

fresh lands, is a problem on which the ablest statesmen will have to try their powers ere long. It is felt, more and more, that a matter of such vital moment to the interests of the Empire cannot be safely left much longer to the unorganized efforts of individual enterprise, but must be reckoned as falling within the legitimate sphere of Government, and constituting the most essential work of a Colonial Ministry, in conjunction with Colonial Governments. To collect and diffuse accurate information regarding the condition and wants of the Colonies; to appoint and superintend agents of emigration, and to aid and direct the moving masses so that labour may find at once its proper field,—these may be fairly reckoned among the most important functions of a governmental Department. A Minister of Emigration, to act as the Moses of the new Exodus, and guide the whole organization, would be indispensable. There can be little doubt but the near future will see Emigration thoroughly organized, and like the Post Office and the Electric Telegraph, placed under governmental control, to the great advantage of those whose interests are involved.

It is marvellous to think of this mighty stream of emigrants, now taking its way from the British Isles across the Atlantic. The railway and the steamship have already accelerated the march, and will continue to pour in fresh contingents to swell the increasing host. New empires spring up where they land, and “the desert is made to rejoice and blossom as the rose.” Away into the western wildernesses the railway stretches, preceding population and pioneering civilization, and so guiding the advancing columns to their new homes. The world has witnessed no such spectacle since the day when Abraham first took the pathway of western emigration across the Euphrates. It is a proof at once of the vigorous life of a free people, whose natural overflowings thus find fresh territories, and of the severity of the “struggle for life” in the Old Land. The wise Pericles long ago told the Athenians that they must colonize to prevent their fellow-citizens being degraded by poverty; and the same necessity operates to-day in Britain, far more powerfully than in Athens. The most effectual remedy for that poverty, which, in the midst of abounding wealth, constitutes the saddest blot of modern civilization, is emigration. The benefit is felt in two ways,—in the easing off of men for the time crowding on their work, and in the supply of more work to those who remain, by commerce with the off-shoot settled in fresh