
**BRITISH AMERICAN LAND
COMPANY.**

L E T T E R S
FROM
THE EASTERN TOWNSHIPS
OF
LOWER CANADA.

COPY OF A LETTER,

From ROBERT CARTER, *Esq.* to NATHANIEL GOULD, *Esq.*
of London.

*Eastern Townships, Lower Canada,
Stanstead, 5th September, 1836.*

MY DEAR SIR,

I flatter myself that a letter from me will be acceptable to you, since it is dated from a part of the country in which you take so warm an interest, and through which I have just travelled. Having completed my business at Quebec and Montreal, as you will have heard through other channels, I determined on taking this route to the Lower Provinces, that I might have a better opportunity of seeing the country than I could have had on my return perhaps two months later in the season. I own that I left Montreal a little prejudiced against the Townships, in consequence of the incessant praise of them which I had heard at that place, and which prepared me to expect a disappointment, such as I have generally felt in England on visiting any celebrated spot. Until I had passed Drummondville, about 40 miles distant from the St. Lawrence, the feeling that the beauties of the Townships had been greatly exaggerated increased upon me, for the road so far, which ran through the Seignories, was in itself bad, as all the Canadian roads are; the country about it was flat and uninteresting, and the land of indifferent quality and poorly cultivated. Having passed Drummondville a sensible improvement was soon perceived in all those particulars, and after travelling through most parts of England and Wales, I can safely say, that I never went over a continuous distance of 90 miles, so beautiful as that which has brought me to this spot. A great portion of our road lay along the St. Francis, a broad and rapid, but unfortunately shallow and unnavigable river, with many picturesque islands in its course, and its shores diversified by cultivated farms, and wild woodlands. The whole surface of the country seems to be a continuation of hill and dale,—the former neither very steep nor elevated, but from the highest of those which the road passes over, affording a delightful prospect of ten to twenty miles in every direction, bounded by higher

hills which are called mountains, but none of them, as I should judge by the eye, more than a 1000 to 1500 feet in elevation, and all covered with wood to their summits. and forming from the variety of their shapes very picturesque objects. I scarcely perceived a pine tree during the whole journey; the woods consisted almost wholly of hardwoods, among which the maple and butternut predominated with the stately elm towering above them, and a sprinkling of hemlock and cedar, of which small groves were also sometimes met with. A frosty night having occurred last week has already turned the leaves of some of the maples and other hardwood trees, and added greatly to the beauty of the scene, as the woods exhibit every shade of green from that approaching to a yellow to the sombre hue of the evergreen, together with a mixture of the brightest scarlet, crimson, vermilion, and orange colours. The description of the wood growing upon the wild lands shows that their quality is good, which is also the case with the farms that I passed within sight of; the crops of wheat and oats just ready for the sickle, and in some places partly cut, would not have disgraced a first rate farm in England, in spite of the stumps still left standing in the midst of them—in some large fields of grain I could not detect a single weed or thistle—how different from the Canadian farming in which the weeds and thistles often make the largest portion of the crop! I was astonished to find so large a part of the lands adjoining the river already settled, and to learn that there are extensive settlements, also at a distance of ten and fifteen miles to the rear on both sides of the river. The cattle and sheep are in excellent condition and appear to be of good breeds, but there is great room for increasing the quantity of stock.

I wish I could look forward to the prospect of seeing this country twenty years hence—if its improvements should continue during that period, at the rate which present appearances warrant me in anticipating, it will be one of the noblest countries in the globe, and most productive of all things necessary for human subsistence and comfort—the vallies teeming with corn, the hilly grounds affording most excellent pasturage for cattle, and the mountains, or as I should rather call them the downs, covered with sheep. Hops and flax are cultivated successfully in many parts.

What has struck me as most extraordinary, is that the roads should be so excellent as they are on the whole route, with very trifling exceptions, from Drummondville to this place, considering that twenty years ago the Townships were all a pathless wilderness, and comparing them with the present miserable state of some of the most travelled

roads in the United States, or with those in the old settlements in Canada ; these roads, I do not hesitate to say, are as good as the generality of roads in England were twenty years ago. In another very important particular, I have myself reason to speak well of the Townships, for I left Montreal in an extremely ill state of health, I have found myself quite restored during the four days that I have passed in this district,—from the very nature of the country it must be healthy, and as a striking proof that it is so, may be mentioned the fact that the cholera which committed such dreadful ravages in Lower Canada, including the seignories on the skirts of the Townships, never entered within them.

