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"THIS IS TRUE LIBERTY, WHEN FREEBORN MEN—HAVING TO ADVISE THE PUBLIC, MAY SPEAK FREE."—EURIPIDES.

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'GET THEE OUT OF THY COUNTRY.'

It was a circumstance likely to tell most significantly on the mind of the poor immigrant at Sydney, when, as he himself said after his first morning walk along the streets, 'I have passed twenty-six houses, and heard the hissing of the frying-pan at seventeen.' The proportion of 'meat breakfasts' is somewhat different at home. The emigration question is primarily a bread-and-cheese question. We are concerned to know by what means a sufficiency of the first necessities of life may be best secured for those able and willing to work.—Emigration is advocated also as a means of diminishing certain social evils which exist in the mother country; but here, it appears to us, that we are on less firm ground. The addition of a thousand a-day to the population, if it be an evil at all, is evidently one which could only be remedied by an efflux to the same amount—which no one has ever pretended to think practicable for a continuance. Neither has it ever been shown that, in the case of a great emigration, the missing numbers would not be replaced quite as rapidly as they were taken away. After all, it may be gravely doubted if the present rapid increase of the population would take place (looking merely to human motives and conditions) if it really were such an evil as to demand such a remedy. We can believe, however, that there may be an increasing population not unjustified by the circumstances of the country; and yet it may be well for many individuals, and for many large classes of the people, to be continually draining off into other lands—where, from the greater facility of raising food, and the infantine state of competition, it is more easy for averagely-constituted persons to live. Let it be regarded as merely a matter of choice, whether one is to struggle on here for moderate results, and always with something of a difficulty, or to try to plant himself in a scene where nature, having fewer to supply, has more to give to each, and emigration may still be recommended as an important principle in domestic economics, even though it should promise nothing like political benefits.

Emigration, after a lull of some years, has of late come into new notice and discussion, in consequence of the temporary difficulties of the mother country. There is now some prospect, if not of the establishment of a systematic plan under the care of government, at least of arrangements of a comprehensive nature, in which companies, and perhaps colonial governments, will be concerned, for allowing a stream of population to pass from this to other lands under the most favourable circumstances. Already, through the favour of private enterprise alone, an unprecedented emigration is going on, the number who left the United Kingdom last year being 280,000; a fact which powerfully shows the inclination of the masses to cut the Gordian knot of our many social and political questions in an entirely new field of enterprise. There is no reason—there cannot for many years be any reason—why the inclination should not have free way, but rather the reverse; for the exodus is better at once for those who go and those who remain. All that is required is, that we consider which is the best receptacle for our departing brethren, and which are the best arrangements for facilitating their departure, their passage, and their new settlement.

On the first of these points there is fortunately little room for doubt; Australia presents itself as the only one of the colonies where there is now a positive craving or demand for fresh population. Canada has the advantage of nearness, allowing of a brief and cheap passage; but the multitudes lately propelled upon its shores—chiefly poor Irish—are stated to have been found an inconvenience, and many have never got beyond the hospitals and workhouses raised for their reception. We observe that measures are in the course of being taken for carrying backward and settling such emigrants as hereafter may land in Canada. Still, Canada cannot compete with Australia as a field for emigrants, either with regard to existing circumstances, or the absolute respective merits of the two countries. All accounts testify to the extraordinary salubrity of the latter region, its qualities as a field for pastoral farming, and its mineral treasures. There cannot now, we believe, be any sort of doubt that the settlers are realising excellent returns for their wool, of which the annual importation into England amounts to 21,000,000 lbs. They led a rough, but cheerful life, apparently little sensible to any inconvenience but that of wanting a sufficiency of hands to tend and manage their numerous flocks.—There is something astounding in the abundance of food in proportion to population in Australia. In New South Wales, where the people number 180,000, the cattle are two, and the sheep eight millions, being at the rate of thirteen head of oxen and fifty sheep for each person! Such facts recall the patriarchal times,

when having a large family was that which enabled a man boldly to meet his enemy in the gates. It was calculated that, in 1847, while the wool was gathered and sent away, 64,000,000 lbs. of meat would be wasted for want of mouths to eat it, being probably more than is consumed annually by the whole mass of the working-people of Scotland! Well has it been observed in a recent publication, 'There meat is wasted—here men are wasting. Human skeletons pine here for what fattened dogs reject there.' The same writer adds—'In Ireland, a scanty meal at 2d. or 2½d. per day was doled out [during the famine] to sustain life. In New South Wales, the unskilled labourer, full fed with ample rations, supplied with a dwelling and garden, found in tea, sugar, milk, and tobacco, disdains to work under 2s. 6d. a-day besides.' The common wages of sheep-shearers in Australia are, or were lately, 12s. 6d. a-day; of reapers, 10s.; whilst shepherds and ordinary labourers receive from L.25 to L.30 per annum; besides lodging and rations much above any style of living known by the same class in this country. The whole facts concur to paint Australia as the paradise of the poor immigrant.

Undoubtedly, while Australia remains in this condition, it were a pity to prefer Canada, merely for the saving of a month or two of voyage, and of a few pounds of passage-money. The government contract price of passage to New South Wales for a grown person was last year L.12, 10s.; while the usual passage to Canada may be about L.5. This is a difference which a fortnight's wages in the former country would suffice to extinguish. But merely to state the comparative expense of the voyage is not enough. We must remember that to land in Canada is only to accomplish a part of the migration necessary before arriving at a field of profitable usefulness in that direction. A long journey is necessary besides, and, after all, some time may elapse before remunerative labour can be commenced. In Australia such drawbacks exist, if at all, in a very much less degree.

