

A Manual For Emigrants,

*Suggested by Circumstances, Proved By Personal
Experience and Intended to Be Placed
In The Hands of
All Foreigners
Especially
Emigrants from the British Isles
Arriving at the various Atlantic ports in
The United States of America*

(“ The earth is the Lord’s and the fulness thereof.”)

BY

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Price One Shilling

To Thomas Dixon, Esquire, Late President of The British Protective Emigrant Society, and
Ex-President of The St. George’s Society, of New-York,

The Following Pages
Are Most Respectfully Inscribed

With

Sentiments of Esteem,

By

His Much Obligated
And Very Obedient Servant,
CHAS. H. WEBB.

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PREFACE.

THE writer of this little work, has for some years seen the necessity, of giving *direct* and *positive* information to all emigrants arriving from Europe, in the Atlantic Ports of the United States ; and the various “ Protection Societies” have, to doubt, abundantly secured from fraud and imposition thousands and tens of thousands. Still it is presumed, that a little plain and reliable information in this shape will not prove unacceptable ; and from the author’s known experience and general knowledge on the subject, (having for several years performed the duties of “ Superintendent” to the British Protective Emigrant Society of New-York, and

associated with the St. George's Society of that City,) he ventures to hope that his intentions will be found sincere, and his suggestions practical.

The object of this pamphlet is, to call the attention of all immigrants arriving at this, and other Atlantic ports in the Western world, to the present state of society here, and its requirements, as to *labor*, and other useful information, and is particularly intended for circulation, among a class of men, who have visited the "Americas" with the intention of identifying themselves for "weal" or for "wo" with the "Great Republic," and of settling in the country.

The object, therefore, is calmly to state the prospects of those more immediately concerned, rather than to animadvert on the circumstances, that induced the "visit" to a "far country," not as "Prodigal Sons," but with the view of "*living*" here, instead of "*existing*" there.

Of course out of the 350,000, more or less, that will settle in the United States in the present year, 1849, a large majority will, from the demand for labor in the "far west," as *farmers, laborers, and others of the stamp, carpenters and rough mechanics, to wit*, "live in the land and fulfil it ;" but with reference to an important class of people, who are willing to comply with the fiat of Omnipotence which destined them to "labor" either mentally or corporeally, the case is widely different, and involves circumstances, most appalling to the condition and chivalry (so to speak) of men, who are willing to "earn their bread by the sweat of their brow," but whose misfortune is education, of rather a superior description to the present demands of the country.

Many, very many such men, (and who so willing to comply with their destiny as they ?) have been allured from their European homes, under the impression that here was a market for their exertions, and an existence for them, provided they only did their duty, and subscribed with deference to the opinions of the people among whom they intended to dwell.

It is not intended by the term "allured," that intelligent men who are here penniless, are altogether blameless, for they were "allured" by garbled accounts as to the demand in the United States, for such men as themselves, on the authority of *their own country newspapers*, and the assurances of "circulars" and for agents' interests, *artfully welded together* and con-cocted, for their own selfish benefit, but professing to echo the sympathies and requirements of employers here, as to the demand for men of the stamp alluded to ; such statements being propagated as matters of grave truth, history and politics. Notwithstanding all this, the "intelligent men" referred to, ought not to have taken for granted, on this authority, things, involving so many serious consequences to themselves, but have gone to "head quarters," and *even then* deeply to have *pondered*, the prospects awaiting them on a foreign shore.

. people, to whom this little manual is particularly directed ; we mean gentlemen with *white hands*, and a courtly style, professional men, small trades men, (without capital,) shopmen, clerks, teachers, commercial agents, literary gentlemen, &c. &c., they will, here, be in competition, with an already redundant supply of such men, "citizens born," with whom competition is useless, and with whom the foreigner as *a rule* cannot successfully struggle against. Still it may be questioned but what some few may in the recesses of the far west, find useful and even profitable employment, for instance "a surgeon," or perhaps a "school-master," but from the difficulty in hitting that particular, spot, and the great obstacles in the way of certain success, it is at once frankly and honestly stated, that the "*white hands*" are not wanted in the United States, under any circumstances whatever ; and to such being here,

is recommended a return at once to their native shores, or being in their European homes, not to cross the Atlantic for the purpose of seeking success here, *for here it will not be found.*

