

## Relating to Emigration

Thomas Smith

1818

### *Arrival at New York.*

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On the 10th of May, 1816, I sailed in the ship *Rosalie*, from Liverpool for New York, and on the 22d of the following month, was delighted with a sight of that land, on which, I hope the foot of a king must never tread. It was Block Island, about two hundred miles distant from New York ; small, and inhabited by about 3,000 persons, chiefly of those useful classes of society—Fishermen and Farmers. Here we took a pilot on board, who told me that all the inhabitants who would work, could live well—an observation I had frequently heard before, and one which I afterwards found amply confirmed.

June 25th at night, we anchored in the Bay of New York, and coming on deck the following morning, I was struck with a view of the city, rivers, islands, bays and surrounding objects—which, for beauty and local advantages, could, I imagine, be excelled by no place in the world. But the feelings with which I contemplated this region, shed a lustre on every object : I could not forget, that the land of a free people was opening to my view, and the blessings of this condition of man, filled my breast with pleasing anticipations.

On my arrival at New York, I met with a gentleman from Boston, whom I had before known in Liverpool.—He accompanied me to Mechanic Hall, where we spent the night, and slept in the same room. In the morning, this Boston gentleman sharply requested the servant woman to bring another towel, and more water : she replied, “ I will bring what you want, but I expect you are an America, and that you will be civil—for we expect to be treated with civility.” This little occurrence, in the out-set of my intercourse with this people, reminded me of my friend ——, who told me, I should find the people *civil*, but not *servile*—a distinction, which travellers here, would do well to bear in mind.

June the 30th, I was introduced to the Governor of the State of New York, at the City Hall. He invited me to dine with him, the first opportunity, at his house on Staten Island ; informing me, that his house was but small, and his accommodations plain ; but that I should be welcome to all they afforded. He also kindly offered me letters of introduction ; with any other services in his power to render.

June the 28th, I went with Mr. S. M—, to see a woollen cloth-manufactory, one for wire, and one for cards, situate near the city. The managers of these establishments told me, what must be obvious to every reflecting man, that their trade was much injured by the very low prices at which English goods were then selling in New York ; but that they thought the English manufacturers and merchants must suffer much more than themselves.

The 29th, I sailed across the East River, to see *FULTON the First*, the celebrated steam frigate, so much spoken of in England. It's sides are five feet thick : and, opposite the machinery, six feet, solid. In length it is about equal to a large ship of war, and twice as broad. It carries heavy metal ; and can be propelled, as I was assured, five or six miles in the hour, against wind or tide.—This terrible machine, thought I, would be a vast accession to the *Holy Alliance* ; and, employed in the cause of *legitimacy*, might be sanctified by the pope, and the several orders of priesthood !

The steam boats in general are very large. I measured one on the Hudson River, which was sixty yards long, and ten broad, containing beds for about 200 persons.

July 1st, left New York, in a steam-boat, for New-haven, about 85 miles distant, and proceeded by land through Hartford, Stafford, Springfield, Worcester, &c. to Boston.

#### BOSTON.

Through this tract of country, there is abundance of fine timber, much stony land, and the soil in general thin, as if washed by heavy floods. Boston very much resembles an English town, with narrow crooked streets. It is built on a hill, surrounded with water, over which are three or four bridges, each about half a mile long. The State-house is situated on the most elevated part of the town, commanding a very fine prospect from its summit.

I was at Boston on the 4th July, a day which is celebrated throughout the United States, as the Anniversary of their Independence : of which it was the fortieth. There was some parade at Boston on this occasion, and an oration at one of the churches, which I had an opportunity of hearing. A little of that partiality for the cause of legitimacy, that hankering after titles and power, which distinguish some of the inhabitants of the New England States, was here apparent. The oration concluded with a pious exclamation against that profane trampler on old fashioned thrones and mitres—*Bonaparte*,—whose spirit continues to haunt the minds of all who enjoy, and all who aspire to the possession of “ Ancient and venerable institutions.”

