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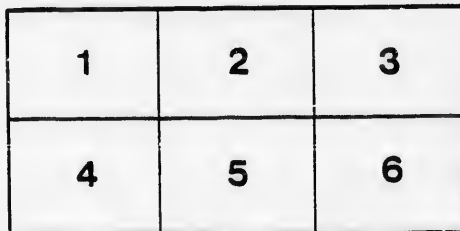
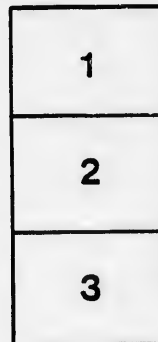
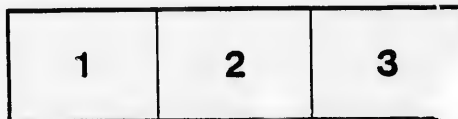
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The Rt Hon. the Earl Grey
with the Author's respectful Compl.

COLONISATION:



4 1153 Miscellaneous

NATURAL, SAFE, AND EFFECTUAL MODE OF RELIEF
FOR NATIONAL DISTRESS.



BY

THOMAS ROLPH, ESQ.

[Reprinted from the Colonial Magazine for July, 1847.]

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COLONISATION, &c.

" Emigration (Canada).—Address for 'Returns of the assessed value of those Townships in the Newcastle District in Western Canada which were settled by pauper emigrants from Ireland, between the years 1825 and 1828, at the public expense:'

" Of the number of the various Emigration Societies formed in Canada in 1840 by Canadian Proprietors desirous of settling emigrants from Great Britain and Ireland upon their estates."—(*Mr. Poulett Scrope.*)

TO THE EDITOR OF THE COLONIAL MAGAZINE.

SIR—The above returns, so kindly moved for by Mr. G. P. Scrope, at my earnest request, together with the recent interesting debate in the House of Commons, during which sounder and juster views of Colonisation were propounded than have been enunciated for the last twenty years, justifies the hope that the important subject of Colonisation is at length receiving that attention, both from the Legislature and the public, which its intrinsic efficacy and unequalled advantage so eminently deserves. These returns, when obtained and placed before the public, will fully demonstrate the wisdom and success of Sir R. W. Horton's most humane and benevolent experiment in the years 1825 and 1828, and prove the priority of his Colonisation plans, to those reveries and emanations from the cells of Newgate, which appear to have fascinated so many who have since written, spoken, and turned their attention to this subject. One would imagine, from the manner in which Mr. Wakefield's name has been so often thrust before the public in connection with Colonisation, that the theory of Colonisation was some mighty discovery of this individual, although the illustrious Bacon had been its eloquent advocate and champion, and Penn and Boone its successful promoters in Pennsylvania and Kentucky. Long before Mr. Wakefield's theory was announced the Island of Manhattan, at the extremity of which stands the city of New York, with its half million of inhabitants, had been purchased from the Indians by the Dutch in 1614 for 24 dollars, and owes its present glory,

greatness, commerce, population, and wealth to the colonisation of the extensive and fertile territory in its rear. What matchless presumption in Mr. Wakefield! what measureless folly in his panegyrists to set him up then as the founder of a system of Colonisation that was to eclipse all its predecessors, and transfer, as if by magic, the over-peopled inhabitants of some countries, to the vast wilderness of others. His movements in this cause may be well summed up by the following graphic and pertinent extract from "Tancred":—

"Enunciating second hand, with characteristic precipitation, some big principle in vogue as if he were a discoverer, he invariably shrank from its subsequent application the moment that he found it might be unpopular and inconvenient. All his quandaries terminated in the same catastrophe—a compromise. Abstract principles with him ever ended in concrete expediency. The aggregate of circumstances outweighed the isolated cause—the primordial tenet, which had been advocated with uncompromising arrogance, gently subsided into some second-rate measure, recommended with all the artifice of an impenetrable ambiguity."

The following most just appreciation of Lord Bacon's merit, in this exalted work of Colonisation, is happily expressed in the leading article of the *Standard* of the 2nd June, and is eminently worthy of deep attention from the sound sense by which it is characterised throughout:—

"Bacon, it is true, wrote when British Colonisation was in its infancy, and when emigration was to be directed to countries altogether unreclaimed, and therefore his letter of advice contains many minute directions at which statesmen of Sir R. Peel's class could easily raise a laugh; but Bacon wrote in this case, as in every other case, for all times; and the wisdom of his ample directions for the treatment of growing and established Colonies has been as fully attested by experience as the prudence of his suggestions for a first plantation—attested by complete success as often as these directions have been followed, and by utter failure whenever they have been departed from. Sir Robert Peel will not improve upon Lord Bacon. If we were called upon for a short advice upon the subject of Colonisation, we should feel that we gave a sound admonition in saying, "do exactly the opposite of what you have been doing for 30 years;" and we could have no difficulty in supporting this advice by the authority of the father of true philosophy. Let us, however, for a few minutes lay on one side the *argumentum ad verecundiam*, and try if in the particular instance common sense does not concur, as it does in all others, with the principles of a sound philosophy. We suppose that the design of emigration is either to relieve the United Kingdom of an actual or supposed surplus population, or to benefit the Colonies, or both, as both objects may be easily reconciled. Now as you cannot yet banish men guilty of no crime but poverty, and as forced emigration is banishment, you can get rid of your surplus population only by holding out some temptation to those of whom you wish to get rid, to remove themselves; but this temptation you can offer only by preparing for their reception some place where they may expect to be more happy than in their native land. *It is, then, in the Colonies to be established, or in the Colonies already established, that you must begin your*

preparations. This is the truth that has been overlooked for thirty years, and hence the failures hitherto—failures of which the most simple analogy might give warning. When a man wishes to drain a field he begins, if he is not a fool, by preparing a place for the reception of the redundant water, and he is careful that the place may be such as that the stream shall run to it by a natural descent; he does not direct the outlet against a wall or a hill, still less does he substitute a greater for a less evil, by directing the drainage of his swampy field upon his well-stocked and highly cultivated garden. Now the analogy of Colonisation as a means of relief from a surplus population to this draining process is complete—you must find a place for emigrants to which they will naturally tend, and you must be careful not to throw them upon places where their presence will be mischievous, not beneficial; but it is plain that if you throw them from you at haphazard, you run the risk of misdirecting them to their own ruin, or to the ruin of others. Such haphazard extrusion will, however, be inevitable if you do not begin by making preparation for the emigrants in the Colonies before sending out a single ship-load.”

I propose in this article—1st, to set forth the appalling evils which Colonisation is to remove; 2nd, to prove that Colonisation is effectual for that purpose; and 3rd, to point out the mode by which this remedy can best be carried into effect. As a proof of the gigantic evil calling loudly for some immediate and effectual antidote, I subjoin the following powerful delineation of Irish misery from an Irish pen:—

“Haggard famine and gaunt destruction overspread the land.

“The breath of pestilence has blasted our fields. A destroying angel has passed over our Tabernacles. The bountiful earth has refused to give food to the people. The iniquity of man has been labouring for three centuries with unabated and unrestrained activity in the work of ruin. But now the elements of heaven and the vengeance of the Lord are come to complete the destruction of the poor. There are shrieks of woe on the high road—the people are crying madly for bread in the streets, or pining away in silent sorrow and decay, in their comfortless homes. The bounty of the priest and the charity of the farmer, hitherto the chief available resources of indigence and distress, are already exhausted. The potato is gone—the turnips are eaten up—the cabbage is quickly disappearing. Even the dogs are no longer seen about the house of the cottager, and the crows themselves have fallen victims to this destroying famine. Our houses of worship are thinned almost to solitude—a dread silence reigns through the land—our market-places are deserted and may be compared to the wrecks of a ransacked city, or the remnants of a broken army fleeing from defeat. Josephus has recorded nothing in the siege of Jerusalem more shocking and revolting than the scenes at Skibbereen and Ballydehob. Wolfish hunger is at every door, death is in every cabin. The dead lie unburied and the dying are often found entangled in their cold embrace. The people are mute with horror and evidently stupified with this colossal disaster, are variously inclined to sink in ignoble despair, or follow the sturdiest impulse of natural right and duty.

