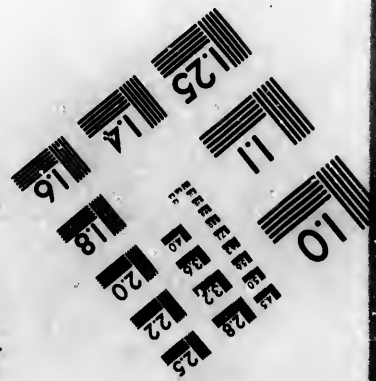
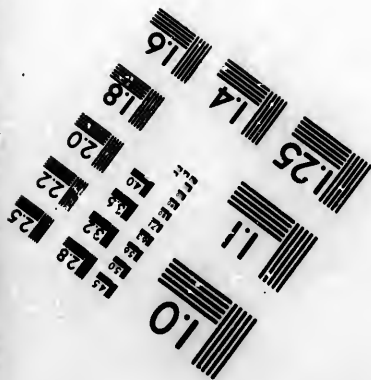
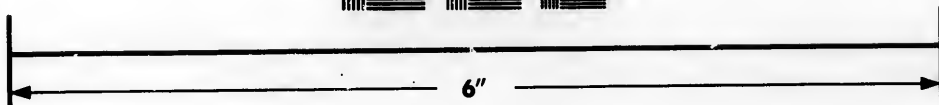
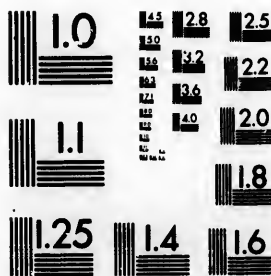


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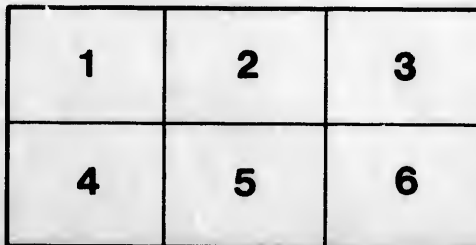
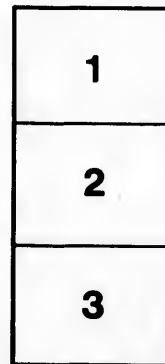
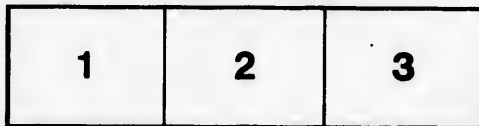
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6

WIT

**A PLAN**  
**OF**  
**SETTLEMENT & COLONIZATION.**

**ADAPTED TO ALL THE**

**BRITISH NORTH AMERICAN PROVINCES**

**CONTAINED**

**IN A SERIES OF LETTERS**

**FROM**

**JAMES FITZGERALD, ESQ.,**

**TO A FRIEND IN IRELAND.**

**WITH THE CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE AUTHOR AND THE GOVERNOR  
GENERAL, THE PROVINCIAL AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION  
OF UPPER CANADA,**

**AND THE**

**NIAGARA DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.**

**PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR, BY JOHN G. JUDD,  
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## THE AUTHOR'S ADDRESS.

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CANADIANS—men of my adopted country, twenty-four years have now elapsed since I determined to cast in my lot amongst you. During that time I have not been an inattentive observer of the political, physical and moral condition of this great Northern Region. I have had an anxious and abiding wish for its prosperity and progress in all arts and acquirements calculated to raise the condition of its inhabitants in the scale of civil Society; in furtherance of which I laid before our Provincial Government during the last two Sessions of Parliament, my views of a sound system of Colonization as explained in the following work. I acknowledge to you, that the ruinous system pursued in the Land Department, taught me to expect but little or no assistance from the Executive Government in the premises. I now publish the work for your consideration individually and collectively, and I doubt not but that £12,000 in cash, to be expended in the course of one year in each County, (which sum increases every succeeding year) where one settlement can be made, on lands public or private, will enlist your earnest attention. I therefore turn to you Canadians, in confident expectation that you will embrace a system pregnant with blessings to you and your remotest posterity.

I have the honor to be,

Your obedient, devoted,

And humble Servant.

JAMES FITZGERALD.



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## P R E F A C E .

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*To the Presidents Officers and Members of the Provincial  
and Niagara District Agricultural Associations,*

GENTLEMEN,

Your kind reception of my humble endeavour to promote the prosperity of our common country, impels me to the conviction of the truly honest motives which actuate you in behalf of your fellow man; and I feel grateful for the permission allowed to me, to inscribe to your Societies a publication intended to prove the facility with which suffering in the British Empire may be converted into comfort and prosperity in this Province, by carrying out the system which I had the honour to submit for your approval.

The difficulties which appear in the minds of some inquirers to impede a system of colonization carried on upon a scale worthy of the British Empire, have originated in misconception, and have been greatly exaggerated.

But were those difficulties still greater, the real question to be considered, is, the proportion which they bear to the national advantages to be obtained, and to the national duties to be performed.

It undoubtedly behoves practical statesmen to ascertain the obstacles which impede their policy, but it is the glory of a great state to overcome such obstacles when national interests are involved.

In submitting a proposal for improvement to Cromwell, a man of practical science asked "can anything of this nature seem difficult to a state resolved to do good to its people?" "Difficulties are the bonds of narrow minds; but such is not the heart of a state." Successive Imperial Governments

and successive Imperial Parliaments have considered this subject, but have shrunk from the performance of the great practical duties which their investigations ought to have enforced.

For many years I have tried to urge these arguments on my friends in Ireland and in Canada. Reflection and experience, as well as a practical and continuous system of Agriculture from my youth, for many years have confirmed the principles which I intend to lay down.

If I now bring the subject before the public; If I have presumed to solicit the honour of inscribing my publication to your Societies, it is because I am convinced of the necessity of adopting an enlarged and generous system of Colonization for the purpose of promoting the best interests of this country, and of strengthening the connection between these Provinces and the parent Empire.

I have the Honour to be, Gentlemen,  
Your much obliged,  
and Obedient Servant,

JAMES FITZGERALD.

City of Toronto, July 12, 1850.

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*To the Right Honorable James Earl of Elgin and Kinkardine, Governor-General of all Her Majesty's Possessions in North America, &c., &c., &c.*

MY LORD,

The importance and the magnitude of the measure which I respectfully beg to lay before you, would very naturally induce a suggestion, to men of much experience, great talent, and consummate skill. The necessity of observing great caution in approaching and praying Your Excellency's support, and advocacy in its behalf, but with me, my Lord, there is no other feeling. No motive but what Your Lordship will find expressed in the measure itself. And when I declare that those motives are my sole rule and guide, I look with confidence, to be held free from all mercenary views. To carry out in practice, the theory advanced, is my sole and only ambition.

The package marked B, containing in a series of letters, the

plan and system of Colonization, and mode of settlement of the waste lands of Canada, together with the report of a highly respectable and intelligent body of agriculturists, and educated persons, on the practicability of the system, it is anxiously hoped Your Excellency will forward to the Imperial Legislature for their consideration, with such recommendation from Your Excellency as you may deem advisable. And I have strong presumptive reason to hope that from Your Excellency's solicitude for the advancement of the welfare of our country, you will be induced to a careful scrutiny of this, or any other design, calculated to confer happiness on many, regardless of the source from whence it may emanate.

With regret I must say, as the system of Colonization is in itself more lengthy than it might be in the hands of a more competent writer, and my anxiety to explain all its prominent features, so as to dissipate doubt as to its practicability is such that I am therefore called on to trespass on Your Excellency's precious time, but briefly as possible, in recommending its great utility, and shall feel honoured in giving any explanation that may be required of me.

That the unnatural agitation now going on in the Province, will have a tendency to keep capitalists from coming and living amongst us, may be very true, and as this injury will have a powerful effect in the wrong direction on the minds of men, who can only give ear to men of capital settling permanently in the country. To those persons and all others who may be so short sighted, I will beg to call their attention to the contemplated prolific growth of one single settlement which I have made out, and which accompanies the plan of settlement, and allowing all those persons to be as sceptical as my Lord Chesterfield, I very much doubt, notwithstanding, whether they would realize in any legitimate business way, an equal profit from capitalists, as they would by the residence among them, of an industrious yeomanry; a nation's pride.

The allusion made to disaffected parties in Canada, I cannot better illustrate than by comparison to the elder son of a large family, who being indulged in waywardness for years, and finding that justice is about being done to his more helpless brethren, fires his father's house, and has the temerity to remain amidst the general ruin he has himself created, still having confidence in the result of his criminal deed.

As the points in connection with the plan and system of Colonization are, I fear, tiringly explained, it only remains necessary for me to inform Your Excellency that my friend Bourke, to whom I have addressed myself in Ireland, is a British officer, and the cousin of the late Sir Edmund Nagle, referred to in one of my letters.

I also now beg leave to submit to Your Excellency a copy of my Application to the House of Assembly last Session, addressed to a Member of the Government, and marked P, from which Your Excellency will observe that the system is the same as the one at present submitted, and asking at the time, only half the amount at present applied for, the present application being for a loan of £200,000 Cy. from the Imperial Government. Sincerely hoping the system may be favourably considered by Your Excellency, and that action may be taken on it at Your Excellency's earliest convenience.

I have the honour to be,  
Your Excellency's most obedient  
and devoted Humble Servant,  
JAMES FITZGERALD.

Toronto, April 29, 1850.

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*To the Hon. James H. Price, Commissioner of Crown  
Lands, &c. &c., &c.*

Toronto, 7th March, 1849.

Sir

In taking the liberty to address you, I beg to assure you that I am solely actuated in the hope of doing a general good, and if I secure your answer approvingly on the subject of disposing of a portion of the Crown Lands in Canada, in furtherance of a healthy system of Colonization, I am sanguine in hoping I am capable of submitting, and of showing a legitimate way for the consideration of the Government, and by which system the people of Canada and the Parent Empire may commence the grand foundation of a long and lasting union, in prosperity and mutual happiness, which should be sought for by every possible legitimate means.

The system I would propose embraces so many good re-

sults, that I trust it will receive some consideration. It will not cost the Colonial Government a money outlay. It will settle the waste lands, and will give food and employment to the destitute; create a healthy system of resident agricultural labour, the want of which system heretofore has periodically drained the Canadas of their actual capital, and Great Britain of many thousands, erroneously supposed to have benefitted this country. It will give a home consumption for a large portion of the agricultural produce and manufactures of the country, &c.

It will also relieve the British Government of a portion of her unemployed labourers, who will be set to work for the benefit of those who yet remain, but who will be allowed to avail themselves from year to year, of what has (may I hope) been happily commenced in 1849, for the general welfare.

These considerations I should hope are sufficient, but many others there are to induce both governments to embrace with avidity, this, or some other system by which the destitute may be provided for, and most assuredly will bring with it a rich reward.

Having thus far proceeded, it is time to inform you how I would propose to grapple with this gigantic measure, from which statesmen would shrink. But if I can shew a clear and undeniable advantage, in a pecuniary point of view, to all the parties concerned, I do hope I will not be considered presumptuous in offering my services again gratuitously in so great, so good a cause.

The basis of the system is, that the Colonial Government would propose to grant to each settler sent out by the authority of the Home Government, fifty acres of land, but in such way as to be collateral security for a loan to be by them advanced on behalf of the settler, to the amount only of the present value of the land. The sum required to be advanced to be disposed of in manner following, viz. :—

Each settler, to receive one shilling sterling, for each day's work performed on his own land during the space of one year; the residue of the value of the fifty acres of land to be laid out by the Colonial Government, on the further improvement of the said fifty acres. The performance of so much labour, I should hope, would be a sufficient guarantee for the sum thus to be advanced. It would also be a guarantee to the settler, that by his own labour, under proper

direction, together with the remainder value of his land being fairly expended on its improvement and for his benefit; thereby placing him in a position to commence repayment of such advance by annual payments as may be conditioned for. Making the land worth double its first value would surely satisfy the settler, and the Government will be sufficiently rewarded by the agricultural improvement of the country, and the happy and judicious disposal of the Crown Lands.

Under all the circumstances, I say unhesitatingly, that both the governments are bound to make a generous and a noble effort to serve the people, and at the same time making a grand, good, and safe investment. And as no lands in the Canadas should be located on under a system such as the present, that would not be considered worth the labourers' toil for twelve months, there can be no difficulty in giving the land a proper value.

The Western District is the section of country which I would suggest to be first settled on from its many advantages and the facilities which it embraces, of an expeditious and cheap transit to nearly all parts of the Province. I find on enquiry that the lands in this section are valued and for sale at from 8s. to 10s. per acre. I would therefore suppose 10s. per acre under all the circumstances a proper value.

