

How should the thinning of our home population reduce our pauperism? To take away a man who works is also to take away a fellow contributor to our public expenses, and, still more, a partner in providing the aggregate conveniences which can be obtained in dense communities alone. Are the scanty populations of the world the best provided for, that we wish to approach to their condition? Or as to contentment; do we not raise the point which divides content from discontent, just as we raise the circumstances around us? Will not the labourer who could not buy a cotton gown for his wife fifty years ago, soon be just as uneasy if he cannot buy her a silk one? If we now think of nothing less than wheaten bread even for our paupers, are we individually more satisfied than our fathers were who rarely ate anything better than barley and rye? No doubt while increased comforts are new to us, we rejoice in them with content; but as soon as the novel increase is incorporated with our insensible habits, and mingled in our imaginations with our natural rights, we look forward to matters yet beyond our reach, and are discontented if we cannot obtain them, whatever may be the amount of wealth behind us. If content is to come of external comfort, we shall need perpetual increase of comfort, and of the means of effecting that increase. Surely then there is nothing in emigration, even if it did raise our material condition, to put an end to discontent, nor to that comparatively smaller command of enjoyments which we often call poverty, nor even to that want of the physical means of sustenance and health which more truly deserves the name. Or as to morals; will an improvident, dissolute, or dishonest man be less likely to bring himself and his children to want and shame because he can buy five shirts where his grandfather bought one? Or will the ambitious be less likely now than a hundred years ago to resort to undue means to rival his wealthier neighbour because he now has carpets, china, silks, and wines, (which he could not have had then,) his neighbour,