

## Inquiries Of An Emigrant

Joseph Pickering

1832

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“ This is a practical work. The author took a farm in 1813, on a seven years’ lease, at a heavy rent, which his landlord, with a very trifling abatement, compelled him to pay. He lost half his capital in consequence ; was unable to re-stock his land ; and thus became an Emigrant. He sailed in October 1824, for Baltimore ; and after remaining for some months in that city, he removed to Canada. Our farmer is not wanting in shrewdness : and his observations are valuable from their evident truth. He does not much like the Americans, yet his account of them is favourable enough notwithstanding. He speaks in high terms of Upper Canada in respect of soil, climate, and inhabitants. We like his book, which is full of minute information.”—*Spectator*.

“ The author of this work, an intelligent farmer, who had resided six years in America, partly in the United States and partly in Canada, supplies a vast deal of information useful to all emigrants, but more especially to farmers, to whom he recommends Canada in preference to the United States.

From the statements of the author, it is clear that to all the labouring classes America is far before England. To one and all who can pay for their passage, we would say emigrate without delay. A numerous family is no burden in America ; there a large family is a positive blessing. Provisions are cheap, and plenty of employment in every department, unlimited. We should like to see the people of this country emigrating at the rate of half a million a week. This would bring their oppressors to their senses. To such as desire minute and accurate information on all the details connected with emigration, we most earnestly recommend this instructive work.”—*World*.

“ We may almost dispense with giving an opinion of this work ; for it has already reached “ a new edition,” and may, in consequence, be considered as having fairly won the approbation of the public. We therefore only add, that it has ours also, and that it contains much valuable information respecting the Canadas and the United States of America, in a plain, popular, and interesting form.”—*Morning Advertiser*.

“ This little book is the production of a practical man. In 1824, Mr. Pickering sailed from England to America, 'With a view to settle there, and in pursuance of that determination traversed the United States, and the British province of Canada. Thus, he has filled his book with observations “ on the manners, soil, climate, and husbandry of the Americans.” To those about to venture as settlers, we have no doubt the work will be found of the most essential service ; whilst to the general reader it will prove highly interesting, from the simple and clear-headed style in which it is written. Mr. Pickering describes a cultivated spot, a lake the wilderness a flock of wild turkeys a log hut, &c. with a freshness and animation that will, at times, remind the reader of Mr. Cobbett.”—*Ballot*.

“ It is highly essential that emigrants should be informed upon those points which more particularly deserve their attention. The author of this little volume has furnished what may be called the Emigrant’s Manual. He has concentrated, within a very limited compass, a great mass of useful information, gathered in the course of a personal tour through Canada and the United States. His observations on the manners, soil, climate and husbandry of these

countries is particularly opposite. On the whole, persons desiring to emigrate, from whatever cause, cannot do better than make Mr. Pickering's work their *vade mecum*. They will find it highly useful if not indispensable. The author's observations are full of good sense and he appears to be a practical man."—*Edinburgh Evening Post*.

"This work should be read by every man who entertains an idea of emigrating."—*Courier*.

Also, just published,  
A GUIDE TO THE CANADAS.

THE EMIGRANT'S COMPANION TO THE CANADAS,  
Compiled from Official and Original Documents, furnished by John  
Gait, Esq. and others,  
BY ANDREW PICKEN.

The object of this work is to present, in a condensed form, for the use of settlers Emigrants and Tourists, the most correct, varied, information, which has yet been published on these two Countries.

*Inquiries of an Emigrant.*

The following is an Extract from a Letter inserted in the *Northampton Herald* of the 18th of February, 1832. The writer not only bears testimony to the truth of Mr. PICKERING'S book, but gives the latest statement of the PRICES of PRODUCE and LABOUR, both matters of the greatest importance to the Emigrant.

To Thomas E——, Aynho, Northamptonshire.

*Guelph, Oct. 20, 1831.*

DEAR FATHER, I hope this will find you in good health. I wrote to you about the 24th of June, and I have not received an answer ; it was merely to state that we were safe arrived and all well. It seemed, at first, as though the Lord had forsook us, for there was not a day but tidings came of some disaster. I bought 1 acre of wheat and  $3\frac{3}{4}$  acre of barley ; the wheat was laid at from 25 to 30 bushels, and every day, from the time I bought it, came news that the hogs and the cattle was in it, so that it reduced my wheat to 6 bushel : such a loss almost ruined me. I was ill, and obliged to give a pound to have it thrashed ; but I am fast recovering, and my wife keeps up her spirits wonderfully. I am induced to go to Woolwich, to live near a large farmer, that went there nine years ago, without a dollar in the world. He will fetch me up free of expense ; I shall have for my use whatever his farm produces, and work it out, or pay when I can afford it. He offers me a yoke of oxen, and I have looked out 200 acres of land, and as good land as any I have seen, at 15s. per acre. I have been to the agent, and I may take 10 or 20 years to pay it in, if I choose. There is plenty of land to be had in the same way. T—— had his in the same way, and he has 130 acres of cleared land and 70 of bush, all paid for ; he has 50 head of cattle, 2 span of horses, 40 sheep, 60 hogs ; and raised last year 1000 bushels of wheat, and other grain in proportion. There is a great many settlers that began, some two, some three years ago, and all are doing well. All the tradesmen in this country are farmers, and do not care to wait on you at all ; if they do ten minutes' work, a quarter of a dollar ; they say farming is best ; the profits are coming if you are at a tavern. I believe there is a good chance here for any branch. Beef, pork, and mutton, is 3d. per lb., but not fat ; whiskey 2s. per gallon ; beer 1d. per quart. The climate is much the same as England ; it has been a very wet summer. Joseph is with me yet ; he has not been able to work a great deal, but he earned 20 dollars in 25 days, and his keep. We have a fine cow, a hog, 6