The British American Land Company's operations, are giving a life and spirit to the affairs of this country, which they were much in need of; all the emigrants who have arrived this year, to the amount of 4000 souls, have been furnished with labour, and the consequent means of support in making roads, and other useful works; 200 families are already located on land in the Salmon River settlement, (which I regret much that circumstances do not permit me to visit,) and it is expected that 150 more families will be settled there this fall. Both at Port St. Francis and at Sherbrooke, houses have been built by the Company for the temporary lodgment of the emigrants, on their arrival and passing to their intended settlements—at the former place a wharf has been constructed, at which steam boats and ships can lie to discharge their cargoes or disembark passengers—at Sherbrooke a substantial bridge is being built over the St. Francis, and roads being constructed and others repaired, by which a communication between Quebec and Montreal, will be opened through the Townships. A saw mill is in course of erection, on the Magog River, opposite to the spot where the Company has already a woollen factory established, and all the proper means are being taken to facilitate the settlement of the country. The Company, by carrying on the woollen factory, offers encouragement to the farmers to increase their flocks of sheep, by bringing a market for the wool to their doors, and give the liberal price of 2s. per lb., for all the wool of fair quality which may be brought to the factory. My time will not permit me to enlarge on the many interesting matters which occur to me, and I should perhaps exhaust your patience if I were to write at length, all which I feel disposed to do.

I am, always &c.

(Signed)

R. CARTER.

To N. Gould, Esq.

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FROM THE

NEWFOUNDLAND GENERAL ADVERTISER AND
PUBLIC LEDGER,

DECEMBER 16TH, 1836

EASTERN TOWNSHIPS OF LOWER CANADA.

We are indebted to Mr. WILLIAM BENNETT, merchant, of Carbonear, who has lately visited the above Province, for the following very interesting particulars respecting the Townships through which he passed. They contain much useful information for those who, like Mr. BENNETT, contemplate making Canada their future place of abode.

17th July.—I left Quebec at four in the morning on board the *Canadian Eagle*, steamer, for Montreal—a delightful day and the scenery picturesque, as we sailed up, or rather ploughed along the river, on both sides of which are many handsome villages. The steamers are not exactly like those in England; in place of one funnel or chimney in the centre of the vessel to carry off the smoke, there are, in the Canadian boats, two chimneys, one on each side, and are not, I think, worked the same way as in England. The St. Lawrence steamers have more breadth than any I ever saw in England—they are powerful vessels.

The first place we stopped at after leaving Quebec, is called Three Rivers, a fine town about 84 miles distant. The vessel lay alongside a wharf built of large timber. We reached this port at twelve at noon, and stopped about 20 minutes, then proceeded on to Port St. Francis at the southside of the river, about six miles from Three Rivers, and 91 miles from Quebec, about midway between Montreal and Quebec.

Port St. Francis presents a fine appearance on approaching from Three Rivers. There are several handsome white cottages built by the British American Land Company for the reception of emigrants bound to the Eastern Townships. A good inn is near the wharf, and an excellent store for the reception of passengers' luggage. At this place my fellow travellers and I left the steamer and got our things safely stored. It was now one o'clock, just nine hours from leaving Quebec, say 10 miles an hour with a head wind. The tide rises at

Three Rivers and Port St. Francis, about three inches, and from that up the river there is no flowing or ebbing of the tide. Vessels sail much faster down than up the St. Lawrence, as there is a current running down in some parts of the river.

After seeing our trunks, &c., safe in store, we repaired to the inn, a spacious building capable of entertaining a great many persons. The charge is moderate, the attendance good, and the fare excellent.

