock, the wavesswelled prodigiously, the ship making five miles an hour, and through its excessive motion extreme sickness prevails. O my God! save me from a murmuring spirit, and help me to cast my care on thee!

22d.—It is now eight days since I left Dublin bay, never more, I suppose, to return. I find it a serious thing to go to America; it is attended with much pain of mind, sorrow, sickness and affliction. How few consider this, till they find themselves on the wide extended ocean, then 'tis too late to wish themselves back! I think those who enjoy the comforts of life in abundance in Ireland, have no right to leave a certainty for an uncertainty. at least without a satisfactory evidence of their removal being of God, but, alas! how few consult him on any occasion.

This evening several huge fish were seen sporting on the waves; this it seems indicated an approaching storm, which lasted the whole of the night.

23d.—This day nothing particular occurred; many of the passengers continue sick: my wife and I are still unwell, and my children also; but my trust is in thee, O Lord, my God!

26th.—Being much afflicted with sickness these few days past, I have been unable to write; but thanks be to God, now feel better. I never witnessed such a scene before as the storm which we had on Friday night. About eleven o'clock, the captain being just gone to bed, it began; on which he immediately got on deck and ordered all the sails down, which being done, restrained the motion of the vessel; nothing could equal

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the awful change that took place—the vessel rolled from side to side, and overturned all the passengers' boxes, pans, kettles, and vessels of water, in such a manner as that no tongue can express, or mind conceive the state we were in—all, I may say, expected every moment to be swallowed in the great deep. My mind was seriously impressed on the occasion, but my whole soul was stayed on God. The captain had, by his own account, three dozen of plates broken, besides several bottles of porter. This storm continued partly till Sunday evening.

27th.—This day being very fine, the people are chiefly on deck, and thanks be to God recovering their health after the late tremendous storm.

28th.—This day has been the most favourable for sailing of any we have had since we left Ireland. It is supposed the vessel has sailed since four o'clock yesterday until twelve this day, one hundred and fifty miles. If this continues we shall soon arrive in Quebec.

31st.—Yesterday I felt so sick, with a violent pain in my head, that I was not able to leave my bed; but thanks be to God, to-day I find myself something better. Whilst on deck, I had a view of several huge fish, some of them, I think, were from eight to ten feet long, called sea hogs, they came within six yards of the vessel. How wonderful are thy works, O Lord!

June 2d.—On Saturday night we had another storm, which continued the whole of Sunday; and although it was not so violent as the one we had on the 26th, yet I may safely say, the consequences were of a more serious nature. Through the violent agitation of the waves, the vessel heaved from side to side so vehemently as to produce the utmost confusion; the people could

scarcely remain secure in their beds; their chests and other articles of use were all thrown into one common heap: in short, I never witnessed such disorder before. I felt my mind deeply impressed on the occasion, and firmly stayed on the God of my salvation. The vessel sailed near ten miles an hour part of this day, till the shifting of the wind caused a decline in sailing.

5th.—We are now three weeks this day at sea, and by this time, have a tolerable knowledge of what kind of provisions are most needful for a voyage to America:

And 1st. Oatmeal, and cutlings are much used, molasses also; potatoes are of the greatest value, nothing more so in my judgment. Salt, or hung beef, pork, bacon or hams, are all excellent in their use; veal when salted, and afterwards watered, then boiled with beef or bacon, will produce a soup very desirable. One family here, brought a quantity of fowl in pickle, which when watered, eat very delicious. Coffee is much preferable to tea, the water being so bad, as to render the tea rather insipid and tasteless: bottled ale is good for drink, but in my opinion, cyder when mixed through water, is a much better and cooler drink for the stomach than any other; a constant thirst being common to all on sea. As to spices, pepper, and ginger is mostly used. Flour is essentially necessary; cake bread or pan cakes being very applicable to weak constitutions. Eggs are much used, and when well grazed, or put in salt pickle for six hours, and well packed, will keep fresh a considerable time, this I found by experience. Good port wine is very reviving on sea, when used moderately; but spirits is not so very necessary here. I conceive pickled cabbage to be very useful, such kind of diet only answering whilst sickness prevails; I therefore recommend it.

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Biscuit is much used by seamen, and the only way for passengers to take it is, to pour boiling water on it, and when steeped a few minutes toast it before the fire, then butter it, and it will eat as pleasant as loaf bread, but not otherwise: oat bread well baked in an oven, will answer well with either tea or coffee; cheese will be very needful; split peas for soup; and lastly, vinegar, butter, and potted herrings.

To preserve new milk for a voyage, take a large or small jar or jars, and clean them remarkably well, and when done, put the milk therein, and after securing it well by corking it close, put the jar or jars into a large pot of water, and boil them over a good fire, and when done, pack them in a hamper, or some other place, and it will keep sweet the whole of the passage. This has been tried by a man of truth and credit, who went last season to Philadelphia, and used the milk there after his arrival, it retaining its natural sweetness. There is a diet much used here, vulgarly called "beggars dish," composed of peeled potatoes and either beef or bacon cut in thin slices, and mixed through them, affords a pleasant meal, the soup is much esteemed, being seasoned with pepper. Delft ware will not in any wise answer in common use, I would therefore recommend tin poringers, or small wooden noggins and trenchers, these will be found best at sea, as the constant motion of the vessel will have a tendency to break any other: a tin kettle in the form of a D will be found very useful in boiling meat or any other food, as it can hang on the bars of the grate at any time, this will be highly accommodating, especially where so many families are boiling their food at one time. The kind of apparel I would recommend to male passengers would be, short jackets or

waistcoats with sleeves, a dark handkerchief for the neck, and coarse trowsers:—for women, a long bed gown, or wrappers with dark shawls or handkerchiefs, as cleanliness cannot be observed with any degree of precision. It is necessary to provide strong chests or boxes for a voyage, well secured with good locks and hinges; or otherwise it is impossible to preserve property: I am sorry to have it say, in this vessel there has been much plunder committed, for want of being duly prepared against it.

