

Emigrate or Not ? 1832

The emigrant's pocket companion : containing, what emigration is, who should be emigrants, where emigrants should go ; a description of British North America, especially the Canadas ; and full instructions to intending emigrants

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Where Should The Emigrant Go.

THAT is an inquiry of so much consequence that if it is not answered in a satisfactory manner, the whole question of “ emigrate or not emigrate ” may be considered as remaining unsettled and in suspense ; for if the emigrant is not perfectly satisfied in his own mind, however the result may turn out, that he is to be better in the country of his adoption than in that of which he takes farewell, he will not be contented with his situation.

The relative intrinsic value of the land, acre for acre, and the climate and other circumstances of the country are, without doubt, very important in the decision of the question ; but many of these are of a nature not easy to be judged of, with sufficient accuracy, without personal examination, and that for some length of time ; and therefore they cannot be considered as comprising the whole grounds of decision.

Proximity to the country left is one element that is always worthy of being taken into the account, not only as the closer that that is, the more are the expenses and contingencies of the transit lessened, and the less time is lost ; but because there is not so great an interruption of that intercourse with the parent country, which it is necessary under many circumstances, and desirable under all circumstances, that the emigrant should keep up. To be dependant on the mother country is not a desirable situation for an emigrant, but still, as a return to that country may, under many circumstances, be necessary even for the comfort and prosperity of the emigrant in the new country, that furnishes another argument why, of countries that, in other respects, present equal advantages, the one which is at the least distance should have the preference.

Another, and a far more important ground of preference is similarity, or that, of countries which are equal in other respects, the emigrant should choose that which more nearly resembles the country which he leaves.

This similarity admits of subdivision. There may be similarity in the country itself,—in the appearance, soil, and productions ; there may be similarity in the government and laws ; and there may be similarity in the manners of the people.

Now though, as has been said, the man who has formed the fewest and least confirmed habits in the country from which he emigrates, be on that account the better fitted for becoming an emigrant, inasmuch as he has less to forget, and therefore can learn more readily than the man whose habits are confirmed, yet there is probably no man who has lived long enough in a country to be capable of independent emigration from it, who has not formed not merely some habits, but a number of habits, that he cannot change without inconvenience and loss of time. Those habits may respect the country,—as he may be accustomed to the part-

icular kind of weather or succession of seasons, to the particular productions and modes of culture ; and though these may, at first sight, appear to be but trifling matters, they are often found to be of very great importance, not only in respect of feeling and comfort, but in respect of success. Those who have been accustomed to what may be called the “ uniformly” variable climate of Britain have often suffered by carrying the remains of their experience of that into countries where there are long periods of drought and humidity, alternating with each other after the lapse of several months. Great difference of temperature is also an inconvenience, as when an inhabitant of a cold or temperate country goes to reside in a tropical one.

The difference of government and laws is, in all probability, a more serious matter ; and when one has been inured to them, the change is probably more difficult to be made, and more disagreeable in the making, than that from one climate, or succession of seasons and weather, to another. The laws of England are, perhaps, more peculiar than those of any other country, and, perhaps, from being for a great length of time in the habit of hearing them praised above all others, Englishmen are probably more attached to their government and laws than the people of any other country. We have nothing to do with the ground of this preference. It may be well-founded, or it may be a mere prejudice, but still it exists ; and therefore an accordance with the government and laws of England is an advantage, and should be, and generally is, a ground of preference to an Englishman, in making choice of a foreign country in which to settle, and become one of its permanent inhabitants. If the government and laws are the same, or very nearly the same, in their substance, their form, or both, in the new country as they are in England, the change will be much less felt, and the emigrant will, in one important respect, at least, hardly consider himself as a stranger in his new locality, even at the time of his first arrival. Now, even when any return to it is doubtful, any thing that recalls the country of our birth, by recalling at the same time the memory of the days of youth, which are pleasant days in spite of situation, produces pleasurable feelings ; and these conduce very much to success in any enterprize, and also to render the result of that more agreeable if it is successful, and less painful if it is not.