We have not merely to look to the class of emigrants who propose to pay their own way, but to schemes for gratuitous emigration, which many are now regarding as important to the welfare of the mother country.—Here, emigration being in some degree under the care of enlightened intellects, it is possible to adjust it according to certain approved principles, and to give it a direction and a character subservient to highly important ends. In viewing the matter, we would point out, in the first place, that emigration is only a step in the larger concern of colonisation. What is to be done is to form a new society as complete as possible in all its parts in another land. Men of capital and men of labour ought to go in just proportions. While, on the one hand, it were an injustice to the home country to drain away only the young and vigorous, it were, on the other, a fatal policy towards the new country to pour in upon it hordes of people inferiorly constituted, and not likely to adapt themselves to its rough work. Not only is it wrong to send a multitude of the criminal class, insuring the new society a low moral stamp, but some caution should be exercised regarding even those who are only paupers; because it is, in the main, the feeblest portion of every community who fall into that state, and the chances are against their children being equal to those individuals who have maintained their independence. It is necessary to be explicit on this point; because parish authorities have been called upon for draughts for workhouses to be sent to the colonies.—There must of course be many resting on parish assistance who would make good colonists; but let care be taken that such are selected. Persons of a firm, enterprising and independent character, not refined, but strictly moral, are those who should emigrate. We cannot see any reason why members of the nobility and landed gentry, following the illustrious examples of Raleigh, Penn, and Lord Baltimore, should not gracefully put themselves at the head of schemes of colonisation, and superintend their execution. By the personal attention of parties superior to mean jobbing views, an ample guarantee would be offered to individuals, even to those who give no immediate payment for their own transport, that they would be treated with humanity on their passage, and not left desolate on their arrival in the new country. At present, the poor emigrants proceeding to Canada are subject to intolerable misery during the voyage; and when they land, it is but as a chance, and as a matter of charity, that any care is taken of them. In the Australian vessels, which are under the orders of government, things are better ordered, which is an argument in favour of this business not being entirely left to private enterprise.

There have been various suggestions as to the best means of promoting emigration on a large and national scale. It has been proposed, for instance, to have a

body of disciplined pioneers in Canada, four thousand strong, who, while serving as a military force to protect the country, should be steadily employed in preparing clearings and house-accommodation for immigrants; the expenses to be defrayed by payments from the settlers, after they should have begun to prosper. This is, we believe, the idea of the benevolent naturalist, Mr. William Spence; and when we remember what wonders General Wade performed with the soldiery in the Highlands during the last century, we feel inclined to think that even the ordinary military force in Canada might serve such a purpose without materially interfering with their other duties. Mr. Spence calculates that, if government war-steamers were employed, poor families could be removed to Canada at the rate of L.3 for each person. He allows L.5 for seed and potatoes and the few articles of furniture required, and L.10 more for food to serve from spring till the crop could be got in, and arrives at the conclusion that L.45 is the utmost that need be advanced to place a destitute family in a position to provide amply for its support. At three per cent., this outlay would only infer a burden of L.1, 7s. per annum on the settler, until he should have realised enough to pay off the debt. We feel at a loss to pronounce on such plans: but though entertaining a general distrust of arrangements which go so far to supersede individual energy, we shall quote another which the 'Spectator,' in publishing it, describes as suggested by 'a gentleman of great intelligence and experience, who is practically acquainted with some of our most important colonies,' while 'his high position enables him to take a commanding survey, and his post is of a nature to elevate him above partial interests.' 'The New South Wales Act (stat. 9 Geo. IV. c. 83) authorises agreements to be entered into, in this country, with persons desirous to emigrate to that colony. If, then, government would empower the agent for New South Wales, by himself, or any others duly authorised by him (such authority to be evidenced by the agent's signature to the contract), to agree with those desirous to emigrate, but who have not the means, on behalf of the Governor and Legislative Council of New South Wales for the time being, to provide such persons with a passage, and on their arrival with employment, at the wages say of L.25 per annum and rations, for three years, on the one hand; and that the emigrant, on the other, should bind himself to render all due service, &c. and to permit, say L.5 in each year during the above period, to be deducted from his wages, for the payment of his passage-money; the cost of removal would be fully reimbursed; and the labourer still be in a much better position than he could have been had he remained at home. Instructions might be given by the colonial minister for the issue of debentures, charged on all the colonial revenues, and payable in three years (bearing interest), to discharge the passage-money; and also for the local legislature to enact all necessary laws for the employment and regulation of such emigrants, either in private service, or in default of it, in improving waste lands about to be sold (and thus increasing their value,) or in public works. But whether the emigrant be engaged in public service, the local government should pay weekly to the emigrant his stipulated wages (subject to a proportionate deduction for the payment of his passage-money); and in case of the emigrant being in private service, the local government should look to his employer for reimbursement; thus freeing the emigrant from all risk.' Our only objection to any arrangement of this nature is, the possibility that emigrants would fail to work out their engagements. Seized with a fit of caprice, they might leave the colony for some new field of enterprise, unless prevented by certain legal restrictions, which it would be difficult and unpopular to enforce. If this practical, and, as we think, serious impediment be got over, the plan is eminently worthy of support.

With regard to all general organisations for emigration, the public should be prepared to make allowances for possible failures, and even for the occurrence of many cases of individual suffering. Some years ago, a benevolent body called the Children's Friend Society, busied itself in taking waif and destitute children off the streets, educating and reforming them, and then sending them out to serve the colonists at the Cape of Good Hope. A runaway boy came back to London, and stated that he had been ill-treated by his master.—Instantly the newspapers raised a howl of indignation against the whole practice of the Society, which broke it up, and thus an admirable charity, the forerunner of our Ragged Schools, was extinguished. This is a specimen of rash blame by no means uncommon. The responsible party may have saved an immense quantity of misery which formerly existed, and only failed in such amounts of exception as belong to all great rules. Those who could view the entire misery unmoved, and