To carry out to a successful completion what I have already advanced, it would be necessary that the Colonial Government take up five hundred acres of land and employ twenty labouring men and three clerks, with the necessary working cattle for it, on a settlement of 500 families. Their time to be disposed of alternately between the necessary work and instruction to the settlers, and the cultivation of the 500 acres, which would yield a sufficient produce to defray all the necessary expenses.

It should be distinctly understood that the settlers be subject to the management and direction of their instructors. And as it would be said with good reason that one shilling sterling per day would not be sufficient for the support of a working man and his family, by the settlers observance of proper order and discipline, and by diligence in their work on their own lands, a preference of all public, and harvest and other work should be given to them but without detriment to the cultivation, in all cases, of their own land.

It would be unnecessary to refer to a trial of Immigration made many years since; but having been invariably met with objections from the ill success of the late Honourable Peter Robinson, in 1823, whenever I advanced the utility of the present system those objections were always urged and considered conclusive. I may therefore mention that when in Ireland, having heard his statement of the system intended to be pursued at that time, I said that giving the lands gratuitously, I was afraid would cause the failure of the system, and with gratuities I have ever found it to be the case, when given in view of expecting to derive any benefit therefrom.

Had the expenditure on the public works in the Province, and the annual outlay by the yeomanry of the country, been paid, not to a floating population, but to a resident agricultural labouring class, Canada would wear a very different aspect than what she at present exhibits. For twenty years and more I have witnessed the fact that my countrymen came in tens of thousands, year after year, willing exiles, yet seeking a second domicile under the British Constitution, and here again they were allowed to roam because of their poverty; strange policy indeed for statesmen, in a wilderness !!

I have extended this communication to a much greater length than I first intended, yet there are many things pertaining to the system which would make it too tedious now to mention. Sufficient be it for the present that the Colonial Government apply for a loan of £100,000 from the Imperial Government, half to be laid out in Canada East, the other half in Canada West. This sum will settle 4,000 families and bring into immediate cultivation 204,000 acres of the rich but dormant soil of the country, and I will answer for it, that ere long both the Imperial and Colonial Governments will regret not having moved in this matter at an earlier day, which would prevent most probably, the dreadful havoc of the human family who could have been so eminently and permanently useful.

I have the honour to be,  
Your Obedient  
and very humble Servant,  
JAMES FITZGERALD.



*To the Honourable James H. Price, Commissioner of  
Crown Lands, &c.*

Sir,

In my communication of the 7th March last, on the subject of Colonization and settlement of the Waste Lands of the Crown in Canada, I may not have made my statement sufficiently understood to you, I beg leave therefore to renew the subject by additional explanations.

I know not what the formalities of Governments towards their respective bodies may require, in making applications of the nature suggested by me ; but I do know that the servants of the Crown in every arm of the Realm should waive all formalities when suggestions tending to alleviate great woe in a portion of the subjects of that Realm, coupled with the advancement and the prosperity of the State, became necessarily the topic of communication.

With regard to the Imperial Government granting immediately the £160,000, I will not for one moment doubt, if it be made clear to them, that the sum thus given will be secured and otherwise advantageously disposed of for the benefit of the people and this fine country, their brightest their best jewel.

And can you, Sir, and the other Honourable men acting with you, knowing the value and importance (nay the imperative necessity) of commencing the construction of a leading Railroad, which will on its completion, become an immediate source of large revenue to the Province, hesitate to give such assurance as justice, the welfare of the State, and the love of your neighbour and humanity demand at your hands ?

Are you not aware that the lands in front of Lake Erie, for a distance of 250 miles, are comparatively valueless in consequence of the want of even temporary Harbours or Shipping Ports ; would not the construction of these cause an important change in that great section of country and bring a golden harvest through your Welland Canal ?

The ample scope that presents itself all through the Province for those great and necessary changes would, in my opinion, be soon properly appreciated both here and at home, if availed of.

The next question to be enquired into is, how men set-

tled on lands can be more fit for the performance of those great works than a floating population, unincumbered with lands or families, to this I will answer. The grand mistake heretofore was the nonobservance of the present proposed system. As with the assistance proposed in my former letter, each settler would be enabled, to clear, the first winter, four acres of his land; and being prepared for the spring crops, one half the number of the settlers could apply themselves to any public works, the remaining number with the aid of the twenty men on the 500 acre lots would be able to crop the lands to advantage. And can it be doubted that those men whom I have already described as being settled on their lands, and who see clearly the great and happy change that is being made in their condition, and who must see also, that their own prosperity is certain by being industrious, and whose remuneration for labour returns again to benefit themselves and the country with the prosperity of which they are so closely connected, must be the most diligent and faithful operatives. And however strange it may now appear to you, I am perfectly satisfied you would find not an inconsiderable share of stock in public works taken up by some localities thus settled after a brief period. Here then are to be found in the four settlements mentioned in my former letter 2000 labourers who are in no doubt of being paid their wages, and who will not require more than may be necessary for the benefit of their families whose pecuniary comforts should be properly attended to. And should public works be commenced in the spring, and continued during the following season after those settlements are first made, I would answer for it that a sufficient provision would be in readiness to support the like number of healthy emigrants the following season, and so may be annually continued. And in place of crowding our already well stocked towns and generating disease and pestilence, and consuming large sums of money uselessly, here would be healthy air, a field to work in, by immediate and profitable employment. And I hesitate not to assert that those men thus settled, would actually be to the Government and the country, what the Government in the first instance would be to the settlers.

It now remains to explain what I stated as to the payment of the hire of the twenty men and twenty pair of working oxen required on each 500 acre lot, for the casual

assistance of the settlers and the cultivation of the lot also. I believe Sir, it is only necessary to state, that should the succession of crops with the proper remuneration from the settlers, for services rendered to them, not prove sufficiently remunerative to cover the outlay, the Government would by the sale of the 500 acre lots, at the expiration of five years, put themselves in the possession of a handsome bonus after paying all incidental expenses, and I might with safety say, that at the termination of ten years, the four lots of 500 acres each would disburse the largest part of the principal first advanced.

In my last letter I remarked what I thought would mar the success of the late Honourable Peter Robinson's trial of settlement in 1823. That trial, however, was in conformity with a system which has for a series of years been pursued towards Ireland and her people, and I now repeat the same views I then entertained and expressed. I know of no more fruitful source of reckless idleness and indifferentism than those kinds of gratuities, and had the hardy yeomanry of my ill-fated country been trained in an early day to decline with manly pride those periodical charities and demand justice, that country would long since have filled her legitimate rank among the nations and be the strongest arm of England to boot. And of the actual recipients of those charities how much better off are they now. They shamelessly *skulked behind the poor* industrious man and again and again oppressed him.

There are but few men so long out of Ireland as I am who better know the cause of destitution of that people and country. I therefore take upon myself to say, that there are so many good reasons for granting a relief loan for a time, that I cannot, will not, doubt it.

To help to raise the people from their present prostrate condition, and to endeavour to soothe the harrowed feelings of the nation is a duty paramount to all others, and devolves especially on the prime minister; and as a statesman, he will readily perceive the effect of sending out her 4,000 healthy families; and the prospect your colonial government will hold out to him of having a like number sent out annually for several years, cannot fail to have the most salutary effect, and will tend to keep from crime and violence an expectant people.

In conclusion, I take leave to offer my services, and to say, that if I receive 2,000 healthy families, I will undertake their

direction and superintendence ; the more destitute of means the more welcome.

A chaplain, a physician, and surveyor, with the force already mentioned is all that I will require.

My motives for thus offering my services are known ; I am now in my fifty and fourth year, and if I am spared, I think there are yet seven years of good hard work in me ; this I am willing to barter : for the labourer is worthy of hire.

At the termination of the above period, I may consider my services deserving recompense.

My practical knowledge of agriculture in Ireland, can be favourably reported to any address, from highly respectable men, who were my neighbours and intimates.

I am, Sir,

Again your hopeful and  
obedient &c., &c.,

JAMES FITZGERALD.

*To the Honorable James Harvey Price, Commissioner of  
Crown Lands, &c. &c.*

Sir,

I beg to observe, in addition to the explanation herewith given, that the twenty pairs of working cattle being solely intended for agricultural purposes, they will not be required until the spring following the first settlement.

Also, I consider the safest mode of distributing provisions would be by contract to supply companies ; thereby, doing away with the necessity of hiring persons.

And as large families would necessarily require additional provisions, to obviate this satisfactorily, I would make out profitable employment for every member of a family capable of performing it, and remunerate them accordingly, but proportionately with the shilling per diem to a working man, and as far as funds would permit.

Most respectfully,

JAMES FITZGERALD.

*To the Chairman of the Delegation to meet at Niagara on  
the 4th inst.*

Dear Sir,

Finding that the two agricultural associations (whose testimonials in favor of my plan of colonization are so very flattering to me,) are to meet together at Niagara on the 4th instant. I am so much indebted to the agriculturists of that section of country, that any additional information I can give on the subject, I feel myself called on to do so, and beg respectfully to lay before your meeting on the 4th the observations submitted here on the 20th ult. And I would further beg most respectfully to call the attention of the meeting to my remarks in my letters to the House of Assembly, the last Session of Parliament.

The accumulated and continuous injury inflicted on this country are so aptly and happily noticed by both Societies, that I am persuaded you may deem the present occasion a fit time to address His Excellency the Governor-General on the subject, praying that His Excellency may be pleased to have the matter brought before the House of Assembly for consideration.

I also beg to lay before you copies of my communication on this subject in 1847 to parties in London. Indeed I have always entertained the same opinion on this subject, which now your decision has happily confirmed in view of a favourable result.

I have the honor to be,  
Most respectfully, &c.

JAMES FITZGERALD.

*Toronto, 1st June, 1850.*

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*To John Gibson, Esq., and the other Officers of the  
Niagara District Agricultural Society.*

Gentlemen,

Being intimately known to you, during a long residence in your District, and anxious to submit for your decision a scheme or system for the settlement of the Crown Lands of Canada, a copy of which you will be informed by Mr. Boomer I have transmitted to the Commissioner of Crown Lands at Montreal.

Your report on the same will no doubt have due weight, which I will not fail to transmit without delay, and however humble my exertions in forwarding agricultural pursuits while living in your District, I feel satisfied of their having always received your warmest approval.

Being satisfied that the present plan is the most practicable for all the purposes it contains, be assured it will give me infinite satisfaction if I am favoured with the concurrence of your opinions.

I am, Gentlemen,

Faithfully and devotedly

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES FITZGERALD.

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*St. Catharines, February 19th, 1850.*

Dear Fitzgerald,

You may think I have been remiss on the subject you mentioned, but I can assure you I have done all that I could. At the first meeting of the Society after the receipt of your letter, which was held in the month of September last, I laid the subject of your communication before that meeting, and a Committee was appointed to report on the same, composed of Messrs. A. C. Hamilton, Thomas Towers, and A. K. Boomer. I have called upon some of those gentlemen frequently to report upon the subject, but have received no report as yet. The Committee attended a meeting of the Township of Grantham Agricultural Society on Saturday last, and wished to report. I stated this being a Township meeting the report could not be received by the meeting, but that I would receive the report at any time; it was then stated by Mr. Hamilton that it was the ground-work of the report, and it would be necessary to copy; but as yet I have not received the report. The Society will send two delegates from Stamford, (Messrs. McMicking and Jones) and if I can persuade Mr. Boomer to go, I will do so, and if the report can be had, I will send it together with all documents you refer to; if no one should leave this place to-day for Toronto, I will lose no time in sending them by the first opportunity, the postage preventing me from sending them by post. The papers sent by Mr. Stephenson, I have not

had an opportunity of seeing, he informed me after his return from Toronto, that he had a package from you to me, relative to colonization, and he would bring it up. Mr. Stephenson has been a good deal from home, as I have also been myself, and we have seldom been together for some time past. I would have communicated with you more frequently on the subject, but knowing it would be incurring postage.

Yours very sincerely,  
JOHN GIBSON.

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*To the President and Members of the Niagara District  
Agricultural Society.*

The Committee to whom was referred the communication of James Fitzgerald, Esq., on the subject of emigration, beg leave to submit this their report:—

Your Committee have carefully perused and considered the documents referred to them, and find that the subject of emigration has been very ably treated of by Mr. Fitzgerald, particularly so, as his system proposes that emigrants should be so provided for as to give them a permanent interest in the country on their first arrival, before the ties of local attachment, which form so strong a feature of the British population, have been entirely effaced by continual wanderings in search of the precarious employment afforded by public works.

