

and say, "For all these blessings am I, under Providence, indebted to the generosity and benevolence of my countrymen—the trees I have felled were mine—the land I till is mine—and who now shall make my inmost spirit sink, by **pointing** me out as an object of commiseration and contempt?" How **painful** to the feeling heart—how maddening to the reflecting mind—is the apathy which England betrays towards **emigration**! Why is there any delay in a question which involves so fearful a responsibility—the relieving a nation of so heavy a burden as an overcrowded and starving population? To thousands of them has she become a second Black-hole at Calcutta; whilst here are millions of broad acres which only await the hand of the hardy laborer to make "the wilderness blossom as the rose." Starvation! oh! how much of human suffering does that one word express! In this Province, such a word, thank Heaven! is seldom used, because here, forsooth, no one is allowed that *English privilege*;—the bounties of Providence are so equally **divided**, that no actual want of food is felt in thee, thrice happy, plentiful New Brunswick! Labor, to be sure, is required to gain a comfortable living here; but **where** is the honest man who would refuse to toil, aye, even laboriously, when he finds that his labor will be requited, and that, whatever his gains, they will be for his own benefit, or that of his family, whilst he is at the same time, in the enjoyment of all the rights and privileges pertaining to a land-holder; which rights and privileges, by the way, are held **in** no mean estimation by all men, however "unhonored or unsung 3"

Another inducement to emigrate to this Province, is the healthiness of the climate. I here beg leave to remark upon the false and unpardonable inaccuracies in the accounts given of this valuable portion of her Majesty's dominions. How Mr. Guthrie got his knowledge of its climate, soil, and produce, is, perhaps, never to be ascertained, neither is it to be relied on. In the twenty-third edition of his Geography, "*studiously* revised, and *carefully* corrected," this incorrect statement is given. He says, when speaking of New Brunswick, "The climate of this country, though within the temperate zone, has been found rather unfavorable to European constitutions; they are, involved in the gloom of a fog during a great part of the year, and four or five months it is intensely cold." And, further, he states, **that** "from such a climate little can be expected." In reply to these observations, I fearlessly assert, that, from the climate of New Brunswick everything is to be expected—everything is to be realised. The soil is productive, and needs only the labor of the husbandman to draw from it rich and abundant harvests. The fog (which has been so studiously and carefully preserved, and duly

chronicled, **in** order to *enlighten* the minds of those on the other side of the **Atlantic**;) seldom reaches further than seven or eight miles in the **interior** ; but, whether or no, it is not material, as its check to vegetation is scarcely perceptible ; indeed, the appearance of fog in the Bay of **Fundy** is an almost infallible sign, in the summer season, of fine weather **up** the country. One may leave the city of St. John, in an unclouded **but** foggy day, and, in a very short period of time, suddenly finds himself **broiling** under the rays of a bright sun, and the sky over head beautifully clear. The salubrity of our climate is evidenced by the absence of any disease peculiar to the country, No fever or ague, the **acknowledged** drawback to settling in Upper Canada ; no -venomous reptiles to startle the unwary ; no wolves of any consequence to destroy our flocks ; and “ Bruin ” seldom intrudes his presence among our pigs or young cattle, unless impelled by the resistless cravings of hunger. Let there be something done, and that quickly, to gladden the hearts of the laboring classes in England.

**This** apathy should no longer exist in the minds of **those** who *well can spare* that which would enable the poor man to rise up **and** come away. The Emigrant agent here, M. H. Perley, Esq., will make the “ crooked path straight ” for him after his arrival. No man could be better **qualified** for that office than is **Mr.** Perley, who, besides being intimately acquainted with every section of this **Province**, possesses, likewise, an **almost** inexhaustible fund of information, in respect to its capabilities ; can describe with accuracy thousands and hundreds of thousands of acres of wilderness land, yet **in** the possession of the Crown. Let no mind, however **benighted** or unenlightened, shrink **from** the name of “ wilderness.” Sublime **and** beautiful in its simplicity, - how does it contrast with a **densely-populated** country, where wealth, pride, avarice, penury, and **crime**, form a **disgusting** whole ! Who covets the refined **luxuries** of the great man of a crowded city, whose **very** breath was **but** a moment before expelled **from** the lungs of some polluted wretch ? Bah ! how **vastly** preferable is the clear, sweet, exhilarating air of the wilderness ! Every British periodical, **every newspaper, novel, nay**, private correspondence, speaks of the alarming increase of abject poverty on the one hand, and enormous wealth on the other. England is **now** what Rome **was** previous to its fall ; with only this **difference** - **from** indolence, apathy, voluptuous refinement and effeminacy, barbarian hordes were **suffered** to encroach, **until** Rome knew her greatness no more : England, with the **same** indolence, the same apathy, the same **luxury** and refinement, strange to say, nurtures in her own bosom barbarian hordes, suffering them, by neglect of **migration**, to increase and

