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A WARNING

TO THE

CANADIAN LAND COMPANY,

IN A LETTER

ADDRESSED TO THAT BODY

BY AN ENGLISHMAN

RESIDENT IN

UPPER CANADA.

1824.



KINGSTON, U. C.

PRINTED AT THE HERALD OFFICE.

1824.

TO THE CANADIAN PUBLIC.

HAVING dispatched the following letter addressed to the Canadian Land Company for publication in London, at the solicitation of friends, to whom I showed the manuscript, I have been induced to give it to Mr. Thomson for publication here; which certainly may answer a good end, as it will afford an opportunity to any in this country, who may see things in a different point of view from myself, to combat my positions, so that the Company may be in no danger of being led astray by wrong information.

The undertaking they are about to engage in, is of vast national importance, as respects both Great Britain and this country. For the latter, it may fix its destiny for at least a century to come, and may have more to do with the destinies of the former, than some, glorying in their might, may be able or willing to foresee. For my own part, I heartily concur in the following sentiments, taken from a late essay, on the subject of a free trade to China.

England! if thou'd'st be England still,
Secure from FUTURE, as from *present* ill;
Nerve well thy TRANSATLANTIC arm,
And worlds combin'd, can't do thee harm.
But if thou damm'st the channels up,
Through which the life's blood free should flow,
And it be wither'd; then thy cup
Will flow with grief and bitter woe."

It is then of the first consequence, that the Company should proceed on the fullest information; for a few wrong steps at the commencement, may plunge both themselves and the Province, into irremediable evils. It has already been attempted to impose on them a belief, that the only thing wanted here is capital. No idea can be more erroneous, and if the Company act upon such an assumption, they will do so at their cost. To say that this country wants nothing but capital, is just the same as saying of a man who is starving to death, because he cannot swallow on account of a swelling in his throat, that he wants nothing but food! What signifies giving such a man food? will he not spit it out and slaver his chin with it? All the food in the world will not save him from death: neither will all the Capital, the Canadian Company can throw into this Province, impart to it the least benefit. As fast as it is injected, it will disdainfully flow back, incensed at its ignoble servitude.

Has not Canada a swelling in her throat? Though she have one of the widest throats in the world, it is literally stopped up. She is not able to receive solid food, but must, like first & second childhood, be fed with pap, till her whole frame be as ricketty as an old wicker basket, when she may be kicked and cuffed to the Devil, at the pleasure of every upstart sycophant. Her throat must be unstopped; the St. Lawrence must be undammed, before any solid food can be administered, to nourish her vitals, and brace her sinews. Have you not had experience of the effect of a little Capital being thrown into the Province? During the war was not abundance of Capital thrown into the Province? Where is it now? Has it staid here?

no, it has fled, because there was no employment for it. So would it be with the Company's Capital; it would make a wonderful show for a little while; but *yet* a little while, and the hue and cry about the scarcity of money would be again raised. Suppose we had all the Capital of England in Canada, and were prohibited from selling, and forced to buy every necessary at the dearest rate, don't you think, that constant buying, and consuming, would bring it to an end?—Will the Company's Capital open to us foreign markets? no, but it will clear our lands. What signifies clearing the lands, if their produce cannot be sold? It is Capital thrown away, and profits nobody. The condition of this province is not irremediable, and whether the Company bring forward their Capital or no, is of small consequence, if the Representatives of the people, *prove but the true friends of the people.*

Let Canada be thrown open to the world, and her natural advantages made true account of, and there will be no want of Capital, whether through the introduction of Companies, or individuals. Capital will always naturally find its way to countries, where it can be securely and profitably employed, and will as naturally shun every region, where tyranny, folly and madness bear sway.

It is with much ado I can suppress my indignation, whenever my thoughts turn to the way in which we are treated respecting the Trade with China and the East Indies. I can see the matter in no other light than as a direct, open, and undisguised robbery upon us. We have been most impudently told by the Board of Directors of the East India Company, that they have given orders at Canton for a quantity of INFERIOR Tea, to be shipped for Canada. Gracious Heaven! what impudence! what an unpardonable insult to a million of brave people, who have so lately shed their blood, to preserve Canada in the sovereignty of England. And yet we are not taxed!!! O! no, *not taxed!!!* If this country be not taxed, pray what country is taxed? Are there verily such silly boobies in Canada as to suppose their taxes light, because the Taxing-man calls upon them for only an annual seven and six pence, while they pay for every pound of Tea they consume three or four shillings more than they ought? & more than they would, if "free to follow nature was the mode."—And for what do they pay it? why truly, to support the shameful extravagance of a Company of Fighting Merchants. Can it endure? ought it to endure? Surely our frowning Gulph, will some day *ingulph* the swindling cargoes of their groaning ships. Let every man in Canada, peruse the following extract from an American paper, and if he have a heart glowing with one spark of patriotic feeling, it will enkindle in him the never dying hope, that his Country will one day have justice.

First Voyage of an American Ship to China.

The following is a letter from the Hon. John Jay, United States Secretary for Foreign Affairs, from Mr. Shaw, a citizen of Massachusetts, written on his return in the ship *Empress of China*. It contains an interesting and well written account of the first American

voyage to China, and will afford gratification to those who take an interest in the history and progress of American Commerce.

The policy of the navigation laws of the mother country had been to restrict our commerce, while we were colonies or provinces: the first fruits of our Independence were a free trade with all the world. The rights of persons and of property had been as sacred and secure before, as after the Revolution; **BUT THE BLESSINGS OF A FREE COMMERCE AND UNRESTRICTED ENTERPRIZE SOON WROUGHT A MANIFEST AND WONDERFUL CHANGE IN OUR COUNTRY.**

Major Shaw undertook this commercial enterprize soon after the disbandment of our Revolutionary Army. He had served his country as a Captain in Col. Crane's Continental Massachusetts Regiment of Artillery, and his conduct and character were so distinguished that he had acquired the confidence and esteem of Major General Knox, and had been appointed Aid-de-camp to that admired and gallant officer.

In January, 1786, *Major Shaw* was elected by the Continental Congress, United States' Consul to reside at Canton, having been nominated by Mr. Pinckney, of South Carolina. He was the first Consul appointed by this nation. Mr. Thomas Randall was two days afterwards elected Vice Consul at the same place.

Major S. died in 1794, off the Cape of Good Hope, when on his return to his native land.—[*Salem Gazette.*

New-York, 19th May, 1785.

SIR: The first vessel that has been fitted out by the inhabitants of the United States of America, for essaying a commerce with those of the Empire of China, being by the favor of Heaven, safe returned to this port, it becomes my duty to communicate to you, for the information of the fathers of the country, an account of the reception their citizens have met with, and the respect with which their flag has been treated in that distant region; especially as some circumstances have occurred which had a tendency to attract the attention of the Chinese towards a people of whom they have hitherto had but very confused ideas, and which served, in a peculiar manner, to place the Americans in a more conspicuous point of view than has commonly attended the introduction of other nations in that ancient and extensive empire.

The ship employed on this occasion, is about three hundred and sixty tons burthen, built in America, and equipped with forty three persons, under the command of John Green, Esq. The subscriber had the honour of being appointed agent for their commerce, by the gentlemen at whose risk the first experiment has been undertaken.

On the 22d of February, 1784, the ship sailed from New-York, & arrived the 21st of March at St. Jago, the principal of the Cape de Verd Islands. Having paid our respects to the Portuguese Viceroy, and, with his permission, taken such refreshments as were necessary, we left those Islands on the 27 and pursued our voyage. After a pleasant passage, in which nothing extraordinary occurred, we came to anchor in the streights of Sunda on the 18th of July. It was no

small addition to our happiness on this occasion, to meet there two ships belonging to our good allies the French. The Com. M D'Ordelin, and his officers, welcomed us in the most affectionate manner; and as his own ship was immediately bound to Canton, gave us an invitation to go in company with him. This friendly offer was most cheerfully accepted, & the Commodore furnished us with his signals by day and night, and added such instructions for our passage through the Chinese seas, as would have been exceedingly beneficial, had any unfortunate accident occasioned our separation. Happily we pursued our route together.

