

on its surface. If into the civilized community made up of hand-workers, and workers in higher grades, you pour in an infusion of a population competent at first only to the simplest hand-work, they take the lowest place, and lift the others into higher places. They do the manual labor. They do it most cheaply, and so they leave those, whom they find, free to other and more agreeable walks of duty. Thus, practically, at this moment, our simplest drudgery of factory work and farm work comes into the hands of Irishmen. It does not follow that the natives who must otherwise have performed it, do nothing or starve. They are simply pushed up, into foremen of factories, superintendents of farms, railway agents, machinists, inventors, teachers, artists, &c.; filling classes of society, some of which we could not else have had so well; some of which we could not have had at all.

I say they do not starve; for there is, as yet, no limit to the country's production; and by every laboring man who arrives, the danger of starvation becomes less and less. Nor is there any danger of a want of employment. Employment under our institutions, is not a fixed quantity; which cannot be enlarged. The more men there are, the more employment there is; in one walk or another.

Of course the rate of money wages paid does not affect the transaction; for the plethora of manual labor will keep down the price of the necessities of life, so that the money rates of wages may range as they choose.

The smile of a pyramid is perfect here, I believe. A community is a pyramid; with its base of manual labor, supporting some higher classes of effort. The larger the pyramid; the larger, that is, the population of the community, the higher the position of the apex. But if now, you choose to exclude the population of manual laborers which at this moment forms your basis; you cannot keep your apex where it has been. There must be a basis; though it is not necessary there should be so high an apex as there has been. Exclude your foreign population, and your whole fabric sinks. You find you have still men at hard and loathsome labor. They are now your own sons. You have lost what you had; the highest results of your civilization. For every grade descended when you moved the lowest grade away.

In fact, by every spade blow which foreign hands have driven, by every child which foreign mothers in their own homes have reared to this country, is the country richer for the coming of the foreigner. By the worth of every spade blow, by the worth of every child would the country be poorer if it debarred them from this *privilege*, of doing its meanest