multiply, till they will eventually overrun and destroy the land **that gave them** birth. Let her nobles look to this—let them rise at once, superior to their indifference and supineness, by which they degrade the name of man, and are daily becoming more and more odious in the eyes of every thinking person. “Live and let live,” should be their motto. It would be no hardship for the wealthy to charter ships, neither would there be any **difficulty** in calling together the industrious but unemployed laborers, with their families, who would joyfully avail themselves of the opportunity of emigrating; nor would the expense in fitting them out for the voyage, together with a modicum to defray the fees’ of the Land-office, be so great as may be imagined. “Union is strength!” Let them be united in this matter, and the business will be easily accomplished,

I will make a few further observations relative to the manner in which the emigrant progresses here. Men of small means and humble pretensions succeed best in settling wilderness land; they are content to follow the example of the earlier pioneers of the forest, and readily conform’ to such wages as the inhabitants of a new country are able, by local circumstances, to **offer** them. Inured **from** their childhood to privation and sober toil, they easily perceive the advantages to be derived from labor here; hence all their energies are roused to prosecute the means which are offered to them, not only to improve their condition, but to become, in a reasonable period of time, independent men. Not so those’ who come with **sufficient** capital to purchase a farm, **ready-**cleared to their hands; they come with their heads filled with the most visionary views, and think to take the soil, the climate, nay, the very elements, by storm.

In the first place, they have encumbered themselves with a thousand **unnecessary** but expensive farming implements, such as improved ploughs, harrows, chain rollers, drills, turnip-cutting machines, patent springs and **axletrees, &c.**, besides numberless articles of convenience (needless here), bordering on luxury, “made upon the newest and most improved principles” in England.

Here, then, they land, and, with much useless bustle and importance, go hurriedly to work, to select a place best calculated, in **their** opinion, to further their views, make an improper choice, and, without deigning to ask advice from the experienced in such matters here, they set themselves up forthwith to frame a new code of reasoning, **whereby** Nature herself is to be governed, and dogmatically insist that such methods as they propose are the only proper ones to be adopted to ensure success to the farmer, and promote the *welfare* of the Province;

never giving up (let the circumstance be as it may) what they consider their stronghold, "that such and such is now practised-in *England*." One might with equal success endeavor to explain, in the Gaelic tongue, the advantages of a 'classical education to a wild Otaheitan, as to make a gentleman John Bull understand that those engaged in **agricultural** pursuits here have to accommodate themselves to the climate, and to the infant state in which the Province still is. He either cannot, or will not, perceive wherein the **new** country differs from the old ; he has no discrimination in such matters ; and, therefore, becomes hostile to the ways and means used by the thrifty New Brunswicker ; arrogates to himself the air and tone of a censor, and, without taking time to reflect, condemns, because his own wild theories have failed-the soil, the climate, and the people ; gets himself involved in difficulties, and, as a matter of course, leaves the country a poor man. Nor is this all ; for those who have come within the wake of his mismanagement are sure to suffer: thus his money has neither benefited himself, nor added to the prosperity of others ; and it is worthy of remark, that the speculative **dreamings**, the difficulties and failures of these men, do not deter the next monied Englishman, who may come with a view of settling in **this** Province, from following precisely after the same fashion. Nor will such ever gain an independence in this country, until the last one of the **sort** who lands upon our shores, learns to conform to the usages and local circumstances of the place, and be made to believe that ire is not the first, *the very first*, that has ever attempted to establish himself in New **Brunswick**.

But that New Brunswick does offer a fruitful field to the steady-going, industrious man, there can be no question. Witness the hundreds, nay, thousands, of Irish, who have landed here, without a penny to bless themselves, become thrifty farmers in a very short time ; having around and about them such comforts as they never enjoyed, nor ever could have enjoyed, in their own country. Indeed, scarcely a day passes wherein the writer of these remarks does not have an opportunity of viewing the air of entire satisfaction, or the look of heartfelt delight, that beams in the eye of some new-comer who is in possession of land of his **own**, and begins to feel that he is getting up in the world. There is a confidence in his manner, too, and an elasticity in his step, which at **once** tells how vastly for the better was his exchange, from the narrow bounds-in which his energies were confined at *home*, to the wide expanse of thought and action which is opened up to him here. **It** is amusing to see with what eager joy the man who had hitherto been but a humble cotter, **seizes** upon the paper which contains the deed of conveyance of