In the evening, I became acquainted with a nephew of the late President, Adams, who, under his uncle’s administration, enjoyed a lucrative situation. The temper of this gentleman seemed to be somewhat embittered by a severe rheumatic complaint under which he laboured ; and it has been suggested, that the loss of his office contributed nothing to his complacency. Systems of government became a subject of our conversation, in which he emphatically de-clared, that “ He did not know what sort of government would please a man, if that of England would not ;” I concurred in his opinion of its superior excellence, to all who administered and shared in it’s emoluments and patronage ; but thought it not quite so de-sirable to those who had only to pay the expences. That a government, or any other establishment or speculation, should be praised, in proportion to the profits it yields, is quite natural ; and it is equally natural that these praises should be echoed by those who would imitate the system. Here, too, I encountered another admirer of the English system of taxation without representation, or rather *with* what is called *virtual*, or sham, representation. He, like several others whom I afterwards met with, endeavoured to impose on me with the assertion that, the people of the United States were more heavily taxed than those of England ; and that their poor were *much more distressed* ! He might have spared himself the trouble—I had before looked around me. These disappointed office-seekers, or agents of the good old cause of legitimacy and mock representation, succeed in frightening some new comers, by propagating tales of hundreds and thousands of emigrants strolling about the streets, unable to procure bread or employment—’tis strange I never saw them ! One favourite tale of theirs, found its way into the English Newspapers that five hundred British emigrants had applied at a certain place, begging for a conveyance back to their own happy country—when, in fact, there had not been five applications of the kind within the time. But it is easy to account for a few applications of this sort ; the idle and the improvident, will, and ought to be, miserable every where ; and meanness will ever seek to be supported or carried, here, or there, at the expence of others. The following statement of Capt. Crocker, will illustrate this subject :— Among the many applications that are made to the British Consul at New York, one has come within my knowledge. In October, 1816, a man of the name of Peter ———, an Irishman, came on board the ship *Ann*, of New York, and applied for a passage to Liverpool. The passage money was 40 dollars. He said he was a poor man, and could not afford to pay that sum. He was advised to apply to the British Consul ; which he said he had done. After much of his *blarney*, he was taken for 20 dollars.— On the passage, he gave his history, from his first landing in America. He said he had landed at New Bedford, Massachusetts, about five years before—that he worked there eighteen months ; then went into the State of New York,

where he had worked at farming a part of his time, and a part in the glass works ; and with his work, and some little trade, he had bought himself a farm of 80 acres of land, and a house ; and, that he owed some money in Ireland, where he had a wife and two children ; that he was taking money over with him, 3,500 dollars, to pay some debts, and to take his family out to America. He engaged passages back in the *Ann* (on condition that they could return to Liverpool in time) for 25*l.* for himself and family.

From Boston, I visited a cotton manufactory, about 10 miles distant. Here they take in the cotton in the raw state, and card, rove, spin, warp, size and weave it, all in the same building. The weaving is done on four looms. It was a sort of shirting, or sheeting, that they were at work upon, 42 inches wide. The price paid for weaving was 1¼ cent per yard,—somewhat more than 1 half-penny. The weaving was performed by girls of 15 to 17 years. One was tending two looms that would weave about 40 yards per day. These girls appeared clean, healthy and well clothed. I was told they were chiefly the daughters of small farmers in the neighbourhood.

Here I saw a warping mill, turned by water, that would stop of it's own accord, if one single end broke, or was run off. Notwithstanding the very low prices of British goods, one of the partners of this establishment informed me, that they were selling their goods for a fair profit ; and, in confirmation of this, I observed, that they were building another large factory, beside that which was at work.

The country round Boston is variegated, and in general pleasant.

A man in this State, who holds a house, out-houses, and two lots of ground, of a quarter of an acre of land, in a sea-port town containing 12,000 inhabitants, and sending five representatives to the *State* Legislature, this man, for state, county and town taxes, pays 3 dollars 46 cents ; and in direct taxes to the general government, 3¼ dollars, making together, 6 dollars 71 cents, about 1*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.* sterling, for every description of tax.

I left Boston on the 12th July, travelling by the stage coach to Providence, distant about 42 miles, paying for my passage 3 dollars. The drivers here are paid by their employers, and not by the passengers. Their mail coaches travel in safety without guards.

#### PROVIDENCE

At Providence I stopped all night, with other travellers, at the 6rst inn in the town, kept by a Frenchman. And, as some idea of the expences of travelling in this country may be had from this little journey, the reader will excuse the following enumeration of our fare.— The supper-table was furnished with beef-steaks, mutton chops, veal cutlets, cold beef, tongue, ham and fowl ; broiled ham and fowl ; two or three sorts of fish ; oysters ; four or five sorts of bread and butter ; with spirits ; we had good lodgings, followed by a breakfast resembling our supper, and were charged 1¼ dollar, or about 5*s.* 7½*d.* each.

Here I inspected the dye and bleach-works of Messrs.— which are extensive, and appeared to be in good order. They were glazing and finishing coloured goods, which they did well ; but their white goods I thought were not so well finished. They had both hot and cold, callenders at work. At ten o'clock in the morning, I embarked on board a sloop, destined for New York, distant about 220 miles, and arrived the following day at two o'clock in the afternoon, for which I paid for passage, provisions, liquors and bed, 10 dollars.

#### NEW YORK

July 18th, accompanied by a Mr. H——, an English gentleman, and two Americans, I went to see Paterson Falls, and manufactories. These falls are awfully grand, one being 70

feet perpendicular. The manufactories are extensive ; consisting, chiefly, of works for the manufacture of cotton, linen, nails, and iron rolling-mills.

July 22nd, I visited the state prison at New York, in which I found about 600 prisoners, at work at their several trades, viz. :—taylor, shoe-makers, joiners, carpenters cabinet-makers, spinners, weavers, &c. Here they are employed, and their conduct observed ; their behaviour, in a great measure, regulating the period of their respective confinements. To improve, and not to punish, is the object of their laws.

