

and although no regular village has been laid out, there is already some difficulty, and much expense, in procuring a space sufficient for a building lot. This place stands on the isthmus through which the land communication between Nova Scotia and all parts of New-Brunswick and the Canadas does and must continue to pass. The distance from it to the Gulf of St. Lawrence at Shediac is only 16 miles; to the Bay of Fundy, either by land or water, above twenty; the river being navigable so far up for schooners of the largest class; and the road to Halifax good for carriages of any description the whole way. With such advantages of situation, the Bend of Petecoudiac cannot fail of rapidly increasing in population and importance; and I have been more detailed in describing it, on account of its immediate vicinity to the new townships now laying out. At Petecoudiac I was met by Mr. Smith, who had left me at Chatham, and to whom I had entrusted the exploring that part of the vacant lands between Richibucto and Petecoudiac, situated to the rear of the settlements on the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Notwithstanding all obstructions of wind and weather, this gentleman performed the service allotted to him in a masterly manner; and his plan and report were so clear and explanatory, as to warrant every confidence in the favourable accounts which they detailed.

During my stay at the Bend, I received information of a tract of vacant land on the other side of the river, said to amount to two or three hundred thousand acres, and to be throughout of the first rate quality; and as this new tract was in the immediate vicinity of the lands to which my attention had been so strongly directed, I did not hesitate again to avail myself of the services of Mr. Smith, and directed him to proceed forthwith to explore it, and having done so, to meet me with his plan, and report at Truro.

On the 18th of May, I left Petecoudiac, and proceeded to Dorchester, passing over roads and through settlements, that would do credit to any country. On the 19th, I reached Westcock, the residence of Mr. Justice Botsford, a gentleman whose general knowledge of the topography, capabilities, and interests of the province, it is admitted, cannot be excelled, and to whom Sir Howard Douglas had written, stating the probable time at which I should pass through his neighbourhood, (the Parish of Sackville,) and requesting him to afford me every information and assistance in his power. To a person of whom such frequent and favorable mention had been made to me, I was most anxious of becoming known; and on obtaining that advantage, did not fail to enter with him most fully on the various points connected with my mission, and to seek his candid opinions and advice thereon. The result was in every way most satisfactory, for in no one instance have I met with a person more conversant on the subject, or more sanguine as to the great and general advantages to be derived from an extensive and well regulated system of emigration. His approval of the situation selected for commencing on was decided and unqualified; and of such high importance to the security and welfare of British North America generally, but more particularly to New-Brunswick, does he consider the opening the new proposed great line of communication towards the Canadas, that he offered during the intervals of official occupation, his personal assistance in laying it out, or in any manner connected with it, wherein he could be made useful. Amongst other papers herewith transmitted, you will find a letter from Mr. Botsford, addressed to me some time after I had left him, and in which, after time for further consideration, you will perceive he recapitulates the same opinions. His observations respecting the consequences which have arisen from the very extensive and unrestricted choice of soil, hitherto allowed to persons obtaining lands in the Colonies, are highly valuable, and repeated proofs of their accuracy have come within my own knowledge.

On the 20th of May, accompanied by Mr. Botsford, I left Westcock for Bay Verte, a harbour for small vessels on the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and one side of which is in New-Brunswick, the other in Nova Scotia. One of the objects of this visit was to see an old established and very respectable settler of the name of Chapple, of whose practical knowledge in every point connected with new settlements Mr. Botsford had a high opinion. From both Mr. Chapple and his son, much useful information was obtained; and here again I had the gratification of finding my previous opinions and calculations fully confirmed.

On the 21st of May, we left Bay Verte, and after passing through a beautiful country, reached Amherst in Nova Scotia, where I took leave of my excellent and zealous friend the Judge, and proceeded the same evening on my route to Truro. After leaving Amherst, the country became less settled until I had passed the Cobequid Mountain; but on entering the township of Londonderry, I again found myself in the midst of flourishing settlements; and the same favourable appearance may, generally speaking, be said to have prevailed during the remainder of my tour in Nova Scotia. On arriving at Truro on the 22d of May, I received your letter of the 9th of March. On the 23d I was employed in making inquiries respecting the vacant lands in the township; the only person, however, who proved qualified to give information on the subject, was Mr. Miller, the deputy surveyor of the district, by whose account it appears that the quantity still remaining to be disposed of is inconsiderable.

On the 24th Mr. Maclauchlan and Mr. Smith arrived, and I was much gratified at receiving most encouraging accounts of the lands they had been employed to explore. The Shepody Tract, (that which Mr. Smith had last passed through,) proved in every respect equal to the very favourable accounts received of it at Petecoudiac. Mr. Maclauchlan's accounts of the lands he had passed through was also decidedly good; and this, together with the former report of Mr. Smith, and that of Mr. Layton, received while I was at Westcock, and various other opinions and testimonies to the same effect, put me entirely at ease as to the tract between Petecoudiac and Miramichi being fit for settlement. From Truro Mr. Smith returned by the Bay of Fundy and St. John, to Fredericton; and on reaching the latter place, was to commence, under the superintendence of the Surveyor General, the different maps and plans which I required to take to England, and which he had so well qualified himself to make out correctly. Your letter of the 7th of February, received at Miramichi, having enjoined the putting off as much, and to as late a period as possible, the incurring any expense of the special purpose of Emigration during the present year, I was of course most anxious to delay, as long as circumstances would safely admit of my so doing, the carrying into effect that part of my instructions, which directed that the necessary measures should be taken for 300,000 acres of the waste lands of the Crown surveyed, and I therefore gladly availed myself of Mr. Maclauchlan's voluntary and very handsome offer, to continue with me until I reached Halifax, thinking it very probable, on arriving there, I might receive still later directions from you.