The British American Land Company's agent at this place is Captain Colclough, who is very attentive and ready to give information to persons going to view the land, &c. of the Eastern Townships. Captain Colclough has a fine house, good garden, and a large tract of land. Port St. Francis is a pretty place, and after a little time I have no doubt but there will be a Custom-House built, and vessels load and discharge alongside the wharf. There is twenty feet of water at the wharf, and room for several vessels to lie alongside and load or discharge at the same time. The town of St. Francis is about a quarter of a mile from the wharf; the inn built by the Company is near the wharf; the mail coach starts every morning (except Sunday) from the inn, takes passengers, &c. to Sherbrooke, and arrives there about eight or nine in the evening. Another coach starts at four every morning, (Sundays excepted,) from Sherbrooke, and arrives at Port St. Francis about eight or nine in the evening. When we landed at Port St. Francis there were 163 persons, including women and children, all English, chiefly from Suffolk, occupying the neat white cottages before observed. Emigrants generally stop at this place ere they proceed to Sherbrooke, or to other parts where the company have their land. No charge is made by the company for these cottages, and any provisions they may require is supplied at a moderate price. Every necessary is provided for the comfort and convenience of the emigrants, and where persons are ignorant as respects travelling, the Company's agents watch over the persons employed to forward their families and luggage, and no imposition is allowed.

It appears like a fair or market about the Company's stores every morning in the week, (save Sunday) : about fifty carts and waggons in course of employment; a great many are engaged taking women and children and luggage to Sherbrooke, where the Company supply them with land and work, both tradesmen and labourers, at what they are best qualified to do. A steamer touches at Port St. Francis from Montreal every day, and another from Quebec, land and take passengers and goods; each stop about twenty minutes. I remained at the inn in Port St. Francis from the 17th to the 19th July, took my fare in the mail coach to Sherbrooke, eighty-five miles, for which I paid 26s. currency.

The country looks well for some miles from Port St. Francis, but when we entered that part occupied by the French Canadians, the land did not wear so good an aspect, nor did the houses equal those of the English settlers, with a very few exceptions. Near a village called Nicolet, there is a very extensive seminary or college built with uniformity, and capable I think of accommodating 1000 students. It is a French establishment, but I am informed that many protestants are educated there.

Shortly after passing Nicolet, we came to the River St. Francis, nearly a quarter of a mile broad; we crossed in a scow or large flat-bottomed boat, the two ends of which projected out a considerable length to reach the bank on each side, and were let down by hinges for the convenience of taking the horses and coach in and out. The horses entered the boat without fear, I supposed from being accustomed to it, and remained quite still until the boat reached the other side, where they took the road again quite refreshed with the rest they had on the water. These animals are very durable and swift. Some of the stages are eighteen miles, and only six relays of horses for the whole distance to Sherbrooke. We passed through several fine villages on our way to Sherbrooke. The country, as we drew near Melbourne, began to improve; extensive farms, with comfortable houses, large barns and fine orchards, within a short distance of each other, opened occasionally to our view. The distance from Melbourne to Sherbrooke, is about thirty miles; we arrived at the latter place about nine in the evening, much pleased with the journey, and the scenery on the way. The coach stopped at the American hotel, kept by a Mr. King, formerly of the United States. This is a large establishment; there are livery stables, and horses and gigs for hire on moderate terms. The house has two sets of verandahs round it for the comfort and convenience of the guests; they are light and airy for walking or sitting; on the upper one are thirty, eight chairs for the accommodation of such ladies and gentlemen as choose to sit occasionally, and there are two free passages out of the second story of the house to these delightful verandahs, where persons are screened both from sun and rain. Several evenings during my stay, the company were entertained with music by some young men, who seated themselves on the upper end of the verandah at the front of the house, with key bugles, violins and clarionets, on which they performed exceedingly well, and contributed to make the evenings pass away very agreeably.

The fine river Magog passes through Sherbrooke, over which there is a large wooden bridge; below the bridge there is a saw-mill, and at a little distance from it the water of the Magog falls into the river St. Francis,

which fronts the lower street. At the end of this street a new road of forty feet wide is nearly completed, with a space of ground about sixty yards on each side down to the river—I am told it is left for a new street, which will be most delightfully situated. A new bridge is commenced over the St. Francis, which will not be finished until next Summer; it is to be on the American plan, covered in, so that no rain can fall on it, which will cause it to last three times as long as if exposed to the weather. The banks of the St. Francis in this neighbourhood present a charming prospect, and this beautiful village will, in all probability, shortly become a fine city. If the British American Land Company continue their works, which they have commenced, and in many places made great progress, they will, doubtless, soon render the Eastern Townships the most flourishing part of the two great Provinces. There are several good buildings at Sherbrooke, among which are an English Episcopalian Church, a College, and Roman Catholic Chapel, each with a fine spire; there are also a Bank, Post-Office, Court-House and Goal; a Printing Office, where is published a weekly paper, called the *Farmer's Advocate*; several good shops called stores here; a watchmaker with a splendid shop; a saddler and harness maker, a cabinet maker, coach, gig, and cart maker, &c.

