

Emigrant's Inheritance 1850

*The Settler's New Home ; Or Whether To Go, And Whither ?
Being A Guide To Emigrants in The Selection of A Settlement, and The Preliminary details of
The Voyage.*

*Embracing The Whole Fields of Emigration, and The Most Recent Information Relating
There To.*

Sidney Smith.

Hackney'd in business, wearied at that oar,
Which thousands, once fast chain'd to, quit no more,
But which, when life at ebb runs weak, and low,
All wish, or seem to wish, they could forego ;
The statesman, lawyer, merchant, man of trade,
Pants for the refuge of some rural shade.

Companions For The Voyage, The Hut, And The Frame House.

The Emigrant may be removed from society without being deprived of companions. Even if he sequesters himself from the company of the living, he may have on the lonely ocean, the distant prairie, or in the solitary wood, communion with those who never die. The mind, for want of a better social circle, has been glad in the sea calm, or at the cattle station, to pore over a series of old almanacks. Before it be too late we would warn emigrants to provide against solitude by securing to themselves the intercourse of books, of which the best happen also to be the cheapest. In the colonies they will always sell for double what they cost in the mother country, while the purchaser has had the use of them into the bargain. To supply this desideratum we have requested our publisher to select a list of books from his stock suitable for settlers, and to append their prices. These will be found at the end of the volume.

It is not unreasonably made a charge against political economists, that they are not agreed as to their objects, and that they are singularly indefinite in the application of their principles. They aim at an arithmetical exactitude which is not compatible with a due consideration of the disturbing causes which must invalidate their calculations ; or else they exclude from the operation of the science, moral and political influences, without the consideration of which it is of little practical value. Some keep in view solely the *production* of wealth,—others assign more importance to its *distribution* ;—not a few regard only the *power*, and *greatness* of a kingdom ;—wiser men look rather to the diffusion of the general *happiness* of its subjects,—the wisest, test economical theories solely by their capacity for enlarging the contentment, security, and comfort of the whole human family.

Your rule-of-three statistician has got hold of a phrase about productive labourers and unproductive consumers, upon which he rings the changes of his political arithmetic, with much *self*-satisfaction, and with little to any body else. All that he cannot post in a ledger he regards as loss. All that he can enter in a day book, he reckons as a gain. The more intelligent statist regards a great poet, a fine composer, an inspired painter, or orator, or sculptor, or moralist, or philosopher,—the men who have made the people of England that which distinguishes them from the Kalmuck or the Cossack,—as more productive than a thousand steam engines, or ten thousand power looms. The weaver can indeed warp and woof threads into cloth, and the artizan can hammer iron into tools ; but the statesman, the artist, the man

of science, the moral teacher, the public writer, can breathe into crude humanity the breath of life, and make of it a living soul, and call an Athens, a Rome, a Paris, a London, out of the Serbonian bog of chaotic barbarism, and bring it into the light of civilization. The mechanic who can make a compass, or the sailor who can haul a rope, is more arithmetically productive than the man who discovered the principle of the attraction of the needle to the pole, or the application of steam to navigation ; but for all that, he who can put types together scarcely does as much for the world as the inventor of the art of printing. The wealth of nations is not to be estimated by that alone which can be put on paper ; nor is a balance sheet, or columns of £. s. d. the proper measure of the power, riches, or happiness of an empire.

