

# R E P O R T.

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**THE SELECT COMMITTEE** appointed to consider the Subject of Emigration from the United Kingdom, and to whom the Report of the last Session, and the several Petitions which have been presented to the House, in the present Session of Parliament, on the same subject, were referred; and who were empowered to report their Observations and Opinion thereupon, together with the Minutes of Evidence taken before them from time to time, to the House:—  
**HAVE** further considered the Matters to them referred; and have agreed upon the following **REPORT**:

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**T**HE Inquiry into the general subject of Emigration is connected with so many important Questions, and involves considerations so various and complicated, that although upon many of them Your Committee have received a mass of very valuable and satisfactory Evidence, they do not feel themselves in a situation to present to the House, so soon as they would have desired to do, a general and final Report. But in the prosecution of their investigations, a special Case has been submitted to them, so serious and so urgent, as to induce them to devote to it, for the present, their principal attention, and without farther delay to lay it specially before the House.

In addition to those ordinary causes, which in many parts of the United Kingdom appear to have led to a superabundant Population, or rather to a disproportion between the demand and the supply of labour, an important change has been wrought, and is still in gradual but certain progress, in the condition of some of the manufacturing districts, by the transition from Hand-loom to Power-loom weaving. For some time the advance in the cotton trade was so rapid as nearly, if not altogether to absorb in the more productive system, the hands thus thrown out of employment. But difficulties arising from a temporary check in trade, shortly fell upon the weavers with the double pressure of these two combined causes, a diminished demand for the produce of their industry, and an increased facility of production.

Your Committee are fully sensible that, to a certain extent, these disastrous consequences to a portion of the community must follow upon every new invention by which human labour is abridged: and that it is more especially the interest of a commercial country, far from discouraging, to afford every protection to such inventions: and while Your Committee lay down this doctrine in its fullest extent, they feel themselves bound to add, that those who in the present instance are the chief sufferers, appear to manifest juster ideas, and a more ready acquiescence in this general principle, than could have been expected from their situation in life, and from the personal feelings with which their view of the case must be mixed up. But Your Committee would wish to call the attention of the House to two circumstances which appear to distinguish this special case from those or