

class of people, and afford them the means of instruction in improving arts and trades. On this subject I propose separately to address Your Lordship, and from the influence the Land and Emigration Commissioners, are able to exert in promoting a great national object, I am anxious that the views which I have explained in my former Despatches as the result of my own experience, may be brought under their consideration.

Referring to my former observations on the formation of close Settlements of laborers, allowing them to purchase allotments of limited extent upon *credit*, being strongly impressed with the practical advantages of this system, I wish to explain to Your Lordship that the practice of requiring such Settlers to redeem their bonds by instalments may be considered to have failed either from the inability of the Settlers to pay the instalments when due and to obtain a title, or from the advantage to them from other employment of their capital; the practice prevailing in the Dutch Colonies, and also I believe in the British Islands of Jersey and Guernsey, where small proprietors are numerous and prosperous, of retaining a subsisting mortgage on their lands, and paying interest as a virtual rent is attended with many advantages in new countries which are unprepared for the occupation of lands by improving tenants. The labor of improving wilderness lands requires the stimulus of a direct interest in such improvements, which are encouraged by thus facilitating the transfer of farms on moderate terms. Hence it is not unusual where this practice obtains for neighbouring Settlers reciprocally to hold subsisting mortgages on the farms of each other, and for numerous members of Colonial families to invest their capital in this form, from their confidence in the resident proprietor, whose interest in the farm though thus limited in amount, is strengthened by the direct advantage to himself of all improvements, and the facility with which he may realize his capital by a transfer with the consent of the mortgagees, such transfers rendering the acquisition of farms on easy terms practicable to Emigrants.

I have regarded the Settlements which are now in progress (where properly superintended) as favorable to these results; the work done during the Winter by the Settlers (directed by Mr. Wilmot,) could not have been performed by Emigrants newly arrived, and unaccustomed to labor in the Woods at such a season, nor would it probably have been experimentally undertaken at such a season by any who had otherwise possessed the means of subsistence; it has proved what enterprise and skill can effect under such circumstances, and has also shewn that the Winter season may be profitably occupied by the Colonial Farmer, who has been too apt to regard it as a period for suspension of farm work, by which he has been allured to engage in Lumbering and to neglect his farm, by which many have been ruined.

It is probable that these Settlers will not desire to redeem their bonds, as the payment of interest on the purchase money will not be burthensome, nor do I think it will be advisable to require such payments from their resources, which may be better employed; and the example of their success may lead to private speculation in the application of the capital to the formation of such Settlements and improvement of contiguous lands by the labour of the Settlers.

I hope that these observations may be useful to Your Lordship and to the Land and Emigration Commissioners.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

*Fredericton, N. B., 27th May, 1842.*

MY LORD,—Referring to my Despatch No. 46, April 30th, I have the honor to enclose to Your Lordship a Report from the Emigrant Agent at Saint John.

The notification contained in Your Lordship's Despatch No. 53, dated April 24th, has been duly transmitted to St. John's and the Out-ports. Where Emigrant Agents have not been appointed, the Deputy Treasurers are required to officiate, but it would be desirable that such Agencies should be appointed at Miramichi, Saint Andrews, and probably at other ports.

A few of the Emigrants who have arrived have found employment in the Province, but the greater proportion have proceeded to the United States, and will, I hope, be attracted to Canada by the Public employment held out to them in that quarter.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

Right Honorable Lord Stanley.

*Fredericton, N. B., 13th June, 1842.*

MY LORD,—I have the honor to enclose to Your Lordship the copy of a letter from the Emigrant Agent in Saint John, with a further return of Emigrants who have embarked for the Province, chiefly from the Ports in Ireland.