It is on this account that the value of colonies to the mother country cannot be ascertained by a mere debtor and creditor account. We do not get at the bottom of this controversy by finding that the government of Canada costs Britain £2,000,000,—that the profit on the goods we sell her is only one million and a half, and that we therefore lose half a million by the connexion. Nor, on the other hand, have we proved that it is better for our outlying provinces, and for this our central kingdom, that the former should be set adrift, by showing that the United States cost us a great deal while they were dependences of the British crown,—that at present they cost us nothing, while they take from us ten times the amount of manufactures they ever did before, and that they are ten times as populous, and ten times as wealthy as they were while they were mere colonies. Had they never been British colonies, protected and fostered by the crown, they would never have become a great Anglo-Saxon republic. Had George III., listening to the prophetic wisdom of Chatham, had the sagacity to have conferred upon the various provinces the blessings of political independence, and that local self government, which is no less our constitutional policy than the source of public spirit, individual development, and social activity, America might now have been as great as a colony, as she now is as a separate republic, and might still be the pride and strength of Britain, in place of being our rival in commerce, manufactures and politics, and our often threatened antagonist in war. Dependent upon her for cotton, she may one day shut up every mill in Lancashire, and by some gigantic effort, manufacture for the world, in our stead ; and had she been at this moment a dependency of ours, she could not have assailed us with a hostile tariff, which, while it inflicts mischief on her own people, deprives England of a market for at least £20,000,000 worth of manufactures *per annum*. What, indeed, is it that has made and continues the greatness of the United States, except that, speaking our language, adopting our institutions, assimilating our jurisprudence, forming her public opinion upon our literature, our people make her, in fact, the chief of our colonies, by annually migrating to and subduing her wastes,—adding to her capital, executing her public works, and feeding her labour market with supplies, and her navy with sailors, without which she would make but small appreciable progress. What is it that makes Canada a burden upon rather than an aid to the imperial treasury, but the two-fold fact that the United States are not now a British Colony, but a “sympathiser” with the discontents of our subjects, and that we have too long withheld from our Acadian possessions those powers of self-government to the want of which alone our colonial governors attribute their inferiority to the neighbouring republic.

If we had not taken possession of the Cape, Natal, New Zealand, Australia, Van Diemen’s Land, of Ceylon, the Mauritius, they must have been seized by other potentates, and could never have become places for the settlement of British subjects. We would thereby have lost these outlets for our redundant population, our surplus labour, or our superfluous energy. If our people had located themselves in these districts, the common obligation under which every country rests to protect its own subjects, would render it imperative on us to defend them in their possessions,—just as we send out fleets to protect our commerce, and to convoy our shipping. If we turn them adrift, because, on a calculation of mere arithmetical profit and

loss, they are found to be chargeable to us, we must maintain them in their independence until they are able to protect themselves, and when they can do that, they would cease to be a burden on our finances, even if they were continued among the number of our dependences. There is not a colony we possess that could maintain its own independence against 10,000 European troops for a month after we had abandoned its sovereignty ; and as a mere common sense proposition it is obvious, that whatever expense our interference might incur, we could not stand by and we even a minority of our fellow countrymen conquered and subjected to the dictation of a foreign power. Cromwell, at a cost of millions, vindicated the rights of a single British subject. Wherever an Englishman goes, there the majesty of England must be with him We recognize the duty of spending millions upon the mitigation of Irish distress ; we pay six millions every year to feed and clothe 1,900,000 English paupers who are totally unproductive. Shall we admit our obligation to support domestic beggary, and deny the duty of encouraging the efforts of the enterprising, energetic and industrious, to maintain themselves, subdue the wilderness, extend our empire, and increase the productiveness of our dominions ? In short, shall our paupers alone have claims upon us, while our colonists are to be deserted ? Two hundred and sixty thousand of us expatriate ourselves every year, to make room for others at home, to be no longer a burden upon us ; to help us, it may be, to more employment in their customs, in their shipping, in their exports and imports. How much greater would be our distress and competition, our pauperism, if these remained in the mother country.

The question of colonization is indeed a very distinct one from that of our existing management of our colonies. Give to each of them an independent government, and a domestic legislature, owning only like our own, the common sovereignty of the British crown. Why pay governors, and deputy governors, bishops and judges ? May colonists not have their own president, and vice president ? their own religious instructors ? their own judges and jurisprudence ? If they cannot all at once pay their own expences, help them until they can, as we do many of our own provincial domestic institutions. The Home Office does not rule the Irish Unions because it helps them to a grant, or a rate in aid. It does not preside in the town council of Edinburgh, because it pays half the debts of the municipality. Neither is it right to keep colonies in the leading strings of Earl Grey and Mr. Hawes, because they are compelled to creep before they can walk. There is scarcely ever a private commercial enterprise that is self-supporting at the first. The capitalist must long lie out of interest before he can look for returns,—and so must a nation. But the sooner colonies are endowed with self-government, the earlier will they be self-supporting.