On our arrival at the Island of Macao, the French Consul for China, Monsieur Vicillard, with some other gentlemen of his nation, came on board to congratulate and welcome us to that part of the world, and kindly undertook the introduction of the Americans to the Portuguese Governor. The little time that we were there was taken up by the good offices of the Consul, and those of the Swedes and Imperialists, who still remained at Macao. The other Europeans had repaired to Canton. Three days afterwards, we finished our outward-bound voyage. Previous to coming to anchor, we saluted the shipping in the river with thirteen guns, which were answered by the several commodores of the European nations, each of whom sent an officer to compliment us on our arrival. These visits were returned by the Captain and Supercargoes in the afternoon, who were again saluted by the respective ships, as they finished their respective visits. When the French sent their officers to congratulate us, they added to the obligations we were under to them, by furnishing men, boats, and anchors, to assist us in coming to safe and convenient moorings. Nor did their good offices stop here; they furnished us with part of their bankfall, & insisted that until we were settled, we should take up our quarters with them at Canton:

The day of our arrival at Canton, August 30, and the two following days, we were visited by the Chinese merchants, and the chiefs and gentlemen of the several European establishments. The Chinese are very indulgent towards us; they styled us the *New People*, and when by the map we conveyed to them an idea of the extent of our country, with its present and increasing population, they were highly pleased at the prospect of so considerable a market for the productions of theirs.

We left Canton the 27th December, & on our return, refreshed at the *Cape of Good Hope*; where we found a most friendly reception. After remaining there five days we sailed for America, & arrived in this port on the 11th instant.

To every lover of his country, as well as to those more immediately concerned in commerce, it must be a pleasing reflection that a communication is thus happily opened between us and the eastern extreme of the globe; and it adds very sensibly to the pleasure of this reflection, that the voyage has been performed in so short a space of time, and attended with the loss only of one man. To Captain Green and his officers every commendation is due, for their unwearied and successful endeavors in bringing it to this most for-

fortunate issue, which fully justifies the confidence reposed in the enterprise.

Permit me, sir, to accompany this letter with the two pieces of silk, presented me by the *Fuen* of Canton, as a mark of his good disposition towards the American nation. In that view I consider myself as peculiarly honoured in being charged with this testimony of the friendship of the Chinese for a people who may in a few years prosecute a commerce with the subjects of that empire, under advantages equal, if not superior, to those enjoyed by any other nation whatever.

I have the honour to be, with the most perfect respect, sir, your most obedient and very humble servant,
 SAMUEL SHAW.
The honourable the Minister of the United States for Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Jay laid this letter and the two pieces of silk mentioned in it, before Congress. They were pleased to return the silk to Mr. Shaw, and ordered Mr. Jay to inform him that they felt a peculiar satisfaction in the successful issue of that first effort of the citizens of America, to establish a direct trade with China, which did so much honour to its undertakers and conductors."

It was the sentiment of some of the wisest statesmen of whom Great Britain could ever boast, that Canada should be left nothing to envy in her neighbouring States. A sentiment which if uttered in vain, will assuredly in no far distant times, involve consequences of direful import to our mother country. "*Non meministi verbum preceptoris*"?

If the Representatives of the people be aware of their strength, and of the sacredness of their trust; if they be alive to the causes of our dilapidated and degraded state, they will have the glory to uplift us from the mire, and start us in a race of prosperity with the U. States, who, though she have been running these forty years, we should not despair of overtaking.

We are told, on all hands, what wonderful natural facilities we have for trade and commerce! How pleasing it must be to a child, to be shewn heaps of the nicest cherries in the world! but alas! if the child be denied a taste of them, what would be its feelings? why like ours, who are amused with talk about our trading facilities, without being allowed to avail ourselves of them. As a plaster for our sores, at the crisis of their utmost smarting, we are deridingly told to **GROW HEMP!!!*** and in the very quintessence of complaisance, the House of Assembly votes some hundreds of pounds to buy a machine for dressing it! Surely the members must have been crazy.—I cannot withstand the temptation of giving another extract from an American paper. Heavens! what a contrast to our desolate, grass-growing streets, and our few greedy, starving pedlars, self-dubbed Merchants!!!

Appearance of our Wharves.—The present is truly a busy time in New-York. The southern and the northern markets seem to be employing every hand, and tasking the strength of every mercantile

* Fit recommendation to a desponding people!

mind. The multitude of goods on the wharves, and the great quantities going to the same destination, are cheering sights to the lover of his country's commerce. In a few weeks we may expect our navigation to close, and therefore, every hand is strained in making up supplies for the interior. The book-keeper wields his pen in haste, and the active salesman dashes down the restless piece of goods on the counter. The Auctioneer has few monotonous repetitions to make, for the sound of the hammer is a finale as delightful to some ears, as that of Miss Kelly's melody to the dilettanti.

What a bustle on the wharves! What a hurry and confusion on the deck of a vessel just ready for departure! Trunks, chests, and band boxes, crowd the wharf; men with hurried steps, and beautiful females with anxious faces, blend themselves with the confusion.— Even a saunterer may sometimes perceive horses shipping for the south, and cows with their docile calves, stepping stately over the deck of the vessel. Here comes the passenger, with an umbrella or a bundle in his hand; and then follows at his heels the grinning black waiter, with his trunk on his head.—[*N. York Pat.*]

Our Assemblymen ought to reflect on the good natured and complying disposition of the British Legislature. It is but ask & have, as is shewn by their ready assent to the Canada Trade act, & to the East India Company's supplying us with Tea, direct from China. Both, to be sure are monstrous absurdities, and pernicious in the extreme; but the British Government cannot be blamed for this. They granted what we asked, and humbly begged, and prayed for, and how were they to know, that what we so humbly and earnestly besought them to grant, would choke us? They complied with our wishes, and merit our thanks, and we ought to receive their ready assent to our desires, as a pledge of their sincerity and good will towards us. It is to the besotted ignorance, or servility, or treachery of individuals among ourselves, this country is indebted for it's present calamitous situation; *nothing to the British Government.*

A due pondering on this fact will awaken our Representatives to the expediency of shoving past the Legislative Council, and thrusting themselves into the notice of our Sovereign, backed and strengthened by the earnest supplications of the whole body of their constituents. It is thus, and thus alone, our country can ever attract the respect of the British King, the British Parliament, or the British people. What! suppose they, in their first application, should meet with a rebuff? Let them try again, and again, and again. Let them beg, entreat, & implore. It is manly & christian like to persevere. We are expressly and strictly commanded to perseverance by the words of our Saviour, St. Luke XI. 8, 9, 10 verses, "I say unto you, though he will not rise, because he is his friend, because of his importunity, he will rise and give him as many as he needeth."

"And I say unto you, ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. "For every one that asketh, receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."

What can be more plain than this? We are affectionately, but peremptorily enjoined, by the highest of all authorities, to reiterate our prayers, till they are granted. We are commanded to be even *importunate* in our demands, and not to cease asking till we obtain our desires; consequently every member of Assembly who shall object to petition His Majesty for a redress of our manifold grievances, fails to discharge one of the most important Christian duties. The way is so clear to our Representatives, that I see not how they can mistake.

The House having undergone an important change, the Country is full of hope. Less babbling and more work; more economy and less parsimony: less puerility, and more manliness; less brazen-faced impudence, and more modest merit; less sycophancy, and more independence of spirit; less unintelligible jargon, and more common-sense talk; less of self interested views, and more enlarged views for the public good; less wandering and groping after inapplicable precedents, and more examples worthy of imitation; fewer statutes, and more addresses to the King; fewer Canal Commissioners and better roads; fewer taxes on resident industry and more on lazy Absentees; one Statute to knock two hundred on the head; and an immediate recurrence to the Act of Settlement, 12 and 13 William III, which says "That no person who has an office or place of profit under the King, or receives a pension from the Crown, shall be capable of serving as a member of the House of Commons." Such are the hopes of the Country. That they may not be disappointed is the devout wish of

The Public's most obedient,

And most Devoted Servant,

THE AUTHOR:

Nov. 20, 1824.