Your Committee feel convinced that if some system of emigration could be adopted by the Imperial and Provincial Governments acting in conjunction, by which emigrants could be rendered permanent residents of these Provinces, with local inducements to attach them to the soil, a great benefit would thus be conferred upon the agricultural interests of the community by furnishing a more abundant and cheaper supply of labor than can be obtained, and one of the great obstacles to the investment of capital in clearing the wild lands would be removed.

Your Committee feel that the agricultural interest of the country must necessarily feel a deep solicitude for the furtherance of any plan of emigration which would be likely to induce the emigrants to become residents of the Province.

And it must be obvious that this can never be done except by the Government adopting some such course as that so ably advocated by Mr. Fitzgerald, which would impart confidence to the emigrant by proving to him that the Government regarded his becoming a permanent settler as a benefit to the people at large, and therefore held out inducements and encouragement which could not be otherwise than most favorably regarded and eagerly sought after by those who seek to better their fortunes by emigration.

Your Committee regret that they do not see how the society of this district can forward the project or they would gladly recommend that the society should not be inactive in such an important matter.

The documents referred to give ample evidence of the ability and perseverance which your Committee as well as most of the members of our society are aware from personal knowledge are possessed by Mr. Fitzgerald.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

ALEX. C. HAMILTON,	} Committee appointed by members of the N. D. A. Sy.
A. K. BOOMER,	
THOMAS TOWERS.	

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*To the President, Officers, and other Members of the  
Niagara District Agricultural Society.*

GENTLEMEN,

I had the honor and happiness to receive on this day, by hand of A. K. Boomer, Esq., the report of the Committee of your Society on my draft of a system of Colonization, for the settlement of the waste lands of Canada, which I transmitted last season to the Honorable J. H. Price for consideration, but not receiving any notice from that Honorable Gentlemen, I was led to suspect that it deserved no notice being given to it. But the merits of it being discussed by your Society removes the apprehensions I may have entertained of its intrinsic merits; and when I again learned by letter from John Gibson, Esq., of 19th ultimo, that it was further committed to the scrutiny of a committee of your Society, composed of talented and educated gentlemen, it emboldens me in perseverance in my labors.

When I bring to the notice of your Society that no system



for the permanent settlement of the waste lands of Canada has yet been successful, and the innumerable propositions which have been so repeatedly put before the public, both here and in the Parent Empire for approval, have been dissented from, or had not been acted upon; you will, I am sure, readily admit how gratifying it must be to me to receive the approving testimony of the Niagara District Agricultural Society.

To the Gentlemen composing your Committee with whom I have the honor of being personally acquainted, I return my sincere and grateful thanks for their flattering and kind notice of me, and I beg to assure those Gentlemen and your members generally, that it will give me sincere pleasure at all times to cultivate the kind and good opinion of so highly respectable and eminently useful a public body as the Niagara District Agricultural Society.

I am preparing for the consideration of the Governor General a renewed plan of Colonization for transmission to the Imperial Legislature, and would feel honored in attending a Meeting of your Society to explain my views, if required, if a meeting be called at an early day, as I am persuaded this first nucleus of a progressive and continuous system of Colonization, would have much weight if it had the sanction and concurrent approval of your Society.

I have the honour to be,  
Most respectfully,  
&c., &c.,

JAMES FITZGERALD.

City of Toronto, March 6, 1850.

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Mayor's Office, March 11, 1850.

I certify that the foregoing is a correct copy of an original document with which I have carefully compared it, and which original document is signed in the proper handwriting of the gentlemen whose signatures are there affixed, who I know to be persons of high standing and character in the District of Niagara.

I further certify that I have known Mr. Fitzgerald as an

inhabitant of this City for many years past, and that he has always sustained the character of a gentleman of honor and integrity among his fellow citizens.

(SEAL.)  
GEO. GURNETT,  
Major of Toronto.

*Letter from Percy Wollaston.*

*St. Catherines, June 18.*

James Fitzgerald, Esq.

Sir,

Having made kind inquiries of me as to my prospects on settling in Canada, and learning from my answers that I had been an agriculturist in Somersetshire in England, you were kind enough to invite me to your office where you put me in possession of your system of colonization, and the settlement of the waste lands of Canada. I now beg leave to thank you for your very kind notice of me, and I take leave to say that from the papers you were pleased to hand me for perusal and your oral explanation of them, I have no hesitation in saying that your plan is so novel and so every way calculated to insure the most signal success, that I would most cheerfully be, and now propose to become the very first settler under the provisions of your system, fairly and honorably carried out; and I will further venture to add (although but three weeks in Canada) that if your system is made known generally in this country and in England, there will be no further need of inducements to persons to emigrate, being fully satisfied that many of the Agricultural Yeomanry, and I doubt not many of that class of your own country, will gladly avail themselves of a boon so fortuitous and so every way calculated to promote happiness and unbounded prosperity.

You will perceive, Sir, that I see further into your system than you would be led to give me credit for, from two hours interview with you on the subject, and I need scarcely add that I wish you every success in your laudable and humane undertaking, and most sincerely do I wish that your long and untiring perseverance may be crowned by the consummation of your philanthropic design.

I resided in England and emigrated to the States in 1848,

where I have resided till three weeks ago (when I came into Canada) and intend to return there soon to take advantage of D. Webster's liberal policy, which will give 160 acres of land in the Western States to any actual settler, which unless your plan or some such system is very speedily adopted by the Canadian Government, will have the effect of drawing both from your old country and from mine many, yes, very many, of those honest and hardy yeomen who form the strength and stay of any country, and who would rather come here, even to have less land, provided they could have the opportunity of settlement under some good sound system such as yours, (which gives the advantage of well directed associated labor, where everything is turned to the best advantage, and the best markets of the world opened to the produce of the settlers,) but if not, will most assuredly flock to the States to the increase of their wealth and strength, and your loss and ultimate ruin, (by your loss I mean of course that of Canada.) Hoping soon to hear from you that the Government have done, what they ought to have done long ere this, brought this measure before the country, and that it has become a law—and consequently I be called on to fulfil my promise of being the first settler.

I remain yours, sincerely obliged,  
PERCY WOLLASTON.

## LETTERS TO A FRIEND IN IRELAND.

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*Toronto, 27th December, 1849.*

My Dear Burke :

You will readily believe me when I declare to you that I have taken no part in any of the numerous Emigration projects which have been put before the public here, during my residence, now about 23 years, as they appear to me illdigested and injudicious.

The intended plan of an Irish association on colonization to Canada, published in 1846, and their letter to the Right Honorable Lord John Russell, of which I must have informed you, or L. Armstrong, of Cork, at the time; from my often expressed solicitude to enlist the sympathies of some of our numerous and influential relatives in behalf of our suffering people, came so near the views which I always entertained since my arrival in Canada—of a sound system of Colonization, that I addressed their secretaries Messrs. O'Connell, Godley and Grogan, at London, giving them the benefit of my opinions. My letter to them, to which I never received an answer, was dated 22nd May, 1847, but, oh, how woefully did we suffer from the influx of the mass of human misery heaped upon us during that year. What a bad requital for the unbounded charity of the people of Canada.

A letter published in the *Dublin Nation* newspaper, of 15th Sept. last, signed J. S. L. of Bantry, has led me once more to hope that something may yet be done for Ireland. You must, therefore, allow me to call on you to arouse and act in her behalf. The subjoined extract from a pamphlet

of the Right Honorable Sir Robert Wilmot Horton, published in 1839 which only lately fell into my hands, will, I doubt not give an additional stimulus to your best exertions in this most laudable undertaking.

“Nothing but the conviction I feel of the imperative necessity at this moment for the adoption of vigorous measures, could induce me again to brave the indifference, to use the mildest term, with which the subject has been hitherto received. The certainty with which I look forward to the change which must sooner or later take place in public opinion, and of which there have been already some symptoms, also encourages me to attempt, under the high auspices of which I have been permitted to avail myself, again to urge the immediate adoption of the only means by which not only immediate relief can be obtained, but the only means by which we may be enabled *afterwards* to carry into effect benefits not yet dreamed of in either hemisphere.”

I will beg leave to remark that if there was an imperative necessity for the adoption of those measures in 1839, that it is doubly imperative in 1849, and I will here remind my Lord John Russell, and the landed proprietors of Ireland, that the opportunity which yet presents itself of settling the waste lands of Canada with a British population, may not long remain in abeyance. The face of Europe is directed to our Western world. I am happy, sincerely happy, to be able to say with truth that in 1837—8 and 1849 during the disturbances (twin abortions) of those periods, the Irish Catholics of Canada were among the very first to take the side of law and order, and of true and unpurchasable allegiance; and let me here again impress on you that the present is a time, and a happy, though melancholy time, when England by uniting with Ireland *sincerely* can do more good towards strengthening their union, than at any former period of their history, by the performance of an act of wisdom and justice to the oppressed.

It has always appeared unaccountably strange to me that so many highly informed and good men, who it cannot be doubted intended to promote the condition and prosperity of the immigrant as speedily as practicable, could leave untried to this period, a system, by the adoption of which, the immigrant is at once put in the position to commence the payment of a dividend of the money laid out for his benefit, together with the immediate advancement of his own wealth and prosperity. And when I can inform you without fear

of contradiction, that a good laborer who understands chopping and clearing the land to advantage, will be able to chop, log, burn, clear and fence 15 acres of well timbered land, commencing in the fall,—say in the month of October—it will be all completely done and ready for a crop of wheat the following season. If the season should be a favorable one, the average yield would be from 20 to 25 bushels per acre, very often more, but never less than 15 bushels if proper means be used in due season. Such men can be employed at from £30 to £35 per annum, and boarded. I must observe here that a pair of oxen, with some additional help (four men,) would be wanted when the logging and burning commenced in the spring of the year. A sufficient quantity of the land would be prepared in season for the spring crops, such as corn, spring wheat and oats, with all kinds of vegetables, ample store for home consumption, and with a favorable spring, a surplus which may realize from ten to fifteen per cent of the entire outlay from the time of locating the land. I wish you to understand here that the experienced men by their training of the immigrants, will enable them to prepare at least eight acres of land the first year, and if they be active and tractable they will exceed this quantity. Should the occupiers of the land find it more advantageous to dispose of the ashes of the wood on their land, they cannot fail in finding parties who will cut down, log and clear all incumbrances in the way of timber, and will fence it in due time for a crop of wheat, requiring the ashes only as a consideration, and the heavier the land is timbered the better for them.— This operation would be more beneficial to the owners of the land, as a succession of crops would soon put them in possession of a much better description of manure; and the advantage derived from the land from any benefit the ashes may be of, cannot at all be put in competition with the defraying of the expenses of clearing, so that the most skeptical person must admit that I have underrated the net proceeds of the land the first year. I am decidedly of opinion, however, that this department of the agriculture of woodland should be performed by the occupants themselves, as it will at least pay the fifteen per cent before alluded to should the agricultural products fall short of the expectations I entertain of them.

January, 5th, 1850.

The lands in the Western Districts, for many reasons, are those I would recommend being first taken up, 50 acres to be given at the present valuation, being from eight to ten shillings per acre, 25 acres to be held as a guarantee for the advances given to immigrants, but nothing must be given here gratuitously. I have always entertained the opinion that gratuities are the most fruitful sources of demoralization, and my countrymen want them not, they have never shrunk from the performance of their duty, or from working for an honest competence for their families, when they could obtain it—no man in health can receive any provisions, on my plan of operations, without working for them. Had this opinion been acted upon when I first mentioned it to the Earl of Kingston, and the Honorable Peter Robinson at Mitchelstown, in the year 1823, and since followed up I would not have much to contend with on this subject here. I have always been met by objections in consequence of the extraordinary expenditure incurred at that period on emigration to Canada.

When I wrote to Messrs. O'Connell, Godley and Grogan, in May 1847, there were then 130,200 acres of wild land for sale in the Western District, part Clergy Reserves, part Crown Land, and the only sale of any consequence that I have any knowledge of being made since, is a sale made to an Association for the social and religious improvement of the Coloured population of Canada, in the township of Raleigh which fronts on Lake Erie,—you will find their advertisement in the *Globe* of the 3rd of January, 1850, which I will send to you with other papers.

A large number of wealthy farmers in Canada have educated their sons for the learned professions, and as a medical man would be required to attend a settlement of immigrants, I would consider those young men, when duly qualified, the very best auxiliaries we could have in the wilderness, as they have generally a thorough knowledge of agriculture; and the services of such persons can be obtained for about £150 per annum, as they would be willing to advance with the settlement.

Oas maol Coughlugh Agon Braorha,  
Oas mohrig thae veen Agon Drahar.