I wonder not if the judgments of God should fall on us here. We have in the vessel some Achans, who by private stealth, have robbed many of their provision. The first attack was made upon myself. I had on deck ten gallons of fresh water, given me by that very respectable and Find family, Mr. and Mrs. E—s, of the City of Dublin, who kindly sent their porter with it to the quay, before the ship sailed, this precious article was taken in one night, except about one gallon. The next attack was on F—k S——n. They took from him five stone of oatmeal: from B——n W——n some beef; and lastly from the Captain six pieces of pickled beef, secured in the under hold of the vessel, and having broke the top, thereof, conveyed them to another part of the hold, and cut them up in small pieces for occasional use. Some of them were found, and compared with some beef, which a set of——had preparing this day for dinner, and notwithstanding it was found to be a part of the stolen spoil, yet after some hot words used on the part of the captain, to these wretched sons of Belial, the matter was ended for the present.

2th.—This day is fine, and affords much pleasure to the passengers who are chiefly on deck, except a few who are weak and sickly.

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My dear wife being one of these, is a good deal confined to her bed. She is this day better, thanks be to God. Our vessel is sailing well to day, with a fair wind. We hope ere long to be favoured with a sight of Newfoundland banks, if this was once effected, we then, it seems, would be liable to no danger arising from storm.

Yesterday we were cut short of our allowance of water, from three quarts per day to each passenger, to five pints, (government allowance) and from the badness of it, together with the small quantity given, serves to increase the distress of mind which arises daily; and never did the children of God pant, and long more eagerly for the water of life, than the people do here for the clear spring water: but when will they long for the fountain of living waters? I fear some never; I hope others in due time.

11th.—Yesterday being quite unwell with a violent pain in my head, I was chiefly confined to my bed, but this day feel much better. Glory be to God. Our vessel is gaining but little these few days by means of foul winds, and a constant swell in the sea. Both render our passage tedious and disagreeable. Our captain says he never remembers such severe weather this season of the year before: "but the end of all things is at hand." May I be sober, and watch unto prayer.

This evening presents an awful appearance, a dark sky; the waves roll mountains high; and from the frequent dashing of the water over the deck into the hold, unite to make our condition truly distressing; the people themselves, and their beds being frequently wet thereby.

12th.—This day we are four weeks on the perilous deep, divinely preserved amidst the storms and tempests that constantly prevail; blessed be God his power extends through



earth's remotest bounds. He rules over the sea, and dry land; I trust we shall be brought in due time to our long wished for destination but is there here a soul seeking after eternal rest? I fear but few: may I be one of the happy number.

13th.—Another day has commenced, thank God. A thick fog covers the sea; this is to be expected, it seems, in drawing near Newfoundland.

15th.—I feel a degree of thankfulness to the Lord for his sparing mercy, in being brought to see another Lord's day. But oh! how unlike the former ones to me. I have been long favoured with precious opportunities of assembling with the people of God; often have I been blest in his ordinances; my soul has fed on the living bread, and drank of the fountain of living waters: I am now deprived for the present of these blessed means of grace; yet thanks be to God, his presence is still with me, and I humbly hope again to enjoy my unspeakable privilege after the dangers of this great sea. I often think of my kind religious friends of the town and neighbourhood of Ballycanew, (Co. Wexford), many of whom lie very near my heart; their loving kindness to me, I trust, shall return on them in blessings, by a benevolent Being, who kindly remembers a cup of cold water given in his name. May the blessed God reward them with a present and an eternal salvation.

16th.—This morning we have a calm sea, the day being very fine, the passengers are chiefly on deck, there are a few who remain sick. One young woman, I fear, will not recover. I visit her frequently, speak to her respecting her soul; and pray also with her, I hope not in vain.

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was seen floating on the waves; the captain took a boat and brought it on board; I never saw such a curiosity before. On this tree grew small shells, so thick as to cover every part of it, their form not unlike the head of a young bird, with a yellow edge, in these shells the bird called the Barnacle commences its existence; it is nourished from a long tube connected with the shell, and very like a large worm; I was quite astonished at its singular appearance. I suppose it had been driven to and fro these several years.

17th.—We have this day much in our favour; a lively fair wind, the ship sailing near 8 miles an hour since eight o'clock last night. We expect every day a sight of Newfoundland, and were it not for the severe weather past, would ere now obtain our desire, I humbly hope the time may not be long till we arrive safe on shore.

18th.—The ship sails very slow this day, the wind being contrary. There is much patience and resignation wanting here, it being a place of severe trials, crosses and losses. The utmost care is wanting to preserve property, from being taken privately.

19th.—This morning we had a view of a large mountain of ice, a considerable distance off, which caused the captain to ascend to the top mast of the vessel, to get a better view of it, when suddenly he perceived a huge body of ice right a head, about a gun shot from the ship, which caused him to hasten down and alter the course of sailing, or otherwise the consequence would have been truly awful, as the force of the vessel coming against the ice would have rent it in pieces.

20th.—I visited Phœbe Dagg, (the young



woman already spoken of) about twelve o'clock this morning, but found her speechless, prayed with her for the last time, and commended her soul to the Lord ; she died about two hours after. She was allowed to remain in her bed till night, when about nine o'clock she was put into a sheet of canvas and brought upon deck. I was sent for by the captain to have prayer on the occasion. It was a serious time! After prayer she was let down into the sea, there to remain till the morning of the resurrection, when the sea shall give her dead, and body and soul be united again to receive its final sentence, and I hope to inherit a crown of glory. The distress and anguish of her sisters on the occasion were truly lamentable.