" But a deeper depth is still yawning before us. The circle of misery is widening and will soon embrace the entire population of the land. The fields are untilled—there is no grain to sow them, no adequate provision made for the ensuing season.

" We have the poor-houses, but they are filled and detested. We have the Labour Act. It gave partial relief for a season; but can a single Act of Parliament feed a people, no matter how benevolent the intention of that Act may be? The evil consequences of three centuries of misrule require something more than the petty provisions of a tempering scheme, which professes merely to help the starving, and mocks even them by its austere and insulting regulations. The heroic patience of the people, under all their sufferings, is justly admired and praised. But I have witnessed, with indignation, the indignities to which they have been subjected by the operation of this Act. All their little family secrets, all the humiliating circumstances of their distress, exposed in open court.

" After travelling a long journey, with hungry stomachs, and waiting a whole day under the open air, in rain and frost and snow, or pushed about by rude and saucy policemen, they were often dismissed in the evening without promise of employment, perhaps without an answer. The second, the third, the fourth, the tenth scrutiny came; the same heartless inquiries were repeated, the same cheerless scenes re-enacted; or if a few of them succeeded, at length, by positive proofs of destitution, in gaining the high honour of being enrolled in the list of labourers, another sea of misery was before them. At the beginning and even still in most cases, only one member of a family could be admitted into this legion of honour—the wages were limited to 10d. a day—those wages were paid only once in the week, many of the days were broken and the wages of course diminished—we may say 7d. a day for the entire winter season. Then there were gaugers, overseers, and clerks, and check-clerks, and surveyors, and committees, and inspectors; and a cross word or a crooked look at any of them ended generally in the dismissal of a labourer. In a family of six, or eight, or eleven, 10d. a day payable at the end of a week, and, perhaps, after allowing for sickness, broken days, the humour of the pay clerk, and other contingencies, only half that sum paid, was equivalent to an edict of starvation or murder, when meal was sold at 3d. per lb. The same reasoning may be anticipated be easily applied to the Drainage Act, with this difference—that the drainage of the land has the permanent effect of remotely contributing to the production of food for the people, and of rent for the landlords. These measures may have their faults or advantages. They are auxiliaries, but withal, only auxiliaries. Temporising schemes, such as these, will never succeed in restoring the broken frame of society, or in lifting up a people beyond the recurrence of such afflicting destitution.

" In circumstances so truly awful the first immediate duty of the Government was to take care that no one died of hunger; for that purpose grain should have been sought for wherever it grows, the Navigation laws should have been suspended—every available vessel in her Majesty's navy and empire should have been despatched to carry

home provisions—every restriction on the free import of corn should have been removed—and food depôts established in every town in Ireland, upon the very first sound of this desolating famine.

“Yet not one of these things were done by ministers until famine had spread its wings all over the land, and thousands had fallen victims to its tormenting sting. Ministers have cruelly neglected their duty, and up to the very meeting of Parliament used all their influence to support a monopoly that aggravated this awful visitation of heaven.

“It becomes, in consequence, the right of the people, and the duty of their leaders, to proclaim in their aggregate strength, that, unless our future wants be amply provided for—reparation is impossible—the Whigs shall no longer rule this country. Lord John Russell may, like Tamerlane, behold with pleasure or indifference the piles of human bones, which, as monuments of his disastrous policy, whiten the plains of Connaught or of Munster. But if the old system of economy be pursued, no good man can wish to see an administration prolonged, resembling so much, in an abandoned disregard for human life, the bloody career of the Mogul conqueror.

“But it is not enough to provide for the present wants of the people. The recurrence of another season's famine must be guarded against: the lands must be tilled and sowed and liberal precautions taken that the coming harvest may be sufficient to feed the people. The people are destitute both of seed and money, and want even the strength to dig or plough the ground. The Government must advance money for these purposes now, or be prepared for a demand hereafter, in importing foreign food to avert starvation. It is generally admitted by ministers, that half the expenditure made for reductive works of the Labour Act, shall be charged on the national resources of the empire. But as the calamity is national, will it be met by the Imperial treasury? The outlay required for the projected tillage of the land will be gratefully repaid by the persons whom it may concern; and even that outlay may be materially diminished, to the advantage of the poor people, by setting soldiers and policemen to work the fields under the inspection of their officers, and tackling the dragoon horses to the cart and the plough. If the navy and army of England were engaged in these glorious works of mercy, all the nations of the earth would praise, all future generations would bless the peaceful reign of Victoria.

“Strangers, unacquainted with the peculiarity of Irish distress, and whose attention of late has been forcibly attracted by the universal famine—whose sound has filled the earth, may hastily take up the notion that this terrific disaster is to be reckoned among those ordinary visitations that sometimes ruefully fall upon nations, and is by no means a proof of deep antecedent distress, or in any way connected with it; and such persons, judging from the analogy of history, may limit their benevolent hopes to an expectation, that after this tide of ruin has passed away the people will be replaced in their former condition, and that consequent prosperity and contentment will prevail. It is the object of this paper to correct that flattering delusion. In my picture of Irish distress

I have introduced the existing famine, merely by way of episode, and have put it in the foreground chiefly for colouring and illustration.

"This famine, great and shocking as it is, is only a specimen of our distress; it reaches back to a long existing cause, and, comprehensive as it is in all its horrors, is far from giving an adequate view of all the physical privations of the Irish people which I have undertaken to record. In proof of these assertions, I must go back to a period antecedent to the famine, and reveal a state of things which will convince every thinking mind that the duties of Government extend far beyond the temporary alleviation of a disaster which Providence has permitted to rebuke and warn our oppressors.

"Long before the occurrence of this terrible visitation the ordinary food of the people was of the coarsest and most unsubstantial kind. It was on the potato that they were doomed to subsist, at breakfast, at dinner, and at supper. The old, the young, the sick, the strong, the labourer, the ordinary artist, the cottier, the small farmer, had nothing but the potato. Our land produces in plenty all the necessaries of life, but the beef, the mutton, the pork, the poultry, the butter, the eggs, the wheat, the corn, and not unfrequently the milk and vegetables—all must be sold and sent to foreign markets to satisfy the rapacious claims of the landlord.

"This obscure but excruciating system of oppression was so wisely contrived that the people might have a supply of potatoes just sufficient to support life, and give strength enough to make up the rent for the landlord; but they could not aspire to any higher luxury. All the other products of the earth were secured and mortgaged, in perpetuity, to the landlord by repeated acts of the Legislature. Without a formal enactment to that purpose, the effect was, that the existence of the peasant was permitted only as an instrument to uphold the enormous rental of the proprietor; whilst everything else was, by law and usage, the sacred and indefeasible property of the landlord. Thus was the life of an entire people left dependent on a single root; and if a substitute inferior to the potato could subsidise a people, I am persuaded that another Necker would have been found to enforce the use of grass.

"It was impossible for a people so circumstanced to make any provision for adverse contingencies, or to have any resources treasured up beyond the daily food of their families. The destruction of the potato, by the necessary operation of such a system, has involved the entire nation in misery; and by a just retribution of Divine vengeance has left both landlords and lawgivers embarrassed by inextricable confusion and ruin. A timely and equitable arrangement between landlord and tenant, a law based on the just and humane consideration that the peasant's toil is entitled to something beyond a bare and precarious subsistence—a law sternly enforcing the duties, while it guards the rights, of property—a law, for instance, reclaiming waste lands into a productiveness of human food, colonising these lands with armies of Irishmen annually emigrating to America, or rotting in workhouses, and giving the Colonist a permanent and proprietary interest in the care and tillage of the little estate entrusted to him—a law of searching revision into all the existent relations of landlord and tenant—these and other such measures

of justice, wisdom, and benignity, would call forth an order of things in which famine would never recur; would secure to the proprietor a sure, ready, and a large return; would have empowered the people to meet, with their own resources, a calamity which has borne them down; would have saved many a life already sacrificed to hunger; would have shielded the land from this ruinous and confiscating assessment by which it is so heavily burdened: but distant ages will point with scorn or with horror to the numberless victims sacrificed to the mismanagement and inhumanity of England's laws, and, in refutation of the boastful pretensions of England's writers, will record the hideousness of this excruciating famine, and expose the more secret history of the antecedent privations which led to it.