score, and 2 hens. I have bought several things for our use, and have a few dollars left to go into the woods with. I am sorry I cannot write to all that wish me, *but that book I had from Northampton is a better account than I can give ; it is a true account,*— “ PICKERING’S INQUIRIES OF AN EMIGRANT.” If I had ten pounds now I should not be afraid but I could soon be independent ; but being obliged to work out and hire oxen, will keep me back a year or two, *but what others have done, why may not I accomplish.* I believe any person coining here that had 40*l.* or 50*l.* might live well and save money, and a person with 200*l.* might live on a farm and save 50*l.* a year without working at all reckoning his improvements. If I have the luck to clear 40 acres in 5 years, my improvements will be worth 500 dollars, that is 125*l.* Halifax currency, according as improvements sell. English or British sterling is 2*d.* in the shilling more than the currency of this country, either in gold or silver, that is all the difference in the coin.

W. E.

INQUIRIES  
OF  
AN EMIGRANT :  
BEING  
THE NARRATIVE OF AN ENGLISH FARMER  
FROM THE YEAR 1824 TO 1830;  
DURING WHICH PERIOD HE TRAVERSED  
THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA,  
WITH A VIEW TO SETTLE AS AN EMIGRANT:  
CONTAINING OBSERVATIONS ON THE MANNERS,  
SOIL, CLIMATE, AND HUSBANDRY OF THE AMERICANS;  
ESTIMATES OF OUTFIT,  
CHARGES OF VOYAGE, AND TRAVELLING EXPENSES.  
BY  
JOSEPH PICKERING,  
LATE OF PENNY STRATFORD, BUCKS, AND NOW OF CANADA.  
THIRD EDITION;  
INCLUDING THE INFORMATION PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY’S  
COMMISSIONERS FOR EMIGRATION.  
LONDON: PUBLISHED BY EFFINGHAM WILSON,  
88, ROYAL EXCHANGE.  
1832.

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PREFACE.

THE privations and distresses of the manufacturing districts, and the embarrassments of the farming interests, combined with the attention turned towards Emigration as a remedy for these evils, have induced the Author of this work, to endeavour to supply the apparent want of practical and authentic information respecting the superior advantages of Upper Canada, by detailing his personal narrative, from leaving England to settling in that province. It will be found to comprise his passage out to the United States, with six months’ travels and residence therein ; upwards of four years’ sojourn in Upper Canada; his travels through Lower Canada, and return to England, *via* Ireland. He has endeavoured to detail a clear statement of facts, with remarks on the soil and climate of America,—the customs and manners— and a particular description of the methods of clearing the soil and cultivating the land, with the prices of stock, grain, &c. He has also given a comparative statement of the views held out by the United States and Upper Canada, as the best for British Emigrants ; in which he

flatters himself that the superior advantages of the latter to farmers, farm-labourers, and most useful tradesmen, will be fully proved; and as an Appendix, he has stated many particulars useful to whoever may proceed to either of those places.

He would not recommend those that are far advanced in years, except with younger branches of their families, or are comfortably situated, with small families, in commerce, trades, or situations, and not losing money (unless persons of enterprise, who could set difficulties at defiance), to emigrate to any country ; as all emigrants that were comfortably established, and particularly those from England, must make some sacrifice to obtain any future success.

The disadvantages of all new countries (particularly away from towns), are the want of conveniences, comforts, and society these have to be made. The advantages are, the absence of burdensome imposts and taxes the great scope for skill and industry in improvements of all kinds a large field unoccupied lying open for all a choice of good land and situation a feeling of independence, and an absence of care for the future welfare of their families. He will endeavour to state opinions and impressions, unbiassed by prejudice or partiality, so that *Emigration*, or *No Emigration*, may be deliberately weighed before decided on.

The great mistake of Englishmen in particular is, that they hang about the sea-ports, in the hopes something lucrative may offer, until they spend their little property, or if they settle as farmers, they are so fond of their own opinions as to attempt the introduction of English husbandry, and entail a heavy expense upon themselves for their folly.

The young and enthusiastic often form romantic and extravagant notions of distant countries ; this ought to be particularly guarded against, or it will assuredly end in disappointment and vexation. There is no perfect Paradise to be seen on earth—there is no country, however fine and prosperous, without a drawback; nor will there be discovered any country, however forbidding, entirely destitute of attraction. Authors of Travels, &c. are often the cause, yet unintentionally, probably, of the formation of such wild fancies. “ Countries,” as Goldsmith observes, “ wear different appearances to travellers of different circumstances. A man who is whirled through Europe (or any country), in a post-chaise, and the pilgrim that walks the tour on foot, will form very different conclusions.” The little incidents and particulars which will be found in this Journal, may appear in themselves but trifling ; yet collectively, with the frequent and familiar comparisons made of things in America to similar ones in England, they will give more striking and correct ideas than general observations and disconnected statements. “ Trifles discover characters more than actions of importance.”

Perseverance alone can ensure success ; the emigrant to either the United States or Canada must work to prosper, or bring that property with him to purchase land cleared and cultivated, with which he might have enjoyed comfort at home. On having a grant of land that is in a state of nature, much is to be done before he can even find a shelter, and he must wait for the seasons for his crops. It is in the New World as in the Old, connexions must be formed before prosperity can be ensured ; but the difficulty in doing this is not so great as it is in England, from the rapid increase of population, each seeking mutual assistance and correspondence with their establishments, agricultural and commercial ; therefore, if a person is industrious, and so fortunate as to have a family capable of joining in his labours, and living in the bonds of affection, there can be no doubt that he will prosper ; that his declining years may be passed in ease ; and his descendants be in possession of ample affluence.

