

misfortune, or extravagance, have been left without the means to purchase, and they have established themselves upon the public lands, feeling a security in the unwillingness of the Government to dispossess them. There are many instances in which young persons have married hastily, and from being too proud to become day laborers, they have chosen to clear ungranted lands.

There is another description of squatters composed of immigrants, who, after landing in the Province, have travelled into the forests with their wives and children, and from necessity alone have won a livelihood upon the public soil; almost all the families of this class are now in comfortable condition, a circumstance which at once shews the capabilities of the soil and climate.

There is yet another class of persons whose abodes are on the public lands, who are the pioneers of the country—the advanced guards of civilization, and the forlorn-hope-men of the mountain, the river and the lake. Trained to the forest from their infancy, they rush into the woods, fell a few acres, and after raising a crop or two, they sell their improvements for a few pounds, and then advance still farther into the wilderness. A more hardy and contented race of men can scarcely be found, and their wives equal them in fortitude and endurance.

Such men are highly advantageous to a new country, and many of the fine settlements now seen in the Province were commenced by these wandering axe-men. Indeed every class of squatters, by opening roads and making improvements, have increased the value of Crown property, and led many to the purchase and improvement of wild tracts.

From the best information I have been able to obtain, there are no less than 4000 families in the Province settled on ungranted lands, and that number has been rapidly increasing since the depression in the lumber trade and the reduction in the price of labor.

It is evident that the uncertain tenure upon which squatters hold their lands, has a tendency to render them idle and extravagant, and they are generally careless in making very extensive improvements. Under the constant fear of being dispossessed, their ambition is relaxed, and this is one of the causes of their imperfect tillage of the ground.

The plan proposed by Your Excellency to give a credit of fifty acres of land to actual settlers, upon their executing a bond for payment, and paying the interest of the amount in advance, cannot fail to promote the settlement of the waste lands. By reserving each alternate hundred acre lot, the value of the public lands will in the new settlements increase rapidly in value, and the government will gain by the measure. I am fully of the opinion that 50 acres are quite sufficient to grant upon credit to any individual. To purchase and pay down for another 50 acres, will be the ambition of almost every settler.*

Not less than four hundred persons who were born in the Province, and four hundred more who had emigrated from Great Britain, all residing in St. John, have cheerfully determined to settle wild lands in the different Counties upon the above terms. Many of these, under other circumstances, would have emigrated to the United States, being unable to pay at once for fifty acres of land, and to maintain themselves in the forest until a crop could be raised.

The abundant crops of the past season have greatly increased the desire for improving wilderness lands, and from twenty to thirty persons call upon me daily for information in regard to favorable tracts for settlement.

There is another subject that requires some consideration. It is the manner of making surveys. It is not possible for any survey to be made correctly, where the variation of the Magnetic Needle is not attended to.

In a country where the variation is constantly increasing, and there are numerous causes of local attraction, care should be taken to ascertain the true variation, and back sights should always be had to discover any local attraction that may exist. I have tried the variation of the Magnetic Needle in different parts of the Province, and find that it varies from 17° to 24° westerly.

It would be highly advantageous to establish several Meridian lines in the Province, to aid the Surveyors in each district; and their compasses and circumferencers should be compared on one of these Meridians in order to determine their correctness.

(Signed)

A. GESNER.

(Copy.)

St. John, October 5, 1842.

In reference to my late exploration of the Restigouche River, my attention was directed to the laying out of new Townships for immediate settlement. Upon inquiry made of the authorized Surveyor of the County and several Magistrates, I found that neither the boundaries of that County nor the Parish lines had ever been run, and therefore I could discover no fixed point from which I could take departure.

There are some good lands for settlement above the mouth of the Upsalquitch, and on that branch of the Restigouche

* The squatters have an opportunity of purchasing upon credit to the extent of 50 acres, in common with others, which will generally include their improvements.

which extends towards Grand River, but I was of the opinion, that under all the circumstances, it would be better to run no lines of new Townships until the line between Canada and New Brunswick was determined, and the County Line of Restigouche clearly defined.