"The raiment of the people is thin and ragged. The clothes they wear are scarcely sufficient to cover their nakedness in summer; and it is a well ascertained fact, that the great majority of the people are confined as prisoners to their cabins on Sundays and holidays, through shame of appearing abroad in the squalid and hideous raggedness of their every-day garb. At night they have scarcely any other covering than the poor damp rags they wore during the day. Parents find it impossible to make those separate arrangements at night between the members of their little families which religion and decency require, and instinct itself suggests. But when the cold winter wind is blowing it is sickening to contemplate their privations both by day and night; no matter how inclement the weather, they have no other covering at night, no other clothes by day, than the tatters that scarcely kept them alive during the summer and autumn; or when sickness visits a cold, damp, and ill-thatched cabin, what fancy can picture the torture of the patient and the anguish of the sympathising family and neighbours. The imagination is shocked, and all our feelings are confounded, by the mere contemplation of these heart-breaking scenes of distress and woe. All this is aggravated by want of fuel, even in those parts of the country where turf-bog is abundant, for the cottier classes have none but what they can purchase out of their scanty wages. I forgot to speak of shoes, another indispensable comfort in this changeable climate of ours. Even under the frost and snow, and cold, biting wind of winter, numbers both of the old and young, females especially, are met in our streets and highways either altogether unshod, or, to save appearances, wearing some cast-off old things that resist neither wet nor cold; hence cough, asthma, fever, decline, and a legion of plagues, that thin the people and bring them to an untimely grave.

"But what shall we say of their habitations; they are generally built in some low, damp situation, on a worthless spot of ground, the avarice of the landlord refusing a more suitable place. The house of a cottier consists generally of a kitchen and a room; sometimes a single apartment is the abode of the entire family. The chimney, for want of sufficient materials, being an insufficient outlet, the smoke escapes through the door. Where there happens to be a window there is rarely glass. The door is not unfrequently an open hurdle or texture of ill-jointed boards, through which wind and storm can find an easy

admission. The roof, consisting of decayed sticks and rotten straw, opposes no resistance to cold or rain, but aggravates the misery of the inmates by the unwholesome and mephitic stench it is continually emitting. In consequence, the floors, the walls, the roofs, and the beds, are damp, and always transpiring a noxious vapour.

"Their turf, their poultry, their pigs, their potatoes, when they had them, were generally, for want of accommodation, stowed away in some corner of their wretched cabin. It is painful to dwell on such a picture, especially where there is a family of infant children, or sickness and infirmity visit these comfortless abodes."

Not to harrow the feelings by entering into the minute details of the direful horrors of the disease, death, terror, and desolation, that has stricken this unhappy land, I may quote an extract from an address of the inhabitants of the county of Cork to the people of Ireland generally, in order to contrast it with an address from the Irish settlers in Canada to the Queen in 1838:—

"FELLOW COUNTRYMEN.—Famine rages in the dwellings of the poor—the young and the old lie on the ground in the streets—the tongue of the sucking child cleaveth to the roof of his mouth for thirst—the young children ask for bread and no man breaketh unto them.—Lamentations iii, 21. Hundreds of thousands have already fallen victims—the doom of hundreds of thousands more has already been pronounced. We stand among the bodies of the coffinless dead—amongst our graveyards glutted with victims—our bones are scattered upon the grave's mouth, as when one cutteth and cleaveth wood upon the earth.—Ps. cxlii, 7. With still solemnity from the depths of our stricken souls we ask, who slew all these? Our garrisoned cities bereft of wealth, of trade, of independence; our deserted hills, valleys, and plains, deserted, save in some favoured spots, by all but the foreign landlord's driver, and the poor despised plundered drudge, who has not the means or the energy to depart, all give one united answer and point to *England and English rulers*. We are a conquered people and *foreigners* make our laws."

What a cheering—what a startling contrast to the above revolting picture of human woe and despair by the faithful portraiture of the contented and prosperous Irish settler.

"It is spring time, and as we walk forth to enjoy the morning air, the whistle of the ploughman salutes our ears, and calls our mind to agriculture. Let us cross the fields to yon neat farm-house, with its commodious out-buildings, and its well-tilled lands. The history of that family and that house conveys a useful and beneficial lesson. Fifteen years ago the owner was dragging on a miserable life, as a sub-tenant, on a few roods of land in Ireland, participating in the follies and vices, alas! too common, of faction and debauchery. Poverty at length compelled him to seek a refuge and a home in Canada; and the lot which he now occupies was a forest. He soon roused the native energies of his character, and the wood gave place to his sturdy axe. He forswore that which had been the curse of his early life, and his industry was crowned with success. His affairs prospered—his sons are growing

up to fill a higher station than ever their father dreamed of, and when he departs from this earth he will leave behind him a respected name and an independent family. We had been talking of his early career ; and, as when we set down to a plentiful breakfast, he returned thanks to God for all his mercies and all his kindness—his thoughts found utterance in the language of pure and simple piety and gratitude. ‘Should we not be thankful (were his words) for our lot is happy. Here we have no taxes, no tithes, no visits from cruel police. It is true, Sir, that in Canada no man need be poor if he be industrious, if he avoid quarrelling and contention, obey the laws, and attend to his own affairs.’”

On the 4th April, 1838, the Irish settlers in Upper Canada resolved to address the Queen ; and to the address passed unanimously by them on this occasion, I refer you especially to the following extract :—

“We most humbly thank your Majesty for the determination expressed by your Majesty’s Ministers in Parliament to protect and defend the loyal inhabitants in Canada, in the possession of *the many blessings they enjoy* in this part of your Majesty’s dominions. In this determination we see a new commencement of prosperity—an impregnable defence from anarchy, and a prospect of permanency to our institutions, which will not only restore confidence in these Provinces, but will induce thousands of your Majesty’s subjects to come among us, and partake of the rewards of industry and enterprise to which they are invited by our fertile and thinly-populated country, and its extensive and untried resources. It renews in our minds the hope of yet seeing here millions of your Majesty’s subjects, many of them from our native land, living in freedom, peace, and plenty, under the protection of the British Empire and your Majesty’s mild and beneficent sway.”

I have now to prove that Colonisation is the most natural, obvious, and effective remedy for this appalling distress, and, in suggesting the mode by which it can be carried out, I shall set forth some unanswerable facts to demonstrate its practicability and self-sustaining character. I am persuaded that no remedy of equal power, certainty, and advantage, could be devised, to remedy the want and poverty of Ireland, as a bold, comprehensive, enlarged, and well-matured measure of Emigration, and that such an undertaking can and might be carried into operation without a shilling cost to the Imperial treasury. Colonel Torrens, in his very interesting little pamphlet, called “Self-supporting Colonisation, or Ireland Saved without Cost to the Imperial Treasury,” amongst other equally just and forcible statements, declares, “The question, whether the cost of Emigration can be defrayed out of the value which systematic Colonisation confers on the wastes of a new country, has been set at rest by experience. When the present Earl Grey’s important regulations for putting an end to the gratuitous alienation of crown lands, and for applying the proceeds of their sale to emigration, came into operation in New South Wales, in 1844, the sums yielded by the sale of public lands amounted to nearly two millions sterling. Mr. Hutt has shown that, from 1833 to 1839, inclusive, the planting of a population of 15,000 souls, in the previous wilderness of South Australia,

imparted to the lands of that wilderness a marketable value which enabled the Colonisation Commissioners to realise, by the sale of 282,500 acres, the sum of £262,000, a sum which exceeded by £85,000 the cost of emigration."