But if it be agreeable to the emigrant to recognize among the people in the land where he takes up his residence, the government and the laws of the land which gave him birth, it must be far more agreeable for him to meet and associate with his countrymen there,—to see the same character of faces to which he has all his life been accustomed, to hear the same language—the very peculiarities, perhaps, of the same identical village in which he learned the use of speech,—and to witness the same modes of life with which he is familiar. Those circumstances make him at once feel that he is quite at home, and he is at once able to support his part among them with a confidence which it would take him many months to acquire among strange features, unknown or imperfectly known sounds, and customs to which he were a stranger. There is a translation of looks and of conduct, as well as of words ; and the man who has any one of them to work out by practice, to say nothing of the harder task of them all, before he can understand or be understood, must have very unpleasant feelings of dependance and helplessness, as compared with him who is previously furnished with them all. There are many minor considerations arising out of the similarity of the country left and that arrived in, but those which have been mentioned, may be regarded as decisive.

The general inference is, that a British emigrant should, for his own advantage, and without any necessary reference to the welfare of Britain, choose a British colony for his permanent abode, unless he has other inducements than that of mere residence. In many other places, unless he renounces his country, he is an alien ; and if he does renounce it, and swear a foreign allegiance, he is always looked upon as a sort of renegade, and never attains that

consideration in the adopted country that he lost in the old one. He may accumulate wealth, though the situation in which he is placed is not the most favourable even for that ; but he can seldom, if ever, so far gain the confidence of the strangers, as to rise to any office or station of importance ; and the feeling of alienship that is expressed towards himself, descends, in part at least, to his family. There may be circumstances under which it is a man's interest to take up his permanent residence in a strange country ; there may be other circumstances under which that becomes necessary ; and there may be some that do it from capricious feeling ; but it is not wise or natural, as a general practice, for those who emigrate.

There are very few countries under native and independent governments, to which an English emigrant can have access, between which and England there are not some remains of national jealousy. Probably those remains are, in some cases, becoming less and less, but in no case are they actually extinct ; and, in the United States of America, the only place where English, or a dialect of English is the common language, they are probably stronger than in any other country. At all events, those who have resided for some time in these states without any particular prejudice in favour of their form of government, and some who have gone thither with that prejudice rather strong, have very generally united in describing the United States, as by no means an agreeable country for an Englishman. The language, although in substance English, has undergone so many changes, that the man who uses it most correctly according to the idioms of England, is the greatest blunderer in the opinion of an American, The people too, are, to an Englishman, too harsh in their manners, and too forward and lively in their independence. There is little bond of society among them. Their independence is the independence of pebbles without their smoothness ; and though they are probably in the practice of the attrition that may ultimately produce that effect, the din of the grinding is harsh, and the smoothness and polish are yet far distant.

In matters of bargaining too, the Englishman is so different from the Americans that he cannot easily meet them upon equal terms. American with American is a fair match—" Greek meeting Greek ;" but each and all of them are so constantly governed by their own interests, and so unfastidious about the means or the mode by which they hope to attain those interests, that they are not the people among whom an Englishman, and more especially an Englishman of that class to which we have said that an emigrant may most profitably for himself belong, can associate either to the greatest profit, or with the greatest pleasure.

The choice of the intending emigrant, who has no other motive for his change of country, than that he may remove from one where there is not scope for his talents, to one where there is, is therefore confined to those colonies that are more immediately under the British government and laws, and partially at least settled by British people. In India colonization is not permitted, and though it were, it would not be advisable for the class of persons, whose interests and those of the country concur most in the fact of emigration. The habits and modes of cultivation, and indeed the whole economy of the West India islands, and of the colonies on the main land of South America, are just as little suited to British tastes and habits. Western Africa is a pest-house ; and those emigrants who have gone to Southern Africa have not found their choice a very agreeable or advantageous one. Australia, too, whether the larger island of New Holland, or the smaller one of Van Diemen, is far distant, and very unlike Britain in almost every respect. It is also the place for those that are expatriated bylaw for delinquencies ; and therefore it is not, upon any account, a very eligible place for those whose interest it is to emigrate.

