

elections of the United States from that of the President to the Captain of a Fire Company. This has produced violence and bloodshed, and efforts of every kind on the part of Americans to rid themselves of their stranger associates, but in vain, for it is always the interest of a party in the country to uphold the franchise thus granted, and in the shape of labourers and servants the Americans find, to their vexation and alarm, they have admitted political masters, exercising a power and influence not always directed for good, as, indeed, how can it be by a body so little personally interested in, and so little acquainted with, the bearing of the politics they influence, and, in fact, so little skilled in any politics at all.

Notwithstanding the great accession of population from foreign sources, the wages of labour in the United States have not, within my memory, been sensibly reduced. The new comers disturb and displace the old, pushing them gradually to the westward; the emigrants of older standing, who have been provident and saving, and their children brought up in America, imbibe the American taste for holding land, and the great west opens his giant arms to enfold them all.

I believe that if the European emigration into the United States were doubled or quadrupled, it would produce no permanent reduction of wages; but it would produce great temporary inconveniences. It would disturb the present condition of the great mass of the working population of the towns and cities—it would subject all to what they would call distress—it would set them all in motion—the new comers would not move on because they would be too poor in purse and in ambition—the older ones would have to pull up their stakes and be off towards the setting sun. The influx of foreign population is now borne with many murmurings, but should a pauper or destitute population of labourers be poured in amongst them in greatly increased numbers, the legislative action on the subject, which has been so often threatened, would inevitably take place. English labourers may grumble when they see the men of Cork or Connaught interfering with the labour market, but the English workman has no vote and no mode of making his discontent felt in action. The English labourers are ten to one as compared with their employers, and yet are powerless. In America they are perhaps not one to one, but they match equally as citizens, and exercise equal power over the legislature and politics of the country.

The United States will probably receive and provide for all the foreign population which, from the operation of ordinary causes, may there seek a refuge—they will gladly receive all who are in circumstances to pay their way and obtain land, but there is nothing more certain, than that any effort on the part of the Government of England to pour into the United States, for the relief of the United Kingdom, any portion of the redundant population, sufficiently numerous to produce sensible relief at home, would be met by stern resistance on this side of the Atlantic. It may be for the interest of the American States to lower the wages of the workman, but the Americans would say No! Workmen on the contrary are citizens of these States, and it is for their interest that wages should be high—an argument more easily put than answered, in a country where one class does not legislate for another.