After the above lines have been fixed, it will probably be considered necessary to lay out one or two new Counties in the Northern and Western part of the Province.* My abridged Report of the Tobique will shew the Agricultural capabilities of a large tract of country in that quarter.

I am happy to learn that the Coast Survey of Captain Owen will extend up all the Rivers of the Province so far as they are navigable for Boats, and I beg leave to offer the opinion that it would be of great advantage to the Province to possess an accurate survey of all the principal Streams running into the interior.

Few, if any, of the County and Parish Lines have even been explored and run, and serious difficulties have arisen from the want of knowledge in regard to distinct boundaries.

A Geographical and Geological survey of their boundaries might be continued after the manner of the Ordnance Survey now going forward in England. A work of this kind would be important to science and in opening of the resources of the Country, nor would the expense extend beyond the means which would naturally fall to so useful an object.

I have, &c.

A. GESNER.

(Signed)

Alfred Reade, Esquire, Private Secretary, &c. &c. &c.

* The Township laid out at the Great Falls would be favorably situated for a seat of magistracy.

We have recently met with the following particulars, which we copy from the *Antigua Weekly Register* of the 4th April, 1840, on the erection of the SCOTCH KIRK at Saint John's, in that Island. The interesting ceremony of laying the FOUNDATION STONE, was performed by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor of this Province, during his Administration of the Government of the Leeward Islands, and the religious services were conducted by the Rev. Nathaniel Gilbert, a distinguished Clergyman of the Church of England.

The Building Committee, according to public notice, met at the Court House at 9 o'clock, and were soon after joined by a large assemblage of gentlemen of the Presbyterian communion and inhabitants generally. The whole then formed in procession and walked up to the site of the Building, which is on the crest of an eminence a short distance eastward of the town: the enclosure was covered with an awning and provided with seats for the Governor, the officiating Clergyman, &c. and ladies.—There were present, besides the members of the Council and Assembly, His Honor the Chief Justice, the Secretary of the Island, the Treasurer, the Provost Marshal General, the Attorney General and Solicitor General, the Moravian and Wesleyan Missionaries, the Superintendent of the Mico Charity with the Head Master, and many of the most respectable residents of all ranks from the most distant parts of the Island. The preparations were completed and the enclosure entirely filled with spectators, besides many who could not be accommodated within, when His Excellency, and the Reverend Nathaniel Gilbert, A. M. officiating Clergyman in full canonicals, took their places.

After the service, and the ceremony of laying the first stone of the building, for which liberal subscriptions had been raised, and a donation of £500 from the Legislature, the Rev. Mr. Gilbert addressed the auditory and spectators thus—

BRETHREN AND FRIENDS! I candidly confess that I feel some degree of embarrassment in undertaking the office, which has been assigned to me this day. Not indeed that I would wish to decline the duty—for as long as "Glory to God and good will to man" shall continue to be the characteristic of the Gospel, so long will that duty be a pleasure and an honour—but because I should have rejoiced to see it assigned to more appropriate hands: to Ministers of higher standing, and of greater local influence in the community. If Presbyterians and Churchmen are fellow citizens, they are also fellow Christians: and as the welfare of society and of the state is promoted by friendly co-operation and a reciprocity of kindly offices, so are the best interests of the Church of Christ to be advanced, and its brightest glory to be displayed by unity and godly love. It is the badge of our common Christianity, and the proof of our own discipleship to "have love one to another;" and when we see new buildings erecting and new congregations forming for the purposes of religious worship, it does not become us to envy or to forbid them because they follow not us; but rather to ask, will Christ be preached within these walls, and to these congregations? And, if the answer be given in the affirmative, it will be our privilege to add with the Apostle, "Therein I do rejoice, yea and will rejoice."

But the Church of Scotland stands on a very different footing from every other with regard to the Church of England. The two countries form one united kingdom; and if the same truth cannot be literally predicated of them as religious communities, yet they may with the strictest propriety be designated as Sister