

and Your Committee are further of opinion, that the same feeling would lead them more extensively to avail themselves (as they would then be able to do) of the provisions of the Act already alluded to, for preventing the recurrence of the evil; in which case alone the removal could be beneficial to the proprietor or to the country. If an Irish proprietor were to remove 500 persons, including 100 heads of families, from his estate, for the purpose of throwing that estate into larger farms, and were to pull down the 100 cottages in which those 100 families may have lived, and not suffer them to be re-occupied, no comparison can exist, with reference to the advantages of Emigration, between a supposed state of things, and the mere abstraction of labourers to the same amount, whose tenements may be immediately inhabited by a similar class of persons. That which is true in a single instance, is equally true in considering Emigration as a general measure in Ireland. It will be impossible to show that so great a ratio of increase can be expected to take place, in consequence of the emigration of pauper tenants, as would have taken place in the population that might have existed in Ireland, had they not been removed to the Colonies. Your Committee, however, are not prepared to recommend that any legislative provisions should be made to prevent by law the re-occupation of those cottages, or to enforce their destruction, because they are satisfied that it is from the growing opinion, which is spreading itself among the whole gentry of Ireland, that the principal security is to be derived for their not being again occupied: if it were not for this growing opinion, that it is to the interest of the proprietors, in the best understood sense, to resist all collateral circumstances in favour of the excessive growth of population, Your Committee are aware that any legislative measures of a compulsory nature might in various ways be evaded. With these observations Your Committee dismiss this part of the subject, which peculiarly applies to the circumstances of Ireland.

They would, however, recommend to the attention of the House, the Evidence at large, as furnishing very detailed and valuable information. The testimony which was uniformly given by the *practical witnesses*, who appeared before Your Committee, has been confirmed in the most absolute manner by that of Mr. Malthus; and Your Committee cannot but express their satisfaction at finding that the experience of facts is thus strengthened throughout by general reasoning and scientific principles.

Mr. Malthus was asked, whether he had taken into consideration what may be the effect of the continued increase of the population of Ireland, upon the condition of the labouring classes of England? He stated, that, in his opinion the effect will be most fatal to the happiness of the labouring classes in England, because there will be a constant and increasing emigration from Ireland to England, which will tend to lower the wages of labour in England, and to prevent the good effects arising from the superior prudence of the labouring classes in this country. He stated, that he has understood that in the western parts of England and Scotland in the manufacturing districts, particularly in Manchester and Glasgow, the wages of labour have been lowered essentially by the coming over of the Irish labourers; which opinion, Your Committee beg to observe, is confirmed by the evidence that has been given by witnesses resident in those districts. Mr. Malthus is of opinion that this emigration will
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the purpose of raising a fund for the Emigration of their redundant tenantry; and to the opinions of Irish land agents of the advantages which, in certain cases, would arise to the proprietors from the emigration of that class of occupants.—*Vide* Mr. Dixon's Evidence, questions 2506, 2507, 2508, 2515, 2516, &c.