The present aspect of society in the principal cities on the Atlantic shores, the chief up river cities and other towns and villages on the eastern coast of the United States, is that of being already too much over done ; no kinds or classes of emigrants are at all wanted, neither animal, mechanical, scientific nor classical, and every ship load of immigrants arriving, that do not press westward, only reduces the rate of wages and the chances of the thousands already unemployed. Now and then a very superior workman, or a “ barber’s clerk,” or a “ French tailor,” may succeed, but even a laborious hard-working Irishman, can hardly exist in any of these places, the consecutive twelve months, without some assistance gratuitously afforded by the wealthy. The immigrant, therefore, on landing at New-York, is especially informed, that if he stays in that city, he will find provisions, boarding and washing, &c., at least 50 per cent, dearer than in the old country ; while his money lasts, he will be treated with affected hospitality by the Emigrant Boarding House Keeper, (*generally one of his own countrymen,*) and who invites him, from interested motives, to sojourn at his place, till it is gone and spent, and then the immigrant’s position is too painful to dilate upon—let him, therefore, press on for the West, without losing a moment—this is his only certain and successful plan. The immigrant will here remark, that on arrival he cannot get any but furnished apartments and board supplied him by the people of the house—the proprietors of some of these houses (*there are, of course, good and bad,*) are, generally speaking, very exacting, and the charges [1] are such that even if a poor hard-working man, with a family, did succeed in getting employment in the city, he would be unable, with all his exertion, to make both ends meet. Rents are awfully high here, and “ put out” washing from 2s. 6d to 3s. English, per dozen, of course, beyond the means of the poor man ; and as to his wife assisting in the family washing in a boarding-house, it is quite out of the question. It may as well be here stated, that strangers will have great difficulty in getting, in the City of New-York, unfurnished rooms, and that if they succeed in obtaining them, they will have everything to provide, viz., stove and other articles, usually considered fixtures in the old country, and let with the apartment. To avoid these expenses and direct the immigrant as to what he should do, instead of wasting his time *in attempting to* get work here, we again say “ press on for the West.”

The immigrant is hereby cautioned, as to the expences of removing his goods from the ship on arrival, and in all cases it would be well to have a thorough understanding, for some of the unlicensed cartmen are notoriously adverse to *practical honesty*, and will agree for 4 shillings or 8 shillings, (as the case may be,) to take the luggage, and when the duty is performed, demand 4 shillings or 8 shillings English, instead of American money, which is only half the value of sterling, thereby robbing the emigrant to the extent of 100 per cent.

Always make a bargain if you have occasion to employ a cart for the removal of baggage, &c.

The price allowed in New-York by law for a cart load, any distance not exceeding half a mile, is 3¼ cents, and for each additional half mile, one third more.

See that the cart has a number on it ; this is a proof that it is licensed ; and be careful to remember the number.

It would be as well if the immigrant did not move his luggage from the ship at *all*, till he has determined his western route, and then, to cause it to be transmitted direct to the new conveyance, viz., as the case may be, the railroad, the canal, or the upriver steamer, &c., &c.

This should be done, if practicable, in all cases, and the sooner arrangements are then made for moving forward the better ; the only thing that is dangerous now is delay.

With the view of promoting this part of the business, viz : that of “ going forward,” the immigrant is solemnly warned, in the first place, of the frauds practised on the unwary, in turning his foreign money into the “ current” notes and dollars of the country, perhaps no currency in the world affords greater scope for roguery and imposition than does the system of fiscal exchanges, prevalent in the States. In every such case, it is strongly recommended to all immigrants, of whatever country, to apply at once, when he lands, to the “ Protection Society,” of the country he may belong to, where gratuitous information and assistance is heartily extended to all who may apply for it, and no description of fraud sanctioned on “ the stranger, in a strange land,” no charges are made for any services done for him, and none in fact, are permitted.

Having now properly converted his money [2] into the “ circulating medium,” the immigrant is warned as to his next step, that which brings him at once into connection (and unless he minds what he is about he will be taken in) with the “ forwarding companies ;” some of these are “ *pretended*,” and to whom are attached a band of individuals usually termed “ runners,” some of whom (the “ unlicensed”) are the greatest scoundrels in existence. Nothing is so important to the immigrant as doing business with truly honorable and dependable men. [3] At any rate the “ Protection Societies” will, if the immigrant has any doubt on this part of the subject, set him distinctly clear, and will, in addition, confirm this information.

The writer here bears willing testimony to the zeal and protection afforded to strangers by the whole of the New-York newspapers ; and who have one and all frequently exposed the villainies practised upon the “tempest tossed” stranger, and have also repeatedly warned the immigrant against every description of fraud and imposture. The new-York Tribune, among the others, has done its best to “ show up” some of the frauds to which poor emigrants are exposed on landing at New-York by these pretended agents and forwarding companies, it will open the eyes of all interested, who will then perceive the necessity of acting with great caution. We copy part of an article, among many others, from that paper, well deserving the thanks of the whole community.