Feeling his inability to detail the information acquired by experience in the pleasing manner he could wish, he craves the indulgence of his readers ; he offers no speculative theory, clothed in visions of fancy, to their notice ; his are the proceedings of a man, who,

used to move in a respectable sphere, felt the reverses brought about by political causes, and who, as a true citizen of the world, sought the reinstatement of his former circumstances by seeking a place, where his diminished means, his personal labour, and the resources of his mind, could be actively employed ; and he trusts his information will not be less valued, from being conveyed in a plain unvarnished style.

### On The Causes Of Emigration.

THE first and by far the most prominent one is privation, and its consequent distress. The next, perhaps, is dissatisfaction under real or fancied political grievances. Some few emigrate for a warmer, dryer, or healthier climate, and others for no reason but a love of change.

Formerly religious persecution was the chief cause of expatriation, but happily that barbarous age is gone by ; yet, unfortunately, there is another cause of late years in operation, although not of so violent a character, more dangerous from its insidious and constantly increasing power.

That this privation and distress should occur to thousands and tens of thousands, in a country the richest on earth, the most flourishing in arts, manufactures, commerce, and agriculture, is of so anomalous and glaring a character, that it forces itself on the attention of every one.

I have not the ability to exhibit a full elucidation of a cause of such magnitude ; but as it has the effect of driving so many of my countrymen yearly into exile, I may be allowed a few words on the subject of this extraordinary state of things.

The chief source of the evils complained of, is the accumulating immense wealth into large masses ; virtually monopolizing (since the introduction of steam power and other modern machinery) the means and sources of the middle and lower classes, like large globules of quicksilver swallowing up small ones within their sphere of attraction.

In the first place, is not this incontrovertibly the case with respect to the soil, the primary and only solid source of wealth of most countries ? For instance, are there one half the number of proprietors and occupiers of land now in England there were 30 or 40 years ago ? Is it not a notorious fact that large landed proprietors buy up all the small farms and lots of land they can meet with ? I have known parishes that had 40 or more small proprietors and occupiers of land, where now there is not more than one-third of that number ; the remainder generally become labourers, nearly their only resource, throwing an extra quantity of the article of labour into a market sufficiently supplied, and, consequently, depreciating its value below a just and equitable price, the landlord and fundholder reaping the benefit from the depreciation. But it will be asked, why will farmers give a greater rent than they can afford ? I answer, because those farmers, that still have a little money left, must rent a farm at some price ; they cannot do any thing else ; all other trades and occupations are already overdone. The landlord is enabled to keep up his high rents by throwing three or four farms into one, thereby creating a competition, by reducing the number in the market ; while, as I before said, two or three of these farmers must, probably go the parish. The one that gets the enlarged farm will curtail his expenses to meet the high rent, by reducing the number of labourers kept on the four farms ; thus he impoverishes the farm, and that in return impoverishes him, until perhaps in a short time his resource also is the same degraded station, the parish.

I by no means intend unqualified censure to any class,—for it is not reasonable to expect land-owners will take low rents while they can get high ones, any more than any other classes

will dispose of their property at a less value than it will bring in the market. It is the business of legislators, by wise enactments, to regulate, either directly or indirectly, those matters, and prevent unjust monopoly.

In manufactures, some of the arts, and navigation, this monopolizing system, chiefly through the aid of steam power, is still more apparent. Suppose, for a moment, that, within ten years from the present date, one-third of the human labour now required in Great Britain be superseded by machinery, in addition to the present amount, there would then be nearly half the population unemployed, or unprofitably employed, the evils of which, if not counteracted, must overwhelm the country in inevitable confusion : in a word, means of living must be found, either without or with labour. Capital, in conjunction with machinery, is rapidly, though silently, creating a greater revolution in the kingdom than was ever done by politics. How can these evils be avoided, it may be asked, or would I have machinery destroyed ? To destroy machinery, I answer, would be retrograding towards barbarism, and who could say to what extent it should be carried, even if practicable ? In fact, its destruction could only be effected by the united consent and power of every country ; which I need not add can never be obtained. Nor is its destruction necessary to the happiness and welfare of the world ; but that it may prove a blessing instead of a curse, it must be reduced from a mountain torrent to fertilizing streams. How this is to be accomplished is worthy serious attention. I shall not presume to enter deeply into it, but only suggest a few hints. A recurrence might be had to the old system of cottages and small farms. If in each parish every farm that is over 200 acres were divided into two, there would be then, on an average, four or five farms more in each township, requiring as many extra farmers to occupy them. These farms, when divided, would probably employ more labourers in proportion, and the land be kept in better condition than before. In conjunction with this, let a number of neat and convenient cottages be built in each parish, (if there are not enough already), and three or four, to eight or ten, or more acres, of land, be attached to each by the rich land-owner, the parish, or act of parliament, to be let to the most industrious and honest part of the labouring class, allowing at least one-half to be retained in arable, for potatoes, other vegetables, and grain. These, with a little assistance and indulgence at first, would pay as much rent per acre as a farmer. By this means labour would be taken from the present overstocked market, and poor rates proportionably reduced. A stimulus would be given to industry and honesty in the lower classes, for aspiring to those cottage farms, and thence to a higher grade ; from being now degraded nearly as low, and as incapable of emancipating themselves and rising in the scale of society, as the unfortunate African.