land which he is henceforth to call his own, and the speed with which he hastens to get the said deed safely deposited in the office of the Registrar. Like every newly-made bride, who, it is said, fancies herself to be the first woman that was ever married, so does poor Pat believe that no man ever held a title-deed of land before himself, and with the broadest grin, and most persuasive tone of voice, requests that his deed **may** be the first put upon record, giving information, at the same time, \*that he has made the last payment for his farm, and that he has brought the fee for registering his deed with him. If, then, the Irish, who have not hitherto sustained the character of being either an industrious or economical people, get on so well here, how much more should the cleanly, pains-taking English laborer be encouraged to come ! The few that are already here have done exceedingly **well**; indeed, their whole outward man becomes in a very short time so amazingly changed, that one might almost be tempted to “hold opinion with Pythagoras,” and **that** the **soul** of John Bull was no longer content to “live, and move, and have its being,” in its good old way, upon four legs. Certain it is, he soon learns to “**shuffle off** that mortal coil,” which weighed so heavily about his feet when he first landed, as to keep him just so many minutes ere he could raise them’ from the ground. He quickly discovers that he will here be allowed the human privilege of standing on his **hind** legs—consequently he rears up, and looks about him with an air of some importance ; hears himself addressed by the title of “**Mr.**,” and his wife by that of “**Mrs. !**” which at first has somewhat of a startling sound to his ear, as he imagines it done out of derision; but with astounding’ eagerness he’ soon accepts the customary. salutation, and finds **no** fault with the soil, the climate, or the people, except that they don’t work **half** so **ard** here for a living as they do at ome.

The free and active spirit with which **our** people are endued, **causes a** quickening influence with it, and imparts a lively ambition to the breast of the old countryman. New hopes are awakened in his mind, and nei joys spring up in his heart. He feels himself to be a better man ; feeds better, and dresses better; for, be. it understood, that in no part of the world do the people appear more respectably clad than in this Province. The unseemly hob-nailed shoe, and the’ unmannered corduroy, find no countenance with the New Brunswicker. In fact, here no *plebeian* costume is at all **distinguishable** ; every one dresses according to his means ; and the means of all (save in a few instances) are not limited to the dogged rules of an empty purse. How gratifying is this order of things to the mind of the philanthropist ; and yet the writer has heard, from **the** lips of some old countrymen, deeply imbued with aristocratic **feeling**,

an objection raised against this apparent equality of circumstances. Surely our days are not **so** many that we should wish to withhold the good which our fellow-creatures make for themselves, particularly from him who earns his bread by the sweat of his brow ! The airy nothings which encircle the affluent, and attract the gaze of the plebeian in the Old World, find no worshippers here : our industry is our shield ; our independence is our buckler. The New Brunswicker troubles himself not with extraneous matter ; his worship he reserves for his Maker, and **his** loyalty he preserves for his beloved Sovereign. The New World is a wide field, where the toe of the working man strikes not the heel of the idle exclusive. Come one, come all, there will yet be room!

A VOICE FROM NEW BRUNSWICK.

St. John's, **Feb.** 29.

## PRODROMUS

### TOWARDS A PHILOSOPHICAL INQUIRY INTO THE INTELLECTUAL POWERS OF THE NEGRO.

BY EDWARD BINNS, M.D., FELLOW OF THE **SOC. OF ANTIQ.** OF SCOT.,  
**AUTHOR** OF "THE ANATOMY OF SLEEP," ETC., ETC., ETC.

"Ὅς ἂν εὐγεγονῶς ἢ τῆ φύσει πρὸς τὰγαθὰ, καὶν Διθιοψ ἢ . . . ἐσγιν εὐγενής.  
(*Menand. Fragm., ap. Stob., p. 494., Gem.*)

"Quiconque est **né avec des sentimens généreux, fût il nègre**, . . . eat noble."

**PASSING over** the theories upon the origin, color, and nature of the negroes as idle and futile, when opposed to facts—the presumed identity of the Egyptians with the present Coptes and the **real negroes**—the fallacy, on the one hand, of making him a mere remove from the monkey, and on the other, the improbability of his being the original stock, whence the Caucasian, Mongolian, and other varieties of the human race have descended, I **proceed**—

First—To investigate some of the causes which have hitherto **prevented** the Africans from distinguishing themselves in the ranks of literary men, as experimental philosophers, ethnological investigators, physicians, politicians, theologians, moralists, or professors of many of those arts and sciences incidental to a high state of civilization.

