

EMIGRATION,

WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE

TO

MINNESOTA, U.S., AND BRITISH COLUMBIA.

It may seem somewhat inopportune, at this time, to address the public (through the medium of a pamphlet) upon the subject of emigration, especially when the claims and superior advantages of America will form the leading subject for consideration. Our apology is explainable in a few sentences. Europe is overcrowded, and demands an outlet and a refuge for her superabundant population, and that country where facilities of access are the most direct and convenient, and which offers the most superior inducements, not simply for temporary relief, but for future welfare and success, must, of necessity, become the chosen asylum of the expatriated.

Unemployed labour is rapidly increasing and accumulating, while misery and starvation, "like twin beasts of prey," go hand in hand, "hunting their victims to gloom and despair." Painful indeed is the picture presented to the traveller who visits many of the manufacturing and agricultural districts in the United Kingdom and the Continent. The misery and distress, which dwells there may not be the fault of Governments, but result from the surplus supply of labour over the demand, the limited capacity of the soil for productive purposes, and the cumulative pressure of the population upon the means of subsistence.

No one who peruses the reports which have been published from time to time by the various Associations of Relief in Great Britain can do so without a feeling of intense pain and commiseration; and none can reflect upon the dreadful tales of misery related with such power by the calculating statistician without being desirous of suggesting relief, or of offering some plan whereby the cause may be removed, and healthy action restored to the disorganized system of labour so suddenly prostrated. The noble charities of a generous people (and which have been so heavily taxed) may and have done much towards a temporary alleviation of these calamities which have overtaken an honest, frugal, and industrious class of the labouring community; but the root of the evil is not eradicated, the cancer is still gnawing at the vitals; punishment still pursues those whose only crime is misfortune. The labourer perceives the circle of opportunity narrowing around him day by day; employment is

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