Still more remarkable, startling, and conclusive are the proofs to be derived from the vast rise in value of property in Canada, a few examples of which I shall have occasion to cite. The *mode* of Colonisation is, however, by far the most important consideration; and, although there are difficulties inseparable to every plan, they are neither so many nor so great as not to be overcome. After a review of some of them, I will offer a practical suggestion that may tend to lessen, if not altogether remove them. Amongst the many potential and distinguished advocates of Colonisation, as a means of removing the evils of pauperism, there are few who have paid more attention to the subject than the Honourable R. B. Sullivan, of Toronto; and certainly, there has been no one more calculated to demonstrate its advantages, remove the difficulties in its path, or render its acceptance more secure with the public. Possessed of great natural endowments—quick perception with sound judgment—ardent temperament with much perseverance—he has devoted his genius and philanthropy to the prosecution of this measure for many years, and the success which has already followed his praiseworthy efforts at Owen's Sound, on Lake Huron, has induced him to look for a larger field for the prosecution of this glorious and God-like work. A recent address, delivered at the Mechanics' Institute Hall, Toronto,* displays his just and comprehensive views, and cannot fail to awaken the attention as well as ensure the admiration of every British patriot.

Independent of this vast region, so well adapted for colonisation, Mr. Scrope's return, when obtained, will show what large blocks of land, in the immediate vicinity of large and prosperous settlements, would be allocated by the Canadian landowners on most desirable terms for the prosecution of this laudable enterprise. With such auxiliaries there is every encouragement to persevere. Amongst the various modes of Colonisation adapted for a large and comprehensive measure, incomparably the best, easiest, most original, and most successful yet devised, or attempted, has been that of Mr. Frederick Widder, Commissioner of the Canada Company, a gentleman of untiring industry, sound judgment, great integrity, much experience, and considerable ability. His plan, already in active operation in the Huron District, has answered admirably, and, as far as it goes, is unexceptionable. I would, however, amplify and extend it considerably. The system adopted by the Canada Company, on the suggestion of Mr. Widder, is that of granting a lease to the settler, requiring no payment for the first year, commencing with a small rent the second, gradually increasing it yearly until the expiration of the time fixed, when the payment of the last year's rent entitles the occupant to the land as freehold. The addition to Mr. Widder's plan which I would suggest is the settlement of families containing a fair proportion of old and young, on similar blocks of land, on each of which a log-

* The first article in our present number, ante p. 257.—EDITOR.

house should be erected and one or two acres cleared. I would further advance agricultural implements, seed, cow, and a yoke of oxen, everything to facilitate the operations of the settler, inducing him to remain, and adding to the value of his security, carefully guarding against too much assistance, so as to cause improvidence on the one hand, or too little, so as to check or impede his industry on the other. In communities of this sort, if the grants or locations were not too large, a proportion of skilful artificers, a schoolmaster, and a clergyman might be placed. A system of centralisation to this extent would be desirable, and between every large community of settlers, a site for a village or town might be reserved, always having reference to convenient situation, hydraulic powers, and healthiness of the spot. The following notice of Mr. Widder's plan from the *Toronto Patriot* will enable me to append my views, and suggest the additions that I think would make it a most effectual mode of Colonisation.

"We have great pleasure in directing public attention to the advertisement of the Canada Company, in which a new method of disposing of their rich and valuable lands is laid before the agricultural interests of the Colony. The advantages of the plans proposed are obvious, and present to the poor, but industrious emigrant, a rare opportunity of settling himself in life with a certain prospect before him of independence—the unfailing premium on honest exertion.

"The Company will lease a lot for ten years, for example—suppose the value of the land to be, say 10s. the acre, the charge as rent is merely the interest of such appraised value at six per cent.

"The tenant has the option of purchasing at any time during the first five years at an advance of 1s. 3d. per acre; during the second five years, or for the full term of ten years, at 2s. 6d. per acre.

"By this system of leasing the Company will materially lessen the demand for employment, so frequently dreaded from large immigration, as emigrants, with very limited means, will, on their arrival here, obtain instant and profitable employment on their own account, thus preventing the necessity of their competing for work with those who are totally dependant on daily labour for their existence.

"We have seldom seen a plan so admirably calculated to ensure the settlement of wild land on terms at the same time highly encouraging to the settler and advantageous to the ultimate interests of the Company, who deserve every credit for thus evincing their determination to pursue a liberal and enlightened policy in the disposal of their lands, which must be the means of attracting to this great agricultural Province a large portion of the surplus population of older and richer countries.

"We are gratified to learn that during last year the Company placed 1,706 additional settlers on their lands in the Huron District—1,005 being new emigrants, and 701 settlers from other townships. Their sales of land for the same amounted to upwards of 73,000 acres.

"A large and fertile district—the Huron—is rapidly filling up with a loyal and British-hearted population, and is destined, ere the lapse of many years, to be inferior to no section of Western Canada of similar extent in the exhibition of a marked and regularly progressive improvement."

Now then, be it remembered, that the Canada Company offer these lands for sale on terms which, while they are most easy and accommodating to the settler, are also most profitable to themselves. If, therefore, the Government, or what would be still better, a combination of Canadian landowners and British capitalists, aided by the Government, overlooked by the Government, and controlled by the Government, were formed into a company for the furtherance of Colonisation and laying out of their land, reduce the minimum quantity of land sold, charge less for it, give a longer period for its payment, and more effectually assist the settler upon it; and if, in addition to this, they were to facilitate, on a large and comprehensive scale, the removal of settlers, *in families*, to it, there could be no question of the value of their security, and the certainty of the repayment of their outlay. The great matter is to place a settler in a locality, and in so favourable a position as that by his industry, frugality, and perseverance he may cheerfully repay the advances necessary to secure his future independence, and the welfare of his family. That late incomparable character, as Governor, statesman, philanthropist, and patriot, Lord Metcalfe, a few days previous to his departure for Canada, the last scene of his glory and greatness, wrote the following letter to Mr. Crawford, a gentleman who has always deeply and zealously interested himself in the cause of emigration and the welfare of his suffering fellow-countrymen:—

“ Mivart's Hotel, 41, Brook-street, 1st February, 1843.

“ SIR—I shall have great pleasure in an interview with you and Dr. Rolph on the subject of emigration from Glasgow and Paisley to Canada, being satisfied that the measure is most desirable for both this country and that.

“ In the mean time, I beg leave to assure you of the most cordial co-operation on my part, to every extent within my power, in the proposed undertaking; the chief difficulty of which I conceive would be in taking due care of the emigrants after their arrival in the Colony, until they are in a condition to take care of themselves. I should have proposed an interview to-day, but my duty carried me to Windsor.

“ I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

“ C. T. METCALFE.”

“ John Crawford, Esq.”

Lord Metcalfe's chief solicitude was the *due* care to be taken of the emigrants on their arrival. This *due* care forms one of the principal securities for their steady and cheerful settlement of their land, and at the same time removes one great objection frequently and forcibly urged against Emigration, viz., that the able-bodied labourers will be removed, whilst the aged and the young are left behind. I propose that a proper proportion of all ages should go; I have been a frequent eye-witness of the use, advantage, and comfort to a settler, which the care, solicitude, assistance, and kindness of an aged branch of the family has been. Useful in looking after the children, nursing the sick, superintending the household, providing for the domestic wants, attending to the dairy, and many other important occupations. I view a proper mixture of aged

and young as not only an important, but an indispensable ingredient in a large and sound system of Colonisation. They are hostages for the continuance of the settler on his location, and a security against any temptation to quit it. After land has been laid out, surveyed, apportioned, and prepared, the following method, suggested in 1841, might be adopted:—