These persons when they quit their homes, probably repair to the nearest Ports, where they are induced to embark in the ships bound to this Province, without any accurate information, and possibly in many cases without any settled views of their future destination. Single men and those who have any resources, and who could readily find a settlement in the Province, are influenced by designing or interested persons to proceed on their arrival to the United States, but families in a state of destitution are landed, who have no other resources than such scanty relief as can be obtained from Parochial funds or charitable contributions. Of the numbers thus chargeable in Saint John I have no report, but in Fredericton there are at this time from sixty to seventy women and

children wholly unprovided for, while the men have gone into the country in search of employment; and in some cases, where the families have accompanied them, they are dependant for their support on the hospitality of the farmers.

Their patient endurance under the severe trials and privations to which they are often exposed, is creditable to these poor people, and not less so the numerous instances where they apply the resources they acquire by their industry in assisting their parents and relatives at home.

Left to the spontaneous influence of their natural feelings, there are dispositions in the Irish Peasantry giving them the strongest claim to protection and sympathy.

Referring to the suggestions contained in my Despatch No. 56, of the 27th ultimo, I beg leave to urge on Your Lordship's consideration the advantage of establishing Agencies in the Colonial Ports.

The heavy tax to which the Masters of Emigrant Ships are subject who take them to the United States, operates as an inducement to bring them to this Province, from whence those who have any funds proceed to Boston by the Steam Vessels. When they are landed at Miramichi, they are often exposed to a fatiguing journey across the Country to Saint John's or to Saint Andrews.

The presence of an Officer in each of the ports where they arrive, whose advice and assistance they might claim, would thus enable them to avoid much of the difficulty and distress to which they are now exposed. Those who possess resources would be directed where they could settle advantageously in the Province, and others would be advised where employment could be obtained.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

Right Honorable Lord Stanley.

*Fredericton, N. B., 28th June, 1842.*

MY LORD,—Referring to my Despatch No. 53, dated 14th of May last, I regret to have occasion to report, that notwithstanding the precautions taken by Your Lordship to discourage the emigration of indigent persons to this Province, under the present depression to which all classes are subject, large families have come out, and especially to the Port of Saint John's, who from their indigence have seriously aggravated the prevailing distress of the community. When they arrive it has been found impracticable to discriminate between those who are possessed of any resources or who may be entirely destitute, and they are indiscriminately thrown on the charity of the country, already overburthened by the destitution arising from general want of employment. In these circumstances, the men sometimes proceed in search of employment through the Province or to the United States, leaving their families to be supported, where the resources of society are already exhausted, and the Government is destitute of funds. Some families set out to travel through the Country, depending for subsistence on the casual hospitality of the distressed farmers, and often refusing employment, their object being to proceed to the United States by crossing the frontier. By this expedient the heavy charge to which the Masters of Emigrant vessels are subject in the American ports are evaded. It was my intention by the present Mail to have replied to the observations contained in Your Lordship's Despatch No. 66, of the 31st of May, but from the importance of the subject, I am desirous of entering more fully upon it than I can do at this time. That it is practicable to devise means for averting the evil attending on the system of colonization heretofore pursued, I entertain no doubt.

The sale has at no time entered into my views for the settlement of the Colonies.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

Right Honorable Lord Stanley.

*Fredericton, N. B., 9th July, 1842.*

MY LORD,—I have the honor to forward to your Lordship the return of Emigrants who have arrived in the Ports of this Province from the United Kingdom in the quarter ending the 30th of June.

From these returns your Lordship will perceive that the number in the present session has been greater than usual, and although many respectable settlers have come out, and from the prevalence of temperate habits there is a marked and general improvement in the condition of the Emigrants, the more indigent have been exposed to great suffering in consequence of the general distress to which the inhabitants of all classes are at present exposed.

Since the date of my Despatch No. 59, of the 13th of June, the influx of so great a number of people, many of whom are ascertained to be paupers, has been a serious aggravation of the difficulties to which the Province is still subject, with no prospect of abatement in the present year; for representations have been made to me that many farmers are without the means of subsistence, and that in several instances they have been obliged to consume the seed corn and potatoes required by them for planting in the spring, while the Banks have been obliged to suspend their usual accommodation, partly owing to the large advances of Capital they had already made to the Government.

The check given to the Timber trade in the last year did not