#### STATEN ISLAND

On the 2d August, about 9 o'clock in the morning, I sailed across the bay to Staten Island ; anxious to avail myself of the kind invitation of the governor, Mr, Tomkins. He received me at his door with a friendly welcome ; without ostentation in his appearance or manners. He reminded me of our English notion of a respectable farmer. Would it, thought I, add more dignity or happiness to this country, to have its chief magistrate surrounded by a train of pampered attendants, dressed out like so many mountebanks ?

Walking round his house and farm, I found Mr. Tomkins superintending the labours of his several work-people, paying small accounts of two or three dollars each, &c. These things are all matters of course amongst this people ; but, new to me, they awakened reflections which I shall not forget. Well may they enjoy plenty, thought I, where almost all are usefully employed ; and where, to consume the produce of the labour of thousands, is not deemed essential to the honour and rank of a few. I need not say that the chief magistrates of the United States are without “ Body-Guards” and “ Life-Guards,” and the people without the expence of maintaining them. But how order, “ Social Order” I should say, is maintained, without either standing armies, or the more frequent use of the rope and the drop, would puzzle our “ Holy Alliance” people, especially amongst this strange mixture of persons, from all the nations of the world ; and those, too, none of the best, as some report. But, should the Holy Alliance, in its august wisdom, deem these people worthy their notice, and condescend to send them a few Legimates to reign over them, standing-armies, and ropes and drops without number, would, I think, be wanted to maintain social order.

#### ALBANY—BALSTON.

August 11th, left New York, and sailed up the Hudson River, to Albany, about 180 miles, in one of the steam-boats, paying for passage, victuals, &c. 7 dollars. Or my arrival, I called on the Lient. Governor, the Mayor, and a Mr. K. to whom I had letters, and by whom I was hospitably treated. From hence, I went to Balston and Saratoga, places frequented in the summer season, by people from all parts of the Union. The waters at these places are said to be excellent.

At Balston there is a new cotton manufactory, built of bricks, 60 yards long, 14 broad, and four stories high, exclusive of the garrets in the roof. Here, and at Saratoga, there are the largest taverns, or boarding-houses, as they call them, that I ever saw.

“ *Man never is, but always to be blest.*”

Says the poet, and to be dissatisfied with the present condition, is the lot of humanity. Yet I am far from regarding this as a moral, or a natural defect in our constitution ; it is this discontent with our present state, which impels us to all our improvements, mental and physical. Without this ingredient in our composition, the human race would exhibit at this hour, but a vile abortion of filth and stupidity—*contented* to gorge on the first garbage it encountered, and *satisfied* with it's shelter under the nearest clump which the vast desert of the earth might present. — Yes, discontent, like the other elements of our nature, has it's use ; and our all-wise Creator implanted it for beneficial purposes—But, like other of our qualities, it requires

the regulation of reason ; and must be carefully watched, or it will lead us into foolishness and misery. But to my subject.

At Balston I became acquainted with a Mr. M——, whom I found to be, what is called, a strong *Federalist*—translated into English, we should say, a *disaffected* man. All federalists are not disaffected to the government, but only to the administrators thereof, wishing themselves, or their friends, to be in place, from an honest persuasion, no doubt, in many, that affairs might be better managed. But Mr. M. seemed to be of another order, telling me, as he did, that he thought things would be much better with them, if the States were governed by Great Britain, in the same way that Canada is governed—that is, without being taxed ! and then, he thought, they would not be “bothered” with the election of their Tomkinsons or Jenkinsons, or other upstarts ; for that England would furnish them with legitimate governors, without trouble or expence. Poor man ! I told him I suspected he was mistaken in his calculations as to the terms on which England would undertake the trouble of governing them ; that, if Canada were *untaxed*, it was purely because she was *unable* to pay—for, that Legitimates and Boroughmongers were never satisfied, until they had exacted the last farthing ; adding, that if the Canadians were taxed to one fourth the amount of their fellow subjects in England, they would think of doing the business of government themselves, in the same manner as the people of the United States had done forty years ago.

#### PHILADELPHIA

August 21st, left New York for Philadelphia, part by steam boat, and part by land, through Brunswick, Princetown, Trenton, Bristol, Burlington, and down the Delaware. On the road sides lay great quantities of fine fruit, and trees broken down by the weight thereof—every thing appears more abundant in this country than placemen and pensioners, tax gatherers and paupers.

Arriving at Philadelphia, I was struck with the beauty and grandeur of the city, which I thought exceeded New York, taken altogether ; but Broadway, in the latter city, exceeds any street I have seen. I stopt at Washington-hall, in South-third-street, at the best and most comfortable house I have rested at in any country. It is said to be the best in the States, nor do I see how it could be excelled. The charge, for bed and board, was two dollars per day.

