

alleviating human misery by more extended cultivation of the soil, should be readily accepted by the rich as a "conductor for the revolutionary thunder bolts," which threaten society at every side. The increased security life and property would receive would more than compensate for the money expended.

To sum up: It is on the products of the surface of the earth alone that man lives. Thousands of human beings are suffering the pangs of hunger. No food is being stored up. No person, no matter how rich, can eat more than his organs will digest. The real cause for so much hunger in the world must be that we have not enough to eat. Therefore the poor of our crowded cities must be enabled to become producers of food for themselves, by having placed at their disposal the fertile parts of the earth yet unoccupied.

When this is accomplished, "it will be no longer argued that wars are necessary; that some of the earth's human inhabitants must die that others may live. Every person will then be prosperous and happy. Those who now envy the possessions of the rich having become owners of property themselves, all jealousy and strife will be at an end."

From a purely material standpoint, M. Comettant strikingly sets forth what is generally regarded as one of the principal causes of our social ills. At the same time he points out a remedy which if applied, would no doubt do much to lessen the sum of human misery. Many among the poor would gladly avail themselves of the opportunity of escaping from their present distress.

Yet, even from a material point of view, it scarcely can be admitted that this scheme would prove as effective as its proposer would have us believe.

The most important factor in producing the unprecedented prosperity enjoyed by the United States until within the last two

years, has certainly been the existence of an immense area of unoccupied land, to which the unemployed might freely resort and found new homes. In addition to these areas, the construction of railways and other public works; and the erection of new cities have profitably employed large numbers of men, and immense sums of capital. Never has there been so great and rapid development of national resources and wealth. Yet even there, a comparatively new country, this factor has now largely spent its force; and many, hitherto tillers of the soil, are flocking to the cities.

It is impossible for a country like Canada, or the United States, rich in mineral and forest wealth, possessing manufacturing and shipping facilities unsurpassed by any other country in the world, to engage in purely agricultural pursuits. Manufacturing centres will be formed, around which thousands of workmen will congregate. In a short space of time large and flourishing cities will spring up. This is verified by the phenomenal growth during the past quarter of a century of some of the large cities of the United States. These cities have now, as we see, their own hungry to care for, disorder and anarchy to suppress.

While acknowledging that poverty is the prolific mother of many crimes, we ought not to forget that man is composed of two natures—the animal and the spiritual. It will not be sufficient for man's happiness to supply him with material food alone. His spiritual wants must also be attended to. Wherever he may cast his lot—in the secluded serenity of pastoral solitudes or amid the open strife of our crowded cities,—his passions will always accompany him, and unless he be imbued with the sound and practical principles of Christianity, these passions will obtain the master hand.

CHAS. J. MEA, '95.