TO THE STOCKHOLDERS OF THE CANADIAN LAND COMPANY.

GENTLEMEN,

He who now addresses you is an Englishman, but for some years past resident in Upper Canada. The first wish of his heart, is, to see the connexion subsisting between the Canadas and the Mother Country, loosened from the sickly bonds of a servile dependence of the one, on the charitable bounty of the other, and fixed upon the broad, and indestructible basis of reciprocal profit and advantage.

It is, then, with indescribable pleasure he has learnt through the medium of the Public Prints, that this fine Country has at length so far attracted the notice of his Majesty's Ministers, and many persons of capital in England, as to have matured the project of forming a Company for the purchase and settlement of the Crown and Clergy Reserves, which have hitherto been such an afflicting curse as no country before ever laboured under.

He has perused in a news-paper, extracts from a pamphlet said to have lately arrived in this country, entitled "*Information relative to the Canadian Land Company,*" which pretends to set forth the causes that have most operated to retard the improvement and settlement of Upper Canada, and the advantage to arise from a proper direction of the capital of the Company. The author of said pamphlet cannot be charged with entire ignorance of the causes of the present supine condition of Upper Canada, because he sets forth some most notable ones; but he cannot have a full acquaintance with them, or he subjects himself to a charge of disingenuousness, for he says not a word of some very obvious causes, which are more perniciously operative than all those enumerated put together, as by-

and-bye, will be made appear; and which, until removed, will continue the bane of the Province, and act upon imported capital, as the atmospheric air acts upon iron.— With respect to the advantages which are to result from the capital and labours of the Company, the author of the pamphlet has given them an attractive aspect, a most alluringly smiling and dimpled face; but let the Company beware, lest,

Peradventure they find each dimple a dell,
And wish like Sir Isaac,* the Province at Hell.

The first object of the Company unquestionably is profit. The queries submitted by them to sundry persons residents of Canada, put the matter beyond a doubt. Indeed it would be quite ridiculous to suppose otherwise.— Then it materially concerns them to know, how they are to make a profit. Some one has pretended to tell them the causes which have retarded the prosperity of the Province, and the effects which are to follow, from throwing into the country “that stimulous which alone is wanting—*Capital.*” I observe that the venerable Doctor Strachan is one of the persons, who undertakes to answer the queries of the Company. Now of all the men in the Province I should have supposed that Doctor Strachan was the most capable of giving the Company complete and satisfactory information; for, let it be fully known that he is a Legislative and Executive Councillor, is thought to have the nomination of Executive Councillors generally, from the circumstance of his success in surrounding and strengthening himself in that post of dignity and trust, by his young pupils, most of whom are encouraged confidently to elevate their views to that exalted point, and is known to have the private ear of his superiors, and in short is shrewdly suspected of having been virtually the Governor

* Sir Isaac Coffin in the British House of Commons, wished the Canadas at the bottom of the Sea.

of the country for many years. I say, therefore, that he, of all men, should be the most capable of piloting the Canadian Company, through the shoals & quicksands, that beset them on all sides. Yet behold his advice, read, I pray, his answer to the following query of the Company, "What is the cause of that difference, which all travellers have remarked, between the United States and Canada, where the soil and climate are so similar? In the former every thing is represented as alive, active and prosperous; in the latter all dull and languid?"

"This question admits of a most satisfactory answer," (indeed it does, Doctor, but that, you are either incapable or unwilling to give) "Upper Canada was first settled by refugees from the United States, after the Peace of 1783, all of whom were destitute and wholly without capital; every accession of inhabitants (not excepting the Doctor) has been nearly of the same description. Whatever wealth has been found in the Province, has been made entirely from the soil; never yet had one single capitalist come into the country, purchased a large tract of land, built mills, made roads, and, as the Americans say, prepared it for settlement. The consequence has been *apparent* languor, compared with the neighbouring States, many persons becoming comfortable, but never acquiring great capitals. But in the American States many purchased large tracts, spent many hundred thousand dollars in their preparation for location, sold at high prices, and after a few years, recovered the capital laid out seven fold. The same may be done in Canada at this moment, and with the certainty of speedier returns than the speculators on the other side, as the population is much greater than the parts of the country were, where they commenced their operations."

This is all very fine, but would it not have been as well,

since the good Doctor says "the same may be done in Canada at this moment, and with the certainty of speedier returns than the speculators on the other side (which by the way, is an ambiguity of expression unworthy so learned a gentleman, and an Executive Councillor) if he had told the Company *how* it is to be done? He would thereby have conferred a lasting obligation on the Company and on the Province, the people of which latter, most heartily wish the former, all the gains the thing is susceptible of producing.

I flatter myself I am addressing men who can discern and judge, and who are nothing afraid to envisage the truth, though it should dispel some of the golden dreams, the good Doctor's unctuous answers are calculated to excite. While your money is still in your pockets, you have time to deliberate in safety. Throw it away upon the lands of this country, under the precious idea, *that Capital is the only stimulous wanted*; and it is lost, irretrievably lost. Fallacious thought! Capital cannot heal the wounds inflicted upon a Country by political disabilities. In a country abused and betrayed by ignorant and selfish cunning, *Capital will not abide*; in such a country it cannot be invested, but to the sorrow and grief of its owners, who might perhaps withdraw it from active circulation, and have the pain to see it at once reduced to a mere *caput mortuum*.

Speculators in lands in the United States, and speculators in lands in Upper Canada, stand upon very different grounds. The former invested their capitals under every moral certainty of immense gain; while the latter, like desperate gamblers, stake their venture against physical impossibilities. How Doctor Strachan could draw a parallel between the United States and this country, eking out even a preference for the latter, as offering more

speedy reimbursement to speculators in lands, is to me inconceivable. It is done in the very teeth of common sense ; in defiance of all experience and judgement, and in derision of all better understanding.

The United States legislates for itself. Canada is legislated *for*, three thousand miles off. The United States receives into its bosom as Citizens, the people of all the earth: Canada is so fastidious as to reject *Americans*, beneath whose axes alone her interminable forests can fall. The United States has an uninterrupted commerce with all the world, whereby the cultivators of the soil are always insured a *cash* price for their commodities ; Canada has but one market, and that shut against her for what ought to be her staple (Wheat) except when it is above a certain price in England, which can only happen in time of war, or other calamity ; whereby the miserable Canadian Farmer is nearly always reduced to the necessity of swapping his pittance of produce with pedlars, for such truck as they may have on hand at extortionate prices.— Commonly to demand *Cash* for his produce, would be to court insult. The United States can import every earthly commodity, directly from the country of its growth, produce, or manufacture and consequently is supplied in all cases at the cheapest possible rate : Canada in this respect, lies under many grievous restrictions, and for most articles of the first necessity pays three prices. The United States has judiciously sold its wild lands, and taxed them, to insure their settlement. The insensate Land granting departments of Canada, have given away to hungry dependants and favorites, most of the choice lands in the country, except such as have been reserved for the Crown and Clergy ; and, as they have cost nothing, so nothing it costs to the holders, to let them lie idle, for the aggrandizement of their great grand children of the fifth or sixth genera-

tion, if perchance things should so fall out, as to cause them to be of value. *

Now let me ask, what parallel is here, between the United States and Canada? and where is the great wonder, if in the United States, every thing is "alive, active, and prosperous"; and in Canada, "dull and languid"? though their respective soil and climate be similar, and the natural facilities for commerce, be as Bishop McDonell truly says, immensely in favour of Canada? and let the sagacious Doctor Strachan, if he can, point out, for the benefit of mankind, *how, and what amount of Capital*, will cure the chilling ague, under which this country groans, and which it is confidently believed, he has himself most largely contributed to engender.