By the cottage and small farm system, in conjunction with an adequate and permanent abatement of rents in proportion to the price of grain, all the present population might be beneficially employed. The former would be a kind of reserve of labour, to which recourse could be had by the farmer in busy times, to the mutual benefit of each. To check the monopolizing system in land, and to give efficacy to the cottage and small farm system, let a graduated tax be levied on all occupiers who retain in their possession more than 100 acres, to be appropriated to the use of the poor ; this would effectually put a stop to the system now in practice, of holding more than can be cultivated to the best advantage to the country, and would, perhaps, keep three or four families, and employ double the number of labourers it now does, if divided and conducted with energy. Numbers of large farms might easily be pointed out at the present moment, capable of keeping a great increase of stock, and producing much more grain than they now do.—The want of capital is, perhaps, the chief obstacle that prevents large farms being cultivated to the best advantage ; nine out of ten of their occupiers have had their capitals reduced by these retrograding times, and, unwilling to lose any of their dignity or appearance in society, continue to occupy them, though at a certain loss. To counteract the growing and pernicious influence of immense monopolizing capitals, and further to relieve the poor and industrious classes, let taxes be taken off every

article and commodity of general utility, and the necessaries of life, and put on property and luxury only.

Whatever difference in opinion may be held respecting the causes of the frequent embarrassments of the agricultural and manufacturing interests, and the more severe privations of the labouring classes, all must acknowledge its frequent existence, and the paramount necessity of an adequate and speedy remedy. Whether our rulers, or any body of the people, take the case up seriously, before it manifests itself in a more forcibly convincing manner, remains to be seen. But if they do not, emigration appears to me the only remedy in the hands of those who may have sufficient money to carry them out of the influence of the evil out of the country. In case such an event be the alternative adopted, the following pages may be of some service to direct in the choice of a situation.

## CHAPTER I.

### *The Author's motives for Emigration—Preparations for the Voyage—Embarkation, and Passage out.*

I SHALL premise the causes of leaving my native country, and reasons for preferring the United States ; in doing which I am only describing the misfortunes and fate of thousands of my countrymen.

I took a farm previous to the close of the late war (about 1813), on a seven years' lease, and of course at a high rent. The year following, peace came, and with it ruin to nearly one-fourth of the agriculturists. My landlord compelled me to hold the farm for the term I had taken it, with but a small and insufficient abatement of rent. The consequence was, that with strict attention to economy and industry, at the close of my lease I had lost one-half of my little capital, the remains of which not being sufficient to stock the farm, I was obliged to give it up, although offered it at one-half the former rent. I then took his Majesty's ministers' advice, that, "if farming would not answer, farmers must engage in some other business." I engaged in another business, but through the shortness of my funds, and a combination of untoward circumstances, I lost the remainder of my property. I now determined to leave a country that no longer afforded me a respectable and comfortable subsistence, thinking no person with one spark of independent spirit, could hesitate a moment in a choice between honorable, though even laborious, exertion and dangers, with independence, to a dronish uselessness in society, or a mean ignoble dependence on friends.

Van Diemen's Land and the United States presented me with a choice of place for my exile. I weighed the inducements held out by each, deliberately, and their attractions counterpoised in the balance for some time, until the shortness and cheapness of the passage to the latter preponderated, and decided my choice : I then had not the least intention of going to Canada, a place I had been led to believe was frozen up two-thirds of the year, and scorched up the remainder ; but on arriving in the United States, I procured better information, without seeking it.

In October, 1824, I engaged with an American captain of a brig, lying in the London Docks, bound to Baltimore, for a passage in the steerage, for six guineas, my finances not allowing me to go in the cabin ; and being the only passenger on board (excepting two young American seamen who worked their passage) had the privilege of a small apartment to myself, dignified with the name of "state-room." Some days passed in providing provisions, &c. with great trouble in procuring the variety of articles wanted, to the best advantage, and on the 18th we sailed with the morning tide and a fair wind, down the river Thames ; a frosty morning, but a fine pleasant day ; numbers of vessels going out ; and anchored off Gravesend

for the night. I had paid 1*l.* to a person residing near the entrance of the Docks, for procuring me a “cocket” or clearance, which I am inclined to think was rather an imposition, but he said he would have procured the same for four or five passengers, had there been as many, for the same money ; went on shore to the custom-house at Gravesend, to deliver the above cocket ; was asked my name, and if an Englishman, and for a reference in London. I had nothing to pay, nor was any certificate of my occupation or identity, required, as I had been led to expect ; some officers came on board, but did not examine my trunks, merely asking if they contained wearing apparel and personals only. The provisions I took for my passage were laid in for eight weeks’ consumption, and I had no restriction in quantity or variety (there are restrictions in some ports respecting quantity, particularly if a considerable number of passengers are going in a ship) ; in the Appendix I have stated particulars at length. We left Gravesend with a fair wind, and pretty good spirits, my thoughts ranging through the New World I had now fairly embarked for, and then returning again to the land of my nativity, friends, and former home, which, at times, would cause an involuntary sigh ; but the hopes and prospect ever-cheering fancy presented to my mind, dissipated all gloom, and I bade adieu to Old England without much regret. The wind being a-head, we tacked and came to anchor off Margate for the night ; in the morning beat up into the Downs, when the pilot left us ; a New York packet-ship, the Trident, passed in fine stile, without tacking once, through her superior powers of sailing, and was in port three weeks before us ; this may serve as a hint to emigrants to engage a passage in a good sailing vessel, which may be ascertained generally by inquiry, or by the sharpness of their bows. I would also recommend every one, before engaging his passage in a ship, to inquire her age (from two to ten years is best), and to see if her sails, rigging, anchors, and cables are good, and also if the captain is steady, respectable, and agreeable ; a middle-aged one I would generally prefer.