“ In several recent instances it is proved that families have paid in our city through to Buffalo, Cleveland, Chicago, &c., yet have been stopped half way by a demand of *more money*, as the only condition on which they could be allowed to proceed, or tumbled off on a dock, and left to shift for themselves as they might. In other cases they have been charged extra for luggage in violation of their agreements, and still again they have been swindled by a practice termed “ *Halifaxing*” their effects—that is making the weight twice the real amount, and compelling them to pay full charges on the unjust computation. These are but part of the oppressions heaped upon a class, whose poverty and helplessness, it would seem, must preserve them from the rapacity of any but the most abandoned villains”

Following these precautions, and being forewarned, the emigrant moves forward. He is now launched into a new state of things and has only on his arrival at the place of his destination to “ do his duty.” A few suggestions are here not deemed inappropriate, as to what may be considered “ doing his duty.” It is not that merely *working hard and faithfully*. You are in another land, a strange country, and it would be well to observe as a principle, the following rules of conduct : you will find the reward in so doing.

1st. Give up the habit of spending your evenings in the public house, nothing militates so much against a man here, as the *practice* of [4] visiting such places

2nd. Keep early hours and live temperately, so that you may do your duty with ease to yourself ; and as the best security of “ good health” and “ long life.

3rd. Don’t talk about politics, they won’t “ put money in thy purse,” but will estrange the esteem of your own self respect, and perchance make thee enemies.

4th. Don’t find fault with the implements of husbandry, or mode, or style of doing things, till thou hast a farm of thine own, (and you will then know better ;) depend upon it, the native farmer will not be dictated to, and if you are paid by him for *doing his business*, what does it signify to you how that business is done ? [5]

5th. Fall into the way of doing things as they are most in vogue, and be cautious not to make enemies.

6th. “ Fear God and trust in Providence, wherever thou may’st be.”

We here publish for the information of emigrants the following letter :

CINCINNATI, May 6th, 1849.

C. H. Webb, Esq.

Dear Sir :—I have an engagement on the New Albany and Salem Railroad, many men will to employed, say at least one thousand, for two years. I know that there are hundreds of men unemployed in New York, and that there are numbers coming out in every vessel ; now we want farmer’s men to work with pick and shovel, others to lay rails and sleepers, others at building walls with stone dry walling as we call it, others stone masons, and indeed at all kinds of work connected with the construction of railroads. Can you give this publicity ? * *

Mr. James Willetts, of 19½ Division Street, is a son of one of the contractors, and will see you on the subject, if you will drop him a note. * * * * *

Living here is very cheap, pork 3 cents per pound ; beef and other provisions the same reasonabale rate. To men wishing to buy farms there are great inducements, as they could go on to a farm bought from the company and work out the price. I name this because I know that there are many men who wish to get into the country, buy farms and go to work—yet by some strange fatality they remain in the city and lose their capital.

You will remember me as the man who bought the schooner Peruvian, &c., &c.

I am yours truly,
JOHN ROWLEY.

But now a very important and serious duty indeed, devolves upon the writer in addressing himself to that unfortunate class of people for whose services there is no demand, for whom no market is open, and who are here starving and penniless ; these remarks are intended more by way of preventing other such men from visiting the United States, than advising with those who would return to their native lands. Still we shall not overlook the claims of those who are here helplessly idle, and who may want advice and assistance in this the saddest

moment of their eventful lives,—we shall not shrink from dealing in a general way, with even the necessities of these.

If a gentleman without profession and unaccustomed to labor comes here, he cannot exist, unless he has private resources, and it is *earnestly hoped* that men of this stamp will keep away, as they only embarrass (without a chance of success) the efforts of those whom they may interest in their behalf, or to whom they may get introduced. If a man is not prepared for *hard* and *laborious* duty—he is not wanted here. Those who are in this country of the stamp, had better return to their own, if they have the means of so doing, and if they have not, why then, if they don't wish to starve, they must get on to the “ West,” *beg their way*, sleep and live as they can, and if they are really *in earnest* and are not ashamed to be seen with brown hands and a hard palm, they will soon work their way. The Americans are kind-hearted and thoughtful, and will make allowances, but they like to see a man *try*, they like to know that a man *endeavors* to deserve success,—and if he shows such a disposition to throw off the *gentleman* and *genteel* prejudices, he will soon go ahead, and find that the Americans will not be tardy in according a helping hand.

The writer here wishes to be distinctly understood, that lads and young men from 14 to 18 years of age, can get easily apprenticed to worthy and excellent employers if they are so inclined. They will be taught a good business or trade in all its branches ; be well boarded and lodged, with washing, &c., &c.,—and obtain \$25 to \$30 per year as a start, besides ; and if they conduct themselves *well* this will increase to \$100, or perhaps \$150 before they are out of their time. The friends of such youths must also bear in mind that no premiums are required.