The above is no doubt Dutch to you, but as I have for-

gotten much of my Irish *larning*, and have not I believe spelled the above correctly, I feel I am bound to give you the translation.

The community without a Pastor is bare  
Man regrets being without a brother.

The paramount necessity that I am certain would exist for the Clergymen of the different denominations accompanying the emigrants to this country, and to be located with them, is to me so obvious, that all the good I have herein stated can be performed, and all which I would stake my reputation to perform; yet without their assistance, residence, and co-operation with us, I would not take the responsibility. And I perfectly recollect that in the letter which I addressed to Messrs. O'Connell, Godley and Grogan, in 1847, I stated distinctly the necessity of the Clergymen attaching themselves to the coming emigrants, and by all means that each religious community should maintain their own Pastor. And tell me not that the Colonization of Canada—the happiness of her people—and the prosperity of the British Empire, can fail under a proper system of arrangement, and I claim for this the precedence.

My dear friend you have a true and faithful outline of what can be done for our poor countrymen here. I therefore call upon you in the name of God and your country to put yourself forward. I will stake my reputation that emigration and the colonization of Canada on my plan, will be the richest boon to Ireland together with the immediate change in the condition of those who may be sent, and the consequent prosperity of Canada. I entreat of you, therefore, put yourself prominently forward, and if any of my old friends who know me intimately, will co-operate with you, believe me they will have cause to rejoice in being instrumental in assisting to relieve the helpless and prostrate people of Ireland, should I be spared a few years longer, and assisted in carrying out this enterprise.

Would to God the Statesmen of England possessed the same clear sighted views, on this great and important measure, that prompted the noble minded Sir Robert Wilmot Horton. I would feel happy in knowing that this good and amiable man was living and possessing the same energies of mind that he did ten years since.



I might say much more on this great subject, and of the cause of the noncontinuance of productiveness in the different experiments that have been tried, and of my motives in not taking any part in any proceedings here on that subject. I will answer all this by sending to you per next mail (if I receive it in time) a copy of my last application, having sent it to the Officers of the Niagara District Agricultural Society for their opinion. I have been their Secretary for several years when I lived in that District.

I will now give you an idea of my plan of settlement and location, as no plan that has been devised or acted upon, has been yet productive of the great end that I have in view, viz. : assistance and provisions must be given to the settlers for one year, which will put them in a position to commence paying up such assistance by annual instalments until the whole is paid off, and you will see by the annexed account what I would require ; and as I am only calculating the expense of one settlement, it may be well to observe that should there be more settlements than one, the quota of salary to the Clergyman and Physician would be decreased accordingly.

Fear not for widows and orphans, I have measures devised for them should casualties on the settlement require it. Widows were never turned off my fathers property.— Also the head money required should not apply in this case which would be 7s. 6d. to each adult.

I must here request you will at least have my motives done justice to by sending a copy of this to the *Tablet* and *Nation* newspapers, with a certificate of my agricultural pursuits, &c., and signed by those who know me, as I am perfectly willing to pledge myself on the issue of my success in this undertaking.

I am, Dear Sir,  
Ever sincerely,

JAMES FITZGERALD.

*Plan of Settlement and Location.*

300 men and their families, averaging five in each, to compose a settlement, and to be subdivided into twelve companies of twenty-five to each, and to each company, who should form one dietary or general mess for all hands, at least for the year, to be attached four practised laborers,

one cook, 2 pair of working oxen, with the necessary appendages, cost of which with provender for cattle, may be rated as follows :

4 Working men at £35 per annum each .	£140	0	0
1 Cook . . . . .	15	0	0
Board for five at £12 each . . . . .	60	0	0
2 Pair working Oxen, Chains, Harrows, &c. &c.	50	0	0
Cooking Stove and apparatus . . . . .	10	0	0
4 Tons of Hay for Cattle at 50s. per ton .	10	0	0
Quota of Clergyman's Salary £150 .	12	10	0
Do. Physician do. 150 . . . . .	12	10	0
Do. Book keepers do. 100 . . . . .	3	6	8
Do. Superintendent do. 150 . . . . .	12	10	0
Seed Wheat and other seeds for 260 acres supposed to be clear . . . . .	57	3	4
	<hr/>		
	£388	0	0
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This would make the proportion to each settler . . . . .	£15	10	4
Amount allowed for provision for each family	22	10	0
All incidental expenses . . . . .	1	19	8
	<hr/>		
	£40	0	0
	<hr/>		

Erecting an ashery capable of manufacturing from 700 to 1000 barrels potash of 4½ cwts each . . . . .	£60	0	0
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JAMES FITZGERALD.

Toronto, 28th January, 1850.

My Dear Burke :

In my letter of 27th December last, I promised to transmit to you copies of my last application here on Colonization, but have yet received them not. I put off writing until the last hour, and as I intend giving you my opinion as to the capacity of our Colonial Ministers, it would not be fair without the accompanying evidence ; and that evidence I promise you I will send if possible per next mail. You must know the mail leaves this for England during the winter (or four months) only once a fortnight. But in the absence of other matter at present, I must say something to keep your mind on this great subject, nor can I better preface it than by informing you of the happiness I felt yesterday in our church on hearing the Gospel of the day read (Septuagesima Sunday) taken from St. Matthew 20th chapter commencing with the first and ending with the sixteenth verse ; were you with me at that moment, though in a Catholic church (one of the finest on the Continent of America) and looked round at the happy Irish faces, between two or three thousand that were there congregated, you would I am sure pray fervently, that our rulers would go out *even at the eleventh hour* and send the famishing poor men to work in their vineyard ; or would be led to say in the words of Sir Robert Wilmot Horton,

“I see a remedy provided at once, natural and delightful, relieving the country in which even civilized instructed man becomes a burden, and transferring him to regions prepared by their fertility and want of inhabitants, and to such regions alone should the excess be kindly and carefully transferred for receiving the labor and skill which may happen to be redundant, thus converting them at once into blessings of permanent and immeasurable value.”

I am grateful in being able to inform you that the plan of settlement which I sent you per mail of 14th inst. has been entirely approved of by one of the most competent and practical men in this section of Canada, his only objection being that I did not allow more funds for incidental expenses, but having explained my views more fully than can be done on paper except at the risk of its becoming tiresome, I found he concurred with me. I will also explain to you some points and herewith send you a copy of

the plan of settlement, lest the one I sent with my letter of 14th instant may now be in other hands.

In the first place, as my object is to do good to my fellow man and to promote the general welfare of this my adopted country, I would sooner first reduce my salary to the standard of the laborer; and knowing the zeal of the Catholic Clergy of Ireland, I believe any of them who may be sent would do likewise, nor need I except the salary of the Book-keeper being brought to the same standard, if necessary, therefore should any deficiency occur, what I have above alluded to will amply suffice for any casualty that may happen. It is not for salary that men should work on such an occasion: disinterestedness should be the motto and I for one adopt it, leaving my services to be compensated for when I can prove that I deserve it.

I may be also asked if I allow £12 per annum for the board of one class of working men? How can I reduce it with proper regard to the maintenance of the immigrant and his family? I will best reply to this by saying, if the immigrant requires a certain course of training to make his labor valuable to himself, I consider that the Irish immigrant and his family will require a prudent and very careful course of dietary training, with proper regard to their health. The necessary supply of medicine will also be required, which I have not heretofore mentioned.

I consider it material to inform you that emigrants coming here at any season of the year in good health, may in accordance with my system be profitably employed.

I proposed to our late Bishop in 1847, that I would take charge of 1200 families and attend to them, if they would get a promise of 25 acres of land each, and be provisioned during the winter, but unfortunately for them, the Bishop died before we had time to make an application to the government here, and the thing *dropped, with some thousands of the poor emigrants.*

Good bye,  
Ever sincerely,  
JAMES FITZGERALD.

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*Toronto, St. Valentine's Day, 1850.*

My Dear Burke :

In addition to my former statements, I have further to observe that the cost of survey has now to be taken up, this I can dispose of summarily by informing you that I have the word of honor of a highly respectable Irishman, and a competent judge, that he will give such instructions as that the survey and division of the land for 300 settlers must not cost more than £93 15s., or 1½d. per acre, and those instructions with every other information I can receive of this gentleman, will be cheerfully and generously given. This is the person of whom I wrote in my last.

You will now ask how are immigrants to be housed? and how are they to be disposed of after the first year, when a clearance of 260 acres will be made? These are most necessary inquiries and most requisite to be understood perfectly.

The men who are intended to be attached to the settlement for the improvement of the immigrants must be employed a month or six weeks before they arrive, for the purpose of erecting the necessary buildings and procuring the necessary supplies of water; and it must be borne in mind, that although each settler is to get 50 acres of land, he must be put in possession of 25 only, during the first three years, or until thirty per cent of the principal incurred from the time of his being located, together with thirty per cent of the price of 25 acres of land be paid up, and by paying which—by annual instalments of ten per cent—the land being 10s. per acre—it would make the payments £5 5s. per annum for the first three years, then the settler should get the remaining 25 acres, and commence the payment of the residue, and of the last 25 acres, at the rate of 20 per cent per annum, until the full amount without including interest, would be paid up; which would make payments £9 17s. per annum, thus clearing off in eight years, a sum, which again goes to the benefit of those who are every year coming and requiring the same protection and assistance. Who is that man that would not work diligently to enable his suffering fellow to escape from starvation, misery and death! Although every settler who on paying 30 per cent, could require to be located on his own lot at any period before the three years expired; yet the great

advantage to be derived, by remaining together as first settled for the full term of three years, would be so much more beneficial, and would leave so much of each man's time for the cultivation of the soil, and otherwise lessen expenses, and promote the general good, that I am persuaded when the settlers would see those great advantages, very few, if any, would be found to change their quarters.

It may now be time to wind up with the most important arm of this system, namely, the necessary funds to carry out to a successful termination this great project.

It must be admitted that the growing prosperity of Canada, and the annual increase of the population, necessarily calls for an increase of the circulating medium also, for the purpose of affording employment on public works, so much is this want generally felt, that I do not hesitate in hazarding the opinion, that a measure proposed in our House of Assembly for a loan for any public undertaking, would meet with general concurrence, and pledging the Province for principal and interest. I will ask, then, can any rational person be found in Canada or elsewhere, who on understanding this system of colonization could think of directing to any other purpose the investment of £200,000, or could suppose that any other outlay of this sum, would cause a benefit to the same extent, as the settling of the waste lands by a resident rural population? Beside the advantage of the increase of population—their requirements annually—the vast increase of the products of the country—the increase of its revenue—and the general benefit that would be derived at home and abroad, the Province would have the peculiar advantage of not being obliged to pay one penny of this large loan, which so directly and continuously would benefit the country. Also *an army of men women and children would* be sent to us who would fertilize our wilderness, and become a happy portion of our community, and repay by their industry all the wealth that might be laid out in this way, and from which we would have the sole benefit, as it is the agricultural produce and the stock and labour of the country that would be required. And let it be *remembered* there should be no hesitation in adopting some course at once, being satisfied that nothing better could be done at present for the benefit of Canada.—I therefore trust sincerely that our Legislatures at home and abroad will look to it, and that £200,000 will be forthwith

appropriated to *this national benefit*. £192,000 is the amount that sixteen settlements of 300 families would require. Eight settlements for Eastern Canada, and the same number for Canada West, £8,000 would very appropriately remain. as this sum would be required for the erection of mills where necessary or other improvements, all which should be proportioned in strict accordance with the relative industry and conduct of the different localities. I also wish that you should understand that the price of the land which is mixed up with the first £40 advanced for the settlers, is to be laid out for their benefit again, deducting from the amount the taxes, after three years occupancy, this I would consider an act of justice only, as the parties who pay promptly, and who evince a willingness to expedite, as far as possible, the assistance and means of settling their fellow men out of the reach of abject distress, should be cared for, and their interests advanced. I here wish it to be understood that whoever comes out as a settler, on a system based as this is, will be vesting his means in a safety fund, for the sole benefit of his family. Nor need he cavil as to the price of his land, as it reverts to himself and his family again.— I dare say you would be inclined to laugh at me if I said the longer the settler continued to pay a reasonable annual sum for his land, the better for him, but bear in mind he pays in kind and receives the surplus in cash hereafter.— No charge would be made on the settler for the 25 acres retained by the Government as security, until the settler gets possession of it; but it should also be perfectly understood, that at any time within the period that any settlement, or portion of a settlement should pay the thirty per cent first required, the remaining 25 acres with a deed should be given to such settlers so paying, taking a mortgage for the balance.