This young woman was from Ahowle in the Co. Wicklow, about 23 years of age, and whilst in health, was agreeable, friendly, and truly pleasing in her manner.

21st.—We have at length arrived at the banks this morning ; the captain sounded for bottom, and found it 54 fathoms. A thick fog covers every part of this region, with a heavy mist of rain. The vessel sailed from four o'clock yesterday evening till twelve to-day, about 7 miles an hour and now sails slowly this evening, through means of a dead calm, yet we humbly hope very soon to land at Quebec.

22d.—This blessed Sabbath is spent by many of the passengers in fishing, fish being very numerous in this part of the sea. I praise God I find better employment in reading and meditation. I thank the Lord in the midst of a confused, disorderly, and unawakened people, I am divinely preserved from the contagion of sin, my mind is kept in peace ; the Lord's day is precious ; his word also which points out the

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unerring path that leads to heaven, a path which no man in a state of nature walks in, and only frequented by those who are "born again" and "created anew in Christ Jesus:" may these truths be universally embraced, and sensibly enjoyed by the sons of men, until all know the Lord from the least to the greatest.

23d.—This morning several vessels are in view, all employed in fishing, this part of the deep supplying chiefly every part of the world with fish, and is resorted to at this season by fishermen of almost all nations who trade in this line of life. A thick fog covers the whole sea in this place, and is, I think, unwholesome in the highest degree. I expect a few days will bring us to the gulf of the great river St. Lawrence—this will be truly pleasing to our longing minds.

26th.—We are now past the banks, and have a sight of the island of Newfoundland, this gives general satisfaction as we pass along, it being six weeks this day since we left our native land. Our ship hardly moves, there being no wind whatever, the sun intensely warm, the sea quite smooth, all render this a delightful day; the chief of the people are on deck—their beds and bed-clothes airing. This is very necessary, it being impossible to conceive how fast the infection of filth and dirt prevails in this wretched place.

27th.—The weather is at present very fine—the high winds and constant storms are entirely gone; a dead calm succeeds, which makes our voyage tedious; yet blessed be God, it is preferable to the dreadful hurricanes we have passed through.

28th.—This day has changed much in our favour; whereas yesterday and a few days before were quite calm, we have now a fierce

sharp gale—our vessel sails eight miles an hour. We passed three islands, St. Peter's, Langley, and Magalawn islands; on the mountains of these are several huge ridges of snow which, no doubt, is the chief cause of the severe cold which we experience.

29th.—Thanks and praise be to the God of all mercy who hath graciously spared me to see another Lord's day, which I trust will be the last I shall spend here, this being the seventh on my voyage to America. There is a clear view on the right of a very extensive chain of mountains, composing some hundreds of miles, and so thickly covered with snow as to form a grand appearance; at the S. E. end of which lies Cape Ray. It is expected by to-morrow morning we shall get fully into the gulf, wind and weather permitting; this done, we have not long to spend here till we arrive at Quebec.

30th.—This morning presented a beautiful clear sky, the sun extremely hot, with a calm smooth sea, until about three o'clock, when a lively gale of wind sprung up, causing the vessel to run seven miles an hour, which brought us to St. Paul's island, supposed to be seven miles round, between Cape Ray and Cape Breton, off Nova Scotia, but much nearer the latter. Cape Breton forms a very fine appearance, being to the left on our course. This timely wind has been kindly given by the hand of God: for had the calm continued, it would be nearly impossible for us to urge our way through the heavy tides that are here, being now fully in the gulf of the river, leading to Quebec; here several large rivers empty themselves, and are of such force as to be able to drive back any vessel from its course, unless the wind is fair and strong, which, thanks be to God, it is this evening.

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July 1st.—This morning we had heavy rain, attended with a thick fog, preventing a sight of land on either side; the ship sailed near eight miles an hour all night and continues to do so still; we passed a few large islands called the Bird isles, lying northward of our course, and fifty miles from St. Paul's; a few day more with such a constant wind will bring us to our desired haven.

3d.—We are this day seven weeks on the great deep, urging our way often against fierce contrary winds and heavy tempests, and as frequently detained by a settled calm; this has been our case since we left America; yet blessed be the Lord, he has brought us to the river Saint Lawrence, at the entrance of which may be seen a large wood, or forest, abounding with stately trees, which afford great pleasure as we sail along. This morning and yesterday we made no way, by reason of a dead calm, but at two o'clock a brisk wind arose, and we now proceeded at the rate of eight miles an hour; we therefore expect, being now far up the river, that our danger is over, and hope the rest of our passage will be pleasant and agreeable.

4th.—This morning (as is usual in drawing near Quebec), about six o'clock, a pilot came on board to steer us safely up the river; it appears no vessel dare approach the city without one. This had a tendency to appease the minds of the people at large, being now convinced that we are near our landing place. The stately mountains ascending over each other, are truly grand along the sea shore on the left, and it seems continue all the way to Quebec. The people now seem to forget all the misery, sickness, and sensible trials they have passed through, as all enjoy health, and are looking forward with eager desire to a speedy deliverance, and are

thereby comforted, expecting to reap the benefit of an exertion truly great and awful, in leaving one kingdom for another.