August 22d, I had the honour, as well as very great pleasure, to be the bearer of a handsome silver cup, to a Mr. William Turner, of this city, from some friends in Manchester. The occasion was as follows :—In his native country Mr. Turner had been unsuccessful in business, and, assigning over his effects to his creditors, he went to America, where he soon acquired some property, and remitted to his creditors. This first, was followed in a little time, by a second remittance, which made up his payments to twenty shillings in the pound, with interest. This upright conduct of Mr. T. was so pleasing to his creditors (some of whom refused to take the interest) that they set on foot a subscription, and purchased a cup, to be presented to him as a token and memorial of their respect. “They should not have sent it,” said the worthy man, “I have done no more than my duty.” Had Mr. T. remained in England, he might have striven in vain to accomplish his honourable wishes ; the unceasing demands of the tax-gatherer, would, in all probability, have frustrated every honest effort.

#### WILMINGTON.

August 24th, left Philadelphia by a steam-boat, for Wilmington, where I stopt a few days, examining the manufactories on the Brandy-wine River. On each side, (near the mouth,) there are corn mills, with a fall of water of from twenty to thirty feet. Vessels sail out of the Delaware into this river. A little way up the river, is a place for making machinery for cotton-mills, &c. and a little higher, two cotton factories; still higher up, on the banks of the Brandy-wine, stand in succession, a manufactory of woollens, with dye-houses, &c. and a large establishment of powder-mills.

This river is very rapid, running upon a stony and rocky bed. In the valley, I saw vines as thick as my arm, growing along the ground eight or ten yards, then entwining themselves to trees, and spreading to the height of twenty yards.

The country round, is high, pleasant and healthy, and the fruit abundant. The roads are good. The inhabitants are not subject to the fever and ague, as they are in some of the swampy grounds, where are stagnant waters.

#### NEWCASTLE.

August 27th, went to Newcastle, about five miles from Wilmington, a little Port on the Delaware, pleasantly situated ; enjoying good land, with abundance of fruit; if I wanted apples, pears or peaches, I had only to stop the gig, and could reach them without rising from my seat.

August 28th, I spent half the day with a farmer, near the Brandy-wine ; he told me he had left Ireland, his native country, twenty years ago. The farm, which was a large one, was his own, as he informed me, and that he had lately purchased another in the neighbourhood. I was much pleased with his method of keeping his milk, having a stream of spring water running through his small milk-house, a depth of four or six inches of water was retained on the floor, into which, the basons, with the milk, were set, and thereby kept cool and sweet.

#### WASHINGTON.

August 30th, left Wilmington for Baltimore, which I quitted on the 31st, and arrived at Washington about two o'clock in the afternoon. Here I saw the remains of the public buildings burned by Gen. Ross and his troops, in the late war, and felt ashamed of my countrymen for this violation of the laws of war. Great numbers of workmen were employed in repairing these handsome buildings ; I thought the same labour and expence would be better bestowed on the erection of comfortable dwelling-houses. Washington is beautifully situated, amphitheatre-like ; and, were it but finished according to the plan laid down, would, perhaps, be one of the handsomest cities in the world.

September 1st, returned from Washington to Baltimore, in company with some young officers, one of whom amused us with several diverting stories.

#### PHILADELPHIA.

September 3rd, arrived again at Philadelphia, where I met with some Englishmen who laboured, in the old strain, to convince me that the Americans are much more heavily taxed than the English, &c. &c. ; they succeeded in alarming some newly imported emigrants, but a little time will correct the error.

September 6th, walking through the market in High-street, I met with a countryman ; “ Well,” said I, “ there is plenty of fine fruit in the market ; is there not ?” “ Why yea,” said he, “ but they look better than they are, for in reality, they are not so good as the English.” I found him to be a true *John Bull*, determined to despise every thing that even grows in a country, where popes, princes and priests, do not govern.

September 7th, being market day, I went through the market, to ascertain the prices of provisions.

September 8th, returned to New York, in company with the Spanish Patriot, General Carrera, with whom I was proud to be acquainted.

September 18th, taking a turn in the burying-ground, called Potter's-field, in this city, I transcribed, from a plain marble stone over the grave of John Taylor, son of the late Doctor of that name, of Bolton-le-moors, in England, the following lines, which breathe an ardent and exalted love of freedom, while they indignantly lament its loss.—They were written by the late Edward Rushton, of Liverpool ; and, at his instance, thus inscribed over the grave of his departed friend.

“ Far from his kindred, friends and native skies,  
Here, mouldering in the dust, poor Taylor lies.  
Firm was his mind, and fraught with various lore,  
And his mild heart was never cold before.  
He loved his Country—loved that spot of earth,  
Which gave a Hampden, Milton, Bradshaw, birth ;  
But, when that Country, dead to all but gain,  
Bowed her base neck, and hugg'd the oppressors' chain,  
Loathing the abject scene, he drooped, he sighed,  
Crossed the wide waves, and here untimely died.  
Stranger ! whate'er thy country, creed, or hue,  
Go, and like him, the virtuous path pursue,—  
Go, and for freedom every peril brave,  
And nobly scorn to hold, or be a Slave !”

September 22nd, went in company with Mr. H. C. to see some friends near Fort Washington, about 10 miles from New York. By the Hudson River, near this place, is an immense rock of white marble. On our way, about two miles from New York, I requested my friend to drive a little to one side, to avoid running the horse and gig over some apples that lay on the road ; he did so, and immediately we met three men, apparently mechanics. I looked behind me to see if they would gather any of the fine fruit we had passed, but, to my surprise, they passed them without stooping. Soon after we met a drove of cows and bullocks, which cleared the road as they marched along.

