

Now, the ordinary emigration from the United Kingdom is utterly insufficient for the relief of its swarming and pent-up population, and notwithstanding that the whole might be placed in the United States, with advantage to the mother country, yet an increased number cannot be directly sent there, though wages are high, and labourers are not, as compared with Europe, plentiful. Human beings are not like water, which will find a level; and very slight causes will often suffice to produce conditions amongst them which baffle all the inquiries of the theorist. We have very often, in speculating upon human affairs, to take things as we find them, and to judge of things not as they ought to be, but as they are.

I have a few more observations to offer before coming nearer home, and that is with regard to the reasons why poor emigrants from the United Kingdom do not become landowners in the United States, in which condition they could be provided for in any numbers.

In the first place, the emigrants are very poor. Then the way to the westward is long. The land districts are becoming very distant from the coast, though not too distant for the American who does not mete with our measure; and, moreover, the American Government which has no national duty to fulfil towards the stranger, sells the land, and does not profess to give it. The price is small; the revenue derived to the Government of the United States, not very important, but still the American emigrant to the westward is either able to pay it, or to gain a pre-emption right according to law, or to squat on land against the law, and to shoot the purchaser, who bids over his head, when he comes to take possession. The emigrants from Germany, or from the United Kingdom, who proceed in search of land, are those who have the money as well as the ambition to become proprietors. But the American Government will not give these lands for nothing to strangers, though perhaps it would be for their interest to do so; but they have enough of emigration as the matter stands, and are about as indifferent to making it more easy as they are to making it more difficult. The western lands are, therefore, closed for all important purposes to the poor emigrant population. The lands would hold them all very conveniently; but the emigrants could neither get to them nor purchase them.

As a receptacle for emigration from the British Isles, with any great object of relief to the superabundant population, the United States of America may be considered closed; and if that resource has to be looked to at all, it must be sought in the British Colonies—countries placed in circumstances very like the American States, and naturally capable of as high a destiny. They are comparatively backward and languishing, simply and entirely because the population, from whence they should be filled, want the emigrating spirit of the American. That population remains crowded at home when it should seek to expand over a large territory; that population remains poor at home when its individuals should seek property. A small space of ocean seems impassable to truth, and the example of Americans only produces stupid admiration and wonder, instead of stimulation and encouragement. Men will not believe in their own capacities for improvement. The nation will not