Thus there remains but one locality ; and that is British North America, In that country there is, however, abundance of space, and no want of inducements, although the distance is considerable, and attended with some hazards and hardships that are not experienced on some

longer voyages that are made wholly on the ocean ; and although but few commercial advantages can be expected, at least for a very long time. Commerce is not the object, however, to which the attention of the spare people—the people who leave the country because there is no proper scope for their working powers in it, should be directed. It is because they are not fit parts of the commercial system at home, or are not wanted for the carrying on of that system, that they are to spare. They have of course no commercial knowledge, and therefore they would be out of their element, were they to attempt any thing of the kind. What they stand in need of is employment, as similar as possible to that to which they have been accustomed, and a reasonable hope of plenty and independence, if they are diligent and persevering in the performance of that labour. That they are almost certain of in British North America, if they can once get settled there, and go rightly to work. There is also the advantage that, if they make choice of the proper place, they may be in the near neighbourhood not only of Britons, but of persons from their own part of the country. That is a very decided advantage, as it is calculated, sooner than any thing else, perhaps, to reconcile them to a place, where the scenery and the employment are almost entirely new. Another inducement is their being wholly under British laws ; and having their own Houses of Assembly and local management, to a share in which they may naturally aspire. Thus a Briton finds in that colony not merely his brethren, but also his birth-right—that which, if he has any knowledge at all, he has been taught to esteem the most ; and thus, notwithstanding the distance, and the change in the climate, the seasons, and the appearance of the country, there is still enough to justify the feeling that one is still in a province, though a distant province, of Britain itself. That feeling is one which is well worthy of being cherished for that mutual advantage of the mother country and the colony, upon which both their interests are so dependant ; and the want of which has been so painfully experienced, in colonies that were established and conducted for long periods, before the relations between them and the countries from which they emanated, were so well understood as they ought to be now.

There is one other consideration very much in favour of those colonies, and that is, that a labourer, or one of the plain artisans that are necessary in the state of the country, is sure to find work, and obtain wages, from the savings of which he may, in a year or two, be able to purchase a lot of land. In this way, single men, and also those who can conveniently leave their families behind them for a year or two, may make just as sure of arriving at independence in Canada, as they are of coming to beggary and the workhouse in England ; and bitter experience shows that that is the only certainty to which an English labourer can look.

The plan, in the days alluded to, was to make the colony a source of direct revenue to the mother country,—to endeavour to obtain from those who had their country absolutely to make—at least to change from a very wild state—a revenue for a country that had been for ages under civilization. Profitable in the way of commerce a country may be ; and when the country is in a state at all resembling the present state of England, the colony is of value, as affording profitable employment to those who cannot obtain that at home ; but to suppose that any one country can for any length of time continue to yield a revenue to another, which is in fact more wealthy than itself, is an absurdity ; and in all cases where the attempt has been persevered in, revolt and subsequent hatred have been the consequences. From the comparatively recent settlements of the British portion of North America, there are some reasons for hoping that it may form an exception ; and as it is interesting in other respects, the remaining pages are devoted chiefly to it.

Geographical Sketch of British North America.

ALTHOUGH it is not necessary, and indeed not to be expected, that the emigrant should have a general knowledge of geography, yet it is absolutely indispensable that he should have, at least, some knowledge of the country in which he is to take up his abode ; and the British possessions in North America are so extensive, and so various in their climates and productions, and in the occupations of their inhabitants, that a general account becomes necessary, as a preface to the statistics of the particular districts.

Those possessions consist of the country on the north bank of the great river St. Lawrence, with a portion of that on the south, for an extent, from east to west, as explored in part at least, of more than 1200 miles on the parallel of latitude, and the western boundary is indefinite. The extreme breadth from north to south, is also nearly 800 miles, and the northern boundary is indefinite,—the country being British as far as it is habitable, or admits being-visited during the summer months.