Emigrants who come out on speculation should, (if married,) leave their families at home, till they get settled and prepared for them. The distress arising from not adopting this suggestion is of the most painful character. The husband has to leave to the care of heartless strangers, his wife and children while he is seeking for work, perhaps hundreds of miles off ; and the wives themselves have frequently to fulfil situations of the most *distressing drudgery* for an *existence*, while the children are provided with the charitable *dainties* and *comforts* of the Alms Houses. The expenses of moving about the country with a wife and children will wear down the best private resources. To our own knowledge, and hundreds of instances may be cited illustrative of this view, families have at last been unable (from want of funds) to accept situations which ultimately have presented themselves at a distance, and have thus been *hopelessly steeped in poverty, turpitude and moral degradation* ; all arising from the want of caution in leaving the family at home, till proper provision has been made for its reception. The husband should also remember that his family can come out as securely *without* him as with him, and it would not be speaking too strongly to assert in nine cases out of ten, more comfortably altogether. Again, supposing the head of the family may so happen to dislike the country as a place of settlement ; why put himself to the expense and his family to the inconvenience of twice crossing the Atlantic ?

A few general remarks to disabuse the minds of many emigrants on the subject, is here considered necessary.

Some are under the impression that should they not succeed in America they can be sent back at the expense of the Consul, or the city authorities or benefit societies ! Depend upon it this is altogether untrue.

Another impression is that the owners of vessels are in some degree responsible for supporting the destitute who may have come out in their ships, or at least of taking them back—

this is likewise untrue. Owners of ships are not liable for the support of the emigrants they may bring out, as they have to pay a commutation on each passenger to the Emigration Commissioners, that he may not become chargeable to the authorities for the term of five [6] years. This is, however, not open to abuse, but is applicable to the sick and decayed only, and not to able-bodied persons capable of labor, and who will not exert themselves properly by pushing at once into the interior. The Consul can only send back shipwrecked or disabled sailors.

Another class of emigrants require to be advised in reference to their money. They leave England or Ireland, as the case may be, rather short of cash, and expect on arrival remittances from their friends in this country, but who may be hundreds of miles off in the interior ; the better plan is before any person leaves the Old Country, to write (if he expects assistance from his American friends) to them before sailing—so that on arrival at this port he may apply at the Consul's or Protective Society's offices, and at once receive the money on application. But, unfortunately many arrive here almost destitute, and then write to their friends for money, forgetting that sometimes a letter may be a month, or even more, before it comes to hand, and that in some cases it may miscarry altogether. Nothing can be more distressing, under such circumstances, than the condition of the unfortunate emigrant who is thereby exposed to the most degrading poverty, inconvenience and misery.

To prevent the inconvenience and distress consequent on such folly, it is suggested that no person should embark on board the emigrant-ship in the old country without having a thorough understanding with his friends as to his means of existence on arrival here ; and if money is to be sent forward to meet him on landing, it should be done promptly, and consigned post free to the care of the consul or the Protective Society, with full particulars, &c., &c., as to its administration.

It is also suggested to emigrants when travelling, to provide themselves with plenty of small silver money ; and, if you can avoid it, do not take the American notes in exchange for your sterling money till you can discriminate between the counterfeit and the genuine ; you will be sadly imposed upon if you don't mind this advice.

Again : in selecting a proper vessel, the emigrant is warned as to the sort of ship he should select for his voyage. In all cases the regular packets should be patronized, because they are better constructed for the transit of passengers than ordinary merchantmen. Some of these latter are frequently twice as long on the passage as those recommended, and in that event, from the want of provisions, (his sea-stock being exhausted,) the unfortunate emigrant is compelled to purchase of the captain, at enormous rates, food for his support, and on arrival at his destination finds himself literally *without a cent*, and almost without hope. Had he taken his passage in the regular packet, his means would not have been frittered away in paying three times the value for provisions on board the vessel, and he would have had sufficient money on arrival to have helped him into the interior, or for other purposes.

Again : it is intimated to those who may be desirous of visiting this country, in taking their passage in London, Liverpool, Bristol, or any other seaport in the old country, to deal with the *owners* or the captain of the vessel ONLY. The greatest inconvenience has arisen from taking the " Contract Ticket" from an " agent," who promises everything and performs nothing. *These sort of folks are responsible to no earthly tribunal*, and the frauds they practise on the unwary are thick and three-fold. The emigrant is also warned *in all cases to keep his " contract ticket," and by no means to give it up under any circumstances*, it will secure him against ill-treatment on board, or, at any rate, procure him proper redress on landing if its conditions are unfulfilled.

