

## Who Should Be Emigrants.

### *The Emigrant's Pocket Companion*

Robert Mudie

1832

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THAT is the second branch of the inquiry on which every man who has thought respecting emigration should inform himself ; and though it cannot be properly settled without a good deal of knowledge and consideration, yet the knowledge is not difficult to acquire, and the consideration is not very intricate. As that “ necessity,” which is the “ mother of the invention” of emigration, is the natural consequence of great improvements in the mechanical arts, and of the accumulation of large capitals, and the introduction of machinery, it is natural to suppose that the very persons who can be best spared from the country that they are to leave, are precisely those who are best fitted for succeeding in the country to which they intend to go ; and the more that the matter is examined the more is that, in all respects, found to be the fact. Nor is that the only information of which we are put in possession by the same means ; for the description of persons that are to be most benefited by emigration, is a key to the kind of place to which it will be most advantageous for them to go. In order to give more clearness and simplicity, it will, however, be better to consider these two points separately : First, in this chapter, Who are the proper persons to emigrate ; and secondly, in another chapter. Where they can most advantageously take up their new residence ; then, the remaining pages may be advantageously occupied by the details of the place of their adopted residence, and the way of reaching it and conducting themselves in it.

In order to see more clearly who are the persons that should emigrate we must consider a mistake into which intending emigrants are but too prone to fall, and into which there is some danger of their being misled by those who are interested in the mere fact of emigration, but have no interest in the future fate of the emigrants. As an emigrant is, generally speaking, to become a proprietor of the soil, there is some danger of his confounding the proprietorship of a wild and uncultivated soil, with that of a soil which is cultivated and affords a revenue in rent. Now the proprietorship in a soil wholly uncultivated, covered with a thick forest or with marshes, is very nearly the same with the proprietorship which an inhabitant of the coast has in the fish of the ocean. He must first catch them, before they be of any use or value whatever ; and just in like manner a man who gets a piece of wild land must clear and cultivate that land, often at considerable expense, and in all cases with much labour, before he can turn it to any use whatever.

The other and more general branch of the mistake is, that a man can find his living more easily in a wild country than in one which is well improved ; that he shall, for instance, find it more easily in a Canadian forest than in one of the agricultural counties of England, his occupation being agricultural labour in both. Now if this were the case, improvement would be in itself a bad thing ; but it is not the case ; for it is just because a smaller quantity of labour, under an improved system, finds a greater quantity of the necessaries of life, that a portion of the labourers are thrown out of employment ; and it is just because the obtaining of an equal quantity of the necessaries of life requires more labour, that labourers are in more demand and get higher wages in the new country than in the old one. It is quite clear that if the wages of labour be higher in one place than in another, the man who either labours on his own account or gets others to labour for him, must do it at greater expense for the same return than in places where the wages of labour are lower. The emigrant, unless he goes to remain as

a hired labourer, a situation which is by no means desirable, must therefore lay his account with working harder, for some time at least, in the new country than he would have to work in the old one if he could find constant employment there. And he must also bear in mind that there are many things which he will consider as necessities of life, the prices of which are, in consequence of there being no manufactories in the new country, and the carriage being from a distance, much higher than in the old country.

From this it immediately follows that no man is fit for being an independent emigrant, or even existing at all in a new country, who is not both able and willing to work. He must have health, he must have strength, he must have perseverance, and he must have more consideration than is necessary in an old country, where labour is divided and every man has his little department marked out for him by the general arrangements of society. He must not only be able to turn his hand to many things, nay, almost to every thing that he may require, but he must feel that he is in possession of that power, otherwise he will be in a state of perpetual apprehension, and quite unable to get on. Of course this necessity excludes from the list of emigrants all persons who could not, if they had the proper opportunity, support themselves, and also make some little savings in the old country. The maimed, the mutilated, or the silly, ought not to go there, for as there is no person to give them charity, their only fate would be starvation. The idle and the dissolute, even supposing they possess in a high degree those abilities which they neglect, are, in their present condition, very unfit subjects for emigration; and as those are habits which are reclaimed more by the restraints of society than by any other means, it is doubtful whether they would be benefited by the change, how much soever the mother country might be the better for their absence.