Second-To adduce examples of individuals of the great Ethiopian family, who have attained the proud distinctions of scholar, poet, statesman, or divine; and thence to deduce the conclusion, that there exists no physical or physiological cause to preclude the African or his derivative **from** contending successfully for the prizes in the curricula of the arts and sciences.

And, in *limine*, I must observe, that in common with all physiologists, I admit the difficulties attending the classification of the human race, and I shall, **therefore**, make no attempt to amend or negative the theories already advanced; but shall employ such facts collected by **Buffon**, Long, Edwards, Blumenbach, Pritchard, Lawrence, and other writers, as shall aid me in the present inquiry, in place of expending labor in refuting errors which are self-evident of themselves, or of consuming time in advancing new theories which are too often founded on crude conjecture, deduced from uncertain data, supported by vague reasoning, and amplified by suppositious facts.

Pritchard supposes **the** negro to **be fons** et or&co, whence all varieties of the human race are derived. Blumenbach, on the other hand, considers him a vitiated variety of the Caucasian or white man. **These** gentlemen are authors of repute; but I very much doubt the validity of their judgments. It is plain both cannot be right. Neither of them had collected together a **sufficient** number of facts when they promulgated their opinion, to entitle the latter to much respect. **Buffon** was not better informed, Long was prejudiced, and Lawrence has partly retracted his hasty opinion. However, this question is not the **immediate** object of the present paper, and, therefore, I shall **dwell** no longer upon **it**.\*

With regard to the **positive capability** or capacity of the **negro** for **receiving** and retaining instruction, I confess that, to a certain extent, I am still in the dark; for the experiment pending in the West Indies is not concluded. So far, however, as it has progressed, I think the auspices **favorable**, though I have refrained from **collecting** many examples **from** that source to support this opinion. Those I derive from other sources are very conclusive, **for** it must be borne in mind

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\* Since this paper was first written (at the request of my **lamented** friend, **Dr. Bancroft**, late Inspector General of Hospitals in Jamaica), much additional **information** has been obtained of the **negro** character; and **Dr. Pritchard** has published, I am informed, a very elaborate work on Man. I **have** seen, but 'not-read the book. The portraits, however, appeared to me to be purposely Europeanised, if I may coin the **expression**, to **carry out** the theory of **the** author.

that the negro has, as yet, enjoyed no opportunity, either in his own country or his prison-house, America, of developing talent, or acquiring knowledge. Hence we should be inclined to lay some stress upon the fact, that certain of his *congeners* have signalised themselves in the acquisition of the arts and sciences in spite of these obstacles.\* Let us remember, too, that Africa has been from the earliest ages the great slave market, the seat of barbarism and violence, the arena of servile wars and sanguinary dramas. Reprisal and retaliation, **even** to the present day, usurp the seat of justice and mercy; and the minds of her inhabitants, pre-occupied with scenes of bloodshed, allow no leisure for study, or time for contemplating the higher objects of existence ; while their hands, stained with slaughter, rarely attempt the practice, much less the improvement of the rudest mechanical arts. Science exists not among them. Of mathematics, algebra, geometry, chemistry, astronomy, physics, pathology, philosophy, anatomy, and navigation, they may be said to know not even the name; while of painting, sculpture, arithmetic, agriculture, and politics, they possess only the shadows.+ For the most part leading an idle and desultory **life**, the fertility of the soil, and the munificence of the \*climate, releasing' them from the necessity of nearly all corporeal **exertion—content** to enjoy the present, they interrupt not their pleasures with any preparation or provision for the future. Emphatically, “ they take no thought for the morrow.” Consequently, in the wide expanse of their extensive provinces, **famines** are almost perennial—a southern, a northern, a central, an eastern or a western portion, at one period or another of the year, being exposed to the inconvenience of scarcity, or subjected to the horrors of famine; and this deficiency of food, or negation of those necessaries required by the organs for performing their stated functions, so as to preserve the body in the condition of

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\* See what Edwards says upon this subject, vol. ii., p. 58, 2nd Ed, 4to., Lond., 1794, and subsequently. I cannot avoid quoting the following passage, so strongly corroborative of the argument I endeavor to establish :—“ The similar and uniform system of life to which they are all (the African slaves) reduced ; the few opportunities, and the little encouragement given them for mental improvement, are circumstances that naturally induce a predominant and prevailing caste of character and disposition.” “ The day,” says Homer, “ which makes man a slave, takes away half his worth ;” and, in fact, he loses every impulse to action, except that of fear. Nevertheless, there are among several of the African nations some striking and predominant features, which cannot easily be overlooked by a person residing in any one of the sugar plantations.