On leaving the Downs, we experienced a rough sea ; which produced sickness in the captain as well as myself ; the weather was quite warm, the thermometer being at 63 ; the wind increasing, we made considerable head-way, and in two days lost sight of the Lizard Point, and a pigeon passed us fifteen miles from the land ; a packet spoke us from the Straits, bound to Liverpool. There is no regard paid to Sunday, as a sabbath, on board this vessel, indeed, sometimes it would be impossible ; on the 26th, a heavy gale came on, and continued throughout the day ; I could hardly get from my berth or help tumbling out ; no life nor power to move—just enough to wish myself on some shore ; the wind dropped in the night, but the sea continued to roll its mighty waves—

“ Oh wonderful thou art, great element !  
And fearful in thy spleeny humours bent,  
Yet lovely in repose.”

This was succeeded by a calm (three vessels in sight) ; ate a little gruel and a pancake only ; a good deal of the latter used in the cabin. October 29th, another strong gale during the night, in which we again “ lay too :” wind south-west, which drove us in sight of Cape Clear, in Ireland, by the morning, and in the heavy squall which followed, we had near been capsized through the negligence of the mate not taking in the sails soon enough ; the captain, who was in bed when it came on, was instantly on deck, and gave the mate a deserved reprimand ; one of the sails giving way, and the wind lowering, they were enabled to set all right again ; the weather for several days various, and we felt a warmer climate, and longer days, north latitude 44 : 29—longitude, 12 : 30, west—thermometer 83. On the evening of Nov. 2d, a bank of clouds arose north-west, and a breeze sprung up in our favour ; we had now been thirteen days at sea, and its effects were such, that provisions were in some measure useless, tea, gruel, pudding, or a roasted potatoe being all I could take, with soda-water, or a little warm porter for drink ; but at this time the weather became pleasant and warm, with light wind, thermometer 65, and the sea being nearly smooth, partially restored my health, and I

made ample amends in eating after my long abstinence ; we now got so far from land that the gulls and other sea birds left us, and experienced a variety of winds, but generally warm weather, and the voyager would have some pleasure in agreeable and decorous company ; whales sported about, and other large fish were occasionally near the vessel. The saline air caused my apparel to become damp and mouldy, and knives, &c. to rust ; attention to these matters, assisted in passing time away, but occasional squalls would interrupt my business ; in the twilight I often amused myself, when there was a gentle breeze fanning the surface of the water, by viewing the ripples it made with their white caps, it looked so much like an extensive fallow-field, with a slight scattering of snow on its unevennesses ; and fancy, ever busy, conjured up in the distance some well-known familiar spot for the imagination to feast on, till the darkening shades of night, or the approach and noise of sailors, aroused me from my reverie :—ten days thus passed, when we had a heavy breeze all day, and took in the main top-gallant sails. Have seen of late a large brown bird of the gull species, which the sailors call a shear-water, and some small birds like martins they denominate Mother Cary's chickens. The ship's store of potatoes became half rotten through having been dug before they were ripe, and put on board in a wet state. Mine remained quite sound, but began to shoot, through the mild season. Rather disagreeable weather followed this gale, and several seas broke over the vessel : then a dead calm ensued, and the ship rolled much ; but a smart breeze soon sprung up, north by east, which carried us eight knots per hour, and was the first wind the sailors called fair, that is, lying aft, or at the hind part of the vessel. The sea water is quite warm, and sparkles alongside the ship at night like fire ; this appearance is caused, apparently, by the ship's side dashing the salt water into air-bubbles : some assert that this fiery appearance arises from a kind of animalculæ, but this opinion is evidently erroneous, for these animalculæ are never numerous enough in the water in any one place, and but occasionally to be met with at all, when these sparkles are everywhere to be seen in the night in salt water. The air from the waves which break at the ship's side, on leaning over, rises in the face like the steam from heated water. The vessel now made a good deal of water when the sea was rough.

The captain swears and storms like a madman ; at one time cursing the men (by-the-by, some of them were a stupid set of fellows), then the ship, and the weather, and almost in the same breath saying, they could not have had a better day for the work they had to do, and that we had been highly favoured throughout : so inconsistent is human nature !

We were often compelled to lay to, in which there is little danger in any moderate gale, provided you have plenty of sea-room to drift, and the vessel has far less motion than if sailing in the same wind, or in a calm. In one of the late gales the tiller rope broke, when it threw down, and very much cut and bruised, the man steering. My butter was all spoiled through the warm weather, not having been potted close, and sufficient salt put in it.

Squalls, calms, head winds, &c. continue, and the captain says he never experienced so much bad weather and opposing winds before. A disagreeable life on board in such seasons : perhaps you are pitched head-foremost against one side of the vessel by a lee-lurch, or a roll, and before you have time to recover your legs, tumbled to the other side ; or at dinner, the dishes and plates with their contents are suddenly dashed to the floor, when the potatoes, &c. are rolling about from one side of the vessel to the other, as if playfully amusing themselves ; and, while attempting their recovery, you roll after them, or tumble head-foremost, to the no small amusement of the rest of the company.