After the natural capacity and disposition of the emigrant, the next consideration is, What he has been accustomed to do ; and this is the point upon which a comparison of the circumstances of the new country with those of the old one, is essential to a clear understanding. It is because the old country is one of highly improved manufactures, and efficient machinery, and a minute division of labour, by means of which the manufacturing individual has his whole attention confined to a single object, and so learns to accomplish that object probably ten times as well and in one-tenth of the time that he would require if he were always shifting from one thing to another,—it is just because that is the case that the whole country has a surplus of labourers ; and of course the labourers that it can spare are those who are the worst adapted, and therefore in the least demand for its own operations. In England the man who punches the eyes of needles, or puts on heads of pins from year's end to year's end, is better adapted for the system of England than the man who could cultivate two or three acres of land, and make all the rude tools necessary for its cultivation ; but a man who could only punch the eyes of needles and put on the heads of pins would be of no use whatever in a country where the houses are probably twenty miles from each other, because there could not possibly be any employment for him.

In all the nicer manufactures, and especially in those in which expensive machines are employed, and which consequently cannot be carried on without a crowded population, and an extensive and ready sale, in the management of which the merely operative workmen should have no concern whatever to distract them from their individual pursuits, the workmen are a proper part of the system of a highly improved country ; and, generally speaking, it would be imprudent in them, even for their own sakes, to remove as workmen to any country, excepting to one in a higher state of improvement than that which they left. As foremen or instructors, they might go to one that were a little behind that which they left ; but even in those cases they would be less valuable as labourers ; and whether they made up the same value or not, would depend upon their efficiency in their new character of overseers or instructors.

The range to which the manufacturing population are excluded from the list of advantageous emigrants by this means, is very wide ; and it may be said to include all those trades which are supported by the staple manufactures, and the peculiar customs and habits of the state of society in the country at home. As, for instance, the various classes of workers in metals ; the various classes of workers in wood ; the various classes of shop-keepers—dealing only in particular commodities ; and the various classes of workers in leather, and in all other things, the whole of which are done better and more cheaply in consequence of being portioned out among many hands. Very few handicrafts of any description are wanted in a new country, and of the few that are, each man must be capable of exercising all the departments of his province of the craft, and even occasionally turning his hand to some of the others. An emigrant smith for example should be a smith of all work ; and besides making or repairing the iron part of the tool or implement, he would be all the better if he could fashion the timber also. With all others the case would be exactly the same,—they would be of no use as capable of doing some single operation nicely, but as they could do a number of operations even tolerably ; and a man who could begin and finish the clumsiest imaginable house, so that he made it only dry and warm, would be of ten times more value than the most skilful architect or the neatest handed carver. Considering the country as perfectly new, there is, in fact, no use whatever for artisans, or people who are skilled only in the processes of manufacturing, and whatever distress they may occasionally be subjected to by the fluctuations of business, emigration cannot in any way be made a means of relief for them.

And that it should be so, would be in opposition to the very principles upon which emigration can be considered as a relief at all. The prosperity of the manufacturing population fluctuates with the fluctuations of that system of high improvement of which they form a part. When trade is brisk, they are fully employed and well paid, and when they are not well paid, stagnation and change in trade are the causes. To think of removing them in cases of stagnation or change, from a place where trade might become brisk again, or where, if that were not the case, they could gradually change from one manual operation to another, to a place where there was absolutely no manual operation in existence, and no one to be expected, during the whole term of their lives, to which they could by possibility turn themselves, would be a downright and palpable absurdity. They are a constituent part of the system of the country where they are ; they would be no part, but a burden and an excrescence in the new country ; and therefore the duty of the country to itself is to support them by every reasonable means in every fluctuation under which they are unable, by a fair exercise of prudence and temperance, to maintain themselves ; and in the case of change, as there are many changes in fashionable manufactures, it is also the duty of the country to give them temporary support, and facilitate them in the directing of their mechanical abilities into new channels. Those duties hardly however require to be pointed out, inasmuch as they are at the same time the interests of all the parties concerned ; and people always manage their own interests much better for themselves, than any other persons can manage for them.