The Doctor says, that for the last seven years, the influx of Emigrants has been upwards of 10,000 annually; but he does not say, how many *scores* of the 70,000 have remained in the country. Now such an assertion, without qualification is calculated entirely to mislead the Company, by inducing a belief, that during the last seven years, the country has gained an accession of 70,000 new settlers; whereas, the fact is, that very few of this number have remained in the Province. Eight tenths of them beyond all question, have gone to swell the population of the United States, and rarely indeed has it occurred, for some four years past, that any possessing money, have lacked sagacity to perceive the folly of vesting it here.

The present state of Upper Canada is truly deplorable. Perhaps no country professing Christianity, at this day, exhibits such striking evidences of imbecile misrule. No imaginable amount of capital, expended in it, could cure or alleviate the maladies under which it labors. *Supine*

* The Legislature has lately passed an act taxing the lands I believe; the 8th of a penny per acre.

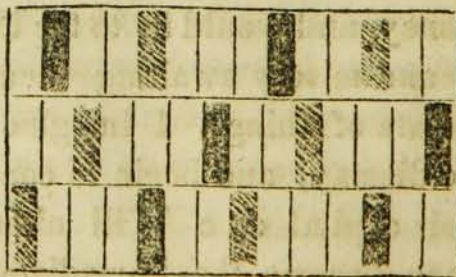
and morbid, it is insusceptible to the enkindling influence of gold, which, though ever so lavishly applied, can force no result, but disappointment, vexation and chagrin.—The wisdom of the British Parliament alone can apply the remedy, that will exalt the country into life and joy.

The Reserved Lands of Upper Canada even in their present wild state, under a liberal and fostering policy, would undoubtedly be worth eight or ten times what Government will think of asking, or the Company will, or ought to think of giving for them; but under present circumstances, the Company must be losers, if they obtain them for half a dollar an acre; for where can they find purchasers? Who will settle upon their lands? They might, to be sure, sell a few of the lots, that are situated immediately in the vicinities of settlements, upon a very long credit, if they would agree to take in payment, firewood, blighted rye, smutty wheat, lean cows, half starved two-year-olds, now and then a quarter of skinny veal, and from time to time, a day's labor at double the general price. Thus, some few lots might be sold; but I am not aware of any possible mode, by which the company could ever recover back their capital. If any other person be aware of such mode, he would do great public service by setting it forth. As for Emigrants, who might be induced to purchase on a credit, having had previously prepared for them a log house, and a few acres of land, they would soon discover the impracticability of ever acquiring from the utmost efforts of their industry, the means of paying the purchase money, and would fly to the United States, to escape the ruin and misery awaiting them in Canada.—Under such a state of things, I imagine the Company would feel some dismay, and begin to consider, that they had laid out their capital on a Will o'the wisp. The *causes* would then become the immediate object of their

research, which after much pain and labour having discovered, they would naturally feel a desire to get them removed, but no sooner would they dare openly to express such desire, than a deep-mouthed pack would open upon them the cry of "Radical," "Yankee," which would reverberate through Hill and Dale, till each sycophantish tongue from the Executive Councillor's down to the odious Big-bugs of Quarter Sessions, and his understrappers, was parched with feverish bellowing. Such, would be the solace of the Company, for throwing into the Country "the stimulous, which alone is wanting—*Capital.*"

It is of the first consequence, that the Company should know, in what manner roads are to be opened to the Reserves, and how they are to effect the contemplated clearings on the lots. It must be understood, and it is important that every one who embarks his money in the enterprise should understand, that these Reserves are not in a body, but interspersed through the Townships, embosomed in the depths of the forests, and environed by the wild lands already granted to Soldiers, Sailors, half-pay Officers, Officers of Militia, U. E. Loyalists, their sons and daughters; to Surveyors, and Upper favorites, and under favorites, brawlers about loyalty, and defamers of their more loyal but *unfortunately better informed neighbors.*

I give from Mr. Gourlay's Statistics the plan of a Township, the blank squares being the granted lots, the black the Clergy, and the diagonal lines the Crown Reserves.



Now let me ask, how roads are to be opened to the Reserves? Are they to be opened at the expense of the Company? if so, only two sevenths of the land, are burthened with the charge of making the whole marketable, and five sevenths are immediately for sale, in opposition to the two sevenths, which being of the same quality, and unchargeable with the expence of opening roads, can, & will be offered cheaper, than the two sevenths can be afforded, and will assuredly obtain a preference from all such as have money to pay for them. What prospect then, can the Company have, of disposing of their lands to any but such needy objects, and for such kind of pay, as before described? Let it not be lost sight of, that the Speculators in the United States, bought TRACTS of Land, *not patches here and there, to which they were obliged to open roads through other people's lands*, no, they had the whole exclusive benefit of their capital and labors. Conditioned as this Province is, it is impossible that the Canadian Company can invest their capital in it, but to their own discomfiture. The difficulties of settling the Reserves here pointed out, there are certainly three ways of overcoming. One is, for the Company to purchase, from the grantees on the best terms they can, all the Lands in the vicinities of the Reserves, to which there are at present no roads. Another, is to stipulate with the Legislature of the Province to pass an act, to make it compulsory on proprietors of such lands to join the Company in making Roads and Fences, under pain of forfeiture of the lands to the Company, which in many cases would befall, seeing, that many of the proprietors are in indigent circumstances; or finally, to stipulate for an act imposing on said lands, a tax of a shilling an acre per annum, which in two years time will cause them all to be sold by the Sheriff to pay the taxes, when they might fall into the possession of the compa-

ny on easy terms. These are the only means I can at present think of, for removing the above named obstacles to the profit of the Company. How far the two latter would be expedient or just, I leave it to wiser heads than mine to determine; but it will fully inform the good people of England, how desperate must be the disease, which can conjure up the suggestion of such desperate remedies, and hold up to scorn and detestation the parties, who by their bewildering projects, and the scandalous abuse of their power, have reduced this fine Province to so distempered a condition, as scarcely to admit of cure.

It should be observed that as far as the reserves are situated in such concessions of *settled* Townships (not populous townships, as Doctor Strachan calls them, for it is quite absurd to talk of populous townships in Upper Canada) as have roads already passing through them, their being interspersed among cultivated farms is a great addition to their value. But this is the case only with a few of the Reserves; for even in the old settled townships, it rarely occurs, that roads are opened past the third concession, all beyond being in a state of nature, except, that most of the valuable timber has been culled out. It may perhaps be necessary to explain what a *concession* means. It is that range of farms which extends from East to West through the whole length of a Township. In the old Townships the farms were laid out in what are called lots, being 105 chains or seven furlongs deep and nineteen chains or two furlongs wide, which give 200 Acres. The first range from the South, is called the first concession, that immediately behind it the second concession, and so on. Between the concessions there are roads called concession roads, (that is, marked on the maps, few are yet opened) sixty-six feet wide, which at intervals are intersected by roads running through the concessions, called

forty foot roads. I apprehend the word concession, is derived from the circumstance of these lands having been conceded by the Crown to the U. E. Loyalists, U. E. meaning United Empire.

Great as are the obstacles above named to the profit of the Company, they fall into the shade of our political disqualifications. I have before observed, that the United States has an uninterrupted trade with all the world.— Of course every thing, and every body, is “alive, active and prosperous. Canada is without trade; and of course all is “dull and languid” not “*apparent*” dullness, not “*apparent langour*,” as Doctor Strachan calls it, but *real*, horrid dullness, *real* enfeebling langour, such as is the generator and nurse of vicious propensities in man; a devouring morbid affection, which gnaws at the vitals of the country; and threatens its population with extirpation; and must assuredly, if the prohibitory and restrictive measures be persevered in, sooner or later, cause this Upper Province at least, to become a part of the United States. Then it will be, Lackadaisy! who’d a’ thought it?

