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PUBLISHED DAILY BY
DAVID W. HIGGINS.

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The Relations and Uses of the Colonies.

The subject of the relations between the Colonies and the Mother Country is receiving the attention of profound thinkers both at home and abroad, and whatever may be the new form which these relations shall assume, it is no longer to be doubted that we are on the eve of important changes. Sir George Grey does not think colonial representation in the present House of Commons would quite answer the purpose, as there are such a variety of essential things to be considered, and with, in which the English people would not like colonists to take any share, but he would support of another House, in which there should be a representation of each of the colonies, and in fact of every individual of the Empire. He suggests that the best plan would be for the Secretary of State for the Colonies to have the assistance of a council like the Indian Council. By this means he thinks the whole Empire would be bound more firmly together, and that such a scheme of emigration might be devised as would enable the Mother Country, without depriving herself of the labour she requires at home, to get rid of her pauperism. But, while we rejoice to see the subject of the relations between Britain and her forty-five children receiving that earnest attention which its great importance ought to have secured for it long ago, it is even more gratifying to find that a kindred subject of still greater moment is beginning to engage home thought. After being stone blind for centuries to the true use of the colonies, as bearing upon the question of population and pauperism, it is intensely gratifying to observe unmistakable indications of a general awakening upon this subject. It is quite evident that public opinion in England is being rapidly educated up to the great question of transplanting the redundant population of the old country into the colonial fields. One writer of the advanced party now moving in this matter remarks, "What is emigration as long as they please; but it is, after all, the overflow of population in accordance with the natural law, like the swarming of bees, and must be voluntary. Transplantation as Mr. Young calls it, is colonization." How many years has it taken to discover so simple a truth as a proposition. "Emigration," says the same writer, "for the strong and healthy gives fresh life blood to the colonies. The Americans do not hesitate to estimate the value of every man who sets foot in the United States at a thousand dollars, and every boy or girl ten years of age as worth more than his keep. Can it be doubted for one moment that every able-bodied man who is in good health, is worth quite as much in either of our colonies; or that the colonial authorities, who would object to his going, would compete for the possession of such emigrants? We have before us the published report of a conference held in London, not long ago, presided over by the Duke of Manchester, on

the question whether colonial emigration may be made self-supporting or even profitable to those investing capital therein; and it is worthy of remark, as it is a source of no small encouragement, that an affirmative answer was the result of the conference, and that a company is being organized, under the Joint Stock Companies Act, for the purpose of reducing the theory to practice. Referring to this subject, J. S. Mill says: "There need be no hesitation in affirming that colonization in the present state of the world, is the very best affair of business in which the capital of an old and wealthy country can possibly engage." Dealing with the economic view, J. G. Wakefield says, "It is necessary, and very interesting to observe that colonization has a tendency

to prevent emigrants to Australia, he very likely enables an operative to live in Lancashire or Yorkshire, and make his own food, for himself, and he makes some more to send home for the manufacturer, who his instrument makes clothes or implements for the colony." Alluding more immediately to the perplexing subject of pauperism, Lord Houghton said, "The rest of the English Poor Law is, in its essence, a monstrous and a low sense of the word. It is a law which allows you to live; but to live in misery. But this country has not learnt a better state of things by what is going on abroad; the English principle is not state-made, and it is not Christian-like, to leave the pauper to his fate, and his children to be a burden on the state."

The great congregation of Bordeaux has suggested the following pleasant idea in French journal: "In case a hostile fleet should bombard a port, it would be necessary to be in port several hundred barrels of petroleum on the water at hand, and it is hoped, were able to keep the vessel ashore, and head her for San Francisco, Capt. Smith's wife and children are in this city, and naturally feel great anxiety to ascertain the fate of the bark."

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ARRIVALS.—Some kind of vessel, residing at Washington, has written to me requesting confidential information regarding public sentiment in the colony on the subject of annexation to the United States, and enclosing voluminous extracts from Washington newspapers upon the subject, as regards all the North American colonies, but more especially with regard to British Columbia. These extracts contain a copy of the Association petition to the Queen, which emanated from this community, nearly three years ago, and allude to the more recent one to President Grant, from the Three Tooling Street Tailors of Victoria, and as will be seen by our delayed dispatches, headed in on the 29th ult. by the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Vincent, Collier. We shall have more to say upon this subject.

THE MARY'S CURE.—The disabled bark, which was cast off by the steamer Pollard, on about ten days ago, off the entrance to the Straits, during a severe gale, Captain Smith and his crew were on board the bark, and it is hoped, were able to keep the vessel ashore, and head her for San Francisco, Capt. Smith's wife and children are in this city, and naturally feel great anxiety to ascertain the fate of the bark.

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