We continued to experience westerly winds, which retarded our progress greatly, a proof of which was, that we spoke a brig from New York, bound to Buenos Ayres, out only eight days, and it took us three weeks to get into port ; indeed, their prevalence is a strong reason why the voyage out should not be undertaken at this season, and that this period, or a little

earlier, is often chosen to return to England. Appearances indicated an approach to the New World, and like similar circumstances to Columbus filled us with hope. Great quantities of sea or gulph-weed floated past us, and on the 4th of December we were in latitude 34 : 35, and southed a degree. Beautiful April-like weather, thermometer 71 in the shade, and 73 in the water ; sometimes some light showers, with occasionally lightning in the evenings. The air exhibited a curious appearance, being of a yellowish red colour, and the clouds of a cinerous blue, which were in a thousand-fantastic and singular forms, the sailors called them snow-clouds. Saw a number of flying fish pursued by a dolphin, and also numerous beautiful coloured nautilus or “ men of war,” with their sails expanded to the breeze, blown swiftly over the undulating waves. My bottled porter was excellent, and of great service now I had recovered from the sea-sickness ; saw no more gulph-weed. We had now crossed the back stream, and were between the two ; it runs down the eastern coast of America, across the banks of Newfoundland, round the Western Isles, and along the coast of Africa.

*Dec. 6.*—Squally again of late. Getting near the gulph-stream, which makes it warm, and great quantities of the gulph, or sea-weed is seen again ; it nearly covers the surface of the water in some places, and in others it is extended for miles in parallel lines, north-east and south-west ; I should suppose drifted from the side of the stream, which runs in that direction in this part.

*Dec. 10.*—Getting too far south, through the prevalence of north-west winds ; latitude 33 : 30, thermometer 65 in the air, and 72 in the water. A shark ten or twelve feet in length came alongside the vessel, and a number of grampuses were seen at a distance. Fine weather, and would be delightful if on shore, and not altogether otherwise here.

*Dec. 12.*—Light wind, and smooth sea ; clear, bright, warm day. Two dolphins came swimming about the vessel, one of which the captain struck with a fish-spear, and succeeded in getting it on board ; they all said it was the largest they had ever seen, six feet seven and a half inches in length, and I should suppose weighed three quarters of a cwt. or more.

*Dec. 13.*—Hardly any wind of late, but a breeze sprung up this morning, and soon rose into a gale, and at noon blew violently from the southward. The foam flew like fine-drifted snow : the wind suddenly fell, and then chopped round to the north-west, and blew more moderate, when the grandest sight I had ever seen presented itself : the tremendous billows meeting in all directions formed a thousand fantastical shapes, sometimes running up into high peaks or spires, then suddenly sinking into vast abysses ; or two large waves meeting, rose into an immense ridge ; or meeting with violence, dashed their spray in all directions, as if in a rude, frolicsome play, while the vessel rose up their mountain sides most majestically, receiving now and then a salute from their gambols. Rain came on, and clouds were seen flying in various directions ; the air remarkably warm. Thermometer in the morning 70, and in the water at noon 74 ; and before night 79 ; remaining at 70 in the air.—So we are in the Great Gulph stream at last !

*Dec. 15.*—Through the Gulph as it is called, and the air gets colder every hour. Shortened sail last night, and sounded without finding bottom. Found, by an observation taken at noon, we were in latitude 35 : 19. Just north of Cape Hattress, a dangerous reef of sunken rocks, running forty miles into the sea, on the coast of Carolina. Sounded again in the evening, and found nineteen fathoms water. The thermometer had sunk in the air to 45, and in the water to 68. Water on soundings looks green, in the ocean a dark blue ; this is universal, I am told.

*Dec. 16.*—Made land this morning opposite Roanoke Inlet, North Carolina, near the borders of Virginia, seventy miles too far south of the Chesapeak Bay ; ranged within five miles of the shore all day, with a light breeze, and fine clear cold air. Cannot see anything of

the country, but clay and sand banks, covered with pines and other trees ; it is apparently a flat land along the sea-board ; vessels sailing in different directions, and numbers of wild ducks seen along the shore.

*Dec. 17.*—As no pilot came on board last evening, a lantern was hung up in the night at the mast head, for a signal, and at two o'clock this morning one hove his boat alongside and was taken on board, who proceeded immediately with the vessel round Cape Henry, into the Chesapeak Bay ; the wind having got south-east at the same time, with a stiff breeze, wafted us along faster than we had sailed all the time we had been out. Rain and hazy weather came on this evening, which compelled us reluctantly to come to an anchor for fear of the shoals. The Chesapeak is a very fine Bay, from ten or twelve to twenty miles across, and upwards of two hundred long ; its low banks, fringed with trees, are all that is to be seen of the country, excepting here and there a house near the shore, and occasionally a small town or village. A great number of small craft, loaded with cord, wood for fuel, country produce, &c. for Baltimore market. Ten thousands of wild ducks, geese, swans, &c., almost covering the Bay, swimming and flying ; an English sportsman would be in his Elysium here !

*Dec. 18.*—After a wet, blowing night, it cleared up soon after day-light this morning, when we weighed anchor, and proceeded up the Patapsco River. As beautiful a day as ever shone, with a serene mild air, and pleasant light breeze. Vessels of all sizes sailing in various directions, with well-dressed people on board ; and Baltimore, with its white buildings rising to our view on the sides of the hills, as we approached it, had a most exhilarating effect on one whose vision had been confined to the monotonous rolling of the unstable waters for sixty-five days, which is deemed a very long passage.

## II.

*Arrival at Baltimore—Description of the Town, its Inhabitants, and Customs—Excursions in the neighbourhood, and continued residence—with a variety of miscellaneous Remarks.*

My diary having been kept as a daily journal, I shall now offer it to the reader in that form, as exhibiting, better than any other mode, a narrative of my proceedings ; and presenting to him the best means of understanding the occupations of my time, and the space I traversed.