There is only one baker in the town, but the tide of emigration has been such of late that he has been obliged to bake three times a-day, the price of his bread is 4lb. for 10d. Whitesmiths, blacksmiths, braziers, shoemakers, tailors, masons and bricklayers, house carpenters, &c., are all to be had in this neighbourhood, but many more are required, together with millers and millwrights. Tradesmen's wages are from 5s. to 7s. 6d. a-day. The Land Company have built a fine cloth factory on an extensive scale, with mills for thickening and dressing cloth, carding engines, and other machines necessary for the establishment; they have also saw mills, &c., and an iron foundery nearly completed, all on the banks of the Magog. The cloth factory has been worked, but it is at present undergoing further enlargements and improvements; the whole will be in full operation next season. Both the cloth factory and the iron foundery are on as an extensive a scale as many in England. It would be useless for me to attempt anything like a correct statement of the number of houses and inhabitants in this place, as both are increasing rapidly; there are several new houses in progress, and preparations making for the erection of many others. There is a very extensive hotel nearly completed, which will accommodate two or three hundred persons—the dimensions are eighty-six by fifty-two feet—it is three stories high, with virandahs round each story,

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and a wing of forty-four by twenty-six feet. Few inns in the interior of England or Ireland equal it in point of extent and commodiousness: it was to be fully completed in October. Sherbrooke is the seat of Justice for the Eastern Townships, and there is here a resident judge, sheriff, &c. The terms for holding the Court are Spring and Autumn, as in the case with the Supreme Court of Newfoundland. There is also a Registrar's office in this place. Of the medical profession, there are two doctors and a dentist settled here; but no person is allowed to practice in physic, surgery, &c. in the province without passing an examination of the faculty, and receiving a license from the Governor.

During my stay here, numbers of emigrants arrived almost every day from Port St. Francis, and carts and waggons are constantly on the road between the two places, laden with women, children, and luggage; the men walk the distance in about two days. All the labouring classes get constant employment from the Land Company at *4s. 2d.* a day, to find themselves; and *2s. 6d.* if supplied with food. Many tradesmen are employed at the Company's Works, good mowers get *5s.* a day. I heard several farmers inquiring for labourers, who would probably give higher wages than the Company, but their work is not constant like that of the latter, and my opinion is, that the best plan for either tradesmen or labourers, is to prefer engaging in the employment of the Company.

A new line of road is commenced, being surveyed by scientific men, from Quebec to Sherbrooke, passing over the new bridge over the St. Francis, so that there will be daily conveyance by land between the two places. A new line of road from Sherbrooke to Montreal, through the Townships, is also in progress, and after a little time the coaches will arrive every evening from these two great shipping ports, and one will leave Sherbrooke for each of the above places. At present a coach leaves every morning for Port St. Francis, and another arrives every day (Sundays excepted.) A coach arrives three times a week from Montreal, passing through Lennoxville, Compton, and Stanstead, and returns the three succeeding days to that place, I paid three dollars a week, about thirteen shillings sterling, at the hotel at Sherbrooke, for board, lodging, and attendance; and at a tavern about half a mile out of town on the Lennoxville and Compton road, I understand the charge is only two dollars a week.—Beef and mutton are from *3d.* to *4d.* per lb. Wheat (getting scarce) *7s. 6d.* per bushel. Bricks are made here in great abundance, the present price is *25s.* currency per thousand. Boards are five dollars per thousand at the mills. There are several good brick houses in Sherbrooke and its vicinity. At only one house in the place is spirituous