There is one other argument respecting the emigration of mechanics to new countries, which it may not be improper just to mention, although that which has been stated is in itself conclusive. Mechanics are accustomed to confinement within doors, they are in consequence ill adapted for enduring fatigue and exposure in the open air ; so that, even if we should suppose them capable of soon acquiring skill enough for all the operations called for by an emigrant, they must be considered as deficient in muscular power and hardiness. Taking this argument in conjunction with the other, it may be considered as an established principle that mechanics ought not to emigrate to a new country ; because they would have to forget all they have learned, and to learn from the beginning all that they had to do, with constitutions and habits unfitted by their former occupations both for the learning and the practice.

But there is a wide, and probably also a clearer distinction, between those who should not and those who should emigrate. It has been already stated that the emigrant must depend on himself ; and therefore no person who depends upon the rest of society, or who has any hope on such a dependance can with propriety become an emigrant. In thickly inhabited and highly civilized and improved countries, such as England, a very great number of the people are dependant on each other ; and if you were to take away those on whom they depend , they would have no alternative but to perish of want. So extensive indeed is this dependance, that it may be said to include all the population which are necessary for the country, profitable to themselves in it, and on that account unwise to themselves if they leave it ; and the party among whom emigrants are to be found, are those that are out of this connexion and mutual dependance,—those who are, as it were, no part of the system of English society, but are merely filling room there, to the injury of England and to their own great injury ; and whose only plea of justification for being in England at all, is their incapacity of leaving the country, either from the want of information or the want of means. In this view of the matter, no professional person is wanted as an emigrant, at least, to a very new country ; because in such a country no professional man could possibly live by his profession. So long as the houses are twenty or even ten miles from each other, there is very little occupation for surgeons, or teachers, or lawyers, or even clergymen ; because any of those parties would have to travel at the rate of one hundred miles a day, in a country so tangled and destitute of roads that ten miles are enough for ordinary strength, before he could pick up any thing at all approaching to a living. The scattered settlers in such a country must content themselves with setting their own broken bones, and plastering their sores, and instructing their children, and arranging their disputes, and finding their own religious instruction, until they have become so numerous as to have formed villages, and towns ; and whenever the increase and prosperity of the population render the assistance of professional men at all practicable those men will be found, without any direct emigration for the purpose ; and as the country must be to some extent an improved country, before their professional existence in it be possible, they will not be the worse that they are born in it, and go for a time to other countries to learn their professions. As a professional man therefore, no man should, and indeed no man can be an emigrant ; because in any place to which a new settler can go, there is really no professional employment for him. Thus all that he has expended in acquiring a knowledge of his profession would be utterly lost to him ; and in proportion to his very eminence in that profession, which would of course be in proportion to the exclusiveness with which he had devoted his attention to it, would be his incapacity for the duties of his new station as an emigrant. He would, in fact, be in the condition of a man having every thing to sacrifice and having nothing to gain in return ; and consequently emigration would be the very opposite of wisdom, as it would be a removal from a place where he still had a chance, however slender, to another place where even a chance, until he had taught himself anew for that chance, would be altogether out of the question.

Having thus seen what classes of persons ought not to emigrate, the discovery of those to whom emigration might be desirable is reduced within a comparatively narrow compass. They are not to be artisans of any description ; and they are not to be professional. But the agriculture of a country like England is reduced almost as much to a peculiar system as the manufactures. The modes of cropping, the management of land, and the various implements and machines that have been introduced into farming, are probably as different from the rude states of that art as the present English manufactures of brass and iron are from what they were in their early stages. They also harmonize, and form parts of an entire whole, so that they mutually assist each other, and the agriculture is upon the whole as necessary to the manufactures, and the manufactures as necessary to the agriculture, as any part of either of them is to the other parts. The best landlord or the best farmer or farm bailiff or ploughman in England would find all that gives him his superiority at home of not very much more use than if he were a manufacturer, a foreman, or a handicraft. There would be greater sameness in

the pursuit no doubt, but there would be the same diversity in the mode of pursuing' it, and thus not one of those parties could emigrate unless at a very serious disadvantage.