On the 18th Dec., at two o'clock, the pilot laid the vessel alongside the wharf, when, in an instant its deck was covered with people of all sorts, looking about and asked questions. After packing my luggage, I went into the town to procure something to eat, lodgings, &c., when I felt myself a stranger, on a foreign, although a kindred strand. After dining heartily on some excellent sausages, with some pleasant mild ale, I took a ramble through the city ; but I hardly knew how to walk, the pavement seemed to have the motion of the vessel.

Baltimore is a large town, with some handsome public and private buildings; the streets are spacious, airy, and clean ; the centres pitched with rock stone, and the side walks paved with red brick, of which also the houses are mostly built. Pratt-street, along the water side, was all in a bustle, and apparently full of business, but the method of doing it evidently differs considerably from the manner in England.

*Dec. 19. Sunday.*—At one church, and two meeting-houses (no chapels here) ; some of them elegant buildings, with very respectable-looking congregations. Dined with the captain, whose treatment was hospitable. The manners of the Americans appear widely different to the English, particularly of the females, who are more easy and unembarrassed, yet reserved, in

their address, than the retiring diffidence of the latter. Took lodgings at a respectable ship carpenter's, at three dollars, or 13s. 6d. sterling, per week, board, washing, and mending included.

*Dec. 20.*—A clear, bright, frosty air this morning. Thermometer in my sleeping room 43. Went to the custom-house, with the captain, to clear my luggage. Paid half a dollar to a notary (a very polite, agreeable person) for drawing up an inventory and certificate of my luggage, and 20 cents (one-fifth of a dollar, or about 11d. sterling) on presenting it ; when the only question asked was, Will you swear this is a correct statement, and that the articles are for your own private use ? I merely answered in the affirmative. Had a ramble through the town and its environs. Like the appearance of the Americans generally, and think the place prosperous, as the people appear to be all employed and busy, and have the air of ease and content in their countenances, with but little superciliousness. The markets are well supplied with meat as to quantity, but the quality not quite so good as in England, excepting the pork, which is fine ; some little good beef, but veal and mutton very indifferent, nor is trouble taken to set it off to the best advantage. The vegetables brought to market now are chiefly potatoes, beets, and cabbages, great quantities of the latter, and mostly drumheads ; some few carrots, turnips, onions, sweet potatoes, &c. at moderate prices. A great many negroes about the markets and wharfs, who appear far more lively and as independent as the whites, but are treated by the latter as inferior beings ; will not eat at the same table, or walk in their company, and have separate places of worship.

There are five market houses in Baltimore, some of them large, and all conveniently built, very similar to the old Fleet Market in London. The centres, which are spacious, are occupied on each side by the butchers ; on the outside of the butchers' stalls is also a passage on each side, with stalls on either hand, where vegetables, country produce, flour, meal, &c., ready-made clothes, shoes, tin-ware, &c. are exposed. The fish markets are at the ends of the others, and generally well supplied. To-day are their Christmas markets, at which there is great plenty of every thing some good beef, pork excellent, mutton thin and small, veal (calf) hardly fit to eat, killed too young. Beef, 2d. to 3½d. per pound ; the best cuts, 4½d. (I have stated the prices in sterling money, being far more conveniently understood by the British reader) ; pork generally sold by the carcass, brought in by the farmers from the country, from 2d. to 3½d. per pound, and sometimes even lower ; veal and mutton by the quarter, at 1s. 2d. to 2s. 3d. each ; turkeys, 1s. 2d. to 2s. 3d. each ; fowls, 6½d. to 9d. ditto ; cabbages, (drumheads), 1d. to 2d. each ; potatoes and turnips, 10d. to 1s. 2d. per bushel, &c. I was asked in the market 5l. for a cow and calf, worth in England 8l. or 10l., only five or six cows in the market ; no fairs for cattle here, and but few sold in the markets ; there are some farmers that deal in them, and supply those who want, and I am told do pretty well by it ; wholesale butchers buy up the droves of cattle that are driven from Ohio and the west, slaughter, and sell them to the retail ones. The regulations respecting the markets in this warm climate are judicious ; no slaughtering allowed in the town—no butchers' shops opened any where ; the cattle are killed out of town, and the meat taken to the market houses early in the morning, where the inhabitants flock at break of day with their baskets, as every one carries home his purchases. The markets close in summer at eleven o'clock, in winter at one. Great numbers of country waggons at the market every day through the fall, [autumn] winter, and spring, with country produce. Large quantities of water-fowl, from the Bay, brought to the markets during the winter ; wild ducks, a great variety, from 3½d. to 5d. each ; the canvas-back is large, and considered a delicacy, 1s. 1d. to 1s. 6d. each ; partridges, 4d. to 7d. each ; quails, 1d. to 2¼d. ditto ; hares and rabbits, small, from 6d. to 1d. each.

The land round the city is hilly, commanding fine views down the Bay, and over the country. The soil in the vicinity is a mixture of dirty yellow clay, with sand and gravel, but the bottoms or small valleys which lie to the east and north-west are good, and here are the

gardens that supply the markets. On the little hills and risings are situated some country seats, that the wealthy inhabitants retire to in summer ; their whiteness, enlivened with the brightness of the sun, on opening to the view in different directions, from behind the slips of woods, reminds me of some spots in the neighbourhood of London, but on approaching them many are in a dilapidated state, and the gardens and fences in a slovenly, neglected condition.

