

crowded state sharing equally the means of subsistence, till they could contain no longer; then dividing half the population to the king, and half to his son, who decided by lot which moiety should seek a new home on some unknown shore. Heroes, princes, and priests, were the colonists of those days; and colonies worthy—more than worthy—of their mother states, were the result. Degeneracy, at least, was not the rule, as it is with us.” *The Times*, 23rd September, 1844.

“COLONIES AND EMIGRATION.—To emigrate, colonize, and form new empires, is the destiny and the hope of Britain. While other nations sink into effeminacy or barbarism, the mixed race of which British population is composed spreads itself with indomitable energy over the surface of the globe, and, defying alike the hostilities of other tribes, and the howling difficulties of nature in her wildest state, establishes art, commerce, and civilization, in the remotest and most impenetrable regions. France, with all her vanity and ambition, cannot form a colony in Algeria; and, amidst the failure of every effort to extend her name and dominions, is driven at last to the miserable extremity of thinking that it is glory enough if she can only conquer a petty island in the South Seas with its few thousands of semi-civilized natives. Spain, though once in the van of colonization, has only reaped luxury and indolence from possessions which should have imparted new life to her, and, like Byron’s eagle, lies bleeding under shafts winged by the feathers which once warmed her breast. The Dutch, though once powerful in colonies, are fast losing this essential element of greatness by means of the baneful influence of their own despotic and monopolizing system. Amidst the group of European nations, Britain stands alone as a successful parent of vigorous and powerful colonies, and in whatever direction she casts her eye, can point to her numerous offspring as the trophies of her industry, her energy, and enterprize, and to some of them, indeed, as her rivals in imperial magnificence and power.

“It is painful, but necessary, to remark, however, that the British colonies owe neither their origin to the wisdom, nor their prosperity to the fostering care, of the home government. On the contrary, they originated in its despotism, and have prospered in spite of it. The first colonists that left our shores were driven from their beloved homes by no other necessity than the necessity of seeking shelter from the tyrannous operation of penal enactments. Their first hopes were dashed. They soon found that British tyranny did not confine itself to British soil. Wherever they went the taskmaster followed, until, gathering strength by degrees, they arrived at length at the full maturity of nationhood, and shook off for ever the incubus under which they groaned. The British government, however, learns nothing by experience. The American Revolution, and the establishment of an independent and rival republic on the other side of the Atlantic, might have taught the most stolid how dangerous it is, first, to drive men from our shores by misgovernment, and