Instead of the present mode of stationing an agent at all the principal landing-places, three chief agents should be stationed, one at Quebec, one at Montreal, and one at Toronto; and it might be found necessary to have a subordinate officer at one or more of the intermediate places along the route. The duty of the agent at Quebec would consist chiefly in attending to the debarkation of immigrants, and all matters connected therewith. Montreal, as the grand emporium, would also be the centre of the system from which, like the arteries and veins of the human body, extending its ramifications in every direction the tide of immigration would be likely to flow; and as the duties of this agent and of his minor officers will explain the principle upon which the whole system will be put into operation, I shall not carry the reader beyond the district of Montreal. The chief agent being appointed at Montreal, and having instructions from Government to settle any tract or township, or any number of them, shall select a fit and proper person to act as agent in such township, division, or tract. Three qualifications would be indispensable in this officer—sound practical knowledge of agriculture in Canada from the moment the axe is first raised upon the tall forest trees till the flour returns from the mill; a competent knowledge of book-keeping; and above all, sterling honesty. This agent or officer proceeds at once to the division or township allotted to him, and in the most central part of his charge he takes up his abode—here he opens a depôt of all things actually needed by settlers—provisions, clothes, and tools. The immigrant having decided at the principal office in Montreal or elsewhere in what section of the country he is desirous of locating himself, receives a ticket to the officer in charge of the settlement of that division, who immediately places him upon a farm, and at the same time opens an account with him, advancing to him food, clothes, or tools, as he may require, *taking care at the same time that he is improving and clearing at least in proportion to the amount he advances*, so that no loss may be sustained in case of the settler running away. Thus each settler will be provided for till a return crop places him independent of the agent, for provisions at least. Now suppose the immigrant goes on his farm: at November, he will require about ten months' provision before his own crop is ready for use; this may be reckoned at four dollars per month for food, and if he has a family, three dollars a month will find a supply of food for every additional number, so that a family of five persons will subsist during ten months for about forty pounds, and as very little clothing will be needed the first year, say ten pounds more will suffice for tools and clothes. Thus a family of five persons will be maintained on a farm till they can maintain themselves for fifty pounds, even suppose they produce nothing for ten months. The second year scarcely anything will be needed, save clothes, and perhaps a cow, and on the third year the settler commences

to pay back in cash or kind, as the case may be, and so continues till the seventh year, when principal and interest are paid up in full; and the same funds can be spent in the same way in another division or section, and so on, scattering with prudent benevolence the means of independence to thousands, and literally "making the wilderness and solitary place to blossom like the rose." A small compensation will suffice for the country agents, who, if they have acted faithfully, will have secured the respect and esteem of the whole settlement, and after the depôt is removed will remain in their locality, where they will open a store on their own account, will be looked up to as the leading men of the place, and will become their magistrates, &c. &c., in time. According to this system the Government cannot be imposed on, as it may treat rich and poor on the same terms, forwarding all, and settling all who desire it, and *at the same time giving nothing that will not be received back again.*

There is much, very much in Mr. Godley's plan to recommend it, more especially that portion of it which purposes to enlist the District Councils in the promotion of it. Lord Lincoln thus speaks of it:—"Mr. Godley's plan had excited great attention. He proposed to give stimulus to the demand for labour and for emigration in the North American Colonies. His plan was, that for the first year the emigrant should work for wages, with a view to his settling on the land at the expiration of a particular period. This would be the means of forming what he called *nuclei* for settlements, and these *nuclei* would further be rendered attractive by the aid of social and civilised advantages, and by making provision for the material and moral well-being of the settlers. It was difficult to describe in a few sentences a plan that took up a pamphlet with its details; but he believed he had not incorrectly stated the substance of these various plans. The plan put forward by the head of the Colonial Department was more extended in its views. Villages were to be planted at the expense of Government, Government were to send out emigrants, and to feed them by a species of commissariat. This he believed was a tolerably fair exposition of the plan." The preparation of the locality and the superintendence of the location would be far better managed by those resident in the Colony, than by those who are alike strangers to it as well as to the mode of clearing and cultivating the land, and this renders the supervision of the District Council most desirable. The profits derivable from settlement, population, and improvement are so abundant and undeniable as fully to justify the outlay of a large capital, on this security for its future payment. Sir Charles Bagot in a despatch dated April, 1842, after much valuable matter, stated, "It is now a recognised axiom among a large class of proprietors to make free grants of a certain portion of their land, to increase the value of the rest; and there are probably few individuals who would not willingly grant 50 out of every 200 acres to resident settlers with small capital, in the certainty that the remaining 150 acres would infinitely repay them."

Of the large and unavoidable expenditure, aided too, as it has been, by the most liberal and generous donations of the English people, for the purpose of supplying the starving inhabitants of Ireland and Scotland

with food, I make no complaint. It was unavoidable, but its recurrence should be carefully guarded against.

Eight millions of the public money were expended in a few months for an alleviation of this misery, never to be repaid. Surely five millions might be advanced; with a certainty of its repayment, for the prevention of a similar calamity. What security does the Government offer when raising money for the prosecution of a war? The industry of its inhabitants! What indeed did they recently offer when raising the money to arrest this awful famine? The industry of the people! And is there anything in the past history of Colonisation that should induce them to hesitate in offering as a natural, just, and ample security the future value of the lands they colonise? When the citizens of Toronto felt desirous of concentrating the trade, commerce, wealth, enterprise, and population of the Province in their noble city, by improvements in draining, lighting, paving, supplying water, widening streets, securing the health, and adding to the comforts of the inhabitants, they did not hesitate to raise the means whereby they were enabled to carry them on, by the issue of corporation notes, which were not only current in Toronto, but throughout the Province, because no one doubted the future wealth and prosperity of this noble city. From a recent report of its flourishing corporation we find under the head of its finances "the estimates for the current year would stand as follows:—viz.,

REVENUE.

City taxes	£6,225	0	0
Drainage	250	0	0
Rental	2,975	0	0
Market fees	1,100	0	0
Licences, &c.	375	0	0
Fines, &c.	100	0	0
	<hr/>	£11,025	0 0

EXPENDITURE.

Printing	250	0	0
Police expenditure	125	0	0
Fire department	650	0	0
Gas	1,080	0	0
District for gaol	600	0	0
Interest on debt	4,350	0	0
Salaries, &c.	2,420	0	0
Miscellaneous	650	0	0
Add for indispensable road repairs	400	0	0
	<hr/>	£10,525	0 0

Leaving a surplus revenue of £500 0 0

"These latter estimates, however, embrace only the necessary and indispensable expenditures, and appropriate nothing for extending further improvements in the wards and streets of the city.

"There is one view of the comparative state of the city finances in

1834, when the city was first incorporated, and in 1847, which is calculated to demonstrate the important fact that the general prosperity of the city, and the increase of its financial resources, have fully kept pace with the increase of the public debt, and the progress of improvements; and is calculated to remove any alarm which may have been felt at the large increase of the public debt.

"In 1834 the corporation came into existence with a debt upon its shoulders of about £10,000.

Gross amount of assessment for 1834	£2,500
Interest of the debt of £10,000	600

Surplus of taxes over the interest of the debt in 1834. £1,900

The public debt in 1847 is £72,500.

Gross amount of assessment for 1847	£6,400
Interest of the debt of £72,500	4,350

Surplus of taxes over the interest of the debt in 1847. £2,050

Showing a greater excess in the amount of the assessed taxes, after paying the interest of the public debt, in 1847 than in 1834, the rate of taxation being the same in both years, while the other branches of the city revenues show a corresponding progress during the same period. The rental of city property has increased from £1,000 to £3,000, the market fees from £200 to £1,100, &c. &c. &c.; and it was stated during the recent discussion that there would next year be an accession to the city revenues of £500 from the rental of the market block, and £1,500 from tavern and shop licences, which would then fall in to the city—say, together £2,000—without any indispensable addition to the expenditures; while the anticipated acquisition of the turnpike roads and gates within the city might be productive of a still greater addition to the city revenues."