September 26th, I took a ride with Capt. R. about seven miles into the country, and on our return we called on a friend of his, originally a Scotchman, who left his native country when young. He had acquired a large fortune, and lives in an elegant house of his own, near New York.

October 10th, Mr. Peter H——, formerly of Bolton-le-moors, Lancashire, in England, but now a resident in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, called on me in New York, when I requested him to give me a short history of his proceedings since he left Holton, which is as follows :—“ I left Bolton about the 1st of December, 1812, and sailed for New York. I had not one dollar when I arrived. I stopt at this city about three weeks, when I went to Philadelphia, where I remained about six weeks, and was then ordered into the country, forty miles from tidewater, on account of the war with England. I went to Lancaster, Pennsylvania, where I have resided ever since. I now employ sixteen or eighteen hands. I have saved from five to six thousand dollars, and live as well as my old neighbour. Col. F——. I wear as good a coat as any Englishman ; and I have not had one day's sickness since my arrival, I pay 2s. 4d. a year to light the town and mend the streets, but I pay nothing for the light of the sun, nor any poor tax, nor any tax of any sort, except my share of duty on imported goods, and these are now cheap enough.”

Lancaster (he informed me) is a flourishing town, and the country in general good limestone land, well cultivated, and possessed by a wealthy people. Seven or eight hundred persons per week, pass through the town to the western country, where the climate and soil are said to be good. They generally proceed in waggons, six or eight together.

October 11th, 1816.—Accompanied by Capt. R. and Mr. T. I visited the alms-house in New York, in which were children, and aged and infirm persons, who cannot work. These are well fed, and the children educated, and bound apprentice at a proper age ; being, as I was informed, much sought after. The old people were separated into different classes, some being dean and comfortable, and others the contrary. Our guide told me that they were, thus separated as an encouragement to cleanliness. Behind the alms-house is a penitentiary, in which are kept convicts for small offences. Whilst we were there, about twenty came in from work on a new road ; each man was secured by a chain, fastened to his leg, with a ball at the end.

During my stay in the United States, which comprehended a period of 114 days, it appears, from a table which I kept of the weather, that there were, out of this number, 14 days and 8 half-days of rain, in one of which the weather was sultry, with some thunder : the rest of this time, namely, 96 days, we enjoyed fine clear skies.

On the 17th of October, after a pleasant tour, I embarked on board the Carolina Ann, for Liverpool, where we arrived on the 17th of November, being an absence of six months and seven days.

#### For Persons entertaining Thoughts, of removing to the United States.

Were the sentiments of the compiler of this little work of any moment, he should confess, that they are favourable as to the means of happiness, which the United States present to individuals who have the disposition and the talents to employ themselves usefully. Strong differences of opinion, however, on this subject are known to prevail amongst respectable persons ; persons, too, who appear to have enjoyed the best means of informing themselves—and it behoves us, in forming an opinion, to weigh well the testimony and the credit of each. This the Editor has done to the best of his judgment, and, without slighting the sentiments of those who entertain opposite views, so consistent and overpowering has been the evidence in favour of this extensive Republic, that the conclusion unavoidably became such as he has stated.

To reconcile the conflicting opinions of others with honesty of intention, would, perhaps, be no very difficult task, could we enter into a detailed statement of the previous circumstances and points of view from which the opposing parties have contemplated the subject.— At present we must content ourselves with glancing at such as appear most prominent. And these are to be found in what may be termed a difference of taste, formed by previous circumstances, and in the contemplation of a different class of objects. Englishmen are, perhaps, the most prone to form a low estimate of the advantageous side of the question ; especially those Englishmen who have enjoyed all the comforts and conveniences of life which continue to distinguish their native land above the other nations of Europe. No one pretends that America, or any other country, can vie with England in this respect; and the Englishman who has the means of commanding them at home, must be prepared to make a liberal abatement whenever he travels. The populous cities in the northern and middle parts of the Union, such as New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, &c. may be second to none in the world, except our own, in the supply of all those circumstances which sweeten our existence ; but, inferior as they confessedly are, that Englishman must be disappointed, who, because he hears every where his native language spoken, expects to feel and to see all other things the same.

To the poor man, who toils hard for a scanty supply of the means of existence, without aspiring to any of the comforts of life, America, doubtless, presents a most inviting aspect—for all parties bear testimony to the abundance with which labour is rewarded ; and the more elevated individual, who generously participates in the joys and sorrows of his fellow creatures, will find ample compensation for some abridgment of his own comforts, in the

plenty and happiness which surround him.