My dear friend, you who know how an industrious person can get on with rents, and all the other impositions in the old world, will very readily imagine what willing nerve the man must have to improve his own estate, and when paying a trivial annual sum for a few years he only lays it up until he is sufficiently skilled, and the sum sufficiently increased to lay it out again, for the most necessary permanent improvement on the settlement to which he belongs, or such part of it as the settler may be more immediately connected with (I here mean the company of 25 settlers)

and be it remembered, that there should be no room for political jobs and spendthrift intrigues, to disturb the proper working of this system, the machinery of which, is just, necessary and charitable, and such materials must beget happiness, if honestly put in motion and kept so.

The proposal that I suggested during the last session of our Provincial Parliament, the copy of which I promised to send you, has not yet returned. I will not fail in sending it as soon as I receive it. I had not the poor satisfaction of being informed of its reception, by the Hon. Member of the House of Assembly to whom I addressed it; but this mode of treatment from some of our *Great Colonial Statesmen is not new to me.*

My dear Burke, could I use my pen as my mind, my anxious hopes, and sanguine and heartfelt expectation, nay, my long cherished convictions have led me to feel on this long neglected, and unthought of system; the unpardonable apathy of the Statesmen of the British Empire, would long since have been roused to an act of the highest and holiest duty, when I have known millions of the hard earned means of the people of the British Empire to have been squandered by political knaves on shapeless designs and on profitless and demoralizing charities, which more easily could be honorably, justly and happily employed. It grieves me to think on it, but you know what slender training I received in my youth, and that little in the school of proscription, from which I could not be taken till I "learned to betray," and in this undignified harness I am allowed to roam, be it so, I yet feel that I have a duty to perform, and however rudely its performance may be considered, in this matter, I am actuated I hope, solely by motives of doing what good I can; and if the parties whom it most concerns will take the trouble of estimating its growth and advantages, it may probably be undertaken *for the benefit of suffering humanity.*

You, my dear friend, now have the principal features of this system, and oh! I pray you to urge it on. A fortnight will suffice to take our poor countrymen from the Quay of wretchedness and misery, to the harbor of happiness and lap of luxury.

Good bye,

Ever sincerely,

JAMES FITZGERALD.



## ESTIMATE OF SETTLING 300 FAMILIES,

*With cost of provisioning them, and the annual payments to be made, and increase of population during a space of eleven years.*

FIRST YEAR, 1851.—Three hundred families at the rate of £5 5s. per family, amounting to £1,575, which divided by forty (the cost of settling and provisioning a family for 12 months) gives forty families.

SECOND YEAR, 1852.—Forty families begin to pay £5 5s. each in addition to the 300, which gives 340 families at £5 5s. per family which amounts to £1,785 which sum divided by forty gives forty-four families.

THIRD YEAR, 1853.—Forty-four families begin to pay £5 5s. each in addition to the 340 which gives 384 at £5 5s. per family which comes to £2,016, which sum divided by forty gives fifty families.

FOURTH YEAR, 1854.—Fifty families begin to pay £5 5s. each in addition to the families of second and third years, making 134 families at £5 5s. amounting to . . . . . £703 10 0  
300 families of first year begin to pay £9 17s. per family which amounts to . . . . . 2,955 0 0

TOTAL . . . . . £3,658 10 0

This sum divided by forty brings out 91 families.

FIFTH YEAR, 1855.—Ninety-one families begin to pay £5 5s. each in addition to the families of third and fourth year, making 185 families at £5 5s. amounting to . . . . . £971 0 0  
Forty families of second year begin to pay £9 17s. per family in addition to the 300 families of first year making in all 340 families paying £9 17s. per family amounting to, . . . . . 3,349 0 0

TOTAL, . . . . . £4,320 0 0

This sum divided by forty brings out 108 families.

SIXTH YEAR, 1856.—108 families in addition to 185 of fourth and fifth year begin to pay £5 5s. 249 families at £5 5s. £1307 5 0  
 Forty-four families of third year begin to pay £9 17s per family in addition to the 340 families of 1st and 2nd years, making in all 384 families paying £9 17s. amounting to 3,782 8 0

TOTAL, £5,089 13 0  
 This sum divided by 40 brings out 127 families.

SEVENTH YEAR, 1857.—127 families in addition to 199 fifth and sixth years, begin to pay £5 5s. 326 families at £5 5s. £1,711 10 0  
 Fifty families of fourth year in addition to 384 of first, second, and third years, begin to pay £9 17s. 434 families at £9 17s. 4,274 18 0

TOTAL, £5,986 8 0  
 This sum divided by 40 brings out 149 families.

EIGHTH YEAR, 1858.—149 families in addition to 235 of sixth and seventh years begin to pay £5 5s. 384 families at £5 5s. £2,016 0 0  
 Ninety-one families of fifth year in addition to 434 of first, second, third and fourth years, begin to pay £9 17s. 525 families at £9 17s. 5,171 5 0

TOTAL, £7,187 5 0  
 This sum divided by 40 brings out 179 families.

NINTH YEAR, 1859.—179 families in addition to 276, seventh and eighth years, begin to pay £5 5s. 455 families at £5 5s. £2,388 15 0  
 108 families of sixth year in addition to 525 of 1 2 3 4 & 5 years, begin to pay £9 17s. 633 families at £9 17s. 6,235 1 0

TOTAL, £8,623 16 0  
 This sum divided by 40 brings out 215 families.

TENTH YEAR, 1860.—215 families in addition to 328 begin to pay £5 5s. 543 families at £5 5s. . . . £2,845 15 0  
 127 families of seventh year in addition to 633 of first, second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth years, begin to pay £9 17s. 760 families at £9 17s. . . . 7,486 0 0

TOTAL, . . . . . £10,331 15 0  
 This sum divided by 40 brings out 258 families.

ELEVENTH YEAR, 1861.—258 families in addition to 394 begin to pay £5 5s. 652 families at £5 5s. . . . 3,423 0 0  
 149 families of eighth year in addition to 760 families of first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh years, begin to pay £9 17s. . . . 8,953 13 0

TOTAL . . . . . : £12,376 13 0

Here then on the eleventh year is a sum sufficiently large to pay off the amount first loaned and leaving a surplus to the settlement of £376 13s. the number of families being at this period 1561, and occupying 78,050 acres of the present beautifully wild and uncultivated lands of Canada.—And all this from the one settlement of 300 families. Casualties of different characters may be reasonably counted on, but from the general complexion of the system, little or no doubt can be entertained of filling up vacancies with avidity. I further wish to remind all whom it may concern that the very large sums of money which are being sent home from year to year to enable the friends of the parties so sending to come out will form a very considerable augmentation of money and forces, and in my opinion will be the means of turning the present annexation scale the other way. I am well aware that very many of my countrymen who had to leave Canada in consequence of maladministration, and by keeping the lands, the only disposable inducement out of the reach of the very persons most competent to make a proper and profitable use of them would gladly return to their friends here, and live on British soil again.

I wish to be perfectly understood, I esteem and respect the people of the United States for their very many amiable traits of character, and particularly so for their valor and love of justice, but wishing a repeal of all the faults, I love the British Constitution. As £12,000 is the legal interest

of the £200,000 loan required, this sum with wear tear and taxes, will, I hope, be considered a full price for all lands belonging to the Crown in Canada or elsewhere, that the Imperial Government may please to send settlers to by this system, so long as the British Government allow the principal to remain with the settlers for the general benefit of the country.

All which is most respectfully submitted,

JAMES FITZGERALD.

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*Toronto, February 28th, 1850.*

My Dear Burke :

I have anxiously expected the return of my papers, from my friend in the Niagara District. Indeed I fully thought he would make his personal appearance at a meeting of the Provincial Agricultural Society which was held here on the 20th instant, for the purpose of determining (with other duties) where in that old and well settled District, the next exhibition of Cattle, Agricultural products and Mechanical works, and works of arts, would be held and although the directors of the Society were unanimously of the opinion that the vicinity of the Great Falls would be the most eligible place for holding the next fair, Edward Thompson Esq., requested information from a few gentlemen who attended the meeting, who from their knowledge of that section of country, would be able to give the directors every necessary information on the subject. After the resolution was moved and seconded to hold the next fair at this magnificent place of attraction, I begged leave to offer a few explanatory remarks which had the effect of changing the opinion of the whole of the Directors, with one solitary exception, a gentleman who resides in the immediate neighbourhood of the Falls. It was decided that the fair was to be held in the old and beautifully situated Town of Niagara. I was happily supported by a Mr. Boulton, a Barrister who resided there for some years, but is now a resident of this city. You may judge of the importance of this great Provincial show, when I inform you, that when the

Directors decided that the town of Niagara was their unanimous choice in consequence of the explanations which they had heard, the gentleman who was delegated by the inhabitants of that town, said that he was authorized by the people of Niagara to contribute in their name £300 in aid of the funds of the Society, and much to this gentleman's credit, he did not say a word about this offering of the people of Niagara, during the discussion of the relative merits of the two places, he allowed the decision of the Directors to rest solely on the explanations given which went to shew the convenience to the Province generally, and the facility of ingress it afforded the inhabitants of the United States. I will continue to send you all my papers, and particularly any that I may find to contain any information on this coming exhibition. I am the more particular in saying so much on any subject thus connected with the section of Canada West, Niagara being a natural and safe harbor and at the head of the finest tract of country on the Continent of America.

You will scarcely credit the fact, when I inform you that there are yet untouched by the hand of man, thousands of acres in every district from Niagara to Sandwich in the western district, where I informed you (and many others for many years and oft) that I would strongly recommend the first settlement of the Colonists to take place. This is attributable mainly to a system of sale of lands when seven years taxes remain unpaid. I have myself bought large parcels of land at one of those sales in the Niagara district most of which were redeemed by the owners before the expiration of a year from the day of sale, with the addition of 20 per cent on the amount paid by me. Another great and most pernicious cause of the non-settlement of this as well as many other sections of this beautiful country, was giving grants of large tracts to persons who are yet speculating on an advance of price to the great injury of actual settlers. This evil has been lately discontinued in a measure. But the worst grievance is, and in my opinion, one of the incentives to the rebellious attempt at separation from the Parent Empire; that very large tracts of the best land in Canada east and west, belong at present to the most turbulent set of men in the country. It may not be amiss to inform the present and future administrations that an oligarchy of wealth opposed to the true interests of Canada

having forfeited the confidence of the people, can no longer be permitted to maintain its heretofore dominant and pernicious position, our grades of society are too closely affianced we feel as a people, and will act so, I hope. I will conclude my admonition here as I did in 1837, that allowing persons to continue a course of action, manifestly calculated to disorganize the framework of society is not merely a dangerous, but a criminal expedient. I here wish to register my disclaimer to any such experiment being tried; it may cost what it has cost before, and from the consequences of which, I happen to be a sufferer to a ruinous amount, but unfortunately for me, the loss was in such a way that I could not with honor bring it under the head of Rebellion Losses.

The church which I built in the town of St. Catherines, in the Niagara district, was owing me over £700 at the time it was burned by an extra loyal British subject, and property which was proved by highly respectable men to be worth, with a rental of over £200 per annum, £2,000, I voluntarily gave up to my creditors to pay my debts, as in the excited state of the country at the time property could not be sold.

In 1849 the scene is changed. The thing is quite plain to me, a finesse and a wicked game are now at work together, and for the same object. If the finesse succeed, it will suit party for a season. How is it to be defeated? By settling the waste lands; then we will soon find the annexationist induced to turn his attention to more profitable employment; thus only will the country be quieted and rescued from rival political intriguers. I can assure you there are a great many sterling and industrious persons, who are sincerely sick of the intrigue and truckling of parties, and some persons perfectly indifferent about what change may take place, if they can only obtain a quiet and settled state of society by any change. If I took the trouble to read the different annexation papers, and their casual and cautious helpers, I might be able to designate other secret, but most designing auxiliaries; but believing as I do, as with my Catholic creed I have but one course to pursue, and knowing that I could not be enlightened as to my duty to my Sovereign, I read them not. At this distance I will beg leave through you to say, a thousand thanks, and the old Irish welcome to the Irish *Tablet*, who on coming to the

rescue of the long persecuted Irish nation, quotes from high catholic authority, as well as his own political creed, that—

“Physical force to overturn a bad Government is lawful, when the four following conditions meet together, viz.: first when the government does more evil than good. Secondly, when this evil is worse than would be the consequences of a revolution. Thirdly, when insurrection is the only remedy. Fourthly, when it is so in the judgment of the men most eminent by position, sense and character.”

The *Tablet* goes on to say,—

“This we take to be sound Catholic doctrine; the Church we imagine does not condemn resistance when these four conditions meet together, and against all persons who may differ from her on any grounds or pretence whatever, we take the liberty to abide by the teaching of the Church.”

And so we Catholics of Canada.