The boundaries of this great extent of territory, even where they are definite, are very irregular, and greatly exceed the straight-lined dimensions. From the extreme east, there are about 800 miles of sea-boundary, westward on the south side, without reckoning the smaller bays and creeks. Westward of this, there are nearly 600 miles of a boundary along the land, which is not absolutely settled. At the extremity of that boundary, the great river St. Lawrence separates the British territory from the United States, extending south-westward for about 100 miles to Lake Ontario, Lake Ontario is 150 miles on the straight line to the mouth of the River Niagara ; but the shores of that lake make, at least, 250 miles of coast. The River Niagara to Lake Erie is about 25 miles ; and Lake Erie is 250 miles on the straight line. From the head of Lake Erie, through Lake St. Clair, to Lake Huron, is about 100 miles ; Lake Huron is, at least, 300 miles, and Lake Superior 400 miles. From the head of Lake Superior the boundary stretches north-westward to the Lake of the Woods ; and thence westward along the parallel of 49° . The words of the treaty say, that it is to be drawn to the Mississippi ; but the source of the Mississippi is *southward* of the Lake of the Woods. The north-west angle of the Lake of the Woods being in $49^{\circ} 20'$, the boundary stretches southward to the parallel of 49° ; then westward along that parallel to the highest ridge of the rocky mountains ; and thence on the parallel $42^{\circ} 50'$, to the Pacific Ocean. A portion of the north west is claimed by Russia as far south as to about the 51° of latitude, and the Russian portion may be considered as bounded eastward by the meridian of about 140° west of Greenwich, from Mount Elias to the shores of the Arctic Sea. In the present state of the country, however, those boundaries are not of much consequence ; though the fur trade from North-western America to China is a source of very considerable revenue to the Russians. Reckoning the boundary only as far as Lake Superior, there are, exclusive of bays, upwards of 2000 miles which are water, and generally speaking, navigable for vessels of large burden ; at least there are not above 200 or 300 miles out of the 2000, that are not deep water ; for the lakes have all the depth, and all the danger of seas.

On the east coast the extent of water boundary is also very great. From the extreme point of the island of Cape Breton westward, on the south side of the St. Lawrence to Quebec, where the sea navigation may be said to end, there are, exclusive of bays and creeks, at least 1000 miles of coast ; and 700 may be considered as approachable on the north side of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. That portion of the St. Lawrence from Quebec, south-westward, which lies wholly within the British territory, is, at least, 200 miles in length, which gives an additional 400 miles of navigable shore. So that, without taking islands, other navigable

rivers besides the St. Lawrence, or irregularities of the coast into the account, it may be stated that the British provinces in North America have nearly 5000 miles susceptible of being approached by ships or boats of some description or other. Much of this water-communication too, lies in the interior of the country ; and it may be said, that the only portion that is exposed to hostility, is the 100 miles of the St. Lawrence below Lake Ontario ; and for commercial purposes that may be avoided by means of the Rideau Canal, from Kingston on Lake Ontario, to Hull on the Ottawa River.

It will be more convenient to divide the remainder of this chapter into sections.

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Section I — PROVINCES.

The British territories in North America, at least that portion of them which is fit for being the permanent residence of inhabitants, consists of five provinces :—Newfoundland ; Nova Scotia ; New-Brunswick, including Prince Edward's Island ; and Lower and Upper Canada. The three provinces first mentioned, are not very well adapted for the residence of emigrants ; and in Lower Canada the English settler labours under a disadvantage, because the majority of the people are French.

Newfoundland.

Newfoundland is an island of an irregular triangular shape, lying between about $46\frac{1}{2}$ and $51\frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$ north latitude, and between about $52\frac{1}{2}$ and $59\frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$ west longitude. Its greatest length is about 350 miles, in its greatest breadth nearly 300. It occupies the northern portion of the entrance to the Gulf of the St. Lawrence ; and it used to be valued chiefly on account of the fishing on the great banks to the southward of it. The great bank is nearly 700 miles in length from north to south ; the breadth also is considerable ; and the quantity of fish, more especially of cod, that resort to it during the fishing season, which lasts from April to October, is almost incredible. Exclusive of other nations, it is estimated that the British employ on the average annually, about 400 ships of nearly 100 tons each, and 2000 fishing shallops or busses of about 10 tons each, the whole manned by upwards of 20,000 individuals, a portion of whom, however, are landsmen. There are twelve men in each shallop ; and in good seasons these catch about 20,000 cod, which are of firm consistency, but seldom more than three feet in length. The value of the fish thus annually caught by British adventurers alone, is not much less than 5,000,000*l.*—a vast revenue to derive from the sea over one assemblage of banks.