liquors retailed, which I consider advantageous to the inhabitants, as most other towns have too many venders of that article. After remaining some time at Sherbrooke, Mr. Tucker and I hired a horse and gig to pay a visit to our old friends in the neighbourhood of Compton, namely, Messrs. Jacques and Gosse, who left Newfoundland about a year before us. We had the pleasure to meet with another Newfoundland friend at Sherbrooke, P. E. Molloy, Esq; this gentleman kindly accompanied us on horseback; we passed through Lennoxville, and took the village of Compton on our way, where we baited our horses, and took a view of this fine village. The country hereabout is most delightful, interspersed with fine houses, good gardens, large fields of wheat, oats and barley, and numerous orchards, well stored with fruit. The meadows appeared in excellent condition, and mowers and haymakers busily employed. The hay is of the best description, and the crops of Indian corn in the neighbourhood looked well. After feasting our eyes and our appetites, we proceeded about three miles along a tolerable road through fine farms, along the banks of a river, over which we crossed on a large wooden bridge, and shortly after came to the habitation of Mr. Jacques; he was in his meadow at the time we arrived, and his good lady and himself were quite rejoiced to see us. We also felt much pleasure on our part to find our friends settled in so fine a country, and in possession of a farm of land amply sufficient to produce all the chief necessaries of life, such as bread, butter, beef, pork, mutton, cheese, and vegetables, and what is best of all, they appear to be content with their lot, and truly thankful to a kind Providence for placing them in a country so much better calculated to make them comfortable and happy, than that which they had so recently left. Mr. and Mrs. Jacques and Mr. Gosse were much gratified to learn that I had made up my mind to stay in that country; and after Dr. Molloy, Mr. Tucker, and I had spent a few very agreeable hours with them, we returned to Sherbrooke, promising to visit them again.

From the information Mr. Bennett gathered from his friends Messrs. Jacques and Gosse at Compton, he was confirmed in his opinion of the preference to be given by emigrants to settling in the Eastern Townships instead of proceeding to the Upper Province. He now goes on to give an account of his visit to the Salmon River settlement.—

On the 25th July, I set out on foot from Sherbrooke, through Lennoxville and Cookshire, in company with Mr. Brown, one of the British American Land Company's overseers, and thirty eight English emigrants, all going to view the new settlement at Salmon River, or as it is sometimes called the St. Francis settlement, situated at about forty

miles from Sherbrooke. On the side of the road near Lennoxville, I caught a land tortoise, exactly resembling the sea tortoise or turtle; it was about nine inches long; many of them, I am told, are much larger—the shell was beautifully variegated, and so hard, that if a loaded waggon were drawn over it, it would not sustain the slightest degree of injury. I lodged the little animal, for safe keeping, in a house until my return, and took it to Sherbrooke—it soon became quite a pet, but while I was travelling about it happened to stray away and I never saw it more. I had intended to take it with me to Newfoundland, and to England. These animals are sometimes to be had in great abundance here and are used as an article of food by the inhabitants.

Shortly after passing through Lennoxville, we crossed the River Massawippi, there was no bridge but we crossed over in a *scow*, or large flat-bottomed boat; we passed through the Township of Eaton, and after travelling about eighteen miles from Sherbrooke, put up near to the village of Cookshire, at the house of Mr. James Fravier, a respectable farmer, where we had a good dinner, tea, and bed, and a breakfast the next morning at an early hour; the overseer and I had each a separate room, and all I was charged for the whole was 1s. 8d. The men who were with us slept on the hay in a barn, and were likewise charged 1s. 8d. each for their lodging and entertainment, so that my extra good usage cost me nothing.

We departed on the morning of the twenty-fifth, after an early breakfast, and proceeded on our journey like giants refreshed with new wine; we soon came to the river Eaton, where there was no bridge, and the boat used for conveying over passengers was stove, but the water being shoal, we were taken across in a large waggon by a fine yoke of oxen. At many of the farmers houses as we journeyed along there appeared to be peace and plenty—comfortable dwelling houses—large barns—extensive farm yards, and abundance of cattle grazing on good pasture. The sheep in general require an improvement in the breed.

We found the weather extremely sultry when we entered the long woods,—there were about 700 men at work, on a new line of road leading up to the settlement of Salmon River, all paid by the Land Company; in some parts, the road is completely finished, fit for the mail coach to run upon, and the whole line is to be completed before the setting in of winter.—It was quite cheerful to see so many men at work, and to hear the sound of so many axes in the forest preparing the way for comfortable habitations. This new line of road is cleared of timber fifty feet—the men are divided into lots, and at each place where they work there is what is called a *camp*—a number of sheds covered with

bark, where they lodge and take their food—one man cooks for the rest. All the emigrants of the labouring class get employment at 2s.6d. a-day with meat and drink, and there is an overseer with each set of men or *camp*.