But is it so certain that even under the existing vicious system, our colonies are oven a *pecuniary* loss to us ? The wealth of the Indies is saved to be spent in England. The West India trade and fleet, the New Zealand and Australian and Canadian timber, and wool, and minerals, and shipping, and flax, and tallow, and oil, are they nothing to our maritime interests, our merchants, and bankers, and manufacturers ? Cut us off from all these, and where would be Leadenhall Street, and Lombard Street, and Broad Street ; Liverpool, and Bristol, Manchester, the Clyde, and the Thames ? Compared with the population, Holland is richer than England. Yet what is Batavia politically, socially, morally, in the world's eye, to the leading power of Europe,—and to what account does she turn her capital ? But for the elastic enterprise, the inventive fertility of mercantile resources, the restless spirit of adventure, the unceasing energy of speculation which bear us onward under the inspiration of the aphorism, “ never venture, never win,” what would there be to distinguish England from Germany, or Spain, or Italy ? And what fosters that sentiment of universality and grandeur of endeavour which is our characteristic, if it be not the extension of our name, race, language, and empire over the world ? It is of no consequence arithmetically to us, whether a great number of private capitalists sustain heavy losses by foreign speculation, or the amount be

taken from the public treasury. Either way it is a deduction from the national wealth. We have lost far more by United States' banks and stocks, by Spanish Bonds, by foreign railways, and continental ventures, than the whole cost of our colonial government. Yet upon the whole we gain by the world in place of losing by it ; the state must not make itself the judge of the enterprise of its subjects, and it must follow and help them wherever their energy or interest load them.

Trade begets trade. In searching for one adventure, our supercargoes and ship-captains find out another. A single cargo of a strange article, brought home in desperation for want of other freight, often lays the foundation of an enormous branch of new commerce. We fish for whales at the Bay of Islands, and find out flax, and gum, and ship-spars, and manganese at Wellington and Auckland. We begin by banishing our criminals to Australia and Van Diemon's Land, and end by becoming independent of Saxony for wool, and by finding coal to carry our steamers to Singapore, and Bombay, and the Cape, as a halfway house to Europe. Do we owe nothing to posterity ? Is our money of no use to mankind, but to be kept in the money bags ? Are we born only for ourselves ? Shall we be called the foremost men in all the world, and do nothing *for* the world ? Let England set her mark upon the earth to fructify and bless it. Half a million souls we bring annually into the world. Year by year, interest on compound interest is heaped upon our teeming population. What can become of them, what shall we do with them if we keep them all here ? " Home-keeping youth have ever homely wits." A family is chargeable. Shall we therefore deny the proposition of Benedick that,

" The world must be peopled."

No—if colonies cost us too much, let us retrench—if they do not " get on," let us confer upon them the powers of self-government to energize them into self-reliance ;—if the colonial office mismanages, let the colonists manage their own affairs, and pay for it. But we need new fields of commerce—fresh subjects of trade—new homes for our over-crowded people, and therefore let us have colonies and keep them.

The time should teach us a solemn lesson. We have become every year more dependent on the continent of Europe for trade and custom. To what alone can we trace our present depressed, almost prostrate condition ? The wars and disorders of our European customers have robbed them of their means of purchase, or rendered them no longer trustworthy debtors for goods. Should the flame of war burst out over the old world, we shall find ourselves with half a million of additional hands yearly to find food and work for, and fewer safe customers than ever. Mr. Mackay warns us that the vast mineral resources of Pennsylvania, combined with the exhaustless water power and raw material of manufacture with which the United States abound, will speedily convert the transatlantic republic into a most formidable, and invincible manufacturing, and commercial rival of England. With Europe at war, and America for a competitor, where will our safety be, if not in finding customers in our colonies ? Universal Peace may come before the Greek Kalends, and anticipate by centuries the Day of Pentecost ; but our wants are urgent, and our necessities immediate. We must find work and raiment, and food NOW, in this very year of War, Pestilence, and Famine, of Irish depopulation, and all but English ruin. If we had *no* taxes, we must still seek trade, customers, elbow-room, and employment. And we repeat, with dangerous commercial rivals, and distracted Europe, where are we to find consumers, outlet, and provision for our increasing numbers, except in Emigration and in Colonies ?

