

in its practical execution, as to make it very doubtful whether it could be made applicable in the same manner as the English poor-rate for such repayment.

In Ireland the case is entirely different; nothing in the nature of a poor-rate exists by law; and therefore voluntary consent on the part of the proprietors of land towards any contribution for the purpose of emigration, must there, as well as in Scotland, be indispensable. In the case of Ireland, whether such voluntary contribution were made by individuals, or by local assessments, to which individuals might be consentient, the principle of voluntary consent still remains necessary as part of the measure. Your Committee therefore beg to call the particular attention of the House to the very important evidence which they have received with respect to the state of that country. It will be found uniformly stated in that evidence, that the evils of pauperism are not less felt in Ireland in consequence of the non-existence of a parochial fund for the support of the poor; all the attributes of the most unbounded pauperism are to be found there; mendicancy, with all its train of evils, occasional outrage, habits of idleness, even in those for whose labour some demand exists, and a character of destitution and misery pervading all the lower classes of society. It is also to be observed, that in a pecuniary point of view an indirect burthen is imposed upon that part of the country where a redundant population exists. Your Committee therefore trust that the most deliberate attention of the Proprietors of land in Ireland will be called to this subject, and that they may be induced to make voluntary contributions for the purpose of emigration, as a relief from those burthens which, though not legally imposed, are yet found practically to press upon them from the superabundance of the pauper population.

Your Committee at the same time are fully aware that neither the parishes in England or in Scotland, nor districts or proprietors of land in Ireland, will be induced to contribute for this purpose, *unless it can be demonstrably shown that their interests, both general and pecuniary, will be benefitted by such contribution.* Your Committee have no hesitation in expressing their opinion, that the general tenor of the evidence received by them justifies the expectation that such benefit will be thereby derived.

There is however one special point of view with respect to Ireland, to which Your Committee feel it necessary to call the attention of the House; it is that of a proprietor who is legally entitled to eject a redundant pauper population, which has been surreptitiously introduced into his property, but who, at the same time that he feels that his own interest and that of his family are materially involved in the removal of this population, shrinks from the exercise of his undoubted legal right, from his dread of the consequences which must attach to them from their removal.

In such a state of circumstances, which Your Committee have reason to believe is not of unfrequent occurrence, they cannot but contemplate the public advantage that would be derived from enabling such a measure on the part of an individual to be carried into effect, to the mutual benefit of the party dispossessing and of the party dispossessed; and they entertain the most confident expectation that a careful examination into this part of the subject, on the part of the Irish proprietors, will convince them that their own interests will be consulted by a contribution towards the expense of the emigration of such tenants.

Vide Appendix.
Nº 13.

With reference to this particular part of the subject, Your Committee beg to advert to an Act passed in the present Session, intituled, "An Act to amend the Law of Ireland respecting the Assignment and Sub-letting of Lands and Tenements."