

lic channel of relief would soon become stagnant and ineffectual, or be carried to an oppressive extent. Low wages, on the contrary, would incline the emigrants to spread over the country, to depend more upon the farmers, and look to Government only as a last resource. Country employment is, after all, more valuable for them than that of public works, where there is every temptation to spend ; while the farming labourer being boarded with his employer, cannot, in fact, avoid the accumulation of his wages for months, whatever he may do with them afterwards, and he often receives them in the very materials of settlement, viz : land, stock, grain, &c.

It may be said, that in arranging the wages of emigrant labour, a long and possibly idle winter ought to be considered, and that a certain rate, above that of mere subsistence, may be necessary to induce a sufficient emigration, to relieve the Mother Country. But the above reasoning, if correct, will also answer these objections. A few might, but the greatest number would not save against winter, had they even the power to do it ; and in enlarging individual employment (by withdrawing every thing like competition for labour on the part of Government) we shall open up a far more powerful source, both of support in winter, and general encouragement to emigration, than high Government wages could prove to be.

But perhaps the strongest reason for keeping the wages under the common rate is, that in that way