Let the Company ponder well upon this fact. As to the effect, they can have no doubt, having the corroborating testimony of “all travellers”. The *cause* they have enquired after from parties, who have either been unable, or have deemed it prudent not to tell. They have it now in its nakedness, and until it be removed, the Company cannot with prudence embark a shilling of capital in the country, or conscientiously invite a single Englishman to quit his native land, for this abode of poverty, apathy, & langour, where the grass grows greener in the streets than in the meadows: all that the Company can be justified in saying to such of their countrymen, as direct their views to foreign parts, is, that Upper Canada is one of the fairest portions of the earth, possessing every advantage of soil,

climate, and natural facility for Agriculture, Trade and Commerce; but let it be remembered, that the same things may be said of Turkey.

Can the fact be dwelt upon without pain, that the Province of a country possessing absolute dominion in the East Indies, styled the Queen of the Ocean, and a Province too, which could be carved into a hundred Englands, and which, it cannot be disguised, has been preserved in the sovereignty of its parent state, solely by the determined, and unparallelled loyalty, bravery and fortitude of its people, should be under the cruel and monstrous necessity of smuggling through a foreign land, every ounce of Tea, and every particle of India goods it consumes? and now, after representation of this crying evil to his Majesty's Ministers through the legislature of the country, it is affected to be redressed by another more enormous, and more calculated to excite disgust. The people of Canada are now to receive their Tea direct from China, *through the East India Company*, at such prices as they may please to bestow it. Thus, what should help to furnish the legitimate revenue of both the Provinces, must be put into the pockets of a monopolizing company of merchants, and the people deprived of carrying on a lucrative trade with their neighbors in the States, which they assuredly could command, were a free, and unshackled commerce permitted to the Canadas with China, and the East Indies. What but dullness and langour can be expected in a Province so treated? What, but loss, disappointment and chagrin, can attend a Company who embark a capital in the clearing of its lands? and what but pining and regret can be the portion of the unfortunate families, who might be enticed to *vegetate* upon them? for I defy any one to call it *living*.

Why? what is the reason, that the Canadas should not

be put on a footing with the United States in respect to trade? Is it anticipated that we should be the worse subjects, for being treated kindly and justly? or the worse customers to the parent country, for becoming opulent? or meaner bulwark of her liberty and independence, from becoming a strong and efficient people? Why are means a for encouraging our agriculture pompously talked of, while our trade and commerce are bound hand and foot? Is the prosperity of British Agriculture ever spoken of, but in connection with trade and commerce, as mutually nourishing and supporting each other? Then why expect agriculture to flourish in Canada while her trade and commerce languish? Cause and effect have the same relations to each other in America, as in Europe. Would the Agriculture of the United States flourish in its present extraordinary degree, were her trade like that of Canada? I can in no way discern, how the people of the United States are entitled to greater advantages than the people of Canada, except that they fought against Great Britain, until they obtained all their desires; nor can I discover why the people of Canada should enjoy fewer advantages than the people of the States, seeing, that they have always fought for Great Britain, and have, more than once, bled freely in her cause; and I cannot help attributing the present forlorn condition of Canada to a wretchedly weak and blind policy, which I fervently pray, may soon give place to one, enlarged, liberal, and enlightened, worthy of the times in which we live, and of the British Empire, and calculated to bind this people for ever, it's grateful subjects, and desirable customers.

The sanguine Doctor Strachan concludes one of his answers to the queries of the Company, in the following notable words; "In fine, *were a little Capital thrown into the Province*, and the public attention drawn towards it,

lands would rise four fold, and yet be cheap to the actual settler, as the produce would rise in proportion, *from the rapid advancement of Commerce*, of enterprize, and increase of circulating medium."

Now let us suppose the Company commence operations at once, upon a thousand lots, and resolve to clear twenty acres on each lot, which I should imagine is about the quantity they would fix on, rather less than more: estimating the cost at £3 Halifax the acre, the same would amount to £60,000, the quantity being 20,000 Acres. To accomplish this 1000 Americans must be hired, who will by commencing on the first of April, have the land prepared in due season to seed down with wheat, allowing them twenty weeks for the operation, besides putting up 1000 log houses. The Company now prudently consider they have done enough for the first season, and pay off the Americans, who, having no more work, depart from the country, taking with them their earnings, except what it may have cost for their maintenance, which may be about forty dollars a man. Now, where is the Capital that is thrown into the Province by this manœuvre? It is £10,000 spent for the labourer's maintenance, and £2500 expended in seed wheat, reckoning a bushel for the acre, and 2s. 6d. Halifax for the bushel. Some monopolizers of lots, adjoining the Reserve, may inform the Company, that the lands can be cleared by Emigrants; but let them beware how they listen to such tales. Let us now take a view of the situation of the Company. Suppose the prime cost of the lands to be half a dollar an acre, each lot has cost £63 10s. to clear and seed down, which makes the total cost of the lot £87 10s. We will presume on the first thousand lots being so advantageously situated as to be deemed worth eight dollars per acre, in their then condition; but there being no purchasers for *Cash*, the Comp.

ny have determined to sell them to newly arrived emigrants, from England, Ireland, and Scotland, who are well recommended by the Ministers of their respective Parishes, for honesty, sobriety, and industry, and further, are furnished with certificates of their skill in various branches of field husbandry; but having spent their all in transporting themselves and families to Canada, they are pennyless, except with the reservation of just so much as will furnish a bare sustenance, till the crop of wheat comes round. So it is resolved to give the thousand lots to a thousand emigrants, for £400 each, on the liberal credit of ten years, subject meanwhile to the legal interest of the province, which is six per cent. or twenty four pounds a year; and there can appear no danger in the step, seeing that the purchasers are not to get their deeds till the whole of the purchase money, with interest, is paid.

Here then there is a sale of 200,000 Acres of Land for £400,000 which have cost the Company only £87,500.— In ten years the purchase money is to be paid, which will cover the advance *four and a half fold*, and in the meantime the Company will derive a revenue of £24,000, or about 29 per cent. per Annum on the Capital.

Let it be presumed, that as the land is all new, and the seed skilfully put in, the wheat will turn out a full crop, say 20 bushels to the acre, so that each emigrant has actually 400 bushels of wheat. One hundred will be expended in reaping, threshing and carrying to market, 20 must be reserved for seed, and 30 carried to mill; so that he has 250 bushels to peddle away, for a little cash (perhaps enough to buy him a Cow) a little pork, a good deal of whiskey, a modicum of Tea and Sugar, a few remnants of stuffs, cottons, bobbins and tapes, leaving shoes and stockings out of the question, the whole to the amount of £31 5s. the value of his 250 bushels of wheat at 2s. 6d. a bushel.

By this time a years interest has become due ; but as the man has not been upon the land long enough to turn himself, the Agent of the Company, very justly, takes this matter into consideration ; the poor fellow carries an honest front, states candidly how he has disposed of his wheat, speaks confidently about the next year's crop, and of his ultimate success, having increased his store by a Cow, and laid in a whole years provision and clothing, besides having put in his new seed. This is a flattering account for the Agent to write home to the Company, and though not a farthing of the £24,000 due for the first year's interest, is remitted home, still it is in prospect, and they have the satisfaction to know, that it is in *sure hands*. The Emigrant had certainly put in his seed, but being unused to work among stumps, and being but indifferently supplied with borrowed implements, the consequence is, that the crop falls rather short of his expectations, say that he measures out 15 bushels to the Acre, or 300 bushels in all, and which as there are so many new cultivators of the article, has unfortunately fallen to 2s. the bushel ; & what is more unfortunate still, as the last year Beach nuts and indian corn had entirely failed, Pork has advanced considerably in price ; and as a vessel from England had been lost, coming up the St. Lawrence, with a quantity of shop goods on board, stuffs and cottons had took a rise ; and, as Tea and Whiskey had been lately very difficult to smuggle, on account of some of the poor smugglers having been shot by the Custom House Officers, they had advanced also ; so that, on balancing accounts this time with the Pedlar, although he had narrowed his requirements within the smallest possible compass, he finds himself twenty dollars three and six pence in debt. The pedlar tells him it is of no consequence ; he will with pleasure wait till the next harvest, and hopes he will in the meantime

use his shop for what little matters he may want. It may be asked, "What was the man doing all the winter, and through the summer while the wheat was growing"? I answer that he was providing his family with firewood, jobbing with his neighbours for *promises* of jobs in return, for a "meal of victuals," attending bees,* cobbling, and patching old shoes, going to mill, (this is a serious job) hunting in the woods for his Cow, (more serious still) cutting forked sticks for pitch forks, and such like tinkering jobs. He did not, nor had he it in his power to do a single thing, calculated to advance the value of his farm a shilling.

