

distance of thirty-two miles, was often made on foot, for prior to 1850, there were few horses in the settlement.

The early unfavorable reports sent home by the discouraged ones, very naturally tended, for some years, to deter others from following; and, until 1850, their numbers were not much increased. After that time, owing to the better and nearer markets, and afterward the outbreak of the Crimean War, and the consequent rise in the price of wheat, at that time the principal product in the New Glarus settlement, a steady acquisition of emigration from Switzerland was received each year, and that mostly of a class who possessed means to buy land and stock, and make needful improvements.

At length the long toiled-for result, so anxiously hoped for, yet so long doubted and despaired of by some, was realized beyond expectation. Strong and self-reliant, the colony is not only a success, but is a standing proof of what a small amount of money, well directed and expended, may do to better the condition of the honest poor of over-crowded cities, towns and localities in the Old and New World. The money expended has long since been refunded, so that in fact the founding of this colony cost literally nothing, while the benefit to thousands has been priceless.

Owing to the fact that the cheap lands have all been taken up, and there being little disposition to sell among those possessing landed estates, immigration has now almost altogether ceased. On the other hand, many young men, far more in number than the original colonists, have gone to the fertile prairies of the West, in some instances again forming small colonies; but many have dispersed, each striking out for himself.

Many of those first comers, who had nothing but their poverty and their willing hands, are now not only in good circumstances, but wealthy. And all, without exception, of those who retained and practiced the old-time habits of industry, economy, and, above all, sobriety, are much better off than it would ever have been possible for them to have become in the country they left, to which, though dear the memory be, few would return to stay. And little need is there to return, for here the Swiss finds everything he left at home, language, people, and customs the same,