

tend materially to alter the habits of the labouring class in England—to force them into the habitual consumption of a sort of food inferior to that to which they are now accustomed, namely, potatoes; and the danger of the use of the lowest quality of food is, that it leaves no resource in a period of scarcity; whereas in the case of a population habitually living on wheat, there is always the resource of potatoes to compensate for the failure of an average crop. He is also of opinion that it will necessarily throw a greater number of the English labourers upon the poor-rates, inasmuch as, if there be a redundancy of labour in any English parish, the presence of Irish labourers universally seeking for employment would prevent such English labour from being absorbed. He stated, that he was satisfied no permanent improvement would take place in the case of the English poor, if a portion of them were removed by emigration, as long as this influx of Irish labourers into England continued without a check. Mr. Malthus stated, that unless a change took place in the management of the land in Ireland, he can only anticipate an increase of poverty and misery; and that such change cannot take place, unless something is done to remove the people. He admitted, that if the people increase and continue in their present state, there can be little prospect of any greater degree of tranquillity and security in that country; and for those reasons, he is of opinion that it is particularly expedient to attempt to introduce emigration on a large scale from Ireland, especially as he understands there is an intention on the part of landlords to make the change in question in the management of their properties. He was finally asked, “What is your opinion of the capability of Ireland to become a very rich and flourishing country?” he answered, “My opinion is, that it has very great capabilities; that it might be a very rich and a very prosperous country; and that it might be richer in proportion than England, from its greater natural capabilities.”—“Do you think any one circumstance would more tend to accelerate that state of things, than a judicious system of emigration put into force in that country? I think that a judicious system of emigration is one of the most powerful means to accomplish that object.”

Very important evidence, by Mr. Leslie Foster and Mr. Nimmo, will be found, with respect to the cultivation of the Bog lands of Ireland; but whatever may be thought of the advantages which might arise from such an application of capital, they would in no degree supersede, in the opinion of Your Committee, the benefits to be derived from a contemporaneous and systematic principle of Emigration.

II.—ENGLAND.

FOUR Witnesses were examined by the Committee of 1826, respecting the state of the Pauper Population in parts of England. Your Committee have examined on this subject, during the present Session, twenty-two witnesses, including the Bishop of Chester and Mr. Hyett, who belong to the Committee for the relief of distressed manufacturers; Mr. Burrell, a member of Your Committee, and an extensive proprietor in Sussex, where the evils of a redundant population appear to exist in a most remarkable degree; and several landed proprietors, clergymen, manufacturers, and overseers of the poor. Four of these witnesses were examined with a view of ascertaining whether the Waste lands afford an opportunity for the employment of the pauper population, *involving the certainty of a return*; and their evidence has not impressed Your Committee with the opinion that such would be the result. It was admitted, that as far as the direct expense was concerned, the location of the poor on the