Those of the working class who resolve to settle in this neighbourhood, get from 50 to 100 acres of land, one acre of which is cleared for a garden by the Land Company, and a comfortable log house built for the settler's family, which costs, I think, from £5 to £10; this sum, with the expense of clearing the acre of land for the garden, is advanced by the Company, and credit given to the emigrant until he can work it out. Those who have no means of laying in provision for the winter are also supplied by the Company, and every batch of men that goes from Sherbrooke to the new settlement, is allowed two days wages for each man for the days they are travelling up, and provided with every necessary on the road; an overseer goes up with each set of men to pay all expenses and attend to their wants on the journey. The woods are cut away from several acres of land near the Salmon River, where a town is intended to be built, (to be called Victoria) —a bridge is being built over the river—saw and grist mills are nearly completed near the new site—in short everything necessary for the comfort and convenience of the new settlers is amply supplied by this enterprising Company, at a vast expense, and every person possessing land in this part of the province must be greatly benefitted by the extensive improvement now in progress. Roads, bridges, mills, &c. —coaches, passing regularly through the townships, such facilities as these must considerably enhance the value of the land, and will doubtless be the means of enriching many persons who never advanced a shilling towards these improvements. It is probable that very shortly a rail-road will be constructed right through the Townships, which will be of incalculable benefit to the settlers. The land within half a mile of the site of Victoria is reserved for the accommodation of persons who take building lots in the town—all the front lots on this line of road, to within half a mile of Victoria are disposed of; other roads are to be opened in various directions—surveyors are constantly out on the Company's lands, and the roads will be constructed on the best possible plan. Land in my opinion will become more valuable every year in Canada, and particularly in those Townships, where such great improvements are so rapidly carrying on.

I saw and conversed with several persons who had travelled through a great part of the United States, and Upper Canada, who decidedly prefer the Eastern Townships to either place, and as a proof of their

conviction of the superiority of the latter, purchased lands and settled in the Townships, all well satisfied, as far as I could learn, with the result of their determination. One gentleman of fortune from England who left his family at Montreal and went to the Upper Province and purchased land there, having, when he returned to Montreal for his family, heard so much said in favour of the Eastern Townships, that he made up his mind to visit them and judge for himself, and the result was, that he relinquished his purchase in the Upper Province, which must have been with considerable loss, bought a beautiful farm near the road between Lennoxville and Sherbrooke with a neat brick house, good barns and stabling, all in fee simple, a great part of the land already cleared and bringing a good crop, which together with the stock he purchased with the farm and buildings. His land borders on the banks of the River Massawippi. I passed by this gentleman's house the evening of the day he located himself and family therein—it was a little after the setting of the sun—the candles were lighted—the windows open to admit the evening breeze—all seemed cheerful looking out of the windows. As I passed, a young English farmer came out of the gate and walked some distance along the road. I was going towards Sherbrooke. He told me he was engaged to the proprietor of the estate for twelve months as farmer, &c., for which he was to receive £30 with board and lodging. He said the master was very much pleased with his bargain. I cannot say exactly the number of acres, or the sum paid for this place.

On my arrival at Sherbrooke I met with a medical gentleman, a Mr. Molloy, with whom I had the pleasure of being acquainted many years in Newfoundland—he left the latter place some time since, and like many others travelled through a great part of Upper Canada, intending to settle there, left Mrs. Molloy and children at Montreal until he fixed on a suitable spot, but he returned without coming to a conclusion until he should see the Townships. He told me, that if he were a single man, he would do better by following his profession in the Upper Province than in the Eastern Townships, as the former is much more unhealthy than the latter; (in Upper Canada fever and ague are prevalent,) but having a family he preferred the Townships, and further, he said that if he had the means of purchasing a good farm in the Townships, he would give up the medical profession altogether, although he has very respectable practice, and stands high in regard to his abilities, and gentlemanly deportment; he occupies a commodious brick cottage at the entrance of Sherbrooke, by the mail coach road, leading to and from Port St. Francis, has a fine garden which produces abun-

dance of vegetables—there is no need of hot houses in the Townships, as conducive to the growth of cucumbers, &c.