There is no doubt, that those vast banks have been accumulated by the two currents in the sea, one from the St. Lawrence, and the other along the eastern shore of America, all the way from the Gulf of Mexico. The latter current, being by much the warmer of the two, forms the surface water ; and the difference of temperature is sometimes as much as from 15° to 20° of the common thermometer. Sweeping along as those currents do, there is no question that they collect, from a vast extent of sea, food for the great shoals of cod. The heat of the water is, however, attended with considerable inconvenience. When air passes over a moist surface, warmer than itself, it becomes loaded with fog ; and that fog is dense in proportion to the difference of temperature between them. In few cases is there so great a difference between the temperature of the surface and that of the air, as when the wind blows from north-east toward Newfoundland ; and the consequence is, that the fogs are denser there, not only on the banks and the shores of the island, but in the adjoining places at some seasons, than in almost any other part of the world. Though by no means a desirable place to settle in, Newfoundland

now contains probably about 80,000 inhabitants, which is more than three times the number it contained about forty years ago. Some spots are susceptible of cultivation, but in general the island consists of rocky eminences, interspersed with marshes, and forests of stunted and not very valuable timber. There are numbers of bears, wolves, foxes, and deer in the forests ; the rivers and lakes are plentifully supplied with salmon ; and beavers, otters, and other water quadrupeds are abundant. It does not appear that the well-known Newfoundland dog is a native of the island.

Nova Scotia.

The province of Nova Scotia occupies the extreme east of continental America, southward of the St. Lawrence ; and it is one of the most perfect examples of a peninsula any where to be met with. Its greatest length, which lies in the direction of north-east and south-west, is nearly 400 miles, and its breadth varies from 50 to more than 100. The south-east and south-west sides are washed by the Atlantic. The north-west side is bounded by the extensive Bay of Fundy, and its continuation, Chignecto Bay, then by about eleven miles of a neck of land to Bay Bute, which communicates with the Northumberland Strait, which has Prince Edward's Island on the north side. On the north-east it is separated from the island of Cape Breton by St. George's Bay and the Gulf of Canseau, so that, with the exception of the eleven miles alluded to, it is entirely bounded by sea. It has been proposed to cut a canal through this eleven miles, and thereby avoid the long and dangerous navigation round Cape Breton ; and an estimate under 70,000*l.* has been given, for one that would admit vessels drawing eight feet of water ; but it is doubtful if a due estimate of the different rise of the tides has been made. There are many creeks and inlets, several of which, especially that at Halifax the capital, form excellent, capacious, and safe harbours. In the Bay of Fundy and its continuations, the tides rise to a very great elevation,—more so than, perhaps, in any other part of the world, as the opening of the bay is right against the line of the current from the south.

Though not a mountainous country, there being no elevation exceeding six hundred feet, Nova Scotia is very much diversified by hill and dale ; and it is remarkably well supplied with water. The province altogether contains about nine millions of acres, of which two millions are described as good soil, three millions as moderate, two millions are bad, and the remainder is absolutely sterile and unfit for cultivation. About four millions of acres are already appropriated ; and as these are equal to all the good lands, and two-thirds of the middling sort, the remaining five millions hold out few temptations to settlers.

The winters in Nova Scotia are long and cold ; and the spring is remarkably short, so that the land is cultivated at considerable expense, as more labourers are wanted at that season than can be employed during the rest of the year. The climate is moist, and very foggy in the spring and autumn ; but it is said to be disagreeable rather than unhealthy. The wind, which is most pernicious, both to vegetation and health, is a cold drying wind ; and not one that is so much charged with moisture as to produce fogs. Both the people and the crops suffer far more from the winds in the United States, than they do in Nova Scotia. Vegetation is very rapid and vigorous in the latter ; the fields are richly green ; and the potato, though understood to be a native of the tropical parts of America, thrives better in Nova Scotia than in any other part of the continent.

It was mentioned that Halifax has an excellent harbour,—indeed it is one of the best in America—accessible at all seasons, and capable of receiving more than a thousand vessels, which can anchor in perfect safety. The town corresponds. It contains about fifteen thousand inhabitants ; and in 1828 the exports, exclusive of coasting trade, amounted to nearly 250,000*l.* ; and the imports to upwards of 700,000*l.* Both ways, about 1100 vessels were

employed, and upwards of 6600 men. Pictou, on the opposite coast of the same province, (Halifax is eastward on the Atlantic), has a commodious harbour, and though there is a bar across it, there are twenty-two feet on that at low water. There are many other commodious towns and harbours in Nova Scotia ; there is also an abundant supply of coal, iron-stone, and building and grit stones ; but from the circumstance that has been already stated, as well as from its almost insular situation, it is not the best possible country for emigrants ; and altogether its characters are commercial rather than agricultural—better adapted for speculating capitalists than for simple settlers.