London, August, 1849,
4, Charlotte Row.

NOTICE—CANADA.

The ninth number of the Circular of the Emigration Commissioners, announces that affairs in our North American Colonies are in a state of depression, and that the demand for labour has, in consequence of a suspension of the execution of public works, fallen off, although agriculture and farming settlers are in a state of steadily progressive prosperity. This is therefore the very time for the migration thither of all classes of settlers. When everything is in a state of plethoric efflorescence in a colony, the interest of money falls, cleared land advances extravagantly in price, provisions are dear, and wages far too high for the permanent advantage either of the capitalist or the labourer. To men, indeed, seeking employment as artizans in the towns, the present will be an unfavourable period for emigration to Canada, but all who desire to, settle on land will find numberless clearings and farms of all kinds remarkably cheap, and the cost of subsistence uncommonly low. Stock, grain, agricultural implements, log huts, frame houses, mills, may now be had at cheap rates, and twenty shillings will go as far at present as forty shillings did ten years ago. The abundant supply of labour at reasonable rates, is a circumstance highly favourable to agricultural enterprize, and capitalists cannot fell by seizing the present golden opportunity greatly to better their fortunes.

The probability of the early execution of a main trunk of railway through the chief districts of the colony, is a consideration of no mean importance either to labourers or to capitalists.

We observe that the number of emigrants from the United Kingdom is only 248,089, against 258,270 last year. There has been an increase of settlers to the United States of 46,079, and to Australia of 18,955, the decrement amounting to 68,615, being confined to our North American colonies. We are corroborated in our favourable opinion of the western portion of Upper Canada by every fresh inquiry we have the opportunity to make, and the recent answers we receive to questions relative to the climate, continue to be more and more satisfactory.

The immediate prospect of a reaction towards war all over Europe, will give a fresh and great stimulus to emigration, and we should therefore advise all who meditate the step of proceeding to the colonies, to hasten their departure, so that they may arrive before the best locations are bought up.

We cannot issue this edition to the public without acknowledging our obligations to the various authors to whose works we have been chiefly indebted. The “Emigrant’s Journal” we are especially bound to recommend to all intending emigrants, as a most valuable reporter of colonial information. Mr. Byrne, Mr. Mathew, Mr. Wilkinson, Mr. Earp, Mr. Gray Smith, and others, have also supplied much useful instruction, of which we have freely availed ourselves.

We are also bound to express our gratitude to the conductors of the periodical press, for the kindly and liberal spirit in which they have noticed the work—to which, much of its great success is to be attributed.

It will be seen that the present edition contains many important additions—and it is our intention, should our anticipations of establishing the work, as a standard book of reference on the subject of emigration, be realized, to spare no labour which may conduce to its completeness, and to render it a volume in which the most recent and authentic information in reference to every colony may always be found.

We have had access to the most certain and exclusive sources of information, official and private. We have been guided by the strictest and most disinterested impartiality ; and have always written under the sense of the deep responsibility which all should feel, who undertake to advise our fellow countrymen in reference to a step which involves such important personal results, as the the of British families for their whole lives.

We have also been solicitous to render the work accessible to the humblest classes of the people, by fixing its price at the lowest barely remunerating cost.

To the perfect completeness of the subject, it was necessary that we should exhaust the question of Home Colonization, and the prospects of the Mother Country.