Who then are the parties who should emigrate ? That is best answered by considering what they have to do in the country to which they are destined. Now, as by emigration is meant not only a removal to a country which is new in situation and climate, but one which is new to culture altogether, that man will necessarily be the best adapted for the country who is, as one would say, as new as itself. He must have learned to use his hands, and to turn them to various purposes ; but it is the worse and not the better for him to have learned any particular kind of working, or at all events to have practised it so long as that it has become a habit or system with him ; if it has done so, he will have to change the habit by adapting it to the new system, or rather to the want of system, which he will have to deal with in the new country ; and as the changing of a habit is a double labour while the acquiring of an original one is only single, the man who emigrates with his habits formed has double labour to perform. It is not perhaps possible to find, in such a country as England, any person who has not to some extent been accustomed to some sort of system ; but there is no question that with equal strength, activity, and ingenuity, the less that any man has been accustomed to mere systems the better.

And it is both fortunate, and a proof that there is in highly cultivated countries a provision for the extending of cultivation into new countries, not only without loss but at a positive advantage, that the very persons who have become supernumerary and burdensome in the mother country, are they who are the best fitted for emigration. Occasional labourers, those who have been obliged to work at any thing for which they could obtain even a small remuneration, who have been inured to cold, scanty clothing, poor food, and comfortless dwellings, who have little to lose or regret, and every thing to hope from the change, are the very persons who should emigrate. As they have nothing to regret, so they have little to unlearn ; as they have borne privations, where there was no hope for them even in prospect, so they can better meet the privations to which they must be exposed in the adopted country ; as they have been accustomed to do for themselves, with very little of the help of professional, or tradespeople, the transition will not be very great to them from England to a place where such help is not to be had. The ignorance, and want of the power of forming consistent plans which naturally forms part of the character of such people, may be some obstacle to them ; but certainly not so much so as those who found their judgment upon the conduct of well-informed persons in England would be apt to suppose ; for the plans that a settler in a new country must form are probably nearer to those of a labourer than of any other person whatever.

There is another consideration which must not be overlooked, when we reflect that the question for the emigrant, or the intending emigrant, to determine, is his own good—his comfort in the country to which he goes, and not any thing, in any way connected with the welfare of the country that he leaves, or with any effect, good or bad, that the fact of his leaving may have upon it ; and that is that, to the man who has no connexion, no property, no regular occupation, and no tie whatever to be broken asunder by the change,—but who goes from a country in which most that he met looked down upon him, and where he had not even a hovel or a hole into which to put his head, but by the sufferance of some one else, to be lord even of fifty acres of the wilderness, is a change vastly for the better, and calculated to give him that pride in himself which, if not the very foundation, is yet one of the principal supports of character and virtue.

Almost any other man has some regret, feels some privation and humiliation, in the mere fact of becoming a denizen of the wilderness ; and will hardly go there without some expectation of bettering his condition, which upon the average stands but little chance of being

realized. Those dreamers of fortune, *after the fashion of that of the civilized country*, in a country where there is no civilization, are the most insuperable bars in the way of judicious emigration. For it is they who first raise the benefits expected from it too high in their anticipations—anticipations not founded on knowledge of the subject, but on their own delusive dreams ; and then sinks them unreasonably low, when they find that those dreams have not been realized.

Along with the labourers, who are occasionally out of employment, may be classed those cottage farmers who are in daily apprehension of being so, in consequence of their inability to take their part in the improvements that are making around them ; who, on that account, see nothing but decline and dependance to themselves, in those years of their lives when they are the least able to bear up against them ; and whose thoughts of their families, when they can bear to think of these at all, are nothing but bitterness. There are, all over the country, very many families of this description, who have actually fallen back, or, which amounts to the same in effect, have not advanced with the advances of the more skilful or more fortunate part of the world ; who feel that they have, from either or both of these causes, fallen from the respectability which their fathers held, and who fear and indeed feel that their children must fall from their little remnant which they themselves hold ; to whom every view in which either the present or the future can appear, is gloom not easily to be borne, and sufficient to damp their spirits, and destroy any effort that they might be able to make to regain their station.