While stopping at the hotel at Sherbrooke I became acquainted with a Mr. Peel, a gentleman from Whitehaven in Cumberland, who had purchased a farm of 200 acres of land, not far distant from Quebec, but not approving of the society in that neighbourhood, he rented his farm for a yearly sum and visited the Eastern Townships with which he felt so much pleased that he purchased a farm with a fine house, &c., and about 120 acres of land in a high state of cultivation, for which he paid between five and six hundred pounds, in the neighbourhood of Hatley, I travelled with this gentleman when he was going to take possession of his new purchase.

One day as I returned from Compton to Sherbrooke, by the mail coach, I stopped at Lennoxville, to see Hollis Smith, Esq. a gentleman with whom I was in treaty for a farm. After arranging my business with him, I enquired if he knew Dr. Wilson, a gentleman from Yorkshire, who had purchased a farm of land and located himself and family near the banks of the Massawippi; he said the doctor's place was alongside the river, distant about four miles, and that there was a good road all the way. Mr. Smith kindly lent me a saddle horse to go and visit the doctor. I found the road good and the scenery delightful. When I arrived at the place, one of his sons, (a fine intelligent lad,) put the horse in the stable, and conducted me to the comfortable habitation of Mr. Wilson. This gentleman and his good lady received me very courteously, my apology for calling on him was, that I had had the pleasure of reading an extract of a letter of his sometime previously, in a Canadian newspaper, and again in a sheet published by the Land Company, and that I felt so much pleased with the correctness of the statement, that I came personally to converse with him on the subject, as I was about to settle in the neighbourhood, and was gratified to find that I was likely to become so near a resident to a person of his intelligence. The doctor and his kind lady treated me with the greatest politeness, and gave me much useful information respecting the new country; and after sitting some time in the front parlour, they invited me to take a walk in the garden, which was well stored with fruit and a great variety of flowers. While we were in the garden a beautiful hummingbird came buzzing about, extracting the sweets from the large flowers, it is I think, the smallest of all the feathered creation—I inquired if ever he caught any of these beautiful little creatures; his son said they often caught them by holding up a broom, upon which the birds would presently alight. Mr. Wilson and his son took me to see

many parts of the farm, the crops upon which were all looking well; a great part of the hay was housed. They have a good stock of pigs and poultry, and Mrs. W. kindly offered to supply me with some of the former for breeders until I could repay her with others. This interesting family would not allow me to leave until I partook of a good cup of tea, sweetened with excellent sugar, the produce of their own farm, from the sugar maple tree, which was equally good and fair as the finest of West India sugar. I never saw any of this description before brought to such perfection—I think it was eleven cwt. that Mrs. W. told me they manufactured last Spring, and gave me a sample which I hope to let my friends see on my return.

Mr. Wilson informed me that Major Jones called on him, (a gentleman who had lately purchased two large farms in the neighbourhood of Compton.) I had an interview with Major Jones myself, who seems much pleased with the country. This gentleman told Mr. Wilson that it was from reading his letters (which were published) that was the cause of his coming to the Eastern Townships, and for which he personally thanked the writer. A few days afterwards I was again passing the road by Dr. Wilson's place, which he calls the Massawippi cottage. I called, and stopped another hour very agreeably. Mr. W. built a fine bridge over the river at his own expense, which must have cost a considerable sum; his land lies on both sides of the river, therefore the bridge was indispensably necessary.

I had the pleasure of being introduced to Colonel Morris, who spent many years in St. John's, Newfoundland; he sold his commission in the army, and has purchased a large farm at Lennoxville; he lives in a comfortable house in the village; his good lady and family were much pleased to see a person so lately come from Newfoundland—Mrs. Morris has a sister living at St. John's, married to Peter W. Carter, Esq. She requested me to say to her sister, that she is much pleased with the Eastern Townships; she said it would confirm what she had written in the letter committed to my care. From all that I could learn while in this fine country, I think that the farmers are as well contented as any I have ever been acquainted with, they have the comforts and many of the luxuries of life.