Of the interesting topics of entail, primogeniture, small freeholds, spade husbandry, taxation, poor-laws, jurisprudence, land titles, and other cognate objects of enquiry, we have accordingly undertaken to treat in a separate volume, to which we shall earnestly solicit the attention of those, who, having been interested by the following pages, may feel inclined to accompany the author through a not less important field of enquiry.

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If that which is true cannot be profane, Voltaire may almost be pardoned for the sentiment, “ If God did not exist, it would be necessary to invent Him.” “ Man never *is*, but always to *be* blest ;” he cannot live in the now and the here ; he must fill the heart’s aching void with a heaven and a hereafter. So little to the meditative “ in this life only is there hope,” so soon to the reflective and spiritual do “ the evil days draw nigh” in which they are constrained to say in weariness of very life, “ they have no pleasure in them ;” that without the assurance of a God, a heaven, and immortality, earth would be but one vast bedlam. In an inferior but analogous sense what immortality is to time, foreign lands are to space. Colonies are “ the world beyond the grave” of disappointed hopes. The antipodes are the terrestrial future, the sublunary heaven of the unsuccessful and the dissatisfied. The weaver in his Spitalfields garret who tries to rusticate his fancy by mignonette in his window-box, and bees in the eaves, bathes his parched soul in visions of prairie flowers, and a woodbine cabin beside Arcadian cataracts. The starving peasant whose very cottage is his master’s, who tills what he can never own, who poaches by stealth to keep famine from his door, and whose over-laboured day cannot save his hard-earned sleep from the nightmare of the workhouse, would often become desperate, a lunatic, or a broken man, but for the hope that he may one day plant his foot on his own American freehold, plough his own land, pursue the chase without a license through the plains of Illinois or the forests of Michigan, and see certain independence before himself and his children. The industrious tradesman, meritorious merchant, or skilful and enlightened professional man, jerked perhaps by the mere chance of the war of competition out of his parallelogram, and exhausting his strength and very life in the vain struggle to get back again into a position already filled ; compelled by the tyranny of social convention to maintain appearances unsuited to the state of his purse ; plundered by bankrupt competitors or insolvent customers, and stripped of his substance by high prices and oppressive taxation, would often become the dangerous enemy of society or of government, but for the consideration that, in South Africa, in America, in Australia, or New Zealand, he may find repose from anxiety in independence, rude and rough though it may be, emancipation from the thralldom of convention, and an immunity from any compulsion to keep up appearances, and to seem to be what he is not. “ I care nothing,” said the French king, “ for these clubs, plots, attempts upon my life ; but I have thirty-four millions of restless spirits to find food and employment for, and I have no colonies.” The redundant enterprise ; the surplus energy : the fermenting spirit of adventure with which the population of those

kingdoms teems, would, like the figure of sin in Milton, have long since turned inward to gnaw the vitals of its parent, but for the “ ample scope and verge enough” it finds in the romantic life of our sailors, or the trials, perils, hopes and fortunes of emigration. “ Ships and colonies,” the time-honoured toast of monopolists, have stopped many an *emeute*, and saved many a rebellion. We are not sure that they have not more than once averted a revolution. Hampden, Pym, and Cromwell, turned back by a king’s warrant from the emigrant ship in which they had already embarked, remained to decapitate their sovereign, and establish a commonwealth. The unsettled boil off their superfluous mischief in the prospect of a fixed home in the bush or the backwoods ; the discontented find comfort and rest in the conviction that “ there is another and a better world” in the genial south, or the region of the setting sun. It is always in our seasons of greatest commercial distress and social privation that the largest export of emigrants takes place. The misery and disaffection which otherwise would make themselves formidable to constituted authority, hive off into the repose of peregrine settlements, and, sluicing themselves into new channels, save the overflow of the parent stream.