My suggestion of refunding the price of the land to the occupants of fifty acres, for the purpose of again expending it on the property, and for the general advantage of the country, may not be so favorably received as I would hope, but I will at least presume, that so long as the British Government will leave the principal at work for the benefit of Canada, the occupants will be allowed to use the fruits of their industry, for the benefit of the section of country in which they reside, and for their own advantage, and with this privilege they can be content, and not feel the payment for the land to affect them, should it be demanded. But I would be safe in advancing the opinion, that the wear and tear of four families on an estate of two hundred acres would be more profitable to the country, the parties receiving a free grant, than the same or a similar estate of 200 acres would be to one family paying £100. Indeed as far as I am able to judge there could be no hesitation in deciding in favor of the former. And on this opinion I have been induced, so to recommend free deeds, with other equally strong and good reasons, one is, a boon for the stimulus to exertion, and payment of the sum required for the purpose of bringing others out, who on seeing the example set to them, will have the most salutary effect, and will be the best means of carrying out this

system to a happy and successful issue. I would further recommend that the 300 settlers who contribute most to the fund towards bringing out the second year settlers, should have their application, and the naming of their friends at home who may be considered eligible, attended to. And further, that any sum or sums of money paid by or through any of the settlers for the same purpose should also receive the same attention, with regard to their friends at home.— Here it may be proper to observe that in my view of the system, I consider it but just that both East and West Canada should participate equally in the first onset of this great project, leaving each section to depend on their own resources afterwards, except in cases of an additional loan from the British Government, which, I would say, should also be equally divided, and which additional loan, I am persuaded, would follow if the system be commenced, if it be, other times, and other people will see that your kinsman gave to England a plan of Colonization that enabled her then to defy the world, and to maintain in progressive prosperity those vast possessions, on which it is truly said “the sun never sets.”

I would propose that Quebec and Toronto from whence settlers should be sent to their several destinations, would also be the depots for the reception and shipment of all surplus produce, for home or foreign markets.

The next matter that requires to be explained is what no doubt you called an extravagant assertion in a former letter, to wit, the longer the settler has to pay a suitable annual amount for the land the better. You will bear in mind I stipulated that all monies over forty pounds and the taxes should be the property of the settlers, and to be held in bank for their use, and I need not say how very necessary it would be that those poor people had a place of safe deposit for all their surplus means, and you must also bear in mind that as long as the Government continue to take their produce for the benefit of others, the better for the settlers, as they will have no expense to incur in going to market, &c., &c., and every day spent in the cultivation of his land, is a gain to the settler. They have also the duty to perform of erecting proper buildings for the comfort of the superannuated, or poor among them, who may require protection as here no poverty must beget wandering. The settlers will be in possession of the price of the land to use



for those purposes, and for their own benefit also, as long as the Government continue to take their produce, and the longer they continue to take it the better. Again, with regard to the settler remaining as first settled, I have only to say, that Canada would be the admiration of the world, if this system happened to be adopted since my first arrival in this country, and I need only ask you, what could a poor man with a family do in Ireland on a farm of 50 acres studded with useless timber, but yielding nothing until cultivated (paying no rent if you please) being ten, fifteen or twenty miles from mill or market, without means to cultivate it, but depending solely on his own labor at 2s. 6d. per day to put him in possession of funds for the purpose, and having to support his family, you may judge from this how uselessly money has been spent. When my countrymen are shown how they can live comfortably and respectably at half the cost it would require to live in a miserable shanty, and wanting all the necessaries, comforts, and appliances of a farm, I am persuaded one year's experience would suffice to show them the difference between happy retirement and associated labor.

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

JAMES FITZGERALD.

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*Toronto, March 11th, 1850.*

My Dear Burke :

On looking over the Irish *Tablet* a few days since I was attracted by the heading "Mr. Bright on Irish policy," and surprised on reading some statements of Mr. Bright's relative to Ireland. He is made to say respecting emigration and colonization, "That it may benefit the persons sent, but would not benefit Ireland." This is indeed a strange assertion which you can flatly contradict. I believe Ireland's best income is from her faithful and dutiful children who emigrate to all quarters of the world, notwithstanding Mr.

Bright's assertion to the contrary.\* The Colonization of Canada would be the best boon to Ireland that she ever got, for indeed she has had but few, except as a mendicant nation. And I would ask Mr. Bright if part of the idle Navy of England were employed in sending colonists here and expending one tenth part of the sums that have been given in charities by the British Government for the last twenty years, what would the result be? I will answer the question for Mr. Bright by referring him to my last letter to you, where I say, "Canada would be the admiration of the world if this system happened to be adopted since my first arrival in the country," and I will now add: Ireland would be our Treasurer, Scotland our Secretary, and England—happy England, would be our President. Oh! what a noble Republic would we be. May I ask Mr. Bright if England sent that portion of Irish treasure here which for the last four years were permitted to be devoured by that agent of death, the most horrible, that Almighty God in his wisdom allowed the angel of destruction to make use of, would not Ireland be benefitted and enriched? Would not this living treasure send back the fruits of the earth and the cross of this world to the land that gave them

\* Number and amount of remittances made by Canada Company on account of settlers in Canada West, to assist their friends in the United Kingdom to emigrate during the years 1844 to 1848 inclusive:

<i>Number.</i>	<i>Amount.</i>	<i>Years.</i>
549	£4,611 10 11	1844
790	7,532 10 2	1845
1,101	9,744 3 5	1846
2,081	15,742 13 2	1847
1,839	12,547 8 5	1848
	£50,178 6 10	

Average for five years £10,035 13 4 remitted by Canada Company at the port of Toronto. I have been told on reliable authority in the Canada Company's Office that £27,000 was remitted in 1849—making a total of £77,178 6 10.

birth? And would not the boon be accompanied by a prayer? Yes Mr. Bright,—

The fervent prayer then sent on high  
 Would call a guardian angel here,  
 To watch the ship from foe or fear,  
 And solace Ireland's heavy sigh.

And I will ask this good Mr. Bright (I believe him a good man) in the name of God and for the welfare of the Realm to give his powerful aid, and the aid of his party to this measure of immediate relief. I warn him not to induce the people of Ireland to hope for a speedy change or a regeneration of their country that *could* be made available of immediate relief. The people ask this sum as a loan not as a gift. And I have no hesitation in asserting that the Imperial Government never made a better investment of £200,000. I would beg to call Mr. Bright's attention to the remark of Sir Robert Wilmot Horton in my letter to you of 28th of January last, and hope that he would consider his opinions on Emigration and Colonization, and that he will not allow this land purchased with the life blood of the gallant and noble hero Wolfe, to be torn and distracted between conflicting and undignified parties.—That chivalrous Wolfe for whom England mourned, Ireland wept bitterly, and Scotland in her wanted thoughtful mood deplored; I willingly persuade myself that he who spoke so feelingly on the miseries of his fellow, will not, cannot suffer the children of Erin to remain houseless at home. This good man's blessing will accompany them across the deep, and how anxiously do I hope that he may cheerfully cooperate in forming the nucleus of lasting happiness and contentment in our Western world.

It must not be said that the British Government does not wish to interfere with the maritime commercial department of the Realm, this cannot be allowed a justifiable plea, as the parties to be sent must thereby remain until the most appalling death release them, nor can I consider it strictly correct (with my notions of justice) to employ merchant ships on such occasions, if the Navy of the Realm could without detriment to the public service perform the duty. The people of the Realm maintain the Navy, and any portion of that people requiring aid as in this case, should be attended to. How nobly did the United States Government

set a brilliant example on a recent occasion; and how many volunteer merchant ships could they have got to perform the duty.

Unfortunately for the welfare of our beautiful country, men are found sufficiently capable, but so selfish of power, or so bigotted and wedded to party, as to sacrifice the happiness and welfare of the country to their shortlived aggrandizement; and unseemly as it may appear, I say boldly and without fear of contradiction; that until our statesmen throw all religions from on board the ship of the state, and cling honestly to the general advancement of the mass of the people, contentment, happiness, and subordination, cannot, will not be realized.

I have not read the speech of Mr. Bright, I only read that part of it which I have alluded to. I have read my Lord John Russell's on Colonial policy intended to be pursued, very attentively and entirely concur in the views of the Government towards Canada. It must be gratifying to the Government to know that every honest man in Canada concurs with the British Government in the policy intended to be pursued. But I humbly hope his Lordship will move to "*gild the dome of the invalids*" by sending my poor countrymen out here.

I must now in conclusion say, that I have written to you all through this subject as if you could do everything in it that was or would be necessary. Had George the Fourth and Sir Edmund Nagle been living, I would say at once, go to England on behalf of your country, but as it is you will not, must not fail in putting those letters in such hands as will do them justice in the proper quarter.

I must observe that my last letter to you of 28th February, was very hurriedly, and perhaps disjointly written, but as I purpose sending all the letters to the Governor-General for his Excellency's consideration, and through him and the Government for transmission, I will hope that my Irish blunders will be mercifully considered.

I send herewith the long expected report of the Niagara District Agricultural Society, with my reply, and the Mayor of Toronto's certificate, &c., &c., and will send you the copy of my application to the Honorable J. H. Price referred to in my letters by next mail.

I must now inform you that I have received a note from the Honorable Chief Justice Robinson, this day, kindly re-

plying to my inquiries on this subject,—who informs me that there is an emigration board in London one of the departments of the Government to which he takes it for granted your papers would be most properly addressed. I sent per same packet via Halifax, a long letter, enclosing the report of a large and respectable body as any in Canada, and my reply thereto, with the certificate of the Mayor of this City. Be sure to follow the direction kindly given by the Honorable the Chief Justice Robinson. I beg you will lose no time in forwarding the different documents transmitted to you, in proper order to their address, in the hope that we may not again have to deplore the miserable and destitute plight in which our fellow beings have for so long a period, been mercilessly pawnd upon us. Be prompt—diligent and successful, is the prayer of

Ever sincerely,

And most truly,

JAMES FITZGERALD.

## EXPLANATORY REMARKS

*Given to the Members of the Provincial Agricultural Association on 20th May last, at their request ; and subsequently submitted to the consideration of His Excellency the Governor General.*

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1ST. To provide for the due observance of proper Civil and Religious discipline, it is necessary that competent instructors in the clearing and management of lands should be appointed, and that Clergymen of the different religious denominations should accompany the settlers.

2ND. To secure the regular attendance of the working people at their respective labours, and to prevent the improvident use of food, a general mess is recommended.—The other members of the family to receive their provisions cooked in the shape of rations.

3RD. Another advantage of the dietary system is the opportunity it affords for the training of young persons to become good servants which is the best passport to certain and profitable employment.

4TH. The manufacture of the ashes I consider of great importance ; potash having always assisted the early settlers in this country. Of the maximum or minimum profit as a percentage, I cannot, however, be certain from the variation of its price in England, but its manufacture by a Body or Company must always be more profitable than by individuals, and can therefore be continued under circumstances that would stop its manufacture generally, until the reaction in price. The saving of Hemlock and other barks for tanning purposes, the making of standard pipe and other descriptions of staves, spars and handspikes ;—plank of suitable timber for home and foreign consumption, also the growth culture and manufacture of tobacco, hemp,

flax, &c., &c., all affording ample employment for the various classes of the population will be found profitable sources of revenue.

5TH. I consider it prudent that only 25 acres of land be given to the settlers for three years, or until thirty per cent be paid up, the contiguous 25 acres to be reserved for their occupation on the fourth year.

6TH. It would be desirable in order to extend the system through the country that one settlement be located in each county or district, where lands can be procured and as contiguous to water communication as possible.

7TH. I beg to refer particularly to a paragraph from a pamphlet of the Right Honorable Sir Robert W. Horton, in my letter of 28th January last. I have no doubt that if the class of persons therein alluded to, would undergo a thorough system of discipline and training for three years, the advantage of an education would at this period fit them for the performance of instructors, book keepers, and superintendants.

8TH. Having informed myself that a sufficient number of the mechanics' now in Canada would be found most anxious to become settlers under the provisions of this system, I can entertain the strongest reasonable presumption that the settlements conducted by this system, would prove to be a self-sustaining system.

9TH. It is quite obvious to me that when an active industrious settler is aware that he may be employed at £35 per annum and his board as soon as he fits himself for the performance of those duties, which, being required every year, he would not be inclined to separate from his company to incur an unnecessary expenditure by building on his own lot, a privilege which he is, however, entitled to, when 30 per cent of the cost on his account and 30 per cent of the price of his land is paid.

10TH. The very satisfactory testimonials of highly respectable agriculturists in favor of this system of Colonization, will, I hope, be sufficient to induce the Canadian Government and Legislature to be unanimous in the application for £200,000 from the Parent state, as by a unanimity

of action here we may reasonably anticipate a favourable consideration.