5th.—The vessel now being conducted by the pilot, I think it my duty to make some observations on our captain, and am of opinion, that no man could possibly take more pains to secure the comfort, health, and protection of the passengers at large than he did; night and day he left nothing undone to hasten us on our way; and when almost all the people were sea-sick, he failed not to visit them daily in their respective births, to enquire after their health, and to administer such medicine or food (whether meat or drink), as he judged might recover them speedily: his attention to the deceased young woman who left this stage of time, deserves to be noticed. He attended her faithfully, and freely gave her of his wine, fowl, or any thing else he had, and evinced much trouble respecting her; and confident I am, that his knowledge and skill in conducting and bringing passengers to America cannot be exceeded, or perhaps equalled. And I am further of opinion, if captain Cunningham is disposed to bring passengers next season to Quebec, it would be wise and safe in all my countrymen who can to embark with him in preference to any other; and I would not make such an assertion, were it not that I feel convinced of his ability, care and attention to all who commit themselves to his protection.

6th.—This sabbath day I expected to spend in Quebec amongst the people of God; but the Lord has so ordered it, that we are still on sea, and have a clear view of Labrador on the right hand, and a truly delightful prospect it affords. The land is low near the sea, and spots of it cleared, which look exceeding well; the trees

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are very large, and growing along the beach. I saw this day two or three huge whales in this wide and very deep river; also another curious fish called the seal; and had a view of another large fish called the thresher: this fish has two great fins, or arms, with sharp points, with which, the united help of the sword fish, and effectually kills the whale. The thresher, by constantly striking its back and sides, and the sword fish by keeping under its belly and piercing it in the tenderest parts until they actually destroy it. I saw the thresher close to the whale, as if in the very act of using every exertion to kill it. How astonishing is this!

8th.—This morning I was confined to my bed with a violent head-ach, but finding myself better, arose and went on deck, and had a new view of Bir island, a very beautiful place, also Green island; both lying on the left hand as we pass to Quebec. The river here grows quite narrow, and affords a pleasing view on each side. On the right nothing appears but high mountains without any inhabitants; but on the left the land is cleared in spots, and inhabited chiefly by French and Indians. We passed a small oval island, also Wet island and Hare island, all on the right in the river; from Hare island to Quebec is 105 miles. We have this day a fair wind and good sailing. This evening we passed several small islands in the river, on the left called the Pelerins, and expect to be at our journey's end by to-morrow, God being our helper.

9th.—This morning I arose between four and five, went on deck, and felt truly thankful to the Lord for his wonderful care over us in the past night, which ought never to be forgotten by any on board this vessel. A tremendous storm took place in the evening late, continued

all night, and it being extremely dark, together with the judgment that was required in steering aright, all conspired to make our state quite dangerous; the captain had to sound the depth of the water for the space of two hours constantly, and give a report of it every five minutes; the vessel sailed over part of the river not exceeding twenty-four feet of water, but through the great skill of our pilot we were safely brought clear of the rocks which were on every side. We passed by several large vessels which lay at anchor, being fearful to get under sail till morning, the masters of whom advised us not to proceed; but depending, under God, on the experience of the pilot, we proceeded safely, all praise be to God for this and all other mercies. Having contemplated with astonishment our great deliverance, I cast my eyes around to view the country as I passed along, and never did I behold such a delightful view as I had on both sides. Here are lands improved with such exquisite taste and laid out to such great advantage, as to exceed every idea that can be formed of it by any mind not favoured with seeing it. Here are beautiful large and small houses so neatly built as to afford the greatest satisfaction to the beholder, several churches and chapels are along the sea shore; windmills, tan-yards and large buildings, are also to be seen. The houses are very near each other, and the land laid down in square lots, about two acres wide, and extend very far backward, where the people have their wood-land for firing. There are none of these houses mean in appearance; they are all executed in the neatest manner, and painted outside, some white, some yellow, and others slate colour. In short I never beheld such an improved country, nay, not in any part of Ireland that I have seen, and what causes

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such deserved praise to this land of liberty is, that all the improvements done are the effect of much labour and constant industry.

We arrived safe, glory be to God! about eleven o'clock this morning at Quebec, and so concluded our voyage of eight weeks. Our ship cast anchor opposite the great battery, where we have a view of the troops doing duty, and also of the shipping lying in the harbour.

We now felt the strongest desire to go on shore, and having applied to the captain, a few of us were allowed that liberty, but requested to return in a few hours, the ship not yet being examined as to the state of passengers' health, &c. We got into the boat, and in a few minutes arrived on shore, when the joy that each of us felt was inexpressible. We could scarcely walk, the earth appearing to bend under us. My first object was to find out the stationed preacher of the city; and after some enquiry was shewed the house he lodged in, belonging to Messrs. Shea and Walker, partners in the boot and shoemaking trade. This family received me very kindly, and brought me to Mr. Hicks' room, to whom I was introduced as a friend and local preacher from Ireland. This pious servant of God (for so I consider him to be) shewed much affection and brotherly love to me; and after shewing him some of my credentials from the preachers of Ireland, he asked me to preach the next evening in their new meeting-house, which in my judgment is not inferior to any I have seen in Ireland. Having to return back to the vessel again, I thought proper not to delay long, and so wished Mr. Hicks farewell for the present. Mr. Shea kindly asked me to dinner next day, and in the morning I got permission to go ashore (as we were not yet allowed to leave the vessel.)



I took a minute view of this ancient and well fortified city; and felt quite astonished to see many large buildings covered with tin, particularly the French church, which affords a most splendid appearance, the roof, walls, and steeple being all covered with tin. This sight to me appeared truly surprising, having never seen or heard of such a thing before.

