

first of those vessels the disease was of a very malignant type, and proved fatal to several of both passengers and seamen”.²⁵ Another risk was cholera, which accounted for many deaths among the fifty people who left Deddington in 1831, aided by public subscription.²⁶

For those who made it to Canada in good health and at the right time of year, life may have been hard but it was generally worth it. The New Brunswick and Nova Scotia Land Company took advertisements in the *Banbury Guardian* in May 1845 to say so. In the first advertisement, on 1 May, the company addressed would-be settlers saying that the company

“(empowered by Royal Charter and Act of Parliament) will sell portions of their land ... to persons engaging to settle and improve, in Lots of 100 or 200 acres each, viz at £31 for each 100 acres, payable without interest by instalments in Eleven years, which is equal to about five shillings *per* acre only in cash...

“The Company’s principal town and settlement of Stanley, situated on the river Nashwaak, contains a church with a resident clergyman, a school, corn and saw mills, and many good houses belonging to resident settlers. The Company’s Chief Commissioners and the establishment reside at Stanley; there is also an able medical man...

The lands on sale by this Company are well adapted to small farmers possessed of some means; there are no rents, tithes or taxes, and a constant sale for farm produce seldom below English prices. Persons of this description would do well with families partly grown up, or accompanied by one or two steady labourers.”

In case the readers did not believe this, the Company published a letter a week later “from a gentleman who went out from Shropshire two or three years ago and who has erected a very tasteful cottage residence at Stanley” and who glowed about the delights of Stanley: –

“All proper means should be taken to make the place known as much as possible ... for how many thousands are there in England who would fly to this part of the world if they did but know the advantages this country offers. Land, equal to the best in England, being bought at a mere nominal price (5s *per* acre, payable by gradual instalments), no rates or taxes, and all English goods imported nearly duty free; the produce of the soil, and the prices it obtains, are fully equal to that in England... Strangers arriving here generally

²⁵ Papers relative to Emigration to the North American colonies, Parliamentary Papers xxxiii, 1852 p 17.

²⁶ H M Colvin, *History of Deddington*, 1963, p 76, quoted in the *Diaries of William Cotton Risley, Vicar of Deddington, 1835-48* (Banbury Historical Society vol 29) p 176.