† I speak, of course, *generally*, as will be seen as I proceed,

health, is without doubt one great cause of their demoralization-nay, such a negation, often repeated and long continued, would produce the same . effect even upon the most civilised people. Again : their famines are generally accompanied or succeeded by disease ; and in the details of famine and pestilence-those terrible scourges of the human race-the philosopher finds little to entitle man to 'the proud pre-eminence which he arrogates, less to admire, and nothing to imitate. Animals of the brute creation pressed by hunger, it is known, frequently devour their young; and from this terrible crime, this unholy deed, this severance of all the bonds that bind,, and all the affections that exalt, our common nature above the mere brute to which the Almighty in His infinite goodness and mercy has denied the possession of reasoning faculties, even the human mother **has** not always been exempt. During the prevalence of **a** desolating famine in Jerusalem, and in **a** recent similar infliction in India-not to say anything of Europe-mothers were known **to** destroy and devour their own offspring !

· These facts demonstrate the **painful** degradation to which. **the** human race may be reduced when pressed by hunger. This and continual wars waged to supply the constant demand for slaves, not only for the American states; but for the markets of the East, prevent the **expansion** of the mind, and brutalize the intellect of the negro.

· Hence his character-suspicious, fickle, fierce, libidinous, cruel, cunning, treacherous, blood-thirsty, in his **uncivilised** state ; but **when** partially civilised, softened and ameliorated, as **exemplified in** the **character** of the late apprentices in the West Indies, and in that of the inhabitants of some countries in Africa, 'of which I shall speak more fully presently.

It **may be** alleged that the very fact of a slave mart having existed in Africa from the earliest ages to the -present day, the horrid practice of **anthropophagy** prevalent among her inhabitants, together with several customs obnoxious to European notions of morality, separate the negroes by insurmountable barriers from their white brethren, and demonstrate their **repugnance** to, if not physical incapacity for, **civilisation**. I will concede that, at first sight, such. revolting traits in the character of 'a people would induce any one,' who would proceed no further in the inquiry, to consider them as but one **remove from** the brute, and but remotely allied to the Mongolian or Caucasian races. But it would. not be philosophical to stop-here. It is conceded that Africa has been **in** past ages, and is to the present hour, the great slave market ; and, equally so, that some of her people are **anthropophagous**,

But if it can be shown—and who denies it P—that *all* ancient nations were deeply implicated in the slave trade, from the Jews, the chosen people of God, to the Athenians, the most polished of nations; from the **Romans**, the most warlike, to the Carthagenians, the most commercial of people; to say nothing of the Assyrians, Babylonians, Egyptians, and Persians; the great objection to the Africans on this score is removed. Shall I not call a blush to the cheek of my reader, when I remind him that, until it suited the policy of England, she was the principal slave-dealer, slave-carrier, and consequently slave-maker ? **She insisted**, soon after she possessed herself of Jamaica, that for every one hundred acres of land patented, ten slaves should be imported into the island; and subsequently, when the House of Assembly petitioned that the importation of slaves should cease, because the traffic **was** immoral **and** unjust, the reply of the Home Government was, that the trade was **too** profitable to British merchants to be relinquished ! But when the tide of commercial rapacity began to flow in an opposite direction, it was discovered that to hold slaves in bondage who had been purchased under the **express** direction and sanction of the law, was unchristian and unjust! And the West Indians, receiving five shillings in the pound, were relieved from the burden of **their** guilt—and their property at the same time !

But we come still nearer home ; for slavery in England, **even** up to a recent date, viewed in a political light, was a part and **parcel** of the institutions of the kingdom. The **inhabitants** of Liverpool, whose streets are quaintly said to be paved with **African skulls**, and the bricks of their houses to be cemented **with African blood**, even **so late** as the **reign** of Henry VIII. publicly sold their children—as did the Irish. Whether incited by caprice, or urged by superstition, **I will not** pretend to say., but Henry, in December **1514**, manumitted two of his slaves ; and from that period **slavery**, in its most offensive form, gradually declined, without any positive enactment for **its** abolition. Yet Lord Auckland, in 1787, brought forward **a** motion, in the Privy Council, to sell convicts to the Bey of **Tripoli**—“**as** it would save the money expended in sending **them** to the penal settlements !” \* *Mihi quidem hercle non est verisimile!* I think I hear the reader **exclaim**—**nevertheless** it **is** true, and the entry may be seen in the minute book of the Privy Council.

. On the subject of **cannibalism**, it can also be shown, without any

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\* It is not long since **agricultural laborers were** “**flogged**” to their work in England, especially when they demanded, what the **negroes** in the West Indies lately demanded, an increase of wages,