But, after stating this general conclusion, with respect to the prospects held out by the United States, to the industrious poor of this country, and to those in more fortunate circumstances, who sensibly feel for their neighbours, the editor anxiously invites the attention of his readers, and especially of those, who entertain thoughts of removing to those States, to the consideration of certain circumstances which may be of vast importance to their future welfare. A little serious attention bestowed in this manner, may determine some persons who think of emigrating, to remain where they are, and induce them to set about the improvement of their present opportunities with new ardour ; or, determining them, as it may do, to carry their inclination for removal into effect; they will enter on the business with much of the advantages of experience, without the serious cost which too frequently attends it ; and, gathering information and wisdom from those who have gone before them, they will possess all the means of laying down a plan of proceeding, such as may, in all human probability, terminate in the prosperity of themselves, and of their families.

The considerations which ought to deter certain individuals from quitting their native country for America, may, perhaps, be stated in a few words, and the editor feels, that he cannot do better for his readers, than lay before them the following passage, from the pen of an able writer; one whose experience, and opportunities of observing, would entitle his opinions to attention, were he not possessed of the sagacity to discover at a glance, what many others would find out in little less than an age.

It will, however, be proper to premise, that whilst the passage in question evinces much of the unpleasant feelings of the writer at the moment, occasioned by the long and disagreeable voyage he had just then accomplished, it evidently contains far too much truth and solid conclusion to be slighted by any person of understanding, and we should perhaps look in vain, elsewhere, for a text so suitable to our purpose. The passage is from Mr. Cobbett's Register, written immediately after his late arrival in America.—It is dated from the State of New York, May 8th, 1817. It will not be forgotten, that Mr. C. formerly resided many years in the United States.

“ Some of our fellow passengers have found great disappointment ; and, it is stated in some of the public papers here, that many hundreds have, during the last year, accepted of the offer of our Consul at New York *to go and settle in Canada*. [1] You know, that I have never advised any body to emigrate. I have always said, that it is no place for manufacturers ; no place for men to live without work : no place for a farmer who does not work himself ; no place, in short, for any one who is not able and *willing* to work at the *ordinary sorts of work*, but, for such men, there is every where a plentiful, happy, and easy life. None should come, however, who have any views of idleness ; and, even for the industrious poor, I see no reason why they should expend their last shilling, and undergo all the miseries and dangers of a sea-voyage, in order to save those who eat the taxes the expence of their share of poor-rates. A man and his wife and a child or two cannot come under an expence of 35 guineas, at least. A single man about 20 guineas before he gets into work again; and, as I always said, I never would, if I were in the place of such a man, expend my earnings on a sea-voyage, and endure all its hardships, in order to remove one eye-sore out of the way of Corruption. Besides, there is the *climate*, which is not so good as ours, though it is not bad, and though people often live to an old age. The country is *good*, but, it will easily be conceived, that new faces, an entire new scene, a separation from every friend, work done in quite a different way from what it is in England ; it will easily be conceived, that all this makes such a dislocation in a man's mind as to make him very unhappy for a while. Then, he cannot expect to find work the *first day*. He must *ask* first, at any rate. Englishmen are *sheepish* ; and, if they meet with any little rebut, they are disgusted, at once, with the whole country ; and, they are sure to find rascals enough here to foster their disgust, merely for the sake of serving the cause of Corruption at home. In short, I *advise* nobody to emigrate, but I will truly describe the country and the

people. As to emigrating with a view of settling and farming in the *new countries*, it is neither more nor less than downright *madness*. It is what our English tanners know nothing at all about ; it is what they are not at all fit for ; and the far greater part of all such speculations end in disappointment, if not in ruin and premature death. I hope that our beloved country will shortly be fit for an honest and industrious man to live in ; but if any farmers come with money in their pockets, my advice is, not to give way either to enthusiastic admiration, or to instant disgust. But, to stop a little; to look about them ; to see not only after *good land*, but a *good market for its products*. The western Romance writers tell us, that the land in the Ohio is *too good* ; but Mr. MELLISH, in his valuable book, tells us, that beef and pork sell for *three half-pence a pound*. An excellent country for people who want to do *nothing but eat*. Give me Long Island, where the land is *not too good* ; but, where beef and pork sell for about *eight-pence a pound* (I speak of English money ; ) where good hay sells for five pounds a ton ; and where there is a *ready market* for every species of produce. One thing above all : if an English farmer (I mean by English, people of the whole of the united kingdom) comes here, *with money in his pocket*, let him resolve to keep it therefor a year, and then he will be *sure* to do well.”

Such are the conclusions and advice of a strong and clear mind, pregnant with information, and enjoying the benefit of experience.

Let us attend to some of these points separately.—“ IT IS NO PLACE FOR MANUFACTURERS.”—The reasons for this will be obvious, on a little reflection.

What we call MANUFACTURES, can only be carried on, with advantage, amidst a full population, in which labour can be had at a low price. This is not the case in any part of the United States ; and the manufacturer who proceeds thither, must not therefore expect to find a large field for the employment of his powers.—His knowledge of his art will frequently be of little use to him ; and he must not be disappointed, if he find himself reduced to a level with persons who enter on a strange business.—“ IT IS NO PLACE FOR MEN TO LIVE WITH-OUT WORK.”— The whole tenor of this book will furnish reasons for the truth of this assertion of Mr. Cobbett’s ; and it is not more true than creditable, to the country of which we are speaking. Where many can live in luxurious plenty, “ *without work*,” excessive labour, and want, must be the portion of others.

