

with was not that class which, being from various circumstances broken down, came upon the rates for relief, but those who were able to work, who wished for work, and who had not work to do. Three or four months had been spent by Parliament in securing the means of living to Irish tenants, and a million of money was to be devoted to this purpose by the State. Again, New Zealand had become discontented and alienated, and sooner than suffer that sore to canker, substantial help had been given by the State in order to promote emigration and afford employment in that colony. Government had in their possession proofs which they probably were wise not to produce, and which he was not about to call for, of the extent to which, in the case of New Zealand, alienation had gone : and they knew too well the degree in which the feelings of the people of Ireland had become estranged before measures of concession were resolved on. Surely, if Ireland and New Zealand, being on the brink of disaffection, had been so generously dealt with, it was not unreasonable to ask the House to consider what could be done, though not in the way of lavish grants, to improve the condition of classes of our countrymen who were certainly as peaceable and as little importunate as these. (Hear, hear.) There was conclusive evidence to prove that unexampled poverty had prevailed for the last three years in the great towns of the kingdom ; that that poverty, though at present alleviated, was likely to recur ; that it was aggravated every day by the mere natural increment of population ; and, as had been well said by a rev. friend of his, "this distress did not arise from any mere oscillation of trade, but was one of those great changes in the progress of surplus population with which, sooner or later, Parliament would be obliged to deal." He took a recent opportunity of consulting the Registrar-General, who said there was no reason to expect in the next decennial period that there would be any falling off in the increase of our population, which was now going on at the rate of 1,000 a day. The pressure occasioned by this increase was concentrated in the larger towns of the United Kingdom, whose aggregate population had risen enormously in recent years. He held in his hand a table verified during the present week by the signature of the Registrar-General, from which it appeared that in the last nineteen years the population of the twenty largest towns (counting the metropolis as but one) had risen from 5,225,000 to 7,216,000 ; so