There are very many families so situated, who still possess enough to transport them to a new country, and to keep them there, till they have learned its customs and its ways, and become able to support themselves comfortably in it. Not only that, but to rise faster to independence and comparative affluence, than they had, in the bitterness of their fears, dreaded that they would sink to utter misery and dependance in the old country. To such persons, the mere change is a source of relief and hope. In the new country they would be, as it were, at the head of society, and that is in itself one of the most stimulating incentives towards rising higher. It is clearly for the interest, the very best interest, of all who are thus situated, to emigrate ; and perhaps they are about the highest class of persons that can with advantage, go to a country that is entirely new,—that can sit down in the wilderness satisfied with their own society, with the full determination of turning that wilderness into a profitable and pleasant heritage.

Thus it can be easily shewn that the description of persons who would be the most benefited by emigrating are precisely those that could be best spared from the mother country ; and as that country does, and must, support them so long as they remain in it, it becomes a question whether the supporting of them at home, in the certainty that both their necessities and their numbers will increase, or the furnishing of them with funds and facilities by means of which they could soon provide, and provide comfortably for themselves, in a country where they would find plenty of work that they could do, and enjoy the whole profits of that work, be the better plan.

It may be that, in but too many instances, the spirits of those people are so broken, and their feelings of independence so blunted by the fact of receiving parochial charity, that they might not have energy left for acting their part properly in a new country. But that that should be the case is much more a matter of apprehension than of probability. The feeling of personal pride may smoulder, and seem, to common observation, for a long time to be extinguished, and may yet be reared to wholesome activity, by more favourable circumstances ; and therefore it is rarely ever too late to have some hope of good in so great a change, as from that of living houseless in one country to that of being a proprietor of the soil, however wild and unproductive that soil might be, in another country. In all cases where

there is a rational desire of the change, that desire is in itself a proof that it is not too late ; and where there is no desire, then remains the question to be determined whether the fault is in such a deadening of the character, as that the desire cannot be excited, or in the want of proper stimuli to cause the excitement.

One thing is to be borne in mind, and that is, that as the cause of the throwing of these people out of employment, is not in the reverses and failures of that society by which they are, in as far as usefulness is concerned, ejected ; but in the very prosperity and improvement of that society, and always becomes the greater the more rapidly and successfully that that society improves, a natural suspension of it is not to be looked for, or indeed, in so far as concerns the whole of society, to be desired—at least by the rest of the people, whatever it may be by the party themselves.

And if they do wish for a change from it, the wish is a vain one, and if it were made in due knowledge of the subject, it would be wicked. If those supernumeraries are the result of the improvement of the country, and there can be no question that they are, as they are found to increase more in peace than in war, and to multiply faster under favourable circumstances—that is under circumstances that are favourable to the general prosperity and wealth of the country, than under circumstances that are the reverse, then it is evident that no resident in the country, not even the sufferers themselves, if they understand the matter, should desire a removal of them. If they did so desire, the hope of accomplishment would be vain, by any other means than such an interruption in the regular affairs of the country as would not fail to make the complainers much worse than before, as the sufferings of others would in no way tend to their relief ; but they would destroy in others the power of relieving them.

As those ejected persons (for so we must call them, as they are so in reality) are the necessary results of the high degree of improvement, and the extended use of mechanical power ; and as it is not possible, and would not be desirable though it were possible, to stem that improvement, or diminish that power, their numbers must go on increasing till they destroy the country either by consuming that which they have not, and cannot have, the means of earning, or replacing in any way or to any extent whatever, or until they, goaded on by the sufferings which they undergo, and which it is but fair that they should undergo as compared with those who are really useful to the country, break out into open insurrection and outrage, and the whole be destroyed by civil commotion.