“ IT IS NO PLACE FOR A FARMER, WHO DOES NOT WORK HIMSELF.” This position awakens sentiments similar to the last ; and Idlers, whether professing themselves to be *Farmers* or *Gentlemen*, will do well to bear them in mind.

“ IT IS NO PLACE,” our author adds, “ FOR ANY ONE WHO IS NOT ABLE AND WILLING TO WORK AT THE ORDINARY SORTS OF WORK, BUT, FOR SUCH MEN, THERE IS EVERY WHERE A PLENTIFUL, HAPPY, AND EASY LIFE.”

Such are the considerations which ought to prevent the emigration of some persons ; or, if they do not *prevent*, they ought to *prepare* such individuals for the difficulties they may encounter. Every one is acquainted with instances of IDLERS returning from the United States with disgust. But the industry of the manufacturer, though not required according to his expectations or wishes, may be directed into a channel in which it will not go unrewarded.

With respect to the other objections to emigration, as stated in the preceding extract, they are rather of a political nature, and the discussion of them would be foreign to the object of this work. The latter part of the passage, however, consists of some very valuable suggestions as to the *difficulties* and *errors* into which emigrants frequently fall, and by which they are often embarrassed and distressed, and sometimes, indeed, utterly ruined.

To prevent these distressing and fatal consequences, and to guide such persons as may finally determine on emigration, to the best field for the employment of their industry, their talents and their capital, will be the chief business of the subsequent pages, in which, it is

presumed, the reader will find a compendium of all the information that can be required by emigrants generally.

But before we proceed to instruct the Emigrant in what manner he should proceed, on his arrival in the United States, there are still some particulars of importance, which require his attention, and to these we will now address ourselves.

The first of these, in point of order, would seem to be the Laws which bear upon this subject. The Editor has, therefore, with great care, drawn up the following abstract.

ABSTRACT  
of the  
LAWS OF ENGLAND  
RELATING TO  
EMIGRATION

IF any person shall CONTRACT WITH, ENTICE, ENDEAVOUR to PERSUADE, or solicit any MANUFACTURER or ARTIFICER of, or in wool, iron, steel, brass, or any other metal ; Clock-maker, Watch-maker, or any other artificer or manufacturer, of Great Britain, to go out of this kingdom into any country OUT OF HIS MAJESTY'S DOMINIONS, and shall be convicted thereof upon any indictment or information, which shall be preferred against him in any of his Majesty's courts at Westminster, or at the assizes, or general gaol delivery, or quarter sessions of the peace, for the county, &c. where such offence shall be committed, the person so convicted shall be fined in any sum not exceeding £100 for such FIRST OFFENCE, at the discretion of the court, and shall be imprisoned three months, and until such fine be paid ; and for a Second offence, fined as above, and imprisoned twelve months, &c. (*5th Geo. I. chap. 21, sec. 1.*)

If any of his Majesty's subjects within this kingdom, being such artificer, or manufacturer, as aforesaid, shall go into any country out of his Majesty's dominions, THERE to USE, or EXERCISE or TO TEACH any of the said trades or manufactures to FOREIGNERS ; or in case any of his Majesty's subjects, now being, or who hereafter shall be in any such foreign country, &c. and there using or exercising any of the said trades or manufactures, &c. shall NOT RETURN into this realm, within six months next, AFTER WARNING, given to him by the Ambassador, Envoy, &c. of the Crown of Great Britain, resident in the country, or by any person authorised by such Ambassador, or by one of his Majesty's Secretaries of State, and from thenceforth continually inhabit and dwell within this realm; in such case, every such person shall be, from thenceforth, incapable of taking any legacy, &c. or of being an executor or administrator to any person within this kingdom. and shall be incapable of taking any lands, &c. within this kingdom, by descent, devise, or purchase, and also forfeit all his lands, tenements, hereditaments, goods and chattels within this kingdom, to his Majesty's use, and shall, from thenceforth be, and be deemed an alien, &c. (*Same act, &c. sec. 3.*)

The 4th sec. of the aforesaid act, *enables any JUSTICE of the PEACE* to receive information respecting attempts to SEDUCE or DRAW AWAY any such manufacturer, &c. or that any such MANUFACTURER, &c. HATH CONTRACTED, PROMISED, OR IS PREPARING TO GO OUT of his Majesty's dominions, for any of the purposes aforesaid, and also enables any such Justice to issue his warrant, and to bind persons so offending, to appear at the next assizes to answer such charges ; and if convicted at the quarter sessions, &c. offenders are compellable to give such security as the court shall think reasonable, not to depart out of his Majesty's dominions, &c. and in case of refusal, to be committed, &c.

The 5th sec. extends the provisions of this act to Scotland.