Another year's interest is now due, and the poor man is horror struck on seeing the agent of the Company enter his door. His consternation, however quickly subsides, and gives way to the most cheering anticipations. The Agent who has numerous correspondents, has just received letters from Genesee, from Albany and New-York. At Genesee, Wheat is quoted at a dollar a bushel, at Albany a dollar and a quarter, and at New-York, flour at seven dollars a barrel. The Agent kindly addresses the Emigrant, "Well John, is the interest ready?" "Dang it, no measter, my crap o' weeat didna turn out as it shud a done, by five bushels to the yaker; then they gin nothin for't, I cudna get moor nor two shillin a bushel, all over't village; then they wanna gi one a hapanny in money, one must tak it all in trayad, as the call it; then they axin sitch a proice for every thin; they axt my woife hafe a dollar a yard for this, Ise sure they wudna a haxt moor nor ten pence for't at woam, that the wudna; things warn't a thisen in England, for Ise teeam'd mony a load o' weeat

* When a Barn or other frame building is to be put up, the neighbours are called together to assist; and this is called a Bee. Whisky flowing in rills, they are generally scenes of riot and drunkenness.

to Stafford market for Squire Compton o't hills, and he's gotten ten shillins a bushel for't next market day all in goold." "Well, John cheer up, never mind, have a good heart, I've good news, wheat is a dollar a bushel in Genesee, six and three pence at Albany, and flour seven dollars a barrel in New-York, *Cash.*"—"Why that's summut loike, but Ise sure we could never do a this ens, then d'ye think weeat 'll tak a start here?"—"Certainly, if it rises in the States, why should it not rise here?"—"I dunna knooa, but folks sen as how they'n no trayad in this coounry, God knooas they'n trayaded me foinely"—"Well, well, let us hope for better times. There is every prospect of good prices, and every one will be able to wipe off old scores"—"I shud loike to see it" says John; "for I canna aboide to be in debt."

Thus, the second year passes over, and no return from honest John; but the company are amused, and their hopes buoyed up, with the flattering account of prices in Genesee, Albany and New-York! The season comes round again, John has ten bushels to the Acre, the price is three shillings a bushel in truck; honest John seeing his wife and children pining in rags, in a fit of desperation sells his wheat to a strange pedlar for two shillings *Cash*, and starts off bag and baggage to the States; so the land with *all its improvements* reverts again to the Company. If any one can discover profit in a ruinous operation like this, he must have more penetration than his neighbours; and I appeal to every disinterested man of sense in Canada, whether in its progress and result, it could be far otherwise than as I have stated? It is here obvious that the price of the Land, has nothing to do with John's running away; for, supposing it to have been but half the sum stated, John must still have run away; neither can any thing be imputed to his treatment by the Company, which was

kind and conciliating. To what then is imputable this direful result?

Let us now for a moment reflect on the situation of the Company's Agents. The first batch of settlers have all run away, the second are ripening to follow them, and lands are clearing for the third; the Company is thrown into consternation, and notwithstanding former experience of the honour and probity, ability, activity and zeal of their Agents, incline to attribute the disastrous state of their affairs to their mismanagement. A hundred pretended friends, write home confidential and villainous insinuations to their prejudice, which have an effect proportioned to the disappointments of the Company, which are aggravated by the flattering hopes generated by the former correspondence of their Agents, whose letters now hint for the first time, at the causes of the tremendous and ruinous evil, of which they are the wo-begone spectators, and of which they run the hazard of being deemed the authors. The mind shrinks with horror from contemplating the perils of their condition. Half of them perhaps quit in disgust, and ten to one but the other half are imprisoned and banished for sedition.

It has been seen as Doctor Strachan predicted that lands have risen four fold, in consequence of having a little Capital thrown into the Province; but how has the produce risen "*from the rapid advancement of commerce, of enterprize, and of circulating medium*"? What rapid advancement of Commerce? how has it advanced? nobody is sensible of it. Still the lands *have risen* which was to be a consequence of the said advancement of commerce, which was to be a consequence of throwing a little capital into the Province. And what enterprize? Why we have seen the enterprize of the Canadian Company, and of Honest John; their commencement, progress, and

final issue; and as for the increase of circulating medium, we have seen that it is £12,500 per thousand lots, which is out of circulation again in the twinkling of an eye; for while this province is enslaved by debt, and such things as its Trade and Commerce have no existence, but in the empty unmeaning prate of its shallow rulers, what circulating medium can it have, other than its lands, which the Reverend Doctor Strachan, with a miraculously prophetic spirit calls "*in some degree a circulating medium*"? — I have shown that they are *indeed* a circulating medium, in the case of Honest John, in which they have so jocosely circulated again into the Canadian Company's possession, *with all their improvements*. I fancy the Reverend Legislative and Executive Councillor's snug locations, with those of his pupils and political friends and adherents, the amount of which if known would perhaps at once surprise and disgust the British Public, will have to remain in their present impervious retreats, till they launch out some of their own capital, to cause "public attention to be drawn towards" them, or offer to the Canadian Comp'y, some fairer and more rational prospect for the beneficial employment of theirs.

Gentlemen, be assured, that no customers, but such as have money, and a good round sum too, can by any possibility become to you a source of profit. In this country there are none such to be found. The few persons here who have money, if they want lands, know better how to obtain them, than through your medium. Situated as this Province is, there are no earthly means by which you could extract a tythe part of any capital you might invest in its lands. Whatever brilliant hopes may have been excited by the tales of selfish and cunning men, you will find from experience to be a most gross and barefaced delusion. I write not merely to disappoint individuals. I write not

in enmity to Doctor Strachan; for he is a man I never conversed with—never came in contact with, in any shape—never saw; neither do I write to deter you from the prosecution of your project, which I heartily wish to see pursued with vigorous zeal. I write to dissipate every vain illusion, to frustrate every machination, which may be in train for party aggrandizement upon your ruin, to prepare you for a prudent, and energetic exercise of your influence, to remove the obstacles to your success, that you may at once secure your own prosperity, and that of this fine Province, with the blessings of its people.

Till Canada is placed upon an equal footing with the United States, with respect to trade and commerce, it is in vain to hope she will become populous, rich, or prosperous. Indeed, it is not to be desired that she should become populous; for an accumulation of people, without an accumulation of means for their advantageous employment and support, is only an accumulation of misery.—Therefore previous to the Company's committing themselves in any bargain with the Government, they should use their influence with his Majesty's Ministers to procure a repeal of every restrictive or prohibitory law, which affects the trade and commerce of Canada, leaving her ports accessible to all the world, laden with articles, the growth, produce and manufacture of their respective countries, under such regulations as the people of Canada shall themselves adopt, and permitting the Ships of Canada to trade directly with all parts of the world: the Province to regulate its own duties and imposts, as well in its commerce with the United States of America; as in every other case.