Once more, in purchasing your sea stock or provisions, bedding and other necessaries for the voyage, *it is, in all cases, better* to “market” for your self, than to leave it to the “agent.” In nine cases out of ten, these men are not to be trusted. They charge, in all cases, *the highest price, and generally supply articles inferior in quality and deficient in weight*; it is also proper that you should see the “cooking” accommodation of the vessel, and provide *suitable* utensils, for the particular ship, you come out in; this is absolutely necessary, as the stoves vary in construction, and unless you act in accordance with these suggestions *you will be highly inconvenienced*.

We are again indebted to the New York Tribune of June 12th, 1849, for an article which is so much to the purpose and so admirably written, that we give it verbatim—and which will no doubt prevent a further immigration of the “white hands,” if it only be reprinted for their information by the European newspaper press.

“COUNSEL TO IMMIGRANTS.”

“The mighty wave of European Emigration still breaks upon our shores in undiminished volume and force. Each week witnesses the arrival of thousands: each year sees the immigration of any former year surpassed. Estimating each year’s increase at only ten per cent, the number of Europeans who will come over to us annually will very soon reach half a million.

“We rejoice in being able to state, that the impositions and extortions formerly practised on the ignorant and friendless immigrants, by way of our city, have already been greatly diminished by virtue of the recent acts of Congress and our State Legislature—the former guarding against the crowding of hundreds into an inadequate space, often unventilated and every way noisome, while the latter is intended to protect them against fraud and iniquity after nearing our shore. The arrangements for this purpose are not yet perfect, but we believe, they have already reduced the average cost of transporting immigrants from this City to their various destinations west of Buffalo, fully one-half. Not that the forwarders are content with half that they formerly received, but the enormous sums formerly abstracted from the immigrants by runners, passage agents, and boarding-houses, are essentially reduced. A very large proportion of the immigrants now arriving at our port never land in our city at all, but are transferred from the ships directly to the steam and towboats, which take them to Albany on their way to Buffalo and the West. Thus a large portion of the waste of means formerly encountered here has been obviated, while the saving of health and morals is at least equally a theme for congratulation. And we believe the average cost, including absolutely necessary food, of immigrants’ conveyance from shipboard at this port to their future homes between Detroit and the Mississippi, is rather under than over twenty dollars per family of two adults and two children. The transportation of their effects, beyond a hundred pounds to each full passenger, is, of course, an additional charge.

“One of the best signs of the times for immigrants is the rapid and striking change in public sentiment with regard to them. It is not many years since the settlement of a ship-load of Dutch or Irish in any county or section was apt to be regarded by its earlier inhabitants with regret and aversion. The uncouth garments, unintelligible language, singular modes of culture, and difference in almost everything from our American-born people, were subjects of constant and unfavorable comment. The fact that many of the less destitute, cultivated but a small portion of the farms they bought, leaving the residue untouched, was thought to threaten whole counties with the Canada thistle and other migratory scourges. But experience has removed one-half the causes of complaint and taught our people the groundlessness of their fears with respect to the other. Each of the new states is now systematically seeking to

draw to herself a larger and still larger portion of the great stream of immigration, and one at least (Michigan) has just appointed an agent to act for her in our city with that purpose. And this is but the beginning.

“ A part of the immigrants now arriving will persist in stopping at one or another of the Atlantic ports, just as they may happen to be consigned or landed. They might as sensibly stop at Sandy Hook or Coney Island. If they have money enough to live on without exertion, they may, of course, stop where they like ; but if they have their living to earn, it is madness to stop in any seaport. The simple fact that vessel after vessel loaded with immigrants is constantly landing at each of these ports should convince them that they can have no fair chance in such localities. Every department of labor or industrial effort is crowded, and those of a professional or intellectual character most of any. A hod-carrier or street-sweeper, freshly landed in New-York or Philadelphia, has some chance, but a doctor, lawyer, or writer for the press, has none. The naked fact that he has deliberately exchanged a country where his capacities must be to some extent be known, for one in which they are necessarily and utterly unknown, raises a very strong presumption against his abilities or his good conduct. “ “Why should he have emigrated if he were successful in his vocation at home ? and if not, how can he hope to succeed here ?” Such are the natural though unuttered questions which preclude his obtaining even a chance to show that he is good for something. He must confront here a kindred band of aspirants from every part of our own spacious land, as eager and as capable of endurance as himself, and who are not doomed to encounter the like depressing presumption. Thus our city has constantly an enormous excess of poets, doctors, (of all sorts,) and men of letters, not to speak of the legions of ex-clerks, who cannot possibly rack from their brains the wherewithal to fill their stomachs, and, but for the Alms-House and the Lunatic Asylum, the majority of them could not be able to live at all. Men tained to manual labor have a little better chance, but still a hard one in these sea-board cities. If there were work enough (as there is not) to-day for all who are here, the next wave of immigration would absorb it all and call for more. Mean time food, shelter &c., are necessarily much dearer here than in the country, and a married laborer, in constant employment, can hardly save a dollar ; if sick or out of work, he can scarcely save himself from beggary. At least a third of our laboring classes must appeal to charity of some sort to enable them to get through a winter.