And by an act of 23, *Geo. II. chap. 13, sec. 1*, penalties of £500 and twelve months imprisonment, for the FIRST OFFENCE ; and for the SECOND, DOUBLE, these penalties are to be inflicted on any person convicted of contracting, persuading, or endeavouring to persuade, &c. any manufacturer, workman, or artificer of, or in wool, mohair, cotton or silk; or of. or in iron, steel, brass, or any other metal, or any clock-maker, &c. or in any other of the manufactures of Great Britain or Ireland, of what nature or kind soever, to go out of this kingdom, or out of the kingdom of Ireland, &c.

By the act 22, *Geo. III. chap. 60, sec. 1*,—If any person shall contract with, entice, or persuade any artificer or workman, or endeavour to entice or encourage any artificer, &c. CONCERNED or EMPLOYED, or who SHALL HAVE WORKED at, or been employed in printing calicoes, cottons, muslins, or linens of any sort; or in making or preparing any blocks, plates, tools or utensils, for such manufactures to go abroad, on conviction in the Court of King's Bench, or at the assizes, &c. where the offence is committed ; every person so convicted, shall forfeit £500 for each artificer so contracted with, &c. and be committed to prison for twelve calendar months, and until such forfeiture be paid ; and for the SECOND OFFENCE, the penalties and imprisonment are doubled.

And further, by an act of 25, *Geo. III. chap. 67, sec. 6*, penalties similar to the last, are to be inflicted on persons convicted of enticing or persuading, &c. any artificer or workman, concerned or employed in the iron or steel manufactures, in this kingdom, or in making or preparing any tools or utensils for such manufactory, to go out of Great Britain, &c.

Subsequent sections of each of the above-recited acts, require prosecutions for any of the offences therein named, to be commenced within twelve calendar months next, after such offence shall have been committed.

And further, that any suit or action commenced against any person for what he shall do in pursuance of any of these acts, shall be commenced within six months after the fact committed, with the exception of the last, viz. the 20th of *Geo. III.* the period allowed for such suit being limited to three months.

On an attentive perusal of the foregoing abstract it will be seen, that persons who shall *contract with, entice, endeavour to persuade, or solicit any Manufacturer or Artificer*, of the description therein mentioned, are liable to very heavy penalties of fine and imprisonment ; but that no such penalties are to be inflicted on the manufacturer or artizan himself, for endeavouring to go abroad. He may, indeed, be restrained from carrying the design into execution, in the mode laid down in the 4th sec. of the 5th *Geo. I.* as above recited. But it will be observed, that this must be done by the WARRANT of a magistrate, issued in consequence of *information on oath*, “ that such manufacturer, &c. hath contracted, promised, or is preparing, to go out of his Majesty's dominions, there to use, or exercise, or to teach any of the said trades or manufactures to *Foreigners*.” information, which, it is to be observed, it would be scarcely possible to lodge against any one without his own concurrence and assistance. In the event, however, of such information being given, and such warrant issued, the person so attempting to emigrate, is only to be bound over to answer such charge, &c.

The real bearing of the law on this point, appears to have been misunderstood, or overlooked, until determined by the actions tried at Lancaster in the Spring Assizes of 1818, of Broadhurst and Lawton, versus Miller, the Police Officer, at Liverpool. Miller, it appears, arrested and imprisoned the Plaintiffs in their attempt to emigrate,—for they were on ship-board, in the river Mersey. Miller did this without having been previously furnished with the legal warrant, for which act, damages to a large amount were recovered by the plaintiffs. An appeal, from the verdict of the Lancaster Jury, to the Court of King's Bench, being made on

behalf of the defendants, the former decision was unhesitatingly confirmed, and the money ultimately paid.

But while such is the law, as it respects manufacturers, &c. attempting to emigrate, and, also as it respects persons contracting with, or persuading manufacturers to do so, there are certain regulations at the Custom-house which prevent the Captains of vessels from taking out with them passengers who have not previously passed examination at the Custom-house. In order, therefore, to effect this, it is requisite that persons about to emigrate should present themselves before the collector, or other proper officer, of the customs, at the port from which they may intend to sail, furnished each with a certificate, somewhat similar to the following, and signed by a magistrate and minister of the parish in which he may have lately resided ; and, if to these, he have the signature of one or both of the Churchwardens, it may be better. Or, instead of such certificate, the officer, whose business it is to examine passengers, may be induced to pass them, on being assured, by one or more persons whom he may deem worthy of credit, that the passenger is well known to them, and that they believe there is no legal objection to his leaving the country.

*Form of Affidavit and Certificate*

I, —— one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the Borough (or County) of ——, do hereby certify, that on the day of the date hereof, personally appeared before me, A. B. the Bearer, and made oath that he has not at any time been employed as a manufacturer or artificer, of, or in wool, cotton or silk, or, of, or in iron, steel, brass, or any other metal ; or as a clock-maker or watch-maker.—As witness my hand this—— day of—— .

(Signed)

We, he undersigned, do hereby declare that we (or I) know the above A. B. and that we are (or I am) acquainted with no reason why he should not be allowed to leave the country.

———Minister.

———Churchwarden .

[1] Reports of this kind are noticed in the Journal, pages 7 and 8 ; there appears to be but little credit due to them.

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