The following evidence, from a vast body of similar testimony, must be considered quite conclusive as to the ever-augmenting value of property, from the effect which remote settlements produce on the trade, commerce, travel, enterprise, and advance of the towns and cities connected with them. The *Toronto Herald*, in noticing the report of the corporation, thus alludes to the wisdom of its large expenditure:—

"But, if the city finances have not only been undepressed, but have actually improved and flourished during the progress of the large expenditure and great increase of the city debt, which the extensive public improvements during the last fourteen years have occasioned, who shall estimate the *inestimable* advantages which the city of Toronto at large has derived from those improvements and that expenditure? Or, who shall presume to calculate the value of the additional worth of property, the increased personal comforts, and the improved health, which, to a greater or lesser extent, have accrued to every man, woman, and child, in the city, from the improvements which have caused that increase of the public debt? Who, that remembers the 'dirty,' sickly town of 'Little York' of 1834, when at certain seasons of the year no man

ventured to step from the sill of his door without first tucking his trousers into his boots, and without, at the very first step, finding himself sunk half-way to the top of those boots in mud; when no female durst emerge from the homestead—when the smallest loads were dragged through the streets on ox sleds—when all our streets and open spaces were studded with frog ponds, coated with green slime, and sending forth, under the sun's influence, poisonous exhalations which invalidated one-half of our inhabitants—who, that remembers this state of things, and at the same time contemplates the beautiful city of Toronto of 1847—with the splendid tunnels which now run through all our principal streets, and effectually carry away those fertile sources of disease, the stagnant pools and muddy surface waters of our roads; with excellent macadamised, paved, or planked streets; with splendid planked side walks, which for comfort and convenience are not excelled in any city in the known world; and, above all, with the immensely increased number, value, and beauty of the buildings, both public and private, which have grown up in every direction around us during the progress of those improvements—who is there, we repeat, that, in contemplation of this comparative state of things, does not feel impelled, instead of blaming the corporation for incurring this public debt, to award to that body the very highest meed of praise for effecting those magnificent improvements, which have conduced so largely to the wealth, the health, the comfort, and to the happiness of every individual within their jurisdiction! What honest, sensible man is there in the whole community, who does not desire to see the same policy continued until every street and lane in the city shall have a full participation in the like advantages? What unprejudiced reflecting person, in fine, is there to be found among our numerous population, who, instead of traducing and abusing the corporate body for their disinterested exertions in this behalf, will not rather say to the present and to future corporations—'Go thou and do likewise.'

Of the vast value of the property of this city, I may also mention that a small strip of garden-ground, fronting the lake, was sold for building purposes last year for £5,000! The value of the property in its principal streets may be judged by the following notice of a sale by public auction:—

"Perhaps the best illustration which can be adduced of the advancing prosperity of our good city, is the value of real estate when brought to the hammer. A striking proof of the force of this argument came under our observation the other day, when Mr. W. Wakefield, auctioneer, of this city, sold to the highest bidder, pursuant to a decree of the Court of Chancery, a building lot of land, on King-street, 22 feet frontage, by 100 feet in depth, for the sum of *eleven hundred and fifty pounds*, cash! being at the rate of about seventeen dollars per inch frontage! The purchaser was John Radenhurst, Esq., and before evening he was offered a handsome advance on the bargain. On the same occasion, another building lot, closely adjacent to that above mentioned, with a frontage of 20 feet, was knocked down to Mr. John Eastwood, clothier, for nine hundred pounds, *cash*. These are sound indications of prosperity, which

cannot be mistaken, because the respective purchases being paid for in cash, were bought for *investment*, and not speculation."

It is useless to cite further examples; the matter to be most deeply considered is, how to turn these facts and this knowledge to the best account. Before offering my concluding suggestion, I cannot refrain from noticing and offering a few observations on the recent debate arising out of Lord Lincoln's motion. The Noble Lord, in his excellent speech, commences by declaring that "his simple object was to obtain from the Government an inquiry, by means of an unpaid commission of able men, whose services the Government could command, into the means by which Colonisation might be carried out with reference to the immediate relief of Ireland, and as bearing upon its present condition. Secondly, in inquiring whether Colonisation might be made applicable to the relief and benefit of those remaining in Ireland, as well as to the increased happiness of those who left it; and thirdly, and not least in importance, whether it could be carried out consistently with the interests and feelings of the Colonies themselves. It followed, that his motion had reference to Colonisation, as distinguished from Emigration; for, if the result of the inquiry should be, that any of these three objects could not be accomplished, he should certainly be, thereafter, an advocate of a measure of this kind. He would not place himself in the position of bringing forward any measure which might be justly characterised as 'a shovelling out paupers,' a most applicable term which had been applied by the present Judge Advocate to Emigration conducted without proper management. He believed, cruel as was the condition of the people of Ireland at this moment, and cruel as would be the alternative, it would be far more humane and justifiable to leave them in their present condition to starve and perish." Again, "he would be told that Colonisation removed the bone and sinew, the vigour and strength, of the country from the land of Ireland, as only those of which the land most wished to be relieved would be left behind. He for one, however, did not think nor wish that such should be the case. Those whose strength had been exhausted in the cultivation of the land were legitimate objects of parochial relief, and, as such, no doubt would receive it; but he believed he had already proved to the satisfaction of the House that there was a redundant able-bodied population in Ireland ready to establish themselves advantageously in other countries, and only wanting to be sent out of their own. He would recall to the recollection of the House that every committee and every commission appointed to consider the social condition of Ireland had invariably, more or less, strongly advocated Colonisation as one of the remedial measures for that country. The committee of 1830 stated that Emigration might be considered as a remedial measure for both landlord and tenant; and it recommended that facilities should be afforded in the shape of funds to defray the expense of a passage to America for a large number of emigrants. The report of the commission to which he had before referred, likewise stated that emigration should be adopted as a mode of relief for destitute able-bodied men. He was anxious to establish the fact that every committee and every commission had made the same recommendation." But, however, the

most valuable part of Lord Lincoln's speech was his just tribute to the worth and value of the Irish as labourers and settlers in America. "Another objection was, that the Irish invariably made the worst Colonists. If they had hitherto been shovelled out from some estates, and obliged to emigrate, it was no wonder that they had been bad emigrants. But he asked whether in reality the Irish were bad emigrants, and whether that assertion was not refuted by abundant testimony and by patent facts? Perhaps one of the most gratifying features during the distress which existed in Ireland was the remittances made by the Irish to convey their friends and relations to America. Last year no one would have ventured to suppose one-twentieth part of the sum would have been remitted for such a purpose. This was one proof that, when removed from their own soil and placed in a position where they could exercise their industry and talents, they could thrive as well as the people of other countries. He believed that the character for indolence of the people in the south and west of Ireland arose from external circumstances, and was not inherent in them. He did not believe in that difference which some persons believed to exist between the Celt and the Saxon. With respect to those characteristics which enabled a people to be honest and industrious, he believed there was nothing in the blood of the Celt which could incapacitate him from industrious and orderly habits either in the Colonies or in his own country, if the external circumstances to which he was subjected could be removed. (Hear, hear.) He might appeal to the Hon. Member for Sunderland whether some of the best labourers on the railways were not to be found amongst the Irish, and he was fully convinced that the same remark applied to them when employed by the landlords. But as the opinion to which he had alluded had been deliberately put forward in print, he would endeavour to show that it did not exist in those quarters where it would be most mischievous, namely, in the Colonies themselves. A higher authority on Colonial affairs could not be found than Chief Justice Robinson, and that learned judge stated, in a letter to Sir R. Wilmot Horton, that, 'taken as a whole, the resident Irish agricultural population of the United States are a most valuable class of settlers, and have done credit to the country from which they came;' and he afterwards said, that throughout the Province their conduct was 'pre-eminently good.' The same views were fully corroborated by Captain Hall. (Hear, hear.)"

Mr. Hawes said, "He could assure the noble lord that there was no want of an anxious desire on the part of her Majesty's Government to carry out the objects he had in view to the utmost of their power. There would be no difficulty in finding fertile land for Colonists, or in finding emigrant labourers. The only obstacle in the way of the attainment of the objects of the noble lord was the want of adequate funds, and unless a commission could devise some means of procuring those funds its labours would necessarily be abortive." Further, Mr. Hawes complains "that the opinions of Colonisation entertained at the present day differed materially from those entertained by the friends of Colonisation in former times. The old Charter Colonies and the later attempts at Colonisation had sprung entire from *private enterprise*; but it was a remarkable feature

in all the Colonisation schemes of the present day, that they rested entirely on large grants of public money from the State, and which, if the Government refused to support, they were accused of being indifferent to Colonisation. Now he (Mr. Hawes) believed that no less than from £300,000 to £400,000, in small sums, had been remitted home by persons in the Colonies to enable their friends here to go out and join them."