The wandering Arab, the vagrant gipsy, the restless discoverer and circumnavigator, the pioneer of the backwoods, who no sooner has civilized the forest and the prairie, by the plough, and the enclosure, and human habitations, than he disposes of his home, and hews out for himself further and still further removed from man, and settled society, a new resting place in the remote woods, these are all but types of an instinct and rooted tendency in human character, which, if it do not find its natural outlet in colonial settlements and naval enterprise, will invent the occupation it cannot find, in disturbing the peace and interrupting the order of our domestic social fabric. If we do not make war upon the forest we will make war upon mankind ; if we do not subdue the wilderness, we will conquer one another. It is in vain that we call upon the governing power to employ our people at home, and to reclaim our own waste lands rather than send our necessitous abroad. Few colonists leave their country without the mixed motive of necessity and inclination. The love of the romance of adventure is strong in many of the rudest and apparently least imaginative minds. There is an instinct of vagabondism, so to speak, in many otherwise well regulated intellects, which must find its vent in wandering over the face of the earth. The drudgery, the want of elbow room, the absence of property in the soil one tills, rob a holding on the moor of Scotland, or the bogs of Ireland, of everything which can satisfy the activity and energy of the men whose tendencies present the best materials for colonization. And whatever may be the interest of the government or of the settled community in this regard, it partakes somewhat of mere sentimental cant to pity the hard necessity which drives the poor from misery at home, to colonial independence, and deprives the peasantry of the privilege of starving in their native parish that they may leaven the primeval curse with its promise of daily bread, in the abundance of a foreign location.

Let this sentiment be examined by the manly common sense of the country, not whined over by its Pecksniffs, and made the hobby horse of antiquated prejudice, and sentimental humbug. Every soldier, every sailor, including members of the highest and richest classes of society, is liable to expatriation at any time the duties of the service render it necessary he should go on a foreign station or on a lengthened cruise. Tho whole civil officers of our colonies, embracing Hudson’s Bay and Sierra Leone, Calcutta and Jamaica, sustain a virtual banishment from home, and the perils of the most rigorous climates, added, in many cases, to imminent danger from the barbarity of savage aborigines. The merchant who sends his sons abroad to establish foreign houses, and open up new channels of commerce, is driven to that necessity by the absence of any proper opening for them at home. The squire who exports his brothers to the East Indies, provided with a cadetship, or a writership, the lord who places his relatives at the head of a colony of tenants, to fell the woods of Canada or pasture the plains of Australia, are consulting the real interests, not only of the mother country, but of the

objects of their care. It is not the rulers who misgovern us, or the legislator's who mismanage our affairs, upon whom are made to fall the consequences of their folly or corruption. It is the industry and labour of the country which, at the bottom, have to sustain the whole burden of maintaining all the other orders of society. It is the working classes who produce every thing by which all others profit, or are sustained in their position. The operatives and the peasantry are the real honey bees to whom the hive owes all its stores ; they ultimately make the wealth by which the £10,000,000 of our poor-rates are found, they sustain the burden of finding food and lodging for the 81,000 Irish vagrants who even now cast themselves on the eleemosynary compassion of the metropolis. Upon their wages fall the depreciation produced by the competition of a redundant population. Out of their ten fingers, sweat and muscle, must be ground the local and imperial taxes, wasted in the prosecution of crime, caused by want or ignorance, or the abandonment of children by their parents. So long as a man can maintain himself and those for whose support he has made himself responsible, no one has a right to dictate to him either his mode of occupation or his locality of life. But when, either by misfortune, or his own fault, he has to call upon his fellow labourers to support him as well as themselves, then he gives a title to society to say to him as well as to the soldier, the sailor, the sprig of quality, or the farmer, " You are not wanted here, go thou there where thou *art* wanted."