Having preached to a large and respectable congregation, Mr. Hicks seemed pleased with my weak, yet well-intentioned exertions in dispensing the gospel; he then inquired closely respecting my views: I gave him to understand that my design was to look after a farm of land, but in consequence of my contracted means was much afraid I could not accomplish my end. He then informed me of a gentleman in the city who gave great encouragement to settlers who wished to take land, and said it might be well to have an interview with him. I consented, and brought a few friends with me. Mr. Hicks told him we were desirous to take land; and as he had thousands of acres to dispose of, it might answer both parties to agree with each other. The proposals made to us by this person were as follow: first, our part of twenty-five acres of cleared ground to till and cultivate for three years, without any charge; second, the milk of two cows free, the produce of a few acres of wheat for present support, with a year's provision gratis, during which time he expected we might be able to clear a sufficient quantity of ground in the course of the time we enjoyed the use of the tillage ground, namely for three years; and then he required us to give up the twenty-five acres, and go on in upon our own land, consisting of one hundred acres, free for ever, lying about fifty miles from Quebec. This encouragement seemed quite rea-

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sonable to me and my friends, as our finances were nearly exhausted, we agreed to take the land, and were to enter more fully into our engagements next morning; but after retiring for the present, I happened to meet with a Mr. Wilson, a merchant, from the bay of Cantay, Upper Canada, who finding I had come late from Ireland, entered into a conversation with me, and after letting him know my friends' intention and mine, and our agreement with the above person, Mr. Wilson directly opposed our design, by expressing the impossibility of living in the climate, through the intense frost and cold, which held in that part for at least six or seven months, besides the disadvantages of settling amongst Canadians, who spoke nothing but French; also the fatal effects of not being convenient to any "means of grace." These weighty reasons, soon changed my mind, and the minds of my friends, and we all agreed, by Mr. Wilson's counsel, to strive to urge our way to Upper Canada, where the climate being warmer, and the country at large consisting of Scotch, English, and Irish settlers, it would make our way more pleasant and comfortable. Accordingly having an opportunity of the steam boat going in a day or two to Montreal, I determined to embrace it, taking care first to draw up a petition to the governor for the privileges granted last year to my countrymen, namely, a supply of rations (or food) to bring us up to the ground; but the governor being from home, my presenting it was rendered useless.

My mind became deeply exercised respecting my trying situation, now in a strange land, with a wife and five children, only one guinea and a half in my pocket. However, I got my grant for land from the governor's secretary, with a

ticket directed to a commissioner at Perth on the river Rhedo, who is appointed to shew the different lots to the settlers. Having proceeded so far, I availed myself of the opportunity of going up in the steam boat, and accordingly got my luggage out of the vessel, as did also most of the families who came over with me.

The time being now very near that we were to proceed on our journey, I thought it my duty to bid my friend, Mr. Hicks, farewell, and his colleague (a French missionary), a truly loving, pious, and tender-hearted man. I went to Mr. Hicks, and found him at the other preacher's lodging, with Mr. Walker; I told them in a few hours the steam boat would sail, and therefore came to bid them farewell. Mr. Hicks and his colleague enquired how I stood with respect to money, and whether I stood in need of any assistance; to which I replied that it was not my intention to have said any thing on that subject, but as they were kind enough to make the enquiry, I would let them know, and accordingly told them my case; they seemed much distressed, and asked why I did not let them know my distress before. I told them I could not bring myself to do it, though quite sensible of my approaching difficulties. They immediately contributed to my wants, and not finding their minds satisfied with what money they had themselves, the kind and humane mind of Mr. Hicks' colleague stirred him up to make an exertion amongst his pious friends, though at the hour of eight o'clock at night. He soon returned, and on the whole made up the sum of £2 5s. May God bless them through time and eternity, with every needful blessing. Amen.

I returned to my family with a joyful heart, ascribing salvation to my gracious Lord for this

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The steam boat sailed at eleven o'clock at night, having near five hundred souls on board, consisting of the 37th regiment of foot, and part of another also, which, with their wives, children and luggage, produced such a scene of confusion and distress as to exceed any thing I ever before witnessed. I thought the misery I passed through on sea could not be exceeded, but when I compared it with my voyage from Quebec to Montreal, I felt my comforts of body and mind were then much greater, as I was now surrounded with the most unruly cursing, swearing mortals I ever beheld.

The expense of this voyage was only 9s. each, and 4s. 6d. for every child under fourteen years of age. The reason of this charge being so moderate was occasioned by government contracting with the proprietors of the steam boat, and thereby allowing every settler to proceed to Montreal for half price.

We arrived in Montreal the second day about eleven o'clock, being much fatigued for want of rest, having slept but little for two nights. On leaving the vessel, our boxes, chests, and beds were all measured, and a charge laid on, only a small allowance made to each passenger. The expense of this journey amounted to £3 5s. which sum I could not have paid, but for the kindness of my friends in Quebec. Lord remember them for good!

Here my first object was to look out for a temporary lodging, but on enquiry I found that the king's barracks were open for the settlers to remain awhile; this was very timely, as it saved some expense, lodging being very high in this place. I hired a waggon and brought my family and luggage into the barrack, as did also the rest

of the families who came over with me. We remained here about a week, during which time my wife employed herself in cleaning the wearing apparel, bed-clothes, &c. after the severe distress and filth contracted on sea.

In taking a view of this extensive city, I found it far superior in appearance to Québec; the markets well supplied with beef, mutton, fowl, &c. selling at a moderate price. In this place I first took notice of the Indian tribe, who were very numerous, selling at market maple sugar, wild pigeons, and wrought baskets of every kind. Their curious dress and appearance excited my attention much; many of them were very grand in their way, and are called Mohawks: the women (called Squaws) wear large trinkets in their ears, large breast-plates composed, I suppose, of silver, made after the form of our military officers, with long fine blue cloaks down to their feet. The hair of these people is black, wore long, and hanging loose on their necks. The Mohawk Indians are much superior in appearance and manners to another tribe which I have seen, who wear no clothing but blankets, which his majesty king George gives them yearly. These live chiefly on wild fowl, &c. whilst the females are employed in making baskets, brooms, &c. which they carry into towns for sale, and affords them a means of drinking rum, a liquor they are exceeding fond of.