“ It is far otherwise in the thinly-settled portions of the New States. Cheap Food, cheap Timber and Fuel, and a very general demand for Labor, put another face on the poor man’s condition. Even if he is sick or idle, his rent and fuel cost little, and his children or his cow can pick up something toward a subsistence in the open forests or by the wayside. No man who has the spirit of work in him need apprehend starvation in any of our new settlements.

Our immigrants begin to appreciate these truths, and nearly all of them who have any practical faculty make a bee-line for the West, leaving mainly those of the least adaptation of efficiency trying to live in the cities. The poets stop here ; the spaders and ditchers steam right by, and make their first halt somewhere about the Great Lakes. But even these are apt to fall into one error, and it is against this we mean to warn them, even at the expense of their good will.

“ The first idea of a European landing here and seeking work is High Wages. he does not consider that he is utterly unacquainted with our implements and modes of doing things— that he can seldom plant or mow or make fence *in our way* nearly so fast as a born Yankee ; he sees only that the Yankee gets twelve or fifteen dollars a month for farm work, and he insists on having as much. But he cannot go forward and do as the Yankee can ; he can hardly keep up with him when placed beside him ; and however athletic and faithful, his services are

not worth so much per month as the Yankee's. Failing to obtain what he demands, he becomes disgusted with rural labor in America, turns back to some city, where he can get perhaps far higher money wages, but can save little or nothing, even when employed. Beside, he is learning nothing here of any use to him ; and if Winter do not pinch him, Old Age certainly will.

“ He lacks foresight and calculated badly. Suppose he can get but seven dollars a month on a farm, while the Yankee who works beside him is paid fifteen, let him never mind the disparity if he has a good chance to learn our American ways of farming. That is the great point. Let him learn to do as we do first, and improve on our ways as much as possible afterward. A single year will suffice, if he be docile and observing, to give him dexterity in our ways ; after that he will be equal to any American, and may command as good wages, possibly better, as he will understand many old country ways which in their place are superior to ours. Let him by no means stand idle or betake himself for higher wages to railroad-grading if single, but learn how farming is done in this country considering the experience and skill the best part of his pay for the first year. After that, if a good man, he need no more stand idle nor work for half price.

“ There never was a time when Labor was so generally needed by our farmers as now. Our remarkably late Spring has given place to the most genial and thrifty Summer. Our cold May put our farmers away back, but the sun and rain of June are rapidly making amends for it. Ho, you who are bogging and tramping for work in the cities ; scatter yourselves over the country and you can hardly avoid it !”

Persons in England are too apt to give an opinion about the demand here for clerks and professional men, arising, (so they say,) from the great numbers that have migrated to California—but this is an awful mistake, and has been the ruin of hundreds—for where one leaves for California there are four who visit New-York to supply his place from the interior of our own States, besides the redundant influx of such gentry from Europe, the Canadas and elsewhere.

We now come to the reasons that may be assigned, and which may be urged by those who have been disappointed, in justifying a return.

1st. A man may be too delicate in constitution, and be physically incapable for hard labor.

2nd. Neither himself, nor his friends may feel disposed to humor the practical spirit of the rule held here inviolate, “ that if a man will not work neither shall he eat.”

3rd. He may refer to the false reports of the demand for such as himself, and basely propagated by unprincipled “ agents” in his own country, for the purpose of obtaining a “ commission” on his passage money, and on his sea stock and necessaries.

4th. He may honestly assert that the Americans in all cases prefer “ a Citizen” to any foreign assistance, in the performance of those genteel or delicate duties, requisite in a refined state of society.

5th. That all men with “ white hands” are more than suspected (if they be not Professional) of leaving their Fatherland, with some sort of discredit, attached to their moral reputation or character : and that even good testimonials are here, but seldom available.

6th. It may, again, be fearlessly asserted, that the plan of business arrangements is so differently managed here, that the experience of foreigners, is but of little avail in transacting the ordinary requirements expected to be performed, and that for a considerable period, such men would, in an American merchant's store or counting house, be comparatively valueless.

7th. It may also be gravely assumed, that even if a man of *this stamp* did succeed in getting a situation, his expenses would, for a year or two at least, exceed his salary, and that unless he had private resources, he could not hope to retain it.