*Dec. 25.*—Christmas-day : instead of ringing bells, &c. as in England (there are but few bells here to ring) it was ushered in by firing guns, squibs, and crackers all last night, and continues with intervals through the day. The moment I arose this morning, I was presented with a glass of “egg-mogg,” as they termed it, a compound of rum, eggs, milk, and sugar, also with ginger-cake, and a cake with raisins in it, which is their “Christmas cake ;” all for merry-making and “parties.” I was pressed to one in the evening with the captain and his wife, a number of fine females and their beaux present ; the time was spent with a variety of plays, singing songs, playing on the piano, eating cake, drinking toddy, peach brandy, &c., quite a sociable party, the female part easy and apparently unaffected ; broke up early by the request of our host, the next day being Sunday. Americans use very little or no ceremony, except the introduction by shaking hands, &c. ; each leaves table at meal-time as soon as done eating, and they are generally quick : no bidding good night, or other ceremony, on going to bed.

*Dec. 26, Sunday.*—The day as fine as the preceding, thermometer 47, with a clear bright air ; the sun rises twenty-five minutes after seven o’clock on the shortest day, and sets thirty-five minutes past four. At the Roman Catholic cathedral this morning ; it is just finished, and is a large elegant place, far superior to the one in Moorfields, London ; there is another church here also of that persuasion, and a grand Unitarian one, but the latter has but a small congregation; there are besides, Episcopalians [church of England], Presbyterians, Congregationalists, Baptists, Quakers, and Methodists ; the latter appear to be the most numerous, they having four or five large meetings, and all well attended. At one of them this evening ; the male part of the audience on one side of the meeting, and the female on the other ; the preacher respectable, but rather too noisy, yet he had to beg the attention of the congregation more than once ; no pews, but long enclosed seats from one end to the other of the gallery, and below, from the aisles to the sides, and across between them ; every one appeared to sit where he thought proper ; the floors most disgustingly dirty from the effects of tobacco ; more than half the males of the age of fourteen chew tobacco ; and boys of ten or twelve years may often be seen smoking a cigar.

*Dec. 27.*—A thick fog this morning, wind east, and no frost ; sun broke through the mist at noon, when it was quite warm. I took my gun into the woods, but found no game ; on my return, by the race-ground, a number of persons had a bull tied to a stake for the purpose of baiting; I stopped to see a “set-to,” as I had never seen one before ; the bull was a fine, well-bred, gentle creature ; seven or eight dogs were turned loose at him at once ! They soon tore his ears off, and shockingly lacerated his head, which made the poor thing bellow hideously, and run about in every direction to the length of his chain, maddened with pain ; in ten minutes he had killed one dog, and lamed others, when I turned away with disgust at the cruel sport ; I was afterwards informed, the animal’s head was literally torn to pieces ! One might be led to suppose, by this spectacle, the Baltimoreans are a depraved set of beings, but I must say to their credit, I saw not more than ten or twelve of respectable looking people there, the others, about one hundred, consisted of the refuse of the place, and a number of them job butchers. Bull-baiting is not allowed in the liberties of the city, and means are about to be taken to put a stop to it altogether.

I have been looking out for some little business, or a situation as superintendent, or overseer of a farm, but have not yet succeeded ; I find I am not prepared for the latter, because I

*do not understand the management of Blacks.* I have been introduced to some Englishmen, but they, generally, have treated me with far more reserve and coolness than the Americans. One from the Isle of Wight, a Mr. S., says he was an extensive farmer and butcher there : he has been here about two years, and is doing pretty well as a butcher, having nothing much when he came, and has some ungracious feelings towards his native country. Another from Hampshire has been here fifty-six years, and is seventy-eight years of age. He shouldered his musket in the late war, he tells me, to defend his home.

*Sunday, Jan. 2, 1825.* Some snow in the night, with rain, and afterwards frost, which makes the streets all ice ; some few sleighs about to day, with bells, which I am told they are compelled to have by law, that they may not run foul of each other in the night. Heard a rather celebrated orator (a Methodist preacher from the back woods), hold forth in a meeting belonging to another denomination, in aid of a subscription for building an asylum for orphan females ; a fluent speaker, but manner too theatrical, and language bombastic.

*Jan. 10.*—Frosty of late, when there were plenty of people to be seen skating. Been to ask the price of land to rent ; one lot of fifty acres, only half cleared, four miles from town, 18s. per acre per annum ;, another of rich bottom land, or meadow, several miles off, near the river, I was asked 12 dollars, or 21. 14s. per acre, rent. Great numbers of waggons from distant parts of the country every day, with barrels of flour for the merchants, and fat hogs, dead, for the market ; some come four hundred miles, the drivers sleeping in the waggons at night, and carry with them the horses' feed ; the waggons are excellent, strong, and light ; narrow wheels, narrow in the body, with tilts, seven or eight bows bent over, and removable at pleasure, these covered by a light-coloured fine canvass, drawn together at each end like a purse : the horses go double, with a pole, like a coach, generally four or six in each, sometimes five, the driver riding the near hind horse, with reins in one hand and whip in the other, and mostly go a trot. Smaller and very light waggons, drawn by one horse, called carry-alls, or carioles, are used to bring in milk, butter, eggs, fowls, &c. Vendues [auctions] of books, and almost every description of merchandise, are held every few days, and others at night. Sometimes things are sold very low,—I saw some British goods nearly as cheap as in London ; American books much lower, but they are not quite so well printed, and paper generally inferior.

Inquiries of an emigrant: being the narrative of an English farmer from the year 1824 to 1830 ; (1832)

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