Sir R. Peel expressed himself favourable to Colonisation, and in reply to Mr. V. Smith observed, "The right hon. gentleman (Mr. V. Smith) said that the noble earl had proposed a plan in December which he found it necessary to abandon in January; but surely that was no reason why the whole question of Colonisation should be abandoned. If they could open up a permanent outlet for the population of Ireland, they would not only be laying the foundation of the cure for the present and future evils of Ireland, but be establishing new points of connection between this country and the Colonies, to which the population might emigrate. The right hon. baronet then proceeded to express his gratification at the remittances which had been made from Irishmen settled in the United States and in Canada to their friends in the mother country, and which he regarded not only as most honourable to the character of the parties making them, but most encouraging with a view to Colonisation, showing that Irishmen placed in other countries were not inferior to any people on the face of the globe. They had a new and a well-known and tried Governor in Canada, in Lord Elgin. The passage to that Colony was now much cheaper—there was the feeling of a common race prevalent amongst those settled in that Colony and in Ireland, and they might introduce into Canada a loyal and faithful population which would ensure that the connection of that Colony with the mother country would be perpetual. He thought that the circumstances of the country were such that the noble lord would not hesitate to defer to the wishes of the house and make the attempt to see whether they could not devise some plan to relieve Ireland from some part of her redundant population, and by so doing relieve the people of England of a great burden."

Last, and not least in importance, was the speech of Lord John Russell, who said: "And as to information relating to Colonisation, he should conceive the best information that could be obtained, and remained to be obtained, was to be had from the British American Colonies. But how was that to be obtained? Mr. Godley had suggested that the members of a commission should go over to Canada and hold public meetings in different parts of the Province, and there explain their plans of Colonisation, and ask the assent of those meetings to them. If that were to be the plan adopted to obtain the information, nothing could be more unsatisfactory. The assemblage, not knowing what amount of taxation should be imposed, or what the practical details of the scheme would be, would come to a resolution in the way persons did who went to hear a good speech at a meeting, and they would thus have some forty meetings in Canada approving of the scheme of Colonisation submitted to them, without considering the details of execution. But if they did really want to get valuable opinions, they should first take that of the

Governor-General in Council; and as they had talked of the merits of other governors, he should say that no man was more capable than Lord Elgin of fairly placing before the Government of this country and that House a clear and distinct view, both as to the general principles of policy and matters of detail by which their measure should be regulated. They should next get the opinion of the Executive Council of Canada, who had great experience as to the mode of employment and remuneration of labour; and lastly, they should have the opinion of the Provincial Assembly. It was through such channels, and not a commission, that they should seek information; for what authority could a commission have to call upon the Executive Council or Legislature to give their opinions? A message for inquiry should come from the Crown to those organs of the Crown who were accustomed to transact business with the Executive and Legislative bodies. Instead then of appointing a commission, they had three gentlemen of considerable experience in the subject, and who had been devoting themselves to it year after year, who would call upon practical men of weight and authority, of public companies, and of the different landed societies, and others connected with Canada, who could give the information required.

“ Many of the emigrants went out upon their own resources—many, principally in Scotland, went out with means furnished by their landlords, and a very great number went out with means furnished by their friends, who had emigrated in former years. He had great satisfaction in stating that, from good information, he was able to say that the amount furnished by the latter mode, during the present year, was not less than £200,000. (Cheers.) Of all the plans which he had seen that had been under consideration, that which appeared to be the most practical was the one for aiding and assisting in public works in those Provinces to which the emigrants were likely to be directed; but he did not think that the adoption of such a plan depended merely upon general maxims, or upon abstract principles upon the subject of emigration. He thought at this time, with the difficulties of the money market—with the immense absorption of capital in railroads in the United Kingdom, that, asking the House for some fresh drain of money—for some large diversion of capital, in order to aid public works in British North America, would be a most inopportune and unseasonable proposal for Government to make. He therefore thought that such a proposal was not to be merely measured by its abstract wisdom and justice, but must be suited to the particular time in which it was made; but that it was in principle far better than any of those plans of making villages—of settling the emigrants in small communities, he was fully persuaded. He was persuaded of it not from any reasoning to which he had come in his own mind on the subject, but because he heard such universal testimony from all acquainted with the progress of Colonisation in North America. They said that if you sent men out—able-bodied men, who could obtain wages, whether as farm-labourers, or on the roads, or on public works, and thus, by earning good wages, come in time to be able to buy little properties—these men would do well, and finally be useful settlers, good subjects, and promote the civilisation of the country; but if you sent

them at once from their habits in the United Kingdom to a small community in the back woods of Canada, you would find this settlement would fail, that their want of experience, want of knowledge, and the deficiencies to which the noble lord had alluded in the despatch—the difficulty of having a plough or a spade mended—the difficulty of having corn ground, and those other difficulties which occurred, would dispirit these men in beginning their career, and the settlement, instead of being a prosperous village, would become deserted and abandoned. Such being the case, while he fully agreed in the opinion which he had stated from his noble friend's despatch, he agreed likewise in the sentence in which, speaking of such a measure, he said, 'But great as would be the disadvantages of such a measure, they would still be less than would flow from the hasty adoption of an immature and impracticable scheme; nor did he think it possible to proceed without the hearty co-operation of the Provincial Legislature.' That conveyed fully his (Lord J. Russell's) opinion on the subject."

This debate was the most important of the session; important for its admissions and omissions, its facts and fallacies, its desires and its fears. First, with regard to the commission suggested by Lord Lincoln. What more satisfactory mode of obtaining a practical solution to all the difficulties, real and imaginary, that were urged by the respective speakers, than a commission appointed in the Colony? Let clever, practical, patriotic, and influential men, be selected for this useful purpose; appoint a commission consisting of the Honourable Messrs. Sullivan, Dunn, Elmsley, Sir Allan McNab, Sheriff Jarvis, Dr. Dunlop, and Messrs. Widder and Creighton, together with the President and Secretary of each district emigration society that was formed in 1840, for the purpose of aiding the settlement of Canada, and they would soon determine a safe practical plan of Colonisation that would effectually disprove the oft-repeated falsehood of Mr. Buller, that there were no lands for Colonisation in Canada, and would show to the people of the United Kingdom who are so deeply and vitally interested in this matter, that the Colonisation of Canada needs neither the theory nor cajolery of E. G. Wakefield. It is equally a libel against the sense, as well as against the integrity of the Canadian proprietary, to suppose they cannot proceed without this man's crudities, speculations, and intermeddlings. There is ample scope for his knavery and ingenuity in his New Zealand schemes and projects, without inflicting on Canada the calamity and curse of his agency or advocacy.

Another cheering feature in the debate was the admission that the Irish could be, and actually were, good settlers in America. It is peculiarly the province of hard-working industrious men, tried in the furnace of affliction, to subdue the forests of the New World. The great public works in all the Trans-Atlantic cities, the canals, the railroads, indeed, every enterprise of physical power is the labour of their hands. Another fact mentioned, and with fear and trembling, was, that 54,000 of these wretched beings had left the shores of the United Kingdom in the month of April last to seek that refuge and support in America which was denied to them at home. The following resolutions adopted at

two meetings in the city of Toronto, one for relieving the Irish distress, and the other for directing the current of emigration, will demonstrate how anxious the Canadian population are to co-operate in this glorious and most Christian work.

The Hon. Robert Baldwin was called to the chair, and John Duggan, Esq., appointed Secretary.

1st. Moved by the Rev. J. McCaul, L.L.D., seconded by Skeffington Connor, Esq., L.L.D., and

Resolved—"That the awful state of destitution to which vast numbers of the inhabitants of Ireland have been reduced, by actual deficiency of necessary food to sustain life, calls for deep commiseration and active sympathy."