New Brunswick.

The province of New Brunswick lies immediately to the west of Nova Scotia, from which it is separated by the Bay of Fundy and Chignecto, and Bay Verte on the St. Lawrence side ; and the northern part of the east boundary is formed by Northumberland Strait and the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The Bay of Chaleur, and the River Ristigauche, which falls into that bay, form the separation from Lower Canada on the north ; and the western boundary, from the Bay of Passamaquaddy northward, is formed by the district of Maine in the United States.

New Brunswick is a large province, containing nearly 18,000,000 of acres, by computation ; but a small portion only of it is settled, and the rest consists of vast forests. Great quantities of timber have been cut down in those forests ; though the operation has, in general, been carried on in rather a slovenly manner, and double the quantity that has been used has been wasted. The winter in New Brunswick is long and severe, the thermometer being sometimes as much as 50° below freezing; and in the summer it rises as high as 90°. It does not appear, however, that the climate is unhealthy, though it may, and indeed must, be more so than that of Nova Scotia. The rivers in the interior are generally frozen over in winter ; but the harbours that open into the Bay of Fundy are never wholly blocked up by the ice.

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Section II. — THE CANADAS.

The provinces of Lower and Upper Canada may be described as occupying the whole of the lower valley of the St. Lawrence, and the northern half of the upper, and of the basin of the great lakes.

Lower Canada.

The *lower* province lies between 45° and 52° of north latitude, and 63° and 81° of west longitude,—thus having an extent from east to west of more than 800 miles ; and nearly 500 from north to south. The northern boundary is the district of East Maine, towards Hudson's Bay ; the eastern boundaries are Labrador and the Gulf of St. Lawrence ; the southern New Brunswick, and the United States ; the south-west Upper Canada, from which it is separated by the Ottawa River, and the north-west the Hudson's Bay territory.

The province is divided into three principal districts—Quebec, Montreal, and Three Rivers ; with the two minor ones of Gaspé and St. Francis. These districts are subdivided into forty counties. It is to be borne in mind that the *seigniories* and *fiefs* are the old French grants while the province belonged to that people, and they are held according to the ancient feudal law of France. The townships, on the other hand, are British grants, and held upon the tenure of common soccage.

The Montreal District contains, 19 Counties, 63 Seigniories, 6 Fiefs, and 59 Townships.

The Quebec District contains, 13 Counties, 79 Seigniories, 12 Fiefs, and 38 Townships.

The Three Rivers District contains, 6 Counties, 25 Seigniories, 9 Fiefs, and 53 Town-ships.

The Gaspé District contains, 2 Counties, 1 Seignior, 6 Fiefs, and 10 Townships.

According to the census of 1829, the population of those districts was as follows : —

Montreal	268,681
Quebec	143,761
Three Rivers	51,657
Bonaventure . . .	5,160
Gaspé	2,617
Total . .	471,876

In glancing over the list of counties, the proportion that the feudal tenures bear to the townships, affords a means of judging whether the people be chiefly French or British, a question of some importance to British emigrants intending to take up their abode in Lower Canada. Thus, for instance, in the Montreal district, while Richelieu is wholly French tenure, the country on the Ottawa is wholly British. The French grants are the most accessible, and, generally speaking, the best lands in the province. The whole surface of the French grants amounts to little short of 10,000,000 of acres, but more than the half of that immense surface is still waste, and much of it is not fit for cultivation. The best cultivated places are on the banks of the St. Lawrence, the islands in that river, and some of the tributaries that fall into it. The surveyed lands to be granted in townships amounts to nearly the same as the feudal lands ; but they lie more in the rear, and are in consequence neither so accessible nor so valuable. In the interior, the townships are about ten miles square ; and on the rivers they are nine miles along the banks and twelve miles backwards. One of these rectangular townships contains eleven concessions, and each range 28 lots of 200 acres each inclusive of roads. Of the 308 lots that are thus in a township, 88 are reserved for the crown and the clergy, and 220 are disposed of to settlers.

