

being seriously and increasingly felt, as the depth of mines increases or their richness diminishes.

Two remedies for over-population are discussed by Mill, the importation of food from abroad, and emigration to other lands, both of which, and especially the latter, he seems greatly to undervalue. His favorite remedy is, restraint imposed on the increase of population, either by public opinion, or by the operation of a higher standard of life, which would make parents averse to bringing into the world a progeny so numerous that the effort to support them would lower their own social status, or even prevent it from rising; or would hinder them from bequeathing to their children such a patrimony that their social position would not necessarily be any worse than that of their parents. That such a motive, however, must long remain comparatively inoperative, is manifest, even when the question is regarded *a priori*, for the natural impulses of humanity are too powerful to admit of being efficiently controlled by mere prudential considerations. For a clever statement of the argument on this point, in a popular form, we cannot do better than refer to the chapter entitled "Malthus and Man," in that pungent satire "Ginx's Baby;" and, indeed, to the whole series of Mr. Jenkins' books—including both "Little Hodge," and "Lord Bantam," and the paper entitled "Two Solutions" published in Fraser's Magazine for April, 1871.

It has already been remarked, that we might predicate futility of Mill's remedy, even when we consider the question theoretically; it certainly appears no less futile when regarded in the light of actual facts. The fecundity of the race is most strikingly manifested in those strata of society where the individual has no social position to lose, as the penalty for having too large a progeny to support, and where he has no hope of ever gaining a respectable position, even if he has none but himself to care for. The prudential considerations, therefore, so urgently insisted on by Mill, could not possibly operate here; and it would seem to follow that if they operated anywhere it could only be where their operation would be detrimental, for they would act as a check on the growth of population, just where rapid increase is desirable, and where there is provided for the new comers the means both of subsistence and education, while it would leave uncontrolled that growth where there exists neither the one nor the other.

Admitting, then, the validity of the objection brought by Mill