

It is not likely, however, that this experiment will be tried by the two islands alone. Should a consolidation of the Empire ever become feasible to practical politicians, a local Parliament might be given to Ireland, as has been done to the other dependencies of the Crown, and a general Imperial Parliament, in which all the powers should be represented, might be established. Were the different portions of the Empire adjacent, no great difficulty would arise in carrying out such a scheme. Widely dispersed as are the dependencies of the Empire, we do not say this is impossible. It is sad to think that an Empire established at such cost of blood and treasure should be dismembered, the various parts being permitted to drift and attach themselves to whatever countries their interests might seem to require. A United Kingdom comprising the British Isles, the Canadas, Australia, and India, may yet be in the future. In such case Ireland, with a Parliament caring for local wants and ruled over by representatives from all the countries combined, might find satisfaction and quiet.

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Serious evil seems to menace England in the threatened exodus of its labourers. Mr. Arch's mission may bring with it consequences of immense moment. Should a stream of emigration set out from Britain, to run for years, that hive of industry might find its greatness imperilled. The exhaustion of its coal-fields would be less fatal to its manufacturing prosperity than the exhaustion of its population. The emigration from Ireland was a blessing; from Britain would be its destruction—that is as a great manufacturing power. It might still be a pleasant place to live in for people of income. There might be preserves for game even more ample than at present, and gentlemen might find sport in its woods, rivers and lakes. But whence would the income be derived which would support all this? Putting aside foreign sources, what about the vast incomes at present derived from manufacture and trade and land. The price of labour must go up with its scarcity, and the cost of manufacturing and of tillage, may become so great that both shall to a large extent cease. Where then will be the profits and the rents? Of course there must be a point at last reached when the labourers will find their condition better in England than even here, and then the emigration will cease. But when this point is attained, the balance of manufacturing power will be arrived at, and that superiority which England derives from cheap labour will have been lost. Should the price of agricultural labour go up much higher, farmers will be unable to give the rents which are now exacted, and the immense incomes of the landlords will be proportionately reduced. About this result however we are not anxious. We should be glad to see tens and hundreds of thousands of the labouring classes of Britain transferred to comfortable homes on this Continent. The well-being of the masses is more in our eyes than that of the few. We have no