

much crowded. Those who had been in moderate circumstances during the war, found that if they remained they and their children must sink in the scale of society; and then emigration commenced—not upon mercantile speculations, or because of political inducements—but it was undertaken as a refuge from poverty, and in search of the necessities of life.

Great changes in the state of a whole people do not suddenly take place. A people attached from sentiment and deep feeling to their native country, will make great efforts, and submit to extraordinary privations, before they decide upon bidding adieu for ever to the abodes of their fathers,—and upon breaking asunder ties dear to humanity even in the midst of suffering and apprehension. The exhaustion consequent upon the struggle to remain, in too many instances left the victim without the power to fly—and he was left to view his lessened resources, and to deplore the infatuation which left him in hopeless distress, when if those resources had been timely employed, he might have escaped the danger. Temporary prosperity, and temporary expedients also brought, alas, their temporary alleviation to distress, and interrupted the natural course of relief for a redundant population.

But the population continued to increase, the continuance of peace with foreign lands, as well as the absence of those terrible visitations of Providence, in the shape of pestilence, and civil war, and even the great improvements in medical science, and the efforts made to prolong the life and increase the comforts of the poor, but added to the redundancy of population, until at length the time is come, when, with the wealth of the Nation incalculably increased, and with means of employment great almost beyond conception, one portion of the people of the British Isles are unemployed, another employed to such an extent only as to afford from the profits of employment the bare means of living in the midst of privation; while many of those whose circumstances place them above want look with apprehension to the future, and ask with anxiety—What are our children to do in this crowded country? We have even denied ourselves what we were accustomed to consider the common comforts of life, for the purpose of giving them education, but we cannot be blind to the fact, that amongst so many competitors our children are in danger of the

penury and wretchedness, which in no class of society is so dreadfully felt as in the one which from its own experience can understand the difference between a life of even partial development of the mind by education, of even a limited enjoyment of the refinements of civilization, and the continued presence of a gaunt and wolf-like anxiety after the daily means of satisfying the absolute wants of nature. It is in vain that political discontent points to accumulated wealth in the hands of fortunate individuals, and requires its dispersion; for it scarcely requires an argument to demonstrate that upon dispersion it would vanish, like a volatile essence exposed to the atmosphere.—It is plain upon the slightest observation that if the concentrated capital of England, which enables her to afford subsistence to so many, even at the expense of foreign nations, were diffused, the superiority which England maintains must be speedily lost. All may be made poor by political convulsion, but all cannot in such a state of society improve their means of comfort or subsistence. If property be made insecure in England, how soon will it fly to enrich other countries, while the millions which are enabled to subsist by its presence, must be left, not merely to distress, but to absolute annihilation.

Our readers will now be inclined to ask, what all this has to do with the question of the Union? We wish them to ask the question as a preacher desires his congregation to remember the text, even when his sermon appears to wander most widely from the doctrine which the text is intended to inculcate. We pledge ourselves to make our facts apply, and we only desire our readers to take their share of labour, and preserve in their memory the strong and leading points that we exhibit for observation. To assist those who are not inclined to undergo the labour of continuous argument, we shall now state shortly the facts, and then shew their application to this branch of the subject.

We maintain then, in the first place, that until very lately emigration from the British Isles was not induced by redundancy of population, and that of late its moving inducement arose from that cause.

Secondly, we say, although we do not see the limits to the prosperity, and power, and wealth of the British Empire, yet, we hold that no improvement of this nature will warrant the