

British people to tax themselves for these, further than we can shew them that they will save two pounds for every one they risk. But we do ask them to interpose the national credit to enable us to construct them on the best terms,—to create a labour-market at their very doors,—to furnish, within the Queen's dominions, a profitable field for the investment of that surplus capital of £50,000,000 a year which lies in your coffers, and which when lent to foreign countries is rarely paid, and cannot be collected without imminent risks of war. We ask you to employ your money and plant your people, under the standard of England, that they may not drift off and entrench themselves behind hostile tariffs. We ask you to seize the strong points of your own territory, and build up British cities by securing to them the full advantages of trans-Atlantic intercourse. We ask you to provide employment for millions who are a burthen, but who can maintain themselves by industry. We ask you to divide the soil of the empire among those who have neither roof-tree to shelter them, nor a hearthstone that they can call their own.

With all their wealth the freehold proprietors of these islands are, I believe, estimated at 80,000. But 1 in every 350 of those who tell us they rule the seas own a single acre of land. An Englishman boasts that his house is his castle; and so, perhaps, it is, but it rarely stands upon his own soil. How large a proportion of the inmates of these castles may have them demolished, or their household deities scattered, when the leases fall in? In Scotland but 636,000 of the inhabitants out of 2,600,000, live upon the land. All the rest, driven in by the high price of it, overcrowd the labour-markets of seaports and manufacturing towns. In Ireland there were, until recently, perhaps are now, 42,262 farms of only one acre in extent; 473,755 averaging from one to 30. Between 1841 and 1848, 800,000 tenants in that unhappy but most lovely country, were driven out from these small holdings, ("evicted" as the term goes,) their hovels, in many cases, burnt over their heads, and their furniture "canted" into the street.