11TH. Establishing agencies and storage places at Quebec and Toronto, for the benefit of the settlers, and for the purpose of transmission of produce to the best markets, in connection with agencies in England, Ireland and Scotland, cannot fail to be of the utmost importance. This will be sufficiently obvious by considering the vast drain on the actual capital of the country from the immense sums of money transmitted annually to the Parent State by the working classes. Some idea may be formed of the magnitude of the total amount, by the fact that £77,178 6s. 10d. cy., has been sent within the last six years from one agency in Toronto, exclusive of all other contributions from other parts of Canada.

What consideration do we receive for this vast outlay, appropriated as it is at present? We receive our fellow men in destitute circumstances; some of them in comparative health are employed by the farming portion of our community, for a few months in the harvests at high wages, and we hear no more of them or their earnings. Others debilitated by various infirmities are thrown for support on our charities, until again restored to health, or sent to that bourne from whence no traveller returns.

Shall we then (knowing the existence of those great evils so destructive of the best energies of the country) shall we not devise and point out a remedy for those long continued and glaring abuses? The remedy is, in doing unto others as we would have others do unto us. The employment and training of those immigrants will give to the country a new and varied capital. Here at Toronto and at Quebec we will have stored for the best markets every growth and produce of our fruitful country, waiting only for advices whether they may be sent.

The parties now sending the circulating medium of this country all over the world would, be better and more cheaply accommodated, and their intentions carried into effect, with a far greater degree of certainty.

12TH. To illustrate in some degree the benefit that would have been derived in pursuing a course such as my system of colonization points out, reference may be made to the



fact, that last year between eight and ten thousand pounds of the public money, beside innumerable private charities, were expended in the City of Toronto, for the sole use of the immigrants of that season. This sum has passed away without leaving the least trace of beneficial influence on the present condition of the recipients. How different the result had this expenditure been applied in accordance with my system. The immigrants knowing that they were to be placed under suitable instruction and supervision would go rejoicing on their way to their respective destinations, and enter with alacrity on those employments calculated to procure for them and their families competence and prosperity. They would perceive that they may after the first year realize a sum annually increasing from £377 6s. 8d. to £2,433,—on the eleventh year for each settlement, live in happy social intercourse, elevated in the scale of civil society, and not as under the heretofore miserable fortuitous mismanagement, remain scattered, peeled and prostrate on the face of the wilderness of Canada.

13TH. The longer the settlers continue paying by their produce the better as they are thereby saved all the inconveniences of making market and providing horses, waggons, &c., &c., &c. The patronage in receiving their produce in preference for the support of the new comers from year to year, and the sale of the surplus for their benefit, must be of such importance to them, that the continuance of an annual payment would be considered a bonus for the privilege.

14TH. That a portion of the Navy of the Realm would be the best medium in the transmission of settlers by this system. I have no doubt, and I trust it will be so considered by the Imperial Legislature fully anticipating the deep solicitude that will be felt by that body in this plan and system of Colonization. I must take it for granted, that a healthy, industrious and sober class of settlers will be sent out, and I am of opinion that many of them will qualify themselves by one year's training, by the observance of order and discipline, to be appointed the instructors, &c., of the second year's immigrants, a measure which must insure the success of the system.

15TH. The Colonial Government guaranteeing 50 acres of land for every immigrant family receiving £40 worth of provisions and assistance, as per scale annexed will sufficiently protect the loan, and I would recommend that in all transactions of this system between the Government and the settlers, no interest be charged.

16TH. By the present system it is so arranged that settlements may be in sixteen different districts, I would propose that every district should be accountable for the proper outlay of all moneys expended by this system on such district.

17TH. That three members of each District Council with an equal number of the Provincial Agricultural Association with the Warden of such District as settlers may be in, and the President of the Provincial Agricultural Association, be a Board of Directors,—five of whom to constitute a quorum, for the appointment of all the parties necessary to be employed on the different settlements with power to dismiss or annul such appointments as they may think necessary, except the appointment of the Clergyman of any religious sect, which appointment should be made by the proper authority of each religious sect, and sanctioned by the Governor General, whose sanction may be withdrawn as circumstances may require.

18TH. That said Board of Directors should meet once in each month, where such settlement would be located, each member so attending to receive ten shillings per diem for three days only, at each settlement of 300 families, with the necessary travelling expenses, such traveling expenses to be awarded by the Warden of the District and the President of the Provincial Agricultural Association; and that a monthly report in triplicate be made out, one of which to be transmitted to the Governor General, and a copy to be given to the superintendant,—the Board of Directors to retain the original until the final settlement at the termination of the year,

19TH. That advertisements for necessaries for settlements be issued by Directors and that the District in which settlers may be located, shall be entitled to a preference on all tenders for supplies.

20TH. That the inhabitants of each District tax themselves with the cost of the necessary expense incurred by Directors for advertisements, and all other incidental expenses necessarily incurred for and on behalf of such settlement or settlements as may be located in such District. But no part of such expenses, or tax of any description shall affect the new settlers during the space of three years after their first location.

21ST. That no settler can be eligible to vote, until after such period of three years, and not until thirty per cent apportioned on his lot of fifty acres be paid in full.

All of which,

Is respectfully submitted,

JAMES FITZGERALD.

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Toronto, June 13, 1850.

*To the Right Honorable James, Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, Governor General of all Her Majesty's Possessions.*

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My Lord,

Having attended the meeting of the Provincial Agricultural Association, held in this city on the 20th May last, and after explaining all the principle points connected with the plan and system for the settlement of the waste lands of the Crown in Canada, which I had the honor to present to your Excellency on the 29th of April last. I applied to the meeting to name a deputation who would be in readiness to wait on your Excellency in conformity with the note which I had the honor also to address to your Excellency, and accompanying the plan and system of Colonization alluded to, when it may be your Excellency's pleasure to command the attendance of such deputation.

After deliberation for some time, the meeting deemed it proper to move a resolution on the subject, explanatory of their views, of the great benefit to be expected from the measure.

However satisfactory to me to have received this approval of the Provincial Agricultural Association on my system of Colonization, I felt anxious from the importance of the subject to receive the favourable opinion of the Agriculturists of the Niagara District, with whom I have been intimately acquainted for many years. I repaired to that District last week, and had the pleasure of receiving the entire sanction and cordial approval of John Gibson, Esq., (and others) late President, and officers of the Niagara District Agricultural Association, and one of the best practical agriculturists in that district. These approvals on the differ-

ent points proposed for the conduct of the system, I herewith enclose to your Excellency, sincerely hoping the Government will be persuaded to take the necessary action on them.

I have the honor to be,  
 Most respectfully,  
 Your Excellency's obedient,  
 And humble servant,  
 JAMES FITZGERALD.

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*Resolution of the Provincial Agricultural Association of  
 Upper Canada, Passed on the 20th of May, 1850.*

[COPY.]

Mr. Fitzgerald a member of this association having laid before the meeting a scheme for Colonization, it was

*Resolved*,—That this meeting highly approve of the plan and most cordially recommend it to the attention of the Government conceiving it to be exceedingly comprehensive and a very efficient mode of settling the waste lands of the Crown, and when carried into effect in the way proposed, will prove highly beneficial to the country by filling up the waste lands with a hardy and useful race of people, that will long remain faithful and loyal subjects of the British Crown.—Carried unanimously.

(Signed)

J. B. Marks,  
 Chairman.  
 George Buckland,  
 Secretary.

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Having written twice to the Provincial Secretary, enclosing in my last communication Mr. P. Wollaston's letter, which appears in the preface, urging upon him the necessity of immediate action on the subject; and showing the importance of the measure, I received the following reply:

SECRETARY'S OFFICE,  
Toronto, June 28, 1850.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th inst, making inquiries relative to certain documents upon the subject of Colonization, submitted by you for the consideration of the Governor General, during the last four or five weeks. And am directed by his Excellency to inform you that the documents in question have been, by His Excellency's command, laid before the Executive Council. I am at the same time to state that it is not the intention of the Executive Government to introduce any measures on the subject of Colonization during the present session of the Provincial Parliament.

The package of papers marked "private," submitted to His Excellency by you is now returned.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

J. LESLIE,  
*Provincial Secretary*

To J. Fitzgerald, Esq., }  
Toronto. }

P. S. Your letter of the 26th instant, with its enclosure has been received.

## THE TRUE CAUSE OF THE PRESENT WRETCHED CONDITION OF IRELAND.

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Few men would be found sufficiently bold, supposing them to possess the power, to voluntarily invite upon themselves an immediate and assured affliction, because of their expectation from it of a contingent future good; yet all men ought to be prepared to turn to advantage and account those leading accidents of life, whether adverse or propitious to them, which occurring without their interposition, and progressing independent of their control, govern their destinies and regulate their fate. So should it be just now with us. The blight has come again. The food on which so many millions used to hope, again has failed, and this afflicted, sinking land is called upon again to meet a fearful drain upon its all-but-spent resources. This looks like doom. God wastes not such prodigious chastisements as these, or sends them unintentioned to some end, not to be reached by means less trying. Justice and mercy may be here combined, the latter being paramount. In other lands great agencies have worked, by other means, producing great reforms. Here all human efforts of redress, however varied, up to now, have failed. God has, at last, approached with His. This scourge has come, perhaps a kind and merciful Redeemer, a harsh, but just, reformer, to quench oppression, and to lift up to man's estate and privileges, a crushed and prostrate people. As such I hail it.

Alas how steeped in misery must that nation be, which needs and hails, so fearful a reformer? How woven into, how inbeinged with its system, must those evils be, which only can be reached and dealt with, by tearing up its web, and breaking into fragments its long existent materials.—

Yet such a case is ours. Reform, or change, with us to be effective must be most complete and radical. In order that its name may represent its functions, it must be termed revolution. Yes, revolution! An usurping, hard-dealing, unsparing revolution. A revolution of orders and of classes a revolution putting up the lowly, dragging down the proud, taking from those who hitherto themselves took all, and giving to those, who hitherto themselves gave all. A revolution giving poverty protection and privileges at the cost of property—invading property and its rights—breaking them down should they resist—turning in fact, when need may be, property into poverty, and poverty into property, making as it were, “the first the last, the last the first.” Undoing and annulling, quickly and at once, the long constructed social misery of ages, and sending upon the world, if otherwise it cannot be secured, even though it should send them beggared, humbled, and unpitied, those instruments of former mischief, who, during their long career of guilt and heartlessness, lorded it over their ruined vassals, heedless what mass of misery was heaped upon the earth, provided that it ministered to their lust of rule, or fed their lust of mammon.

This is not the language of hate or prejudice. It is the truth, and that, too, told by one who, in his heart of hearts, could wish it was not so. But truth must out, and now or never is the time to speak it. Why shut our eyes? Does not self-interest call on us to use them? “Ignorance,” is no longer “bliss,” to be “wise” no longer “folly.” Oh stand we not upon a fearful precipice? The past is breaking up, not by degrees, quietly, or in detail. It is a rush, an outbreak, a convulsion. Systems are splitting, stations moving, dignities and orders are being loosened, dragged down, and prostrated; property rent assunder, abrogated, nine times out of ten abolished; public confidence and credit alarmed and banished, claimants upon us clamorous and not to be appeased; ruin close at hand, redress or retrieval hopeless. Here is revolution, one of a new but most effective order: lawful, legal, just, bloodless, merciless. We have earned it, we have forced it. We would not “repent and live;” therefore “we must die.” Our crimes, our oppressions, our neglected duties, have pierced the heavens, and now the judgment comes.

But judgment to the oppressor comes not alone, with it



comes mercy. Mercy to the oppressed, mercy unlooked for, ungiven by man, sent from a higher, juster, holier hand. Dare we seek to mar or stop it? Can we? To whom comes this mercy? There stood not upon the earth of God a people more debased and wretched than that to which it came. None other whose condition more required it.— Their social state was one great lump and heap of misery. In every way were they miserable and neglected; in mind and body more beasts than men. Objects of plunder and of traffic to friends and foes; a blot in nature, all but a slur on Providence. To think of them with kindness argued weakness; to plan from them redress bespoke a fool. To let them live in dirt, in want and ignorance, ill-clad, ill-housed, half fed, allowed like beasts to multiply, to labour and to die, that was their privilege. To grant them that was deemed to treat them generously and well. It was a boon, and they were grateful for it. License to live was their prosperity. Yet all this while this wretched race had clamorous advocates. Rights and privileges too were theirs. For them great efforts had been made, great victories achieved. They often met to hear of them. Sometimes they shouted and huzzaed for them. Money they paid for them. A hut—a pig—a squalid offspring—rags and potatoes—these were their achievements. Here was a state of being. What generous, useful virtues could we look for, from such a state as that? Yet such it was. Emancipation found it so, and left it so. So did Reform. Such had it been for ages, and such for ages yet to come, had it remained, but that there came for it, at last a justifier, a vindicator, a staunch and stern reformer. One that will place it uppermost—giving it precedence over wealth, and rendering property subject to it, forcing from property, and with no niggard hand, the payment of its vast arrears of unperformed duties. Famine is that reformer.

