

EMIGRATION CIRCULAR;

OR,

COMPLETE HAND-BOOK AND GUIDE TO THE UNITED STATES;

BEING

ENGLAND AND AMERICA CONTRASTED.

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"America is a country overflowing with prosperity and happiness—one which knows not the meaning of internal tumult—one of which all the citizens, with scarcely an exception, can command the necessaries of life: meat, drink, clothing, and shelter from the elements in abundance; one in which labour is sure of its reward, yet where Members of Parliament are chosen by *Universal Suffrage*—where neither tithes nor game-laws are to be found, and where the chief magistrate lives with dignity on an income of about £5,000 per annum."—*The Times*.

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THE almost universal distress in which the middle and working classes of Great Britain are at this moment involved, has given rise to a co-extensive desire for emigration to some shore whereon they may find exemption from the difficulties and destitution that surround them here. In attempting to come to a conclusion as to the spot most likely to afford the asylum which is thus sought, the emigrant is not unnaturally led to analyse the causes that have produced such misery and ruin at home, in order that he may, if possible, in his contemplated removal, secure himself from their future operation and influence.

The fact that, in the majority of cases, the people thus driven from their native land have come to the conclusion that the sufferings they endure are owing to vicious institutions and mal-government, is clearly evidenced by the great numbers who annually take refuge in the United States, in order to free themselves at once from the sway of a government based upon injustice and supported by class legislation, and become the possessors of those political and social rights which are the inalienable heritage of every human being. An extensive and respectable agent, speaking of the yearly increasing number of emigrants from the port of Liverpool, says, "it appears as if the whole country was going to America, mostly to the States." He further states that these shoals of emigrants are "all manufacturers and mechanics, mostly in the prime of life." It thus appears that the middle and labouring classes are flying from the perspective bankruptcy and positive pauperism engendered by the oppressive laws and bad arrangements of this country, to one where the laws are based on equal justice; to a land where capital has fair play, unfettered by laws of primogeniture and entail, and where industry has a chance of securing its possessor from want, or the humiliating and degrading receipt of reluctantly extorted relief in a Union Workhouse, avowedly administered on the principle, that poverty must be punished as a crime. Indeed, a comparison of the dietary and general treatment of the criminals and paupers of England abundantly proves, that in the estimation of its law-makers and administrators, poverty is the worst crime in existence, and is the most severely punished. The wide-spread conviction and sad experience of the evils resulting from mis-government and unjust institutions, render it unnecessary for us to occupy much room in pointing out the operations of these causes in detail, and, by consequence, the comparative immunity which the emigrant secures by locating himself in the United States. Town after town, district after district has issued its statistics of distress. Mills standing still, or but partially worked—furnaces blown out—wages insufficient to support existence, even where employment can be secured—houses untenanted—streets deserted—shops without customers—and the great bulk of large, and formerly industrious communities, living upon soup and coarse bread, doled out at public kitchens, and furnished by charity—these are the prominent