This is not a dispensation of rose water and pink satin. Here is no Lubberland, wherein geese ready roasted, fly into our mouths, quacking, " Come eat me !" It is a hard, working-day, unideal world, full of forge culm, and factory smoke. The millions of our towns and cities have to go into unwilling exile from honeysuckle, swallow-twittering eaves and meadow scented air. The chief ruler among us is the hardest worker of us all ; nor can one easily conceive of a life more approximating to a cross betwixt that of a gin-horse and the town-crier, than a Lord High Chancellor or a hamster in full practice. Paley could not afford to keep conscience, and mankind cannot indulge in the luxury of mere sentimental patriotism. Nostalgia is a most expensive disease ; home sickness a most thriftless virtue ; and the most elevated sentiment sinks into sentimentality when it is indulged at other people's cost. And when this attachment to father-land becomes mere " sorning" upon useful industry at the sacrifice of that manly independence without which the expatriation of the citizen would be the gain of the community, it ceases to command respect or merit sympathy. It is a very small portion of the population of any country which can consult their taste, or study the fancy of their mere inclinations, either in the choice of an occupation, or the selection of their local habitation. Least of all should those dictate to the toil worn but independent sons of labour the condition on which they shall sustain the burden of their subsistence.

There are tens of thousands of the children of this country, who, either abandoned by or bereft of their parents, or worse still, taught to lie and steal, are let loose upon our streets, to find a living in begging or petty larceny. They have no home but the jail, the union, the penitentiary or the ragged school. Why should not society, in mercy to them and in justice to itself, gather all these together and help them, under careful superintendence, to colonize some of our healthy foreign possessions ? Besides the enormous masses of Irish vagrants and British mendicants, who infest every town and county in the kingdom, there are vast numbers of habitual paupers, maintained in all our unions, whose very condition is a virtual assertion, on their parts, that there are no means of finding for them regular and legitimate employment. If society offers to these men a good climate, a fertile soil, high wages, cheap living, a demand for labour, and good land for the tilling, what justice, sense or reason is there in permitting these objects of the public bounty to reject the means of independence, and to compel the people to continue to bear the charges of being their perpetual almoners ?

There are thirty one millions of us swarming in these islands, 265 to the square mile. We reproduce to the effect of a balance of births over deaths of 405,000 souls per annum ;

requiring, to preserve even the existing proportion betwixt territory and population, a yearly accession of soil to our area of 1754 square miles, of the average fertility of the kingdom, or an enlargement of our boundary equal, annually, to the space of two or three of our larger counties. In the single year ending 5th January, 1848, we were compelled to import no less than the enormous quantity of 12,360,008 quarters of corn, to supply the deficiency of our domestic production, which amounted to quite an average crop, and for this additional supply we had to pay £24,720,010

Live Animals 216,456	432,912
Meat 592,335 cwts	1,480,837
Butter 314,066 cwts	1,256,264
Cheese 355,243 cwts	888,132
Eggs 77,550, 429	1,292,507
Being an enormous aggregate of	£30,070,668

spent to meet our domestic deficiency of supply of the barest necessities of life. As our population, at its present point, will increase five millions in the next ten years, and proceed in a geometrical progression thereafter, it has become demonstrable that the plan of carrying the people to the raw material which is to be manufactured into food, is a wiser and more practicable proposition than that of bringing the food to the people in its manufactured state. By emigration they cease to be an element in the overcrowding of our numbers ; they go from where they are least, to where they are most wanted ; they are no longer each others' competitors in the labour market ; but speedily become mutual customers, and reciprocate the consumption of each others' produce. So long as it shall continue an essential feature of our constitutional policy to foster, by artificial enactments, an hereditary territorial aristocracy, the laws of primogeniture and entail will rapidly diminish the proportion of our population dependent on the possession or cultivation of the soil for their subsistence. Within the last fifty years the yeomanry and peasantry of the country have alarmingly decreased, not relatively merely to other classes, but absolutely (see Returns, pop. 1841, and Porter's Progress of the Nation,) and the great mass of our people are maintained on two or three branches of manufacturing and mining industry which, when they droop and languish, throw the whole kingdom into a state of turbulent discontent, and the most perilous distress. To maintain the producers of food in something like a fair proportion to the other classes of the community, it therefore becomes essential that the surplus population, in place of being forced into trading or manufacturing pursuits, should be drafted off into our colonies : and it is demonstrable that a large expenditure for the purposes of emigration, disbursed at the outset, will supersede the necessity of any future efforts, except such as voluntary enterprise can effectually supply. If half the annual ten millions of poors' rates levied in these kingdoms, were expended for four consecutive years, in transmitting to our foreign possessions those who are unable to maintain themselves and their families at home, colonization would, for ever after, be a self-supporting measure. Every man that locates himself in our colonies becomes the pioneer of his relatives and neighbours. He encourages them to follow by bearing his testimony to his own improved condition, by giving them information on which they can depend, in reference to climate and condition ; by offering them a home in his own cabin, till they can find one for themselves, and by sending them his surplus gains, to enable them to defray the expenses of the voyage. (Through Baring, Brothers alone upwards of half a million has been remitted for this purpose in twelve months, and a nearly equal amount through other houses.) Emigration emphatically grows by what it feeds on. 506,000 colonists who have last and this season taken with them probably £2,000,000 sterling, will earn four times that amount before a year has ended, and will remit quite as much as they have taken away in less than eighteen months. The expenditure of £10,000,000 in feeding the Irish people last year, ceases of its effect with the mere lapse of time, leaves the recipients of the imperial bounty