On the evening of the 24th of May I arrived at Pictou. On the 25th saw Mr. Crerar, the deputy surveyor, whose report has already been alluded to, and ascertained that the vacant land in the district did not exceed 50,000 acres altogether, but those were easy of access. In the evening I embarked on board the Government vessel Chebucto, which Sir James Kempt, anxious in every way to facilitate the service I was engaged in, had sent to meet me, with orders to the master to place himself under my direction.

On the 26th of May I reached Prince Edward's Island, where I remained till the 30th, on the evening of which day I again embarked on board the Chebucto, for Cape Breton. During my stay at the Island, I employed each day in visiting different parts of it. The climate, soil, and situation, are all highly favourable; but the lands remaining at the disposal of the Crown would not amount altogether to upwards of 30,000 or 40,000 acres. Of these, about 15,000 are situated in Township 55, and 12,000 in Township 15. I saw the Surveyor General of the Island, but could obtain no additional information from him. On the 4th of June I landed at Louisbourg, formerly the principal establishment of the French in the Island of Cape Breton, and in those days a place of considerable extent. The harbour is one of the finest in America, and never frozen up. From Louisbourg, (where there are at present but a few Fishermen's huts,) I proceeded at once to Sydney. The distance is about twenty-five miles, the first twelve of which are wretched, and through a country which appeared to be rocky and stony, though producing in some places a growth of hardwood. Previous to my leaving Halifax, Sir James Kempt had written to Captain Crawley, the Surveyor-General of Cape Breton, apprising him of the period about which I might be expected to visit the Island, and requesting him to obtain every possible information, and have a map similar to

those already described, prepared against my arrival. On reaching Sydney, and putting myself in communication with the Surveyor-General, I had the satisfaction of finding that the instructions of Sir James Kempt had been in every way fulfilled; and the map of Cape Breton herewith transmitted, (compiled and finished by Mr. W. H. Crawley, the Deputy Surveyor-General of the Island,) may, I have no doubt, be entirely relied on, and certainly is a document to do credit to any office. The climate and situation of this Island are much on a par with Prince Edward's. The soil, though of different description, and not of the same even quality throughout, may, in many places, be considered equally productive. The vacant lands are more extensive, and may altogether certainly be estimated at 500,000 acres; of these, the tracts extending from the St. Denys River to the road leading from Port Hood to Whykokamah Basin, and containing about 50,000 acres, and that below or to the southward of the St. Denys, and extending to the road leading from Hawksbury to St. George's Channel, and containing about 60,000 acres, may be considered among the best. These tracts are merely divided by the River Saint Denys, and the narrow line of settlements established on its banks. The tract extending from the sources of the Miray River to Saint Peter's Bay, and lying between the Atlantic Ocean and the Bras d'Or Lake, also contains from 50,000 to 80,000 acres of land, generally speaking, supposed fit for settlement. The above make up but a small proportion of the disposable lands; but I have quoted them as being better known and very generally spoken of as good. The lands on the shores of the Bras d'Or Lake have nearly all been granted.

On the 6th of June, having obtained all the information which could be required at and in the neighbourhood of Sydney, I set out for St. Peter's Bay, taking the route by the Portage and Bras d'Or Lake. The total distance is about fifty miles, thirty-five of which were by means of this most beautiful of all water communications. At Saint Peter's, I obtained much useful information from the Reverend Mr. McLeod, the Catholic Clergyman, and from Mr. Kavanagh, Member of the Provincial Parliament, and one of the oldest and most respectable inhabitants of Cape Breton.

On the evening of the 7th of June, I again embarked on board the Chebucto, and on the 8th reached Arichat, a beautiful harbor in L'Isle Madame, where I saw Mr. Lucy, a deputy surveyor, who had been mentioned to me by Capt. Crawley and others, as particularly well qualified to give accurate information respecting the lands in the Southern district, and as, moreover, possessing much general information respecting the whole Island. Mr. Lucy's statements were decidedly favourable respecting the lands, and his opinions equally so respecting emigration. This gentleman appeared to be quite master of the subject, and from his zeal, intelligence, and experience, fully to deserve the favourable mention I had frequently heard made of him.

On the evening of the 9th I arrived at Guysborough, in Nova Scotia, one of the most beautiful places I ever saw, and where I had a long interview with Mr. Wentworth Taylor, the deputy surveyor of the county, whose information and reports have already been referred to.

On the 11th of June I returned to Halifax.

Notice.

THE Subscriber having been given to understand that certain persons through interested motives endeavoured to injure him in Public estimation, and prevent his getting employment on the plea of high prices, extravagant charges, &c., merely through opposition in favor of another; and as their report seems to have gained credit with a certain portion of the community, he takes this opportunity of informing his friends and the public in general, that it is his intention henceforth to work at the lowest possible prices, and compete with any of his business for cheapness and expedition; he therefore invites them to try for themselves in future and not to be led away by exaggerated reports or the prejudice of a party.

The subscriber also gives notice to such as are indebted to him, to call and settle their respective accounts immediately, otherwise he will put them in the hands of an attorney for collection, without discrimination.

CHARLES P. SMILER, Painter, &c.
Fredericton, June 3, 1828.