

what was still more easy, they would squat upon it, and hold it against the world. Strange to say, in all this, though there was unity of motive, there was no combination of plan, no direction of superior wisdom, no effort of government or legislation, no master-mind, and no legally-constituted direction. People moved by hundreds of thousands yearly, and so far were they from seeking a country ready prepared for habitation, that most of them did not pretend when they commenced their journey to know when or where it would end. They found what they sought for, land which would produce food; but it not only gave them food, but wealth; and then followed the learning and talent of the East. The colleges poured forth their graduates, and the professions their members to join the mighty stream of human life; Europe furnished her mechanics, and last of all, when canals had to be dug, and wages had to be paid, Ireland gave them her labourers.

There can be no doubt but that all this system, if system it could be called, is grievously offensive to the ordinarily received notions of political economy. No doubt but that many an English emigrant to the United States has felt, to his cost, the effects of a state of circumstances which made the investment of large capital in the improvement of land a ruinous undertaking. All balance between the demand for labour and the supply was destroyed—men could not be found to work for wages in agriculture which left sufficient remuneration to the employer on a large scale—masters had to pay extravagantly for household servants—the latter even as independent in language and demeanour as the former,—tenants (when the relation of landlord and tenant had been established, in terms which subjected the latter to rents not equal to half an English poor-rate) refused to pay their almost nominal stipend, and, in the new States, men who were neither large landlords nor capitalists, and who possessed little education, became legislators and statesmen. Natural as well as conventional politeness was to a certain extent cast aside. Men asked impertinent questions, and chewed tobacco and spit upon carpets; mobs, and strange to say, respectable mobs, sometimes usurped the sacred functions of law and justice—but *still* the country prospered—society did not fall to pieces, simply because there was room for the utmost energies of an energetic people; and it was the interest of nobody to push over the great public fabric, though often of itself it seemed tottering to its fall.

In the United States of America the vast movement of population from the Atlantic country to the westward might be supposed, by many, likely to occasion great injury to the country the emigrants abandoned; but this was far from being the true state of the case. Probably, had there been no such outlet for the growing population, the wages of labour would have become lessened, the value of land on which the labour was to be expended would have increased, property would have accumulated in the hands of individuals, and, as population became dense, the advantages attached to the possession of wealth would have become greater. What D'Israeli, in one of his novels, designates as the "*two nations*," namely, the nation of the poor and the nation of the rich, would have come into existence, and this in spite of all declara-