more dependent, and therefore more destitute than ever, and establishes a precedent for a renewal of government profusion, whenever the return of the potatoe rot, or a failing harvest, brings with it a renovation of the necessity for support. Paupers are not got rid of, but, on the contrary, are perpetuated by being relieved. The only effectual means of reducing pauperism is by colonizing paupers, sending them to new and fertile wilds, where food is redundant and labour scarce, from an old and settled country, where food is scarce and labour redundant. There let them increase and multiply, to make the wilderness and solitary places glad, and the desert to rejoice and blossom like the rose. When the whole parish of Cholesbury was occupied by two farmers, the peasantry having no interest in the soil, 119 were paupers out of 130 ; the farmers became bankrupt, the parson got no tithes. The Labourer's Friend Society divided the land among those very paupers in parcels of live to ten acres per family, and in four years the number of paupers was reduced to five decrepid and old women, and all the rest were in a high state of prosperity, affording even to pay a rate in aid to the neighbouring parish. As " faith without works is dead, being alone," so is land without labour, and labour without land. Bring these two together, and the earth is conquered, and the world served. Here we produce plenty for the back and little for the belly. There the stomach is filled, while

" Back and side go bare, head and feet go cold."

Nothing is wanted to complete the circle of mutual accommodation, but that dispersion of population, and diffusion of occupation which it is the object of emigration to effect.

Let us not then, whine over the mere unmanly and irrational sentimentalities of home and country. Reason and conscience are paramount to the tenderest associations of the heart. Independence is better than home " for behold the kingdom of heaven is within you ?" He best serves his country who serves mankind. The natural history of society shows human migration to be an instinct, and therefore a necessity. It is indeed by earthly agents that providence works its inflexible purposes ; but when, by some supernatural soliciting, we go forth to subdue the earth and make it fruitful, it is less in subjection to a hard necessity than in obedience to a law of nature, that hordes and tribes and races leave exhausted soils, or inhospitable regions, and wander westward to the region of the setting sun, or forsake the hyperborean tempest, for the climate of the milder south. Of all animals man alone has been framed with a constitution capable, universally, of having his *habitat* in any latitude ; and when he leaves scarcity behind him, and goes forth to adorn, with useful fruitfulness, the idle waste and inhospitable wild, he but fulfils the great object of his destiny. As then his Creator made him his heir of all the earth, let him enter with thankfulness upon the length and breadth of his goodly inheritance.

The Settler's New Home, Or, Whether to Go, and Whither? : Being a Guide to Emigrants in the ... (1850)

Author : Sid Smith, Smith , Sidney

Publisher : J. Kendrick

Year : 1850

Language : English Digitizing sponsor : Google

Book from the collections of : unknown library

Collection : americana

Notes : Parts one and two each have separate paging and distinctive title. Part one : The settler's new home; Part two : Whether to go and whither.

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