The weather while I was there was as fine as I ever saw in my own country. The hay cut down one day is generally housed the next; unless rain prevents, very little time is lost in turning it. Grass grows remarkably well in the Eastern Townships, in some parts the hay is as plentiful as in England, and in most places of the best description. The pasture is very good; any person possessing knowledge and ex-

perience in the capabilities of land, must know by seeing the land at the road side, or any part where the wood is cleared off, covered with abundance of white clover, growing in its natural state. This is a convincing proof of the good pasture, and that the land is good for feeding sheep, which in my opinion is as profitable a stock as the farmer can keep. The Land Company have offered 2s. a pound for all wool in the Townships, which is a fine price; a farmer who would keep four or five hundred sheep would make money with much more ease than by sowing wheat, &c. Grain grows well in this country; farmers who cultivate their land well, I believe may expect good crops generally. As far as I had an opportunity of judging, this is an excellent country both for fishing and fowling; game of different sorts are plentiful. I saw a partridge nearly as tame as the common hen. I saw only one hare, but did not look for any. I saw wild geese and ducks, and heard of deer being in great abundance; there are I am informed three species of deer in this country, one sort of an immense size which I am credibly informed weighs from ten to sixteen cwt. One of the Government Surveyors, a Mr. Russell, at Quebec, gave me a drawing of one of the large size, and alongside the deer drew a horse of the large size, which appeared small beside the moose deer; they are sometimes seen in open day in the field; they stand so high and their neck being rather short they cannot reach the grass but are obliged to live on leaves of trees, and such food as they can reach; they stand about seven feet and a half high. There is one of this description to be seen at the Museum at Quebec, stuffed and represented a full size; many of them were killed last winter—run down in the snow. Fish are plentiful in the rivers and lakes, consisting of salmon, trout, bass, pike, mullet, and many other descriptions.

I saw one fish that was caught in the river Magog, near the bridge at Sherbrooke; it was a mullet, taken with a spear, or as they are called grains. Fish of different descriptions are caught in this way both by day and night; at night they are caught by torch light; both by day and night the persons fishing in this way go in boats. The rivers in many places are well situated for catching fish with nets. The wild pigeons of America are to be had in the Townships in abundance, but not in such immense flocks as Mr. Wilson the ornithologist writes of being in the state of Kentucky.

There is one great advantage in this country, which I never knew in any other country, and though it is a negative advantage, I consider it of importance, viz., that a rat has never been seen or known to exist in the Eastern Townships. I was in company with many who have resided

long in the country, and all confirm this statement. I conversed with some on the subject who have lived nearly forty years in these parts, who confirm this without any cause of doubt. In a country where grain, fruit, &c., are in such abundance, this is not lightly to be looked upon.

In closing our extracts from Mr. Bennett's Journal we may be permitted to say that that gentleman, when he committed his remarks to paper never contemplated their appearance in print, as they were kept merely for his own information, and to enable him to have it in his power to give his friends and acquaintance in his native land such particulars as he had obtained during his visit to a country in which he intends with the permission of Providence to settle himself and his family. He is persuaded that the general scope of his observations are beyond contradiction, and fully borne out by the testimony of all travellers who have visited that part of Canada; and should they be the means of inducing any of his friends to see for themselves, he trusts they will be found to acknowledge the correctness of his humble, but honest attempt to direct them in the best course to the attainment of their object.

We have been requested to add the following as corroborative of Mr Bennett's account of the Eastern Townships.

EXTRACT

OF

A LETTER FROM THE REV. T. LORD,

TO THE

WESLEYAN COMMITTEE IN LONDON,

Dated Montreal, January 29th, 1836.

With this short visit to the Townships I was highly gratified. In Summer the scenery must be delightful, and in some places enchanting. For variety of views, and for grandeur and magnificence in the general features of the country, the Eastern Townships vastly surpass any part

of the Canadas I have yet seen. The rivers, lakes, mountains, plains, and the native forests skirting large portions of cleared and cultivated farms, give a park like appearance to a large extent of country. The land is generally good, and from the appearance of the barns, and cattle, as well as from the testimony of all I conversed with, I am justified in stating that the people are doing well. Some there are who will not do well any where, and others are dissatisfied because they do not find a Paradise, where all their wants are supplied without toil and care.

FINIS.