8th. That such men are expected to make a gentlemanlike appearance, very much more so than in European cities, and that board and washing, clothing and incidentals are nearly double the London prices.

These and many other reasons may be relied on, to justify an immediate return to their own country of the individuals referred to, and there can be no doubt, that the *feeling of annoyance*, in being compelled to return, will subside, when it is here asserted that little more than twelve months ago, coming under the writer's own knowledge, twenty young Englishmen, some of them of highly respectable families, recently arrived, disappointed in their efforts to obtain employment, and unable or unwilling to return to their native land, embraced the sad and melancholy remaining alternative of enlisting in the United States Army, and at once proceeded to Mexico.

In conclusion, it must be, however, borne in mind that very many of this class of gentlemen, by adopting the plan recommended, viz., of begging their way into the interior, or getting there as they could, have been very successful ; it only requires the will and a little patience. Be then not discouraged. You must fulfil your destiny, and by honest industry lay, as a skilful artificer, the first stone on a good foundation ; *that foundation is labor*, its reward is proportionate to your efforts, its advantages are inalienable, and its fruits will be plenty, happiness and contentment.

MENDON, ADAMS CO., ILLINOIS, MAY 29, 1849.

To the Superintendent of the British Protective Society :

Sir :—Excuse the liberty I take in addressing you. I am an Episcopalian Clergyman and an Englishman, and feel anxious to promote not only the spiritual, but likewise the temporal affairs of my countrymen. I therefore send you this letter, as by doing so I may be the means of assisting some of my countrymen in finding suitable places of residence.

There is room in this neighborhood for a large number to come here to reside, of *farmers*, *farm laborers*, and the different trades people suitable for an agricultural community. Land, both unimproved and improved, can be obtained at a reasonable price. Farm laborers are exceedingly scarce, and have been for years ; their wages very high. Girls to hire out to work scarcely to be obtained. All kinds of provisions considerably lower than in the Eastern States.

Mendon is only fifteen miles from the city of Quincy, on the Mississippi river, where a ready market is found for every kind of farm produce.

I have travelled considerably in the State of Illinois, and I know not of a more healthy portion of it than this, or one more desirable for farming purposes.

I have resided here several years, and from the newspapers I have learned that during those years many thousands of my countrymen have landed in the United States, and yet scarcely one out of such a large number has come here to reside. This is rather an out of the way place, it is not directly on the track of emigrants. No Germans or any other foreigners here, only the English language spoken.

I can conscientiously recommend and advise a *large number* of my countrymen, who are farmers, farm laborers, and mechanics, connected with an agricultural community, to choose this neighborhood as their residence ; and if they are *Episcopalians*, I particularly invite them to come here, as by doing so, they will not only choose a healthy and desirable place of residence, and benefit their temporal circumstances, but will also have access to the means of grace to which they have been accustomed in their own country. They will find an Episcopal church here, which is open every Sunday for Divine Worship, and the clergyman a fellow countryman ; whereas, were they to come to this state and choose some other place of residence, among a large number of places, they would probably not find either an Episcopal Clergyman or Church there as there are but very few Episcopal Clergymen or Churches in Illinois.

I will mention the route for emigrants to this place. If they wish to travel by the northern route, let them come to Chicago, Ill., from thence down the Illinois canal and river to St. Louis, thence up the Mississippi to Quincy ; from whence there is only fifteen miles land travel for them to Mendon. Or they may come via Philadelphia, Pittsburg, Cincinnati and St. Louis.

Should any emigrants wish further information before coming here to reside, they may address me on the subject.

Respectfully yours,

JOHN SELLWOOD.

BRITISH PROTECTIVE EMIGRANT
SOCIETY,
Connected with the St. George's Society of New-York,
No 17 *Rector Street*,
(late 42 *Courtland Street*,)
NEW-YORK.
Mr. O. H. WEBB, Superintendent.

IRISH EMIGRANT SOCIETY,
22 *Spruce Street*,
NEW-YORK.

GERMAN EMIGRANT SOCIETY,
95 *Greenwich Street*,
NEW-YORK.

COMMISSIONERS OF EMIGRATION
OF THE STATE OF NEW-YORK,
City Hall.
NEW-YORK.

[1] Do not stay at any boarding-house that has not the charges or list of prices for meals, beds, &c., plainly posted up. The law requires this, and it ought to be enforced.