This might appear on the first view, rather too extensive a requirement, and perhaps incompatible with our state as a Colony; but suppose it granted in its fullest ex-

tent ; let us examine what would be the effect to both England and Canada. The geographical position of the latter is such, as to give it the command of the whole North Western region of America, whence there is a direct communication with the Atlantic Ocean, by a continuous chain of Lakes, connected with the St. Lawrence, one of the most magnificent rivers in the world, of the outlet of which Canada is possessed. The American shores of the lakes as far as the Michigan Territory, are already tolerably peopled, and are peopling at an unparalleled rate. The inhabitants of Canada are a diffusely scattered, & consequently a weak & inefficient population. It must be taken for granted that it is a desideratum with Great Britain, to maintain her sovereignty over this portion of the globe; and it must be conceded, that the most effectual mode of securing that object, is to conciliate the affections of the people, who, though they may not all know, or be able to define the precise, and immediate cause of their wretchedness, can compare their condition with that of their neighbours, and discover at least by the comparison, that they are wretched ; the one experiencing all the enlivening joys of existence, the other the fullness of its bitterness. Of this the British Government ought to be fully aware, and to leave no cause to its subjects in Canada to repine. Every possible means should be adopted to increase, and condense her population, to which end nothing can be so effectual, as to encourage her agriculture and her commerce.

Let Great Britain then throw open the commerce of Canada to all the world, and there is an instantaneous, and irresistible attraction to Capitalists, & the labouring population which universally follow in their train. From "dull and languid" all becomes "alive, active, and prosperous". Our fertile lands would be sought after with avidity by

wealthy and substantial cultivators from Great Britain, the United States, France, Holland and Germany. Agriculture, which is now but a burlesque term for our lilliputian torturings of the soil would shine forth in autumnal splendour; filling with overflowing abundance the Cities of Quebec and Montreal, which would immediately become the grand emporiums of the North West. Then might Canada justly boast of her superior natural facilities for commerce. Now, they but add poignancy to her grief. Then indeed might she boast of her "populous townships", and of her active, bustling, prosperous and high spirited people, of her teeming revenue, her noble roads, her irriguous channels, her expansive fresh water seas, her unparalleled inland navigation, and of her uninterrupted cultivation of the arts of peace, from her natural "ability to resent injuries and redress wrongs." Viewing her in this position, what would be the effect to England? Instead of an annual expence, as Canada now is, she might draw from it annually a revenue, a grateful tribute of affection to the bountiful parent of such innumerable and substantial blessings. Say she would lose the present pitiful advantage of supplying us from the ports of London, Liverpool or Bristol with foreign commodities, the growth produce and manufacture of other countries and climes. The same commodities would be brought hither, in ten or twenty fold abundance, direct from their respective countries, by means of her capital and her shipping, whereby her Canadian subjects would be relieved from an oppressive tax, and enabled to drive an advantageous trade in such commodities, from their superior cheapness, with their neighbours in the States, to whom their own Sea board is inaccessible but at great charge, and whose Government, relying for its revenue on duties on importations, outstep all rational bounds in the regulation of their

Tariff. That species of trade which has been the foundation of England's prosperity, which has enabled her triumphantly to resist a world in arms, and which, while it is preserved to her, will continue to uphold her greatness and her glory, the sale of her manufactures, whereby her population is enriched, beyond any former precedent, would be increased with Canada, in a forty fold degree; for no predicted calculations, which should wear the semblance of rationality, could keep pace with the influx of wealthy population to a country so eminently gifted to insure the happiness of man. The people of the manufacturing districts of England, want but to be made fully sensible of the new and never ending demand, that would be created for their manufactures, by throwing open these Provinces to all the world, to incite them to a simultaneous and impressive call upon his Majesty's Ministers, instantly to knock off the fetters which bind and oppress them to the injury of all his Majesty's subjects on both sides the Atlantic.

Behold! in some ten years hence, England again plunged in war. Its origin is of no earthly consequence. In its progress, events might, and in all probability would arise, to embroil her with the United States, unless the new attitude assumed by this Province might act as a mentor to the Statesmen of the latter, and by its sage counsel sharpen their relish for the arts of peace. Suppose the two countries, however engaged in war. The troops of Great Britain need not be diverted from other important objects for our defence. This country could not only defend itself with effect, but keep employed such a body of the United States troops, to watch its motions, as might insure the safety of our West India Islands. Should it be feared that our exaltation should incline us to assert our independence, let it be remembered, that history affords

no example of Colonies being severed from their parent states by acts of kindness. The day may come in after times, when it may be expedient, both for England and Canada, that the latter should be independent; but till then, England has but to strengthen the Islands of Newfoundland and Cape Breton, and she keeps the key of our Treasure.

I can view the subject in no light, through which I can perceive, that Great Britain can be in any shape a loser, by bracing & strengthening Canada in the manner proposed. On the contrary, every position in which the matter can appear, affords the most cheering anticipations, that she will be immensely the gainer. One question is involved in the subject, which might place Great Britain in the situation of the Dog in the manger. The people of the United States, situated on the Lakes would willingly be supplied with the commodities of the East, and the West, the North, and the South, through the channel of the St. Lawrence, as being by far the cheapest medium. These with the permission of Great Britain, the Canadas could furnish. Great Britain will not be allowed to furnish them through the Sea Ports of the United States. Then it is a question, shall the Canadians be allowed to furnish them or not? If not, I cannot see the particular use of possessing the mouth of the St. Lawrence; and must regard all talk about our natural facilities for commerce, as a vain and empty boast; and every fine scheme for improving our Agriculture, and giving as Doctor Strachan says, "a new impetus to the Province," as idle, and trumpery balderdash, calculated to amuse the ignorant for a season, but ultimately to awaken them to a keener sense of their degraded and hopeless state.

Another source of profit to the Canadians would be found in receiving and transporting to foreign markets,

the produce of the United States, which is now forced from its natural channel, to swell the pride and consequence of the City of New-York, by the operation of that costly pest, commonly called the "Canada Trade Act," to obtain which suicidal enactment, the befooled people of this Country suffered themselves to be taxed three thousand pounds; and the British Legislature in its over anxiety to grant every request coming from Canada, was found so off its guard as to legislate for the injury of both Provinces, at the suggestion and prayer of the younger, and most besotted: one example of the horrors, to which a people are subject, whose Legislators reside three thousand miles off. The chimera of growing hemp, to supplant Russia in the supply of the English market is but a sorry palliation for the loss of so substantial a benefit as was derived from the transportation of American produce down the St. Lawrence, and across the Atlantic. Though the people of Canada may be, and are, ignorant enough, they are not quite such egregious fools as to expect a profit from growing hemp, however high the authorities which may preach up its advantages. The British Navy must learn to do without cordage if it looks to Canada to furnish it with hemp. We would rather have permission to go to Russia to buy hemp for our own consumption.—*Why is Russia Hemp a conspicuous article in the every day Prices Current of the United States?* Out upon the drivelling policy that would make a Hell of each natural Paradise! At the moment I am writing, there are hundreds, I may say thousands of its most efficient people, who are only restrained from quitting this Province by the impossibility of selling their property for half what it has cost them.

Were I actually as rich as Rothschild is reported to be, I would on no account advance a copper for any such pur-

pose, as settling the lands of this Province, while it labors under its present political restraints; but if they were removed in the manner pointed out, I would cheerfully adventure my whole fortune, neither the King of Naples nor the desolating Ferdinand should touch a farthing of it; whatever temptations they might hold out, the whole should be employed here, and I should feel much stronger anticipations of a ten fold return for my investment, than if I undertook the working of forty gold mines, and were insured the finding of an Abidean Diamond once a month.