That portion of Lower Canada which lies on the north, or left-hand bank, of the St. Lawrence may be conveniently divided into three natural sections. First, the country from the confluence of the Ottawa with the St. Lawrence, including a small portion on the opposite side of the mouth of the Ottawa, to the confluence of the St. Maurice with the St. Lawrence at the town of Trois Rivieres. Secondly, from the last-mentioned river to the mouth of the Seguenay, about 120 miles north-eastward of Quebec ; and thirdly, from the Seguenay eastward along the estuary of the St. Lawrence to Labrador.

“ The front which this,” (the first section,) says M. Bouchette, “ presents on the Ottawa River, and on the St. Lawrence exceeds 450 miles ; the whole of which distance, saving port-

ages or carrying-places in remote parts of the Ottawa, is navigable for canoes and boats ; upwards of 200 miles of it are navigable at long interstices, for steam-boats drawing from four to fifteen feet water, and a section of ninety miles, or the distance between Montreal and Three Rivers, is actually navigated by square-rigged vessels of various burdens, from 100 tons to 600.”

The settlers along the left or lower Canadian bank of the Ottawa are chiefly British ; and though much of the land there is in a state of wilderness, and some of it marshy and subject to floodings during the rains and melting of the snows, it is in many places moderately fertile, better adapted for grazing than the countries higher up ; and though the climate is rather cold and moist, it is not very unhealthy unless in the swamps where organic remains are in a state of putrefaction. It is estimated that more than 70,000 persons might be comfortably located in that district alone. As Three Rivers are approached, the land in the immediate vicinity of the St. Lawrence is more occupied by French settlers, and consequently the townships disposable to British emigrants are in the rear and not so accessible.

The bank of the St. Lawrence, for a considerable portion of this extent is rich and beautiful, and so is the island of Montreal, and some of the smaller isles ; but the inhabitants have been a little over-zealous in cutting down the timber.

The second section on the north—that from the St. Maurice to the Seguenay, has a sea, or river coast of about 190 miles, at the middle of which the city of Quebec is situated. Above Quebec, the seigniories are settled to a considerable distance back, with the exception of Champlain and Cap la Magdalene, immediately to the eastward of the St. Maurice, which are sandy, barren, and hardly worth cultivating. In other places, the soil toward the river is moderately good ; and it is *said* to improve in the interior. Eastward of Quebec, the general surface of the country is more elevated ; and the valleys of the rivers that flow into the estuary of the St. Lawrence afford some fine scenery. The population of this section amounts to about 70,000. The interior of this section has been but recently explored by the British, and the settlements do not extend many miles to the northward of Quebec. It is full of streams and small lakes.

Of the third section, from the Seguenay east-ward to Anee au Sablon, on the confines of Labrador, little is known except the coast, which extends along the estuary and gulf of the St. Lawrence for between 600 and 700 miles. Wolves and bears are the chief inhabitants. The hills are supposed to contain mines ; but the climate is far from inviting, and there is nothing to induce emigrants to settle in that part of the country. Rugged cliffs, not lofty enough for being grand, interspersed with forests or clumps of stunted pines and spruces that appear bent and twisted by the fury of the storms, are among the most characteristic features of that inhospitable section of northern Canada.

On the south side of the St. Lawrence there are also three convenient natural sections of the country. First, westward of the Chaudière, which falls into the St. Lawrence a little above Quebec ; secondly, the country from the Chaudière to the western frontier of the Gaspé district ; and thirdly, that district itself.

The section to the west of the Chaudière is a very interesting portion of the province. Its form is nearly triangular, having the American states of New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York, on the south, along the parallel of 45°, the St. Lawrence on the north-west, and the remainder of southern Canada on the east. The general position of the surface is a gradual slope from the high lands on the American frontier to the St. Lawrence ; but various insulated hills prevent its character from being tame, and also supply it with water. The shores of the

St. Lawrence are granted in seigniories, to a considerable distance from the river, so that the townships are in the vicinity of the United States, with which there is a water communication along Lake Champlain to the Hudson River at New York. Many parts of the section are rich land ; but the British part of the population labour under some disadvantages ; they want good roads, and they have people speaking a different language between them and the St. Lawrence. In some parts, too, there are extensive marshes and very close forests. The second section, or that between the right bank of the Chaudière and the confines of Gaspé, is less valuable ; and if the boundary claimed by the United States—that which includes, on their side, all the northern feeders of the upper part of the river St. John—is to be the ultimate one, it will be much smaller. That boundary cuts off more than a million and a half of acres. The hills of this part of Canada, approach within sixty miles of the St. Lawrence ; but the population does not extend so far, being confined to a tract of about nine miles in breadth along the St. Lawrence and the right bank of the Chaudière, The greater part of the interior is an absolute wilderness, and has not been even surveyed.

