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INTRODUCTION.

ON THE CAUSES OF EMIGRATION.

THE first and by far the most prominent one is privation, and its consequent distress. The next, perhaps, is dissatisfaction under real or fancied political grievances. Some few emigrate for a warmer, dryer, or healthier climate, and others for no reason but a love of change.

Formerly religious persecution was the chief cause of expatriation, but happily that barbarous age is gone by; yet, unfortunately, there is another cause of late years in operation, although not of so violent a character, more dangerous from its insidious and constantly increasing power.

That this privation and distress should occur to thousands and tens of thousands, in a country the richest on earth, the most flourishing in arts, manufactures, commerce, and agriculture, is of so anomalous and glaring a character, that it forces itself on the attention of every one.

I have not the ability to exhibit a full elucidation of a cause of such magnitude; but as it has the effect of driving so many of my countrymen yearly into exile, I may be allowed a few words on the subject of this extraordinary state of things.

The chief source of the evils complained of, is the accumulating immense wealth into large masses; virtually monopolizing (since the introduction of steam power and other modern machinery) the means and sources of the middle and lower classes, like large globules of quicksilver swallowing up small ones within their sphere of attraction.

In the first place, is not this incontrovertibly the case with respect to the soil, the primary and only solid source