That, though not a result which it is pre-eminently or absolutely necessary for the individual intending to emigrate to take into his consideration, is yet a result which is inseparable from the fair and proper consideration of the question of emigration ; and circumstances have occurred lately, and are still occurring, without any other assignable cause than that of a number of persons who are not suited for working in the best and most efficient manner the system of the country, which give to it a very high degree of importance. Those circumstances are the wanton destruction of property, without any appropriation of it to the use of the parties who commit the depredations. If it were appropriated, the fact might be explained upon the ordinary principles of necessitous human nature—as theft to preserve the life, or felonious theft to gratify cupidity. But the wanton destruction comes not within the ordinary conduct of necessitous or of vitiated men ; but is a species of hostility,—a waging of war by a certain part of the population upon the rest ; and though the acts may in some instances be performed at the instigation of incendiaries that have purposes of their own, that they fancy they shall thereby serve, other than the mere destruction of the property, yet it is doubtful whether that has been the case in all, or in even the majority of the instances of destruction ; and even if it had, there must have been something wrong on the part of those who could be deluded into a participation in such acts by any incendiaries whatever.

And there is still another consideration,—that while those persons are remaining in England, in a state of alienism from the really necessary part of the active system, of consequent misery and privation, and of still consequent though unnatural outrage, the good that they might be doing is all the while utterly neglected. The very persons who are thus living in misery, and open to, and perpetuating crime in England, are they who, under a wiser system should have been preparing new markets for the produce of English industry, at the same time that those very products of that industry formed part of the stimuli by which they themselves were roused to exertion.

Thus, it is apparent and certain that, while there is a power in a country like England, to diffuse civilization and all its advantages over other countries, and which, as it appears, by a necessary result of a very high degree of improvement, is efficient, and as we may conclude, prepared for that very purpose, that power is left to stagnate not only unprofitably, but as a burden on the country, at the same time that all the advantages which the world ought to derive, and might be deriving, from it, are lost ; and that, while England and the world thus suffer, the parties from whom that suffering arises are, in truth, the greatest sufferers themselves.

The remedy of the evil obviously lies in the emigration of that part of the people which have, not from any faults of their own but from the system of the country, become a burden at home. But how that remedy is to be applied is another matter. Compulsory emigration will not do ; and as for seductive emigration, the effects of that cannot be considered as much better. If people were, in any way forced out of their country, they would land in the new one with dispositions not the most likely to enable them to do good there ; and if they were enticed away by glowing-pictures of that of which the reality would certainly prove the reverse, the state of their feelings would not be much better. There is also the consideration that though all might be made right in the way of feelings, there would be a still more serious, because more insurmountable, difficulty in the way of funds ; and it would be far from an easy matter to find a satisfactory method of getting the better of the difficulty there.

To give money to a large number of persons for the purpose of wishing them to remove from one country and settle in another, would be, to say the best of it, but a doubtful sort of experiment, and to carry them to the shore of an unknown, or the verge of a barren, or wild country, and leave them there, would be cruelty.

Fortunately, however, these are not points that we are called upon to settle ; because it is not our object to decide for any individual, whether that individual should emigrate or not. That is for the decision of the individual himself, and all that is intended in these pages, is the humbler task of culling, arranging, and laying before him, the information that seems the best calculated for enabling each to obtain for himself the fairest and most profitable decision of the question.

It is impossible to render the consideration of who should be an emigrant and who not, so precise as to meet the cases of individuals, because the circumstances of the individual are hardly matter of observation. The statements that have been made will, however, afford some guesses, if not some certainty as to the classes, the members of which may find it the least or the most desirable to emigrate, on account of the general habits of the class, and its relation to the system of things in a new or in an old country. The next branch of the inquiry is, To what country is it the most desirable to emigrate.



## 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 particular 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.

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)

Author : Mudie, Robert, 1777-1842

Publisher : London : Cochrane

Language : English

Digitizing sponsor : Brock University

Book contributor : Brock University

Collection : BrockUniversity; toronto

Source : Internet Archive

<http://archive.org/details/emigrantspocketc00mudiuft>

Edited and uploaded to [www.aughty.org](http://www.aughty.org)

February 26 2013