

for labour in each district, in the different provinces of British America, ought to be sent over and circulated in this country as early as possible in the spring, so that if anything should have occurred to diminish the demand for labour in any particular quarter, it might be made known in time to prevent the disappointment of false hopes, on the part of the emigrant.

In closing this statement, I have only to advert to one additional point, to which I am disposed to attach considerable importance. We hear so much of the spiritual destitution which prevails in our colonies, that it becomes a matter of public concern, in founding a system of colonisation under the auspices of the State, to make provision for the religious instruction of those who emigrate. It seems to me, therefore, that wherever a considerable body of persons belonging to any particular religious persuasion emigrate to any colony, a sufficient number of clergymen of the same persuasion should be encouraged to accompany them, by the grant of a free passage, and by the assignment to them of a small permanent endowment in the colony. I have reason to think that the Roman Catholic clergy of Ireland would view emigration with much more favour than they do at present, if some such arrangement were made for the religious superintendence of the numerous emigrants belonging to that persuasion; and, indeed, it is a feeling which must be shared by every conscientious minister of every persuasion.

I have now gone through, at more length than I could have desired, the various topics to which I have thought it my duty to allude, in connection with the subject which I have undertaken to submit to the consideration of the House. It will be perceived that I have proposed no new scheme, — that I have suggested no untried experiment, — but that I have limited myself to an earnest solicitation, that plans proposed by others, and partially adopted, may, without delay, be carried into full and practical effect. I rest my appeal to the House upon the simple consideration that it is our duty, as guardians of the happiness of the people, not to allow our population to famish at home, whilst such abundant resources lie open to our command in other portions of the empire. I need not add, that I have brought forward this motion with no unfriendly feeling towards the Government, whom I believe to be not so much, themselves, disinclined to promote colonisation, as timid in regard to the reception of any proposal which they might

be disposed to submit to the country for its extension. One of the objects, therefore, which I have in view, in proposing the present resolutions, is, to give this House an opportunity of declaring that it will cheerfully afford its support to such a proposal, if made by the Government. I appeal, too, with some confidence, to the Noble Lord the Secretary for the Colonies, because I know that he possesses a mind to comprehend, and energy to execute, whatever is calculated to conduce to the public advantage. He has done much for his country, and for mankind; but I feel persuaded that he can couple his name with no act of greater utility, or to which he will look back with greater satisfaction, than to a measure which would cause the cry of hunger to be no more heard throughout the land. Nor can he acquire any prouder title to fame, than to have realised for his country and for his Sovereign the prediction which was addressed by our great poet to a former monarch of these realms:

Wherever the bright sun of heaven shall shine,  
Her honour and the greatness of her name shall  
be,  
And make new nations.

For myself, I advance no higher claim than to have been, in regard to this matter, the humble follower of abler men; and as it has always been a source of satisfaction to me to have been among the earliest supporters of that system of emigration which has already indicated the mighty results to which it may hereafter lead, so, also, do I now rejoice in the indulgence of an assured expectation, that, at no distant period, we shall witness the full accomplishment of a measure which will alike conduce to the aggrandisement of the empire, and the individual happiness of its population, — the establishment of a well-regulated system of national colonisation. I beg, now, to move the following resolutions: —

That, in Great Britain and Ireland, the working classes are frequently exposed to extreme privation, from inability to procure employment:

That, in several of the British colonies, the demand for labour is urgent, continuous, and increasing, and its remuneration is comparatively ample, whilst the prosperity of these colonies is much retarded by its inadequate supply:

That, under these circumstances, it is expedient that a free passage to those colonies which offer the greatest rewards to industry should be provided by the State for such of the labouring classes as are disposed to emigrate thither.