This city is a place of great business, and likely to become very extensive, as building is carried on with much spirit. The houses are large, some composed of wood, and others of stone. The French here, as in Québec, have a very splendid church, and are very numerous. Having a letter from the preachers of Québec to the preachers of Montreal (Messrs. Booth and Pope), I proceeded to their house, which is built in the

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preaching-house yard, and had an interview with them. On reading the letter, they made enquiry respecting my means and design. Having laid the state of my affairs before them, I was requested to call next day, which being done, Mr. Booth presented me with the sum of £3. which he raised by going through the society and friends, and procured such means of relief as enabled me to proceed on my journey. May the blessings of heaven fall on these two ministers of the gospel: Amen.

Finding it attended with much expense to remain here, I prepared to proceed on my way, and from enquiry found I should hire a waggon to bring my family about eight miles; and having waited on Sir John Johnson, a gentleman of merit and interest; I obtained a letter from him to a magistrate, a Mr. Finclay, in a small town called Lacheen, to which place I proceeded, paying eight shillings for carriage the above distance of eight miles. On my arrival here, I halted at a store belonging to a Mr. Grant. The night approaching, I laid down our beds, and the weather being very warm, I and my family slept comfortably, having nothing but the canopy of heaven for a covering: yet, blessed be God! we received no cold whatever.

On delivering the letter above mentioned to squire Finclay, he prepared to seek for a free passage for my family to Prescott by water, and having consulted with two or three gentlemen, they agreed to pay my fare, and send me free of expense. A large boat being about to sail, I got my family and luggage into it, and so proceeded on for Prescott, a distance of nearly one hundred and eighty miles. Here my trials became truly great. I had witnessed the direful effects of sin in the conduct of the passengers at sea, and also from Quebec to Montreal; but in this small boat



I became a witness to such repeated blasphemy, and most horrible new invented oaths, that Lucifer and all his train perhaps could not exceed; and this every day, and every hour during my abode in this vessel. After sailing a few days, we arrived at a part of the river called the Cascades, called by some the Rapids, and by others the Split Rock. In this place the water swells and rises to such a degree that every boat or vessel coming up against these Rapids are obliged to be unloaded, and the property sent by land carriage to a place called the Cedars. And here my increasing sorrow, I may say, commenced: for being obliged to lighten the boat I and my family were in, amongst the rest of the property delivered up by the proprietor of the boat to carriers waiting on shore for that purpose, my valuable library of books, packed up in a large box, with another larger one of clothes, &c. were given in charge to the waggoner, to be brought forward to the Cedars; it being rather late in the day, this carrier left my two boxes, with two puncheons of rum, in the yard of a tavern, about half a mile from the place where he took them in charge, and as I supposed them safe, remained with my family; in the mean time, my box of books was stolen in the night: and thus, after bringing them safe across the sea, and flattering myself that I should have much comfort in reading them from time to time, in one night I lost my valuable library, which I had for years been collecting. I pray God, that they may fall into some hands that may know their value, and derive divine knowledge therefrom.

After a tedious passage, and I may truly say a most disagreeable one, I and my family arrived safe in Prescott, and felt much satisfied in mind that I had no longer to deal with the wicked crew belonging to the boat, and having my luggage

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on shore, we got our beds, &c. in the most comfortable place we could find near the river side, and slept secure till morning.

Being uneasy to get forward in my tedious journey, I agreed with a waggoner to bring my family and luggage to Brockville, a distance of twelve miles, for which I gave him 12s. 6d. and coming in the evening, I expected to take up my abode for a few days with Mr. Hazlewood, a wheelwright, who came over in the same vessel with me, and arriving some days before me in Brockville, had taken a house and commenced his trade; this friend had his house so filled with several families who came over with us, that I would not allow my family to take shelter with these people, whom Mr. Hazlewood had kindly received, arising from a knowledge of their sinful and very improper conduct on sea; and being now a good deal acquainted with trials, and indeed well inured to a suffering life since I left Quebec, I was thereby prepared to meet and expect a continuation of difficulties at least for some time longer, and therefore resigned myself to Him, who for my sake became a man of sorrow, and acquainted with grief.

Not being able to find a lodging for my family, I sought out a convenient place near the river side, and unloaded my little property, and paid the carrier for carriage to Brockville. Resolving thus to sleep with my family in the open air, I procured, through Mr. Hazlewood's means, leave to put my beds and other effects into a workshop, belonging to a Mr. Skinner, who carries on the carpenter and joiner business very extensively.

I should have noticed before this, that I received assistance from a few friends, whom I happened to fall in company with. This proceeded



from my oftentimes absenting myself from the boat, and walking the public road. In the town of Matilda, I obtained kindness from a respectable man, Mr. Paul Glassford, Store-keeper, and Post Master, who brought me into his house, and used me affectionately; here I met a Mr. Poye, an English missionary, who also shewed much tenderness towards me; from these I received the sum of 7s. 6d.; with this kind family I left my daughter Maria, till the Lord determines my way. On my journey also I met a Methodist preacher, a Mr. Browne, belonging to the American body of Methodists. I had some conversation with this servant of God; and on our parting he constrained me to take 5s. I was ashamed and unwilling to accept of his kindness. Another instance of the kind and providential care of God over me, took place in an interview I had with a minister of the Dutch reformed church, who with another clergyman, came to this country to see the state of religion; after this pious man and I had conversed on religion, and its effects on the heart of man, most generously gave me a piece of gold to the amount of 25s. I returned him my sincere thanks, and so took my leave of him, with a heart grateful to the Lord for his repeated mercies and tender care, in providing for me in a strange country. Having now a temporary place of abode for my family, I enquired if a person capable of teaching school was wanting in the town, and found though there was only one in it, there was no want of any more, the town being small: here I had keen reflections of mind, and knew not what steps to take, to make some provision for my helpless family; at length I resolved to set out for Kingston, a distance of near 60 miles,

