

Appendix
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The period is favourable. The removal of impolitic restrictions has lessened to some extent the pressure upon the public finances, and given to the people that measure of relief which affords time for reflection upon the means by which the still existing pressure upon industry may be further relieved. In a colonial point of view, the period is also favourable. Thanks to the policy which the great Captain Clive carried out, the North American Provinces are relieved, so far as free countries ever can be, from natural dissensions. Invested with control over their own affairs and resources, they have now the leisure, as they assuredly have a sincere desire, to consult with their brethren on this side of the Atlantic, on common measures of mutual advantage. I think I may say that while they anticipate great benefit from the co-operation and aid of the mother-country in promoting their public works, they are not unmindful of their duty to consider the peculiar questions in which this country feels an interest; and to take care that while availing themselves of the credit of England, no permanent addition is made to her public burthen.

The subjects of Colonization and Emigration have been most elaborately discussed. I pass over the points in which writers and speakers differ; in this they all agree, that the British Islands have an interest in these subjects, second to none that has ever been felt by any nation in ancient or modern times. The enumeration of a few facts will be sufficient to exhibit the grounds of this belief. The statistical returns of 1850 will, I have no doubt, show a state of things much more favourable but still far not so favourable as to shake the general conclusions at which I have arrived. These are founded upon facts, as I find them stated in official documents and works of approved authority.

In Ireland the lives of the population have for years been dependent upon the growth of a single vegetable. But when it grew, as was stated by the late Charles Buller, uncontradicted, in the House of Commons, on an average there were 2,000,000 persons who, in that Island were unemployed for thirty weeks in the year. To what extent famine and emigration have since diminished the numbers, I have no means of accurately judging; but it appears that in 1848, besides the £10,000,000 granted by Parliament for the relief of Irish distress, and provisions sent from other countries, £1,216,670 were raised in Ireland for the support of the poor, and that 1,157,194, or nearly 1 out of 5 of the entire population, received relief.

In Scotland, where the population is only 2,620,000, a fifth more than that of British America, £511,334 were expended for the relief of the poor in 1848, more than was spent by the four British provinces on their civil government, roads, education, lights, interest on debts, and all other services put together; 227,647 persons were relieved, the amount expended on each being £2 7s. 9d.; a sum quite sufficient to have paid, in a regularly appointed steamboat, the passage of each emigrant to British America.

In England, in the same year, £6,180,765 were raised for the relief of the poor, or 1s. 10d. in the pound on £67,300,587. The number aided was 1,876,511, or about 1 out of every 11 persons occupying this garden of the world. The sum paid for each was even higher than in Scotland, being £3 5s. 10d. per head, more than sufficient to have paid the passage to North America from Liverpool or Southampton.

I turn to the workhouses of England, and find that in 1849 there were in these receptacles, 30,158 boys, and 126,165 girls, of whom 8,264 were fit for service. In Ireland, under 18, there were 69,514 boys and 66,285 girls, the aggregate in the two countries being 185,122.

Turning to the criminal calendar, it appears that in 1848 there were committed 709 offences in England

30,349; in Scotland, 4,000; and in Ireland, 35,522, making 74,771 in all; of whom 6,208 were transported, and 137,573 imprisoned.

I find that in 1849 you maintained in Ireland a constabulary force of 12,828 men, besides nurses, at a cost, taking the preceding year as a guide, of £502,500 13s. In England and Wales you employed 9,820 police men (including the London police), at a cost of £579,327 4s. 8d. From Scotland I have no return. But taking the above facts to guide us, it appears that, for mere purposes of internal repression, and the arrest of criminals, to say nothing of headless and unnumberable parish officers, you maintained, in addition to your army, a civic force double in number the entire army of the United States, at a cost (Scotland not being included) of £1,111,833 14s. 8d.

Think you, my Lord, that when a Republican points exultingly to the returns, and contrasts these statistics of poverty and crime with the comparative abundance and innocence of his own country, and which he attributes to his own peculiar institutions, that a British colonist does not turn with astonishment at the apathy of England, to the millions of square miles of fertile territory which surround him; to the noble rivers, and lakes, and forests by which the scenery is diversified; to the exhaustless fisheries; and to the motive power, rushing from a thousand hills into the sea, and with which all the steam-engines of Britain cannot compete?

Driven to attribute to British and Irish statesmen a want of courage and foresight, to make these great resources available to maintain our brethren and protect their morals, or to suspect the latter of being more idle, degraded, and criminal, than their conduct abroad would warrant, we gladly escape from the apprehension of doing general injustice, by laying the blame on our rulers. May it be the elevated determination of Her Majesty's Advisers to relieve us from the dilemma, by wiping out this national reproach.

One set of economists propose to remedy this state of things by restraints upon nature, which are simply impossible, and would be wicked if they were not; another large political party desire to feed the people by a return to protection and the revival of class interests, with all their delusions and hostilities; a third look hopefully forward to the further development of domestic industry in accordance with the principles of free trade.

All my sympathies are with the latter; but while hostile tariffs exist in most of the populous States of Europe and America, I would not them by the creation of new markets within the Queen's dominions, by the judicious location of those who are a burden upon the fertile lands of the empire, that they may become customers to those who remain at home.

One writer, whose book I have read recently, objects to this, because he says that if any part of the population is displaced, young people will marry, and increase the numbers until the vacuum is filled up. The young ought certainly not to object to this, or the old either. If his theory be sound, it answers the objections of those who fear too great diminution of numbers by emigration; and colonization would still have this advantage, that it would strengthen the transatlantic provinces, and make more customers for Britain and Ireland, even should their population remain the same.

But it may be said there is but one enlightened mode of colonization, and, under the patronage of the Government and of associated companies, that is being very extensively tried in our southern and eastern possessions.

Of the Wakefield theory I would speak with all respect; of the combined efforts of public-spirited individuals, I would be the last to disapprove; the judicious arrangements made by the Government Commissioners, for the selection of emigrants, the ventilation and security of ships, and the distribution

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