2nd. Moved by George Duggan, jun., Esq., M.P.P., seconded by W. B. Jervis, Esq., and

Resolved—"That we owe unbounded gratitude to Almighty God for granting to the people of this Province abundant harvests and plentiful supplies of the necessaries of life; and that we recognise in the visitation of famine which has fallen upon our unhappy fellow subjects, an undeniable demand upon our most extended benevolence and brotherly liberality."

3rd. Moved by J. H. Hagarty, Esq., seconded by Lucius O'Brien, Esq., M.D., and

Resolved—"That while those amongst us who are Irish feel it our duty more especially to respond to his call, we entertain the deepest sense of obligation towards those of different origin who generously come to the aid of our suffering countrymen."

4th. Moved by the Hon. R. B. Sullivan, seconded by J. W. Gwynne, Esq., and

Resolved—"That we earnestly hope that the present distress may have the effect of turning the attention of the Imperial and Local Governments to the subject of emigration and Colonial settlement, so that the territories, now lying waste and unproductive, may be beneficially cultivated; and the surplus population of the Mother Country, instead of remaining a burden at home, may add to the wealth, strength, and safety of the Colonies of the Empire."

A public meeting was also held in the City Hall, his Worship the Mayor in the chair, Mr. Thomas Champion, Secretary. The meeting was addressed by several gentlemen present, and the following resolutions were adopted:—

Moved by the Hon. H. J. Boulton, seconded by the Rev. Dr. McCaul, and

Resolved—"That there is every reason to expect that a much larger number of emigrants will arrive during the approaching summer than any former year, and that it is highly important that prompt and immediate measures be adopted to prepare for their arrival, and make arrangements for their relief, employment, and settlement of their families in permanent situations in the interior of the country."

Moved by the Hon. Robert Baldwin, seconded by Lucius O'Brien, Esq., M.D., and

Resolved—"That there be formed a society, to be called 'The Emigrant Settlement Society,' whose particular duty it shall be to put the emigrants, on their arrival, in the way of procuring steady employment without delay, at moderate yearly wages, and of settling themselves and families in the interior of the country; and, generally, to afford information to all persons desirous to settle in any part of the Province."

Moved by E. W. Thompson, Esq., seconded by W. M. Gorrie, Esq., and

Resolved—"That the following gentlemen do form a committee to consider this very important subject, and to adopt such a course of procedure as they shall deem most advisable for the purpose of effecting the objects of the foregoing resolutions, with power to add to their numbers:—The Honourables Mr. Justice Jones, H. J. Boulton, R. B. Sullivan, R. Baldwin, J. E. Small; His Worship the Mayor; George Duggan, Esq., M. P. P.; C. Gamble, Esq., Mr. Solicitor-General Cameron, J. W. Gwynne, Esq., Dr. Workman, J. H. Price, Esq., M. P. P.; J. Cameron, Esq., Commercial Bank; Dr. Hayes, Mr. Sheriff Jarvis, Thomas Galt, William Baldwin, Charles Berczy, Maurice Scollard, J. Lesslie, S. G. Lynn, Hugh Scobie, George Gurnett, Andrew Mercer, John Ewart, George Brown, J. S. Howard, Donald Bethune, George A. Barber, J. H. Hagarty, James Browne, W. M. Gorrie, Ogdan Creighton, Thomas Bell, Thomas Helliwell, T. O'Neil, Alexander Badenach, E. R. Rutherford, William Proudfoot, T. G. Ridout, E. McElderry, Skeffington Connor, M. J. O'Beirne, R. Grapper, Thomas Champion, and E. W. Thompson, Esquires; Lucius O'Brien, Esq., M.D.; and the clergy of all denominations."

Time admonishes me to close, but there is still another subject elicited in this debate, so strongly corroborative of all that I have ever spoken, written, or urged on this subject—of such material and intrinsic importance—indeed, the sum and substance of it all, that I cannot pass it by unnoticed; I mean the prosperity of the settlers, the conversion of British paupers into that embodied mass of industry, which has levelled the Canadian forests, tilled the fields, worked on the wharves, dug the canals, suppressed rebellion within its territory, and defended its borders from aggression—in fine, which forms one of the main features of the natural strength and prosperity of the Province, and the source of encouragement to our untiring perseverance. Mr. Hawes speaks of £400,000, sent in small sums, by these happy and grateful settlers, to enable their poor relatives and friends to quit the starvation in Ireland, and partake of the plenty of Canada. The late Earl Egremont, by whose munificence and benevolence thousands of English paupers, the inmates of its workhouses, have become Canadian proprietors; and when the returns, which Mr. Scrope has moved for, are obtained, it will be seen that never was any public expenditure more blessed than that obtained by Mr. Wilmot Horton, which converted the starving paupers of Ireland into the wealthy, happy, loyal, prosperous, and contented yeomanry of the Newcastle district, in Canada.

What a field is here opened for the patriotism and benevolence of those who desire to turn the wholesale famine and pestilence of Ireland

into agriculture, commerce, and wealth, in Canada. This glorious undertaking throws into insignificance all the enterprises of vulgar speculation. In the glowing language of a late illustrious divine, commerce may flourish or may fail, and, amid the ruin of her many fluctuations, may elevate a few of the more fortunate of her sons to the affluence of princes; but the transfer of a broken-hearted, poverty-stricken people, to a field where their industry and energy may be rewarded by happiness and wealth, is a glory which far outweighs in true dignity all the blazing pinnacles that glitter round the wealth of the nobles of the land. It is, indeed, a cheering thought to the true Christian philanthropist, that near us, and belonging to us, lies a territory so ample, and a soil so fertile, and a resident population so willing, and success so general in those who have already gone before, as are to be met with in Canada—where, for all our pains, and all our sacrifices, and all our outlay, we should be certain of a repayment more substantial than was ever wafted by richly-laden flotilla to our shores—where the return comes to us, not only in that immediate relief from the most dire and dreadful calamity which can encompass a people, but in that solid increment of value fixed and perpetuated on the recipients of our aid, their conversion from objects of our sympathy and compassion into sources of our admiration and delight.

The neglect of a Colony, says Bacon, is a sin:—"It is the sinfulness thing in the world to forsake or destitute a plantation once in forwardness; for, besides the dishonour, it is the guiltiness of blood of many commiserable persons." Let it not be longer our reproach as a nation that scenes of such shuddering horror and frightful extent should again take place when we have a Colony like Canada, with such a people ready, willing, desirous of co-operating with us in the removal of such a giant evil and such great disgrace. In the hope and prayer that this glorious consummation may be realised, I conclude with the same desire, so beautifully and fervently expressed by its late incomparable governor, Lord Metcalfe:—"Long may it be one of the most splendid gems of the British Crown; long may it flourish a land of liberty, loyalty, industry, and enterprise, increasing daily in population and wealth—a place of refuge and comfort for a large portion of the superabundant numbers which the genius of Britain sends forth to fertilise and civilise the untenanted regions of the earth; long may the happy connection of the United Kingdom and this Colony in the voluntary bonds of mutual affection, be an unfailling source of benefit and prosperity to both; and long may Canada rejoice in aiding and upholding the grandeur, might, and integrity of the British empire."

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Portsmouth, June, 1847.

THOMAS ROLPH.

P.S.—Since writing the foregoing article, the files of Canadian papers have arrived, containing the opinions of the respective editors on Mr. Godley's plan. They are almost all condemnatory, not so much from an impartial consideration of the plan itself as the apprehension that it is another scheme of E. G. Wakefield's, which would prove as abortive in the promotion of Colonisation as his notorious Beauharnais job, which did nothing but enrich himself, and divert a national canal from its legitimate route

through the lands of a public company. The views of the editor of the *British Whig* are nearly those of the Province of Canada:—"We should not be surprised to hear that that arch vagabond, Mr. Edward Gibbon Wakefield, has had a hand in the concoction of this scheme. The memorial! is well written, and with a knowledge of Canada unlikely to be possessed by either of the three gentlemen, whose names are at the foot of the circular to the press, published in our last. Mr. Wakefield, by this time, in all probability has spent the money he gained by the Beauharnais Land Company job, and is doubtless willing and able to embark in some other money-making project."