I will now direct the attention of the Company to another point important for them to achieve, to insure the success of their undertaking. It should be guaranteed by the British Government to every settler in Canada, of whatever nation or religion, that he shall be received as a British subject, and enjoy all the rights, privileges, and immunities of such from the day of his taking the oath of allegiance as by law prescribed, and Commissioners, or Magistrates should be enjoined under penalty, to administer such oath to all who present themselves for the purpose of taking it. With the above preliminaries firmly guaranteed, the Company may safely proceed; but I recommend them to stipulate for *all* the Crown Reserves (I would on no account take a part of any of the Reserves,) *all* the Clergy Reserves, *all* the School Reserves, *all* the ungranted lots in newly surveyed Townships, and at least a million of Acres of unsurveyed lands. For the Crown, Clergy, and the School Reserves, the Company ought not to give more than 2s. 6d. Halifax per acre; for the ungranted lots in newly surveyed Townships not more than one and six pence, and for the wild unsurveyed lands not more than one Shilling. The Government ought to cease granting lands, and all grants of Reserves (if any have been made) since the formation of the Company has been

publicly talked of, ought to be declared null and void, except such as may have been made for actual services.— As soon as the bargain is completed, trusty and expert Agents should be despatched to France, Holland, Germany, and the United States, where the utmost publicity should be given to the views of the Company, and means adopted for facilitating the conveyance of such Capitalists, with their families and followers, as chose to migrate. In the first instance, great temptations should be held out to men of capital; for it should be well understood by the Company, that it is not by their first operations, they can expect to make their profits, but by the natural rise in the value of their lands, from the settlement of men of capital in the heart of them; and let the Company beware how they undertake the clearing of Lands; for insomuch as they dabble in that way, they will rue it. Clearing land is no business for the Company to undertake. They will be better cleared, and at a cheaper rate, by the purchasers of the lands themselves, & it will be wisely done of the Company, to use every exertion in their power to procure wealthy Americans for their first settlers, none being so expert in the art of clearing lands, and arranging the economy of a farm in the wilderness; and none being likely to prove more peaceable, orderly, or better disposed subjects, in short, their example would be highly beneficial to the settlers who followed, and thereby greatly promote the ultimate success of this glorious enterprize.

It is enough for the Company to occupy themselves in opening good roads, and constructing bridges, in diligently seeking out the most eligible, and clearing scites for villages (hereafter to be Cities) erecting in each a few unexpensive huts, for the accommodation of a Blacksmith, a Carpenter, a Wheelwright, a Mason, a Taylor a Shoemaker; and in building here and there a Grist and Saw

Mill. These and other objects, of which experience will point out the necessity, will be found abundantly to engage the capital of the Company, without plunging in a mad career of clearing lands and making loans to settlers, as I observe has sagely been suggested. Men with money, I again aver, are the only safe marks for the Company to treat with. If they can pay for their lands at the time of purchase, so much the better, if not, still if they have money, their lands will be improved with it; in which case, if they revert again to the Company, it is *verily* a profit. The case would be very different from that of honest John. It might indeed be advisable in some cases to make loans, which will naturally suggest to the Company the propriety of establishing a Bank in the Province, as the greatest engine of improvement they can possibly introduce, and an admirable means of furthering their own undertaking.

So entire would be the confidence of the Public in a Bank established by such a Company, that it would be the universal depository of the savings of the Province, which as it would confer upon the Company, most important benefits, so would it enable them to dispense to the public extensive good.

For the accommodation of the first settlers, it would be advisable for the Company to be provided with a sufficient number of Pot-Ash Kettles, to hire to persons, who would gladly undertake to erect works in the neighborhoods of the new clearings, whereby the adventurers would have the advantage of selling their ashes, which would be no inconsiderable saving to them, and rescue in the aggregate an immense property from waste.

I have said that clearing lands is no business for the Company to undertake. It must be understood, that in some cases it would be expedient for the Company to as-

dist settlers in clearing and draining Cedar and Hemlock Swamps, which comprise the most valuable meadow lands in the Country; but which, from the great expence of the operations of clearing and draining, being above the compass of individuals, remain mostly in their original state; which if cleared, would open a new and increasing source of wealth, add infinitely to the salubrity of the climate, and contribute to the annihilation of noxious reptiles, insects and vermin.

The Company should be proprietors of at least half a dozen farms in convenient situations, which should be placed under the management of the most experienced farmers that could be found, in order to serve as models to settlers, who should be encouraged to visit them, to view the effect of the judicious treatment of the various qualities of soil, the value of the diversity of manures which abound, but which are made no account of, to witness the application of a variety of agricultural implements, of which they have no knowledge, and above all the superior beauty and value of the Company's cattle. Each farm should have upon it an experienced Orchardist and a Nursery-man, for the purpose of rearing the choicest fruit and forest trees, and thorn quicks for hedges, the whole for sale to the settlers, who should be encouraged by every means to attend to their cultivation as soon as possible; for it should be understood, that the general mode of clearing, is, to cut all down "smack smooth," leaving the cleared lands in a body, and the woods in a body. Not a tree is left standing on the clearing, except the pines, which are killed by girdling, that they may stand a chance of being uprooted by some favouring gale of wind. This together with the ragged rail fences, gives the country when the crops are off the ground, a most desolate, cheerless and wild aspect, sickening to the eye of an Englishman who has been used to behold with ecstasy the impervious green hedges, and the magnificent timber trees, which barricade and adorn, each field and meadow, and help to swell the mass of riches of his native land. From this circumstance, in process of time, great inconvenience will assuredly be felt; for in many situations, timber for many valuable purposes cannot be procured, but from a great

distance, and consequently at a great expence. This is not felt at present; but it will be the sure consequence of a much longer delay in planting timber trees, which are slow of growth. I therefore point out this object to the Company, as one inviting their immediate attention, and strenuous exertions to promote. Young Oaks, Ashes, Elms, Hickorys, Maples, Locusts, Chesnuts and Walnuts, and every choice kind of Apple, Pear, Plum and Cherry tree, should be found in abundance in the Company's nurseries for the cheap supply of the settlers.— Various other objects will engage the attention of the Company: but experience will best point them out. One other stipulation with the Government I had almost forgotten to mention, which is that the purchase money for the lands should be laid out as soon as may be in the improvement of our internal navigation.

Let the Company beware how they engage to find Emigrants employment on their arrival in this country. I have been puzzling my brains, to discover in what way the Company could give employment to such Emigrants, but to no purpose. It has been seen, that the business of the Company in the first instance, is, to open Roads, construct bridges, and clear scites for villages, &c. &c. These objects, to be accomplished on the cheapest principle, to which the Company will of course ever have a steady eye, must be performed by contract, and that *with Americans*.— Europeans have no knowledge of such business, and could not perform it for the whole capital of the Company. Set two of the strongest raw Europeans that ever appeared in Canada, to chop down a tree, that shall take them three quarters of a day to fell; then set two slim yankee youths of fifteen to chop down a similar tree, and they shall accomplish it in an hour, without the least fatigue, while the Europeans shall be incapable of labour for three days afterwards, and it may be pretty lucky if both, or one escape without loss of life or limb. In process of time to be sure, the Company may erect Iron works, open Lead mines, Marble quarries, &c. and when they find it expedient to engage in such undertakings, they can engage to furnish employment to Emigrants, but not till then. Let the Company inspire life and energy a-

mong their own wealthy settlers, and the people generally; and let the Government proceed to improve the internal navigation, and immediately there is no lack of employment for Emigrants, and no lack of emigrants to be employed, without any pledge from the Company.

I recommend to every Gentleman of the Company who may not have read Mr. Robert Gourlay's publication on Canadian affairs, to read it immediately. He will there find a mass of true and valuable information, he can nowhere find besides. When his book shall have been extensively perused, and duly considered, I trust that though he may never be able to obtain redress of the wrongs he has sustained, he will live in the esteem of all good and virtuous men. Meanwhile, let his manly and benevolent heart be soothed under his cruel and unmerited sufferings, by the assurance that he has the blessings of thousands in Upper Canada, who only wait for better times, to afford him a substantial proof of their gratitude for his great and zealous efforts in their behalf, one consequence of which they contemplate in the formation of the Canadian Land Company, which I have now the honour to address.

Impelled by a strong sense of duty, I have been induced to submit this hasty production to the consideration of the Company and the British Public, and I humbly hope it will be received as it is meant. I have endeavoured to convey the exact impressions of my mind upon the vast and glorious undertaking about to be engaged in, by a respectable body of my Countrymen, who, generally speaking, I am confident, can have but feint ideas of the difficulties that surround them. I have, in as concise a manner as I knew how, pointed them out. There will be danger in supposing I have drawn an overcharged picture. Experience will inform you that I have written in the spirit of Truth. Allow me now the honour to subscribe myself

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient

Humble Servant,

AN ENGLISHMAN.

Upper Canada, October 31, 1824.