The third section on the south side of the estuary is the territory of Gaspé. There are some patches of good land on the coasts ; but the interior is a thick forest, destitute of roads.

Such are the principal localities in Lower Canada; and perhaps the safest conclusion that can be drawn from the very short notice that has been taken of them is, that the country on the Ottawa is probably the most eligible part of the province for British emigrants, who resort to the country for the purpose of cultivating the soil, and supporting themselves and their families on the produce.

Upper Canada.

Upper Canada was separated from the lower province in 1791, chiefly on purpose that there might be one active colony in which the law of property might be the same as in England. The boundaries of the province, where they are in the meantime of much importance, are very definite : the centre of the St. Lawrence, of the great lakes, and of their connecting narrows and streams, from the boundary between and the United States, till the distance westward into the wilderness becomes so great, that a few miles one way or the other, are not, in the meantime, much worth disputing about. With the exception of a small corner toward the St. Lawrence, which, having been granted in seigniorage, it was desirable to include in the lower province ; the Ottawa forms an equally definite boundary on the north-east, and the other boundaries are in the wilderness. That toward the north may however be considered as being definite, being the water-shed between the sources of the streams that flow toward the lakes or the St. Lawrence, and those flow toward Hudson's Bay. The whole extent of surface in Upper Canada exceeds 21,000,000 of acres.

Each township is estimated as containing about 61,600 acres, which gives a total of more than 17,000,000. Of these about 7,000,000 are already granted, four of 500,000 are reserved, and there are 5,500,000 still to grant.

There are three natural divisions of Upper Canada, formed by two ridges of hills, or at least elevations. The first ridge forms the south-western boundary of what may be called the valley of the Ottawa ; and the second ridge separates the streams that flow northward into Lake Simcoe and Lake Huron, from those that flow southward into Lake Ontario.

The eastern division, as marked by these ridges, comprises the Eastern district, and the districts of Ottawa, Johnstown, Midland, and Bathurst.

Situated between two great rivers, and being nowhere very elevated, that part of the province is fertile ; but it abounds in marshes and swamps. In the eastern part the summit level is much nearer the St. Lawrence than the Ottawa. Beginning at the frontier of Lower Canada, the eastern and Johnstown districts skirt the bank of the St. Lawrence ; and the Ottawa, Bathurst, and Midland districts that of the Ottawa, the last however extending as far south as Lake Ontario, and along the shore of that lake to the river Trent on the borders of Newcastle. It is probable that the most salubrious part of this division may be in the Midland district, higher up the Ottawa than the junction of the Madawaska, as there are hills there ; but the climate must be more severe than toward Lake Ontario.

The centre division contains the Newcastle and the Home districts, occupying about 120 miles on the north shore of Lake Ontario. The Newcastle district extends indefinitely toward the forests on the upper part of the Ottawa ; and the Home district extends toward the shores of the Georgian Bay of Lake Huron. Lake Simcoe, which discharges its waters into the said bay through the river Severn, would be a large lake in any other country than Canada. It is at least fifty miles long, and thirty at its greatest breadth. The interior of that part of the country has not been very carefully explored, but the probability is that it abounds in small lakes and swamps.

The remaining, or third division, to the westward of the second ridge, contains the Gore, Niagara, London, and Western districts. It is of an irregular triangular form, having the Home district. Lake Ontario, and the river Niagara on the east, Lake Erie on the south, and Lake St. Clair, the Narrows, and Lake Huron on the west. With the exception of the elevated ridge (which after all is not more than 590 feet in elevation), there are no mountains in it; and though it contains several rivers, water does not abound so much in it, as in most other parts of Upper Canada.

Such are the principal divisions of the Canadas...

The emigrant's pocket companion : containing, what emigration is, who should be emigrants, where emigrants should go ; a description of British North America, especially the Canadas ; and full instructions to intending emigrants (1832)

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