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to try if any means could be adopted for the support of myself and family; having arranged every thing as well as could be expected, I took leave of them, and got a seat in a waggon belonging to a Mr. Pike, who happened to be going to Kingston the same day; we came as far as a place called Gannamockway, a decent small town, where Colonel Stone resides, and to whom I was introduced by my friend; and having arrived in time to preach, the people were notified, and a large congregation attended. Next morning I breakfasted at the Colonel's, and found him to be a rational gentleman, and deeply attached to the cause of Methodism. I shewed my credentials to him I brought from Ireland, which pleased him exceedingly. I found his lady to be a truly pious Methodist, and from whose kind hand, I received 5s. Mr. Pike and I set off after breakfast, and arrived in Kingston in the evening, and after returning him many thanks for his kindness in carrying me, we parted; and now found myself in a strange town, unknown by any human being. Finding my mind deeply exercised, I lifted my heart to the Lord, and after some reflections, considered it best to wait on the preacher of Kingston, Mr. Kathrick. This kind and good man received me in much love, and invited me to stay with him whilst I remained in town, for which favour I felt thankful. Next day I prepared to look after a school about to be established on the Lancasterian system, and having applied to the Rev. Mr. Stewart, minister of the established church, and also to Major Corbett, a gentleman from Ireland, I received for answer, that they had written to Quebec for a master, and having received as yet no answer, it was judged improper to employ any other person, till an answer came to hand; on which I declined

urging my suit any farther. Major Corbett seemed a good deal distressed that I had failed in obtaining the school, but recollecting that the Rev. John Wilson, Master of the District Academy, wanted an assistant, advised me to wait on him; I did so, but not then being at home, I requested the Major to accompany me the next day, which he complied with immediately, and after shewing Mr. Wilson my testimonials, &c. from Ireland, he agreed to give me £100 per year, and directly entered into a written covenant, that if I left him without giving three months notice, or if he dismissed me without three months notice, in such a case the person so dismissing or warning, should pay £25.

This open door had a tendency to cheer my desponding mind, being a long time weighed down by repeated difficulties and trials; I returned to Mr. Kathrick, and letting him know how I succeeded, he rejoiced; and it being preaching evening, he asked me to preach, to which I consented, and so got acquainted with some of the society, namely a Mr. Gardener and Mr. Brennan, both partners in trade, who kindly invited me to their place, and expressed great satisfaction of mind in my expected removal to Kingston.

I returned to Brockville to my family with a mind truly thankful, and reaching Gannannock-way before night, published my design to preach, and had a large company of attentive hearers, amongst the rest a Baptist minister, who has brought over many to his opinion, namely, "immersion." After preaching I went home with Colonel Stone and slept at his place that night; next morning this kind and affectionate gentleman, lent me a horse for fourteen miles, riding with me seven miles, and then procuring a person to go forward the other seven, and bring

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back the horse ; this enabled me to get to my family that night, whom I found in good health and peace, blessed be the Lord God for his mercy. It happened providentially that the next evening after I reached home, a vessel came into Brockville with passengers, and being bound for Kingston next morning, I agreed with the captain for 25s. to Kingston, and getting my family and luggage into the boat ; having a brisk fair wind, we arrived in the evening, a distance of about sixty miles. This voyage from Brockville to Kingston proved the most pleasing and delightful of any that I experienced since I left Ireland. I had a company of respectable passengers, and the captain I found to be a mild and friendly man. Amongst the company was Mr. James Wilson from the Bay, by whose seasonable advice I have been, I hope, saved from a complication of trials and sorrows, in removing up from Quebec, at a time that I was on the point of settling perhaps for life.

I arrived in Kingston on Tuesday the 12th of August, being just one month and three days, coming the distance of 400 miles, chiefly by water ; and surely the sorrow, distress and hardship that I and my family sustained during that period, very far exceeded what we experienced in coming across the great deep.

I entered on my new employment the 1st of September with Mr. Wilson, and every thing seemed to answer his expectation respecting me. He expressed the strongest desire to serve me in every way possible, and made some proposals to me of a lucrative nature, which, if attended to, might have involved and sunk me into pride, worldly mindedness, and deadness of soul ; but having an eye to the glory of God ; I rather discovered a mind sensible of his unmerited kindness, though in no wise disposed to accept

of his generous offers to me. During the first three weeks he seemed satisfied with my abilities, conduct and attention; but on a sudden I perceived a gradual decline in his usual manner towards me, which led me to conceive that he felt dissatisfied in his mind, arising from some cause best known to himself: and on the second day of the second month in his service, he offered some childish reasons wherein he designed to dismiss me; the reasons he urged, not appearing to me sufficient, I concluded he had some private reason respecting my being a preacher of the Methodist Society, and expressing my belief and opinion as specified. He denied having any objection to me on that ground; however, I felt resigned to the will of Providence, expecting still the fulfilment of the promise, "that all things shall work together for good, to them that love God."

Having three whole months to continue with Mr. Wilson, according to our agreement, I found I had sufficient time to look after some other means of support, which led me to use every prudent exertion to that end. I received much friendship and brotherly kindness from the pious friends at Kingston, and enjoyed the privilege of preaching in conjunction with Mr. Kathrick, during which time, I obtained favour in the sight of the people, and generally had large congregations.