[2] It is here submitted to emigrants having brought considerable sums of money, intended for the purchase of farms, &c. by no means to take it with them into the country, but to invest it under the advice of their respective Protective Societies, in some respectable banking establishment in the city, till they have agreed for the purchase of a suitable holding. By not doing so, they run great risks of being robbed of all they possess. An instance is here appended of a respectable British farmer, *adopting this precaution, viz.*, that of investing the bulk of his money in the way recommended, and taking for travelling expences &c., some £40 or £50 with him, but of which he was cruelly robbed, his trunk having been broken open during his absence and every article of value abstracted—of course *all would have gone* but for the foresight and thoughtfulness exhibited. Again by depositing the money in the banks and taking a proper “certificate” of the investment, it can be readily turned into cash at any of the country banking establishments or large mercantile houses in any of the States, and which invariably bears under such circumstances, from 1½ to 2 per cent. premium. Many individuals, known to the writer, have been heartlessly robbed of their “all,” by a class of miscreants, who are constantly on the “look out” for new comers from the old country, by ingratiating themselves into their confidence, obtaining the *secret of their worldly riches*, and then devising, *with devilish sagacity*, the ruin of their temporal prospects and happiness. Beware also of advertisements that pretend the disposal of *decent comfortable farms at very low prices*, this is another trick to impose upon “strangers.” In all cases go to the “*land office*” in the state you intend to settle, where you can purchase safely at the government price, without the expences of brokerage, &c., and be certain of a valid title.

The writer is compelled, in justice to American character, to state most honestly and fearlessly, that no case of impropriety has been made against them *to his knowledge*. The real offender is invariably a countryman of the immigrant himself, and who understands the brogue or dialect of the country from whence he may come. Another instance corroborative of this is inserted. A respectable British farmer, with nearly £2000 sterling, arrived at this port from England, and was, of course, anxious to purchase a farm in the country and go to work; he fell in with a countryman, who wormed out all particulars of his property, luggage, &c., and *against the direct caution of the “Protective Society,”* he put his affairs in the hands of this infamous scamp, who insisted upon having in exchange for the English money of this unfortunate individual, American Gold, which was supplied; he was also aware, having ferreted it out, in which of the trunks the “gold” was deposited. The time for starting arrived, assisted by an accomplice this vagabond pretended that everything was right, and just upon the steamer starting, got the farmer into conversation with his accursed “helpmeet,” who drew his attention to the busy scenes then going forward on the North River. In the mean time, the other went below in a great hurry, affected that a mistake had occurred, that a wrong box had been taken from the boarding-house; he then coolly shouldered the trunk containing the emigrant’s gold and walked off with it, leaving the family destitute of every cent of money, and has not since been heard of.

[3] The reader will find the names and other particulars in reference to their business of the principle forwarding houses in the City of New-York, and whose honorable conduct, kindness and consideration, the writer testifies to from long experience and every day intercourse.

[4] The author by way of illustrating the evil effects of imbibing occasional drinks takes leave

to state that many individuals who have fallen under his notice, will, from the accursed system of visiting the porter houses and grog stores—not only add to their difficulty and distress, but even walk about in a state of half drunkenness and disorder—when by saving and conserving every penny, they might make a much better appearance and run the chances of employment, precluded by their own intemperance and folly. Nothing is more common than to hear such people justify this very stupid custom by stating that it is necessary to their *comfort* and to keep up their spirits, &c., but they forget that a bad custom is “better honored in the breach than in the observance,” and that bad brandy is but a poor prescription for bad spirits and worse circumstance.

[5] By way of warning, the writer would remark that it often happens, especially among young people, that on arrival they apply to the Superintendent to be informed where they may meet with employment, and upon being directed, instead of thankfully accepting what may present, refuse the service on the ground that they are not to be paid the customary wages of the country. Can such individuals expect (when they have so much to learn and unlearn) the money paid to a first class servant, who perfectly understands his business? These poor deluded people will frequently refuse \$8 to \$10 per month, and coolly demand \$12 to \$16, (tip top wages) and when too late, are *compelled to take*, are *very glad* to take situations vastly inferior in every respect. We copy from the Toronto Examiner the following :—“The condition of the immigrants and the situation of the farmers in this part of the country, presents some very singular anomalies. The immigrants, many of whom are broken down in health, without self-trained habits of industry, and unacquainted with much of the labor to be performed in a new country, demand higher wages than men born in the country and capable of performing every description of farm labor, can be obtained for. These demands are resisted by the farmers, many of whom during this harvest are greatly in want of assistance; and some of them complain that efficient assistance is not to be obtained. The immigrants are very much deceived as to their own capabilities and the value of their labor. Unprincipled parties, who pretend to be their friends, do much to deceive them on this point. The country could absorb an immense amount of immigrants if they were all capable of laboring efficiently, and willing to take reasonable wages.

[6] This law is particularly insisted upon in the State of New-York

A manual for emigrants ... especially emigrants from the “British Isles,” arriving at the various Atlantic ports in the United States of America (1849)

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