☞ Look back a bit and understand this mercy. Mercy to those wretched suffering men, so long uncared for, so long the victims of the cruel code of property. Oh! what a code it was. Draco's, which slew, yet only slew, was mercy to it. It harrassed, it debased, it monopolised, it encouraged ignorance, scared away knowledge, ridiculed improvement, threatened innovation, punished reformation.—Complaint or remonstrance it dealt with, as with crime, bringing the law itself in aid to crush and silence them. It

sat within its citadel of guilt, fearless, careless, conscious of its strength, and therefore scorning all assailants. There it had ruled for ages undisturbed, unquestioned, and there it had hoped to have ruled for ages yet to come. Opinion assaulted it in vain. The law itself dared not approach it. At last came Famine. Down she sat before its gates. There she has been for three disastrous years—there is she now again. Her triumph is assured, complete. The code must go—is gone, once and for ever.

The rights, so they are called, of landlords, must be touched, reformed, reduced, and made amenable to common sense and justice. Exercised as heretofore and now, these rights are wrongs, the wrong endangering the right—the drowning wrong clinging to the struggling right, and dragging it under water. The law, which boasts its right and power to cure all wrongs, declares it cannot reach this greatest wrong? But why? Has not the law pronounced the doom of property? Can it but kill not cure? Why not reform, correct, and save? What! touch the rents! the law to touch the rents! Why not? Has it not touched these rents before, aye, and taken them too? Look at the rates. Has it not taken the land? Look at the new Commission. The incorporeal abstract right it will not touch, though working desperate wrong; the corporeal, real substance, the produce of this right, it takes and forces. Was ever mockery like this? Not touch or meddle with the rights of rent! Was not the lay impropriate tithe, and substituted rent-charge, each and both of them, rights and properties quite as much as rent? yet both of them have been touched and taken by the law, regulated, cheapened, reduced, and regardless of all vested rights, despoiled. But that was done to save these rights! Precisely so. Another boon or sop to vigorous agitation. Tenants hear that, and learn from whence redress must come. Let then the law come forth and save the rent as it has saved the tithe.—Something must touch and save it or it will soon destroy itself. Rents must come down, or down come rights. Landlords must re-adjust their contracts with their tenants, or lose their rents and lands. To struggle against a thing so plain is vain and ruinous. What can the landlords do, it is asked? Can they reduce their rents and pay their creditors? Nay, can they keep them up, and hope to do so? Can entries in books, old balances of account, and long ar-

rearages of rent be coined into gold wherewith to pay them? If landlords hope to pay let them reduce; better secure an honest something than lose all. Their very poverty should make them wise. The opulent may afford to err and lose, not so the needy.

This wrong of rent has been with us prodigious. This great reforming scourge, the blight, has come to end it. End it, it must and will. This blight must take away the pedestal and basis on which the evil system stood. What was this thing called rent in Ireland; how struck, admeasured or ascertained? Was it a fair and just proportion of the products of the soil, given to the owner, having deducted first, for labour and for capital, their proper shares? Who says so? Not it, indeed. No, rent was the all, the whole entire produce of the land, save one—that one, just now no more, gone, and perhaps for ever; the potato.—Rent was a spoiler, taking all, forcing it away, forbidding those to live who dared refuse to give it. It took the fruits of labour, the gains of capital, the rewards of skill. Owner of a barren soil, it lent it out, not to support the man who worked it, but to enrich the man who owned it, snatching it back again with a relentless hand from its improver, so soon as tyranny or law could force it. Nothing could escape the fangs of rent—nothing could prosper, but for it nothing grow. Rent took the corn, the wheat, the oats, the barley. It took the butter, it took the milk, it took the cattle, “the lean kine, and the fat kine.” It shared scarce one of all those things it took, with him who had produced them all. Although thus taking all itself, it paid for nothing, expended nothing, allowed for nothing. With insane avarice it grudged the very land, whose fruits it took, the means for exercising its reproductive powers, unless it could secure the outlay from some exchequer save its own. Here was a spoiler indeed!

But then how managed it to get all this, how could it bully into terms like these, the party so contracting with it? Thus it was. The Irish landlord owned that one, that only thing, on which men lived—the land. Here was no trade, no commerce, nothing on which men’s skill or capital could work, save land. To land all therefore came to seek the means of outlay, the road of enterprise, the field for labour. None other was there for them. He who asked and he who gave, knew this full well. The price was

asked, and given, accordingly. But he who asked and got, knew more. For him, he knew there was a ready market, plenty of bidders—bidders unskilled in nice distinctions; bidders who never heard or cared for capital, or skill or outlay, or ever dreamt of seeking compensation for them.—Potato-fed, cabin-housed, rag-garmented, all-giving and nothing getting Celtic bidders, these had the Irish landlord in reserve, and knowing this he raised his price to meet it. Besides all this, there came in aid to him that fatal Irish curse, difference of creed and sect, that subtle fluid, prevailing every thing, alas, with us, everywhere present, even where least expected, regulating all intercourse betwixt man and man, the badge of servitude or power. What cared the dominant favored owner of the soil, how he might deal with that humiliated and suspected class, which held his land. The blight has changed all this, even the last.—Such was that past, which we have now to deal with, such the potato-founded contracts we have now to re-construct and alter the potato-admeasured rents which come to be revised and lowered, the degraded social state which we must seek to raise. Not that the blight alone has forced these changes. Look at our fallen markets—what are the prices there? What can the tenant get for wheat, or oats, or barley, for butter, pork or beef? What though he sell them all and pay their proceeds, can he pay his rent? Yet pay it he is told he must; was ever such insanity as this? What! prices down one-third, and rates and charges raised all but another third, and yet the rates kept up?

Had but our Irish landlords been timely wise and just, they might even against those pressures, have secured their present rents; but avarice, covetous as it was with them of even the uncertain future, has shut them out from that. Owners of a soil possessing powers latent and unused, quite equal by its increase of produce; to redress the now intolerable burthens placed upon the land in its present half productive state, they refused to grant to those, who would and could have thus improved it, such interests in the soil, and such a tenure of it, as would have brought their capital and skill to work upon it. Had such a wise and self-preserving policy been theirs, now would they joyfully reap its fruits. Rents would be paid, fully as well, nay better far, than they had been in times, when, though the products brought a higher price, yet there were less of

them, and Irishmen might now possess and own that soil, which now must pass to other hands. Here is another judgment growing out of crime.

See how those cherished rights, on every hand, have worked destruction. How radical and severe must that reform be, which would correct them? Who can desire to see rights, thus misused, preserved? Who censure those who would enlist themselves to stop their wild career?—Must ruin, wrong, and desolation flow out on millions, that some few desperate men, headless, heedless, heartless, should be allowed a desperate license to do wrong? Do madmen get their rights, are they not seized upon, confined and manacled, even in mercy to themselves? Prudence, the public peace, humanity and justice, appeal against these ill-used rights, and claim their reformation.

Who will reform them, who can? The law? It says it can't. The landlord class? It won't. Public opinion, reason, a prudent necessity? No, these can do nothing. Whence then redress, for come it must? The sufferers must redress themselves. They must combine and coalesce to do so. This is no new idea; no firebrand doctrine, no unsafe advice. No less a man than Lord John Russell, and that not very long ago, pronounced the same. His words can easily be seen. The law, he said, the parliament, or the executive, could not control the landlord, the tenants could. Let them. A minister of state has so directed them. Let them go in, and do it, their safety needs it. Will they succeed? Beyond all doubt or question, if they but try it, and try it wisely. Let but legality, moderation, justice, govern them, and their success is certain and assured. Even without these attributes, some six and twenty years ago, our southern landlords were compelled to strike, though strong, and rich, and vigorous, to an ill-digested ill-directed pressure upon them. Much later still the church, fenced round by law, aided in all its efforts by the hand of power, our courts of justice straining every point to serve it, could not maintain its ground. Humbled, subjugated, starved, it struck. Negotiation and concession aided by the facile folly of its assailants, saved it. Then add to this, that England too is up, on the same question. Scotland has also much in this same struggle to contend for, for there, although the land is not, as here, reclaimed, but only used by those who rent it, yet is the landlord

pressure most severe and selfish. The Irish sufferers and those have yet a common, though not quite an equal cause. Such being the case, the difference of country or creed is nothing. Let them unite, what could resist that union?

What say the landlords? Will they be timely wise and save all this? Will they, themselves, reduce their rents, assure their tenants, render this active seige upon their rights unneeded? Can they endure, or stand enfeebled, harrassed, weakened, as they are, if now assailed? Who will aid them? What hand be up for them? How many up against them? Cannot they see how each and every class except their own, cry "shame upon them?" The law, so long their slave, retires from them. England, so long their friend, renounces them. The government, by which so long they had been duped and used, oppresses them. How can they stand? Only by this, that they be just and wise, and self-corrective. That is their—our—only hope.

This rapid sketch omitting of necessity much which might be said upon this, now most urgent question, comes from no hostile hand.

J. S. L.

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In a work intituled "L'Acadia," or seven years explorations in British America, by Sir James Alexander, K. L. S. and K. ST. J., on the staff of the Commander of the Forces in Canada, in the 5th chapter of this work, page 101, we find the following paragraph:

"Though New Brunswick is about the size of England, its population only then numbered (in 1844) about 170,000 souls, yet there are very many highly enterprising men among its Merchants and Farmers.

"The staple exports are of fish and timber, besides hemp and pork, salt, hides, coals, and furs. The exports may average not far short of 1,000,000 sterling, and St. John's

city alone imports about the same amount of the necessaries and luxuries of life from the mother country. It is incalculable the advantage which would be derived by England if a population of millions instead of thousands occupied the uncleared forests of this fine Province, and to which no long land conveyance, and inland navigation is required; but a short run across the Atlantic brings the emigrant at once to his location, without ruinous expenses."

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## TO THE PEOPLE OF CANADA.

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THE wisdom and justice of British legislation has lately been extended in behalf of the suffering people of Ireland, and the men who have abused the poor as you have been truly told, are now obliged by law to support them. We had no share in this wrong doing, and should not be made to share the consequences, have we not witnessed enough in 1847, yet do we not know, that the men capable of acting as described in the foregoing letter, will not spare us. Canadians, you may be startled on learning that Mr. Godley, one of the Secretaries of the Irish Colonization Association, who applied to Lord John Russell in 1846, for a large sum of money to assist Colonization to Canada at that period spent the winter of that year in Canada. I may here ask the parties at home, and here, who demurred to their coming at the time, did the refusal of the monies by the Prime Minister prevent the poor from being sent in the most destitute condition? Do we not know that the tax imposed on immigrants coming to Canada in 1848 has been paid by poor and enfeebled and destitute persons since that enactment, and will continue to be paid for this description of people, who can be of no service to the country but beget a heavy incumbrance on it? How cruel to transport the superannuated poor, who spent a long

life of toil in their native land in the service of their task masters.

The ablebodied laborer and his family with means to settle on the unimproved lands, public or private, of our beautiful country, are the class of persons we require, and who can benefit this country and those who send them thus provided. The poor rate payer, the Government and the philanthropist who may advance £40 to one family, consisting of five persons, will find that by a system of management this sum will also provide for five times the number first relieved by this loan, and will furnish them all with happy and comfortable homes, and the loan will be paid back at the expiration of eleven years.

The neglected duties of the British Government and their melancholy consequences, and the practised cruelties of the landed proprietors of Ireland we have no share in, and therefore should not have to bear any portion of the burthen, but as a portion of the same Realm and people, and enjoying every blessing, our duty is to assist in providing a remedy for this great calamity. We can do so and benefit ourselves. Canadians, will those lands which are now waste and unproductive be allowed to remain until some speculators come, and buy them up to be rented out Irish fashion to the poor and destitute? No; I cannot believe it, following the suggestions in the foregoing work, you will rather act a wise, just, and merciful part, you will promote the improvement of the country, relieve the sufferings of an ill-governed people, and diffuse universal happiness and prosperity through all ranks and classes of society.

I have the honor to be,

Your obedient,

And devoted,

Humble servant,

JAMES FITZGERALD.