Drawing near the conclusion of my time in the academy, I received an account stating that a congregation of people called Lutherans, living up the bay, about twenty-five miles from Kingston, signified a desire to encourage me to preach for them occasionally, which, with the benefit of a public school, was thought might be sufficient to give a decent support to my family. Obtaining leave from Mr. Wilson, I went to the

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neighbourhood of these people, and taking Dr. Chamberlain with me, (at whose place I set up, and who used me with much kindness,) I obtained liberty to preach in the Lutheran church on the following sabbath on Mark c. 16, v. 15, 16. After preaching, the deacons and members of the church intimated their design to meet on the next day to adopt such measures as might be conducive to my support, and seemed highly gratified in my being their minister. They met accordingly, and agreed to send me a written account of the encouragement they designed to give, and so I parted with them for the present.

By promise to this society of people, I proposed to stand disengaged from any situation that might offer, till they sent me an account of the encouragement they were willing to give, and after three weeks had elapsed, I received a verbal message, that the Lutherans having consulted with each other respecting me, there were some of them disposed to accept of my labours, but as I was denominated a methodist preacher, they could by no means accept of my labours. I told them I could not change that appellation to gain any preferment whatever, and so we parted.

Finding no door open whereby I could be useful in the cause of God; I felt disposed to offer myself as an itinerant preacher, in the American body of methodists; yet in consequence of my family I felt delicate on account of the expence that would follow to the societies, but perceiving from well-founded testimonies, that if I was willing to join them as a preacher, I would meet with no objection, I signified my desire of uniting my exertions amongst the brethren, to proclaim the everlasting gospel of peace; and was accordingly received by Elder Case, whom I consider to be a man deeply devoted to God;

deeply interested in the happiness and eternal welfare of the church of Christ, and a faithful labourer in the vineyard of the Lord.

The quarterly meeting of the first town, five miles from Kingston, coming on, Elder Case and Mr. Madden, the circuit preacher, called upon me before quarter day, and it being Saturday, after the school was over, I went with these two ministers to the quarterly conference, and being appointed to preach before the leaders, exhorters, and stewards, I spoke from 1st Pet. c. 1. v. 3, 4, 5. After preaching, my case being examined by the conference, it was agreed that I should be received as a travelling preacher, to travel under the care and patronage of the American conference, and so commenced my new employment on Saturday the 29th November, 1817.

Respecting the climate here, I think the winter preferable to home, as heavy rains and high winds are frequent in Ireland, throughout the whole winter season; here we have little or no rain. The snow generally falls lightly near Christmas, but in January it comes heavy, accompanied with severe frost, which congeals the bays, rivers, &c. and renders a way passable by the strength of the ice, for man and horse or waggons to go along. In the winter season travellers may go hundreds of miles without soiling their shoes. The mode of travelling here is with sleighs, not unlike a waggon in appearance, only it has no wheels; the shafts of which glide along the snow, being shod throughout with a broad rim of iron. A horse will travel in this manner, with a heavy burthen, near seventy miles a day.

The snow remains on the ground till the beginning of April, or towards the middle, and gradually goes away: this causes every place to be muddy and disagreeably wet, that it is almost

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impossible to travel. Oh! what reflections have passed in my mind when travelling through the woods and places going to my appointments; my horse wading every step through mud and water; but wherever we are, trials await us.

The people here have many privileges: in the spring they make sugar by piercing the maple tree, which produces a sweet sap, and when well boiled, makes remarkably good sugar. Another advantage is, most families make their own soap, by saving the ashes of the firewood: the people in general live well; there are here no poor, comparatively speaking; they have from the produce of their gardens, melons, cucumbers, and all kinds of vegetables, and of these they make preserves; and as each house has in general a cellar, they store their garden roots, potatoes, &c. in these secure places, to protect them from the frost.

The women here in general weave their own clothing, consisting of linen and woollen, diaper and fancy bed quilts and floor carpets; many of them are also well skilled in making both men and women's clothing: this saves much expense, as tailoring is extremely high. Provisions are cheap, in general: potatoes from 1s. 3d. to 3s. a bushel ( $4\frac{1}{2}$  stone to each bushel), butter from 1s. 3d. to 1s. 6d. per pound; beef from 4d. to 5d. per pound; mutton from 5d. to 6d. per pound, green tea from 5s. to 10s. per pound, congou tea from 6s. to 7s. 6d. per pound, sugar 10d. per pound, lump sugar from 1s. 3d. to 1s. 6d. per pound, rum from 6s. 6d. to 7s. per gallon, brandy from 7s. 6d. to 10s. per gallon. Cider is much in use here, and made by many families. Clothing is much the same as it is in Ireland, except in some instances, as linen and a few other articles, which carry a high price; but as cotton is much worn for shirting, the dearth of linen is not much felt, cotton being tolerably cheap.



There are now in this province ten Church clergymen, ten Baptist preachers, twelve Presbyterian ministers, six Quaker preachers, one German Lutheran preacher, twenty travelling Methodist preachers, thirty-two local preachers, and forty one exhorters. In the Methodist connexion there are four thousand in this province, one thousand of whom have been added in the last year; and in the Bay of Quinty circuit, in which I travel, about three hundred have been also added to the society.

To close this journal, I have to add, that my heart feels for the thousands of my countrymen who are in a perishing state in Ireland, for want of means to obtain food, raiment, land or property, whilst in this extensive region are millions of acres of choice land lying waste and uninhabited. Oh! that it were possible that the poor, thus perishing in want and penury, were here, where, if not able to manage land themselves, they would get a means of support by labouring for others, far superior to any they may ever expect in Ireland.

To conclude.—Whether families come here in affluence, or destitute of means of support, they will be sure to find in the end that comfort, protection, and means of living, which all exertions to secure in Ireland is insufficient; but previous to this enjoyment, the dangers of the sea, the various distressing circumstances that follow a voyage here, all conspire to make their removal to America an exertion of the utmost importance. Lord direct all my countrymen to what is best for time and eternity! Amen.

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