

demands our attention, and that is that we should organise a system of emigration through the whole country. We have had many spasmodic efforts made to encourage emigration. There are certain societies which do most important services, and they are very readily performed, besides which there are the Emigration Commissioners. They regulate the fitting-out of ships intended for emigrants, and they take care they are properly organised to prevent abuse to the emigrants on their voyage. But although the Colonies have agents who induce people to pass over to them, emigration is not adopted upon a uniform system, such as could be advocated by a Society of this character. Therefore this is an essential element in this Society, and I think we ought all to feel highly indebted to you, my Lord, for having inaugurated a Society so much calculated to benefit the country.

*Captain Bedford Pim, R.N.*—My Lord, my object in rising is this, to request that you will vacate the chair, and allow Mr. Chichester Fortescue to take it while the vote of thanks which has been proposed and seconded is put to the meeting. You cannot, as Chairman, put it yourself. It is the custom of the Institution which meets in this hall, and to which I belong, when a vote of thanks is proposed to the Chairman, that he should vacate the chair, and another gentleman should take it. [The Chairman then left the chair, which was taken by Mr. Chichester Fortescue.] Mr. Chairman, for the paper which his Lordship has read, I feel we must all be deeply thankful to him. In it he has explained to us what this Society is going to do. I believe that, if properly worked out, it will do an immense amount of good. It will direct an enormous flood of surplus population to lands where there is plenty of work and plenty of room for them. I feel most heartily that this Society can do immense good, and I am very, very delighted, that our President has thought it right to hold out the hand of fellowship to the Colonial Society. I am a member of the Institution of Civil Engineers, and most cordially endorse his action in this matter. Sir, I shall ask you now to put the motion to the meeting.

*Mr. Thomas Briggs.*—Mr. Chairman, I beg as a Lancashire man to be allowed to say a few words on the subject we have been discussing this evening. I recognise an old friend in the face of Sir Charles Nicholson. I do not think he knows me, but he once called me a stump orator—(laughter)—or said I would make a very good one in the Colonies. I wish to point out, my Lord, that there are about 5,000 emigrants who go every week from Liverpool alone. Where do they go to? They go to America. Why do they not go to our Colonies? We want them in the Colonies. I told you, Sir Charles, that if you got them there you would get labour, which is what you want. I was pooh-poohed when I pointed this out. That labour would have been so useful in Queensland that we might have had by this time two millions of bales of cotton from Queensland, which would have been tantamount to twenty millions more of money than Queensland is worth