

received from \$5 to \$6 per diem ; carpenters, from \$3 to \$4 ; painters obtained fully as high rates ; and Boston and New York grainers could make from \$10 to \$15 a day upon job work. In the cotton factories, girls received according to the work performed, varying, for inferior hands, from \$1.50 to \$2 per day, whilst English factory girls could double these rates ; and even children 14 years of age were paid 50 cents per day for six months in the year. The sons of well-doing Canadian farmers threw down the spade and flocked to the American cities, where there was employment for all ; no matter how poor a man's capacity might be, he was wanted for some kind of labor—when every man whom the United States could claim as a soldier, had to fill up the ranks of the Northern army. Here then was a source of employment, for six years, to a large number of our people, who, from that source, were not only able to accumulate money, but to send considerable sums home to their friends. But if these unhappy troubles between the North and South were the cause of giving employment to a great number of Canadians, and of throwing a large amount of American capital into this country, it had, on the other hand, its drawback ; for at the same time it drew off a great many young men from agricultural pursuits, who, in American cities, imbibed tastes and habits that unfitted them for the quiet and tame life of their old homes after they returned to Canada. In the States, likewise, a large portion of the disbanded American army had become vitiated from the life they had led, and when thrown out of employment, were of little service thereafter to their country, and they and their families became mere objects of charity, instead of producers of wealth by cultivating the soil.

When a nation's affairs have arrived at a state of great depression, a remedy is sought, particularly for the impoverished mechanics and laborers. In European countries the remedy suggested for such evils is generally emigration, and the United States and Canada have been the chosen fields to receive them ; and so long as this continent was in a position to require agriculturists, mechanics, and laborers, they were welcomed with open arms, for the loss of population to other countries was their gain. To-day, however, matters are altogether different. The facilities for communication between the two continents have so increased as to have brought us almost to parallel positions, and it is scarcely possible for prosperity or depression to exist in either continent, without being almost immediately felt in the other. The same commercial crisis exists in one now, as exists in the other, and, consequently, we no longer want on our shores an influx of the starving poor of any foreign nation—not even from our mother country. The old adage holds good in this argument, that “charity begins at home.” We have far too many poor now of our own to provide for, and who *must receive our first consideration.*

We have stated that in cases of great commercial and manufacturing depression, emigration has always been the remedy suggested and carried out ; but in Canada we, under similar circumstances, have the same remedy on our own soil, and instead of encouraging the poor of other countries to flock hither, let us do all we can to help and encourage the poor and deserving of our own people to emigrate from cities and towns, in which only want and discomfort stare them in the face, and become cultivators of the wild forest or prairie lands of the West,

where, by perseverance and industry, they would, in a few years, become independent for the remainder of their lives, and become, also, benefactors to their country, instead of a drag upon the community.

The Emigration Department of Canada, years ago, was very badly conducted, and the agents, who frequently were men who were appointed to the office as a reward for some political service, were totally unfit for the important positions entrusted to them ; as a natural consequence, the results to this country were very poor, compared with the sum granted for the purpose ; in fact we, at one time, were actually assisting immigrants across the Atlantic, to become settlers on the wild lands of the United States. There are no more important branches of the Governmental Departments than those of Agriculture and Emigration. It is through these Departments, when properly conducted, that we expect to develop the great resources of wealth that lie in the virgin soil of our vast rich forest and prairie lands.

At the present time we have, at least, 100,000 persons, or say 20,000 families, in this country, almost dependent upon charity for support, without any prospect of the construction of vast public works, or any abnormal change in the condition of our neighbours that would throw money among them and set all our manufactories again in full operation ; but 20,000 families, by becoming settlers on wild lands, and judiciously assisted at the outset, would, in the course of five years, become annual purchasers of agricultural implements alone to the amount of \$500,000, and their expenditure for imported or home-manufactured goods, would not be less, annually, than \$800,000 ; whilst the surplus products sold off their farms would probably amount to more than \$2,000,000, which would only be \$100 for each family, which is but a very small estimate. There is no way in which a public grant of money could be so beneficially applied, and from which such certain and rich results would accrue, than that of assisting, in a judicious and systematic way, an exodus of our own unemployed people from cities and towns to the settlements in the West. Thus would a poverty-stricken class, dependent for a livelihood upon the fickleness of trade, become, in a short time, good farmers, and their condition in life, both morally and pecuniarily, improved in every respect ; and thus we feel warranted in asserting that, from the soil of the land, agriculture can be made a mine of inexhaustible wealth to a nation like Canada, which has such enormous tracts of rich and fertile prairies and valleys to be disposed of on the most favourable conditions.

In our next issue we purpose continuing this subject, and will endeavour to point out how such a desirable object could be effectually carried into effect by the Government, or even by private companies.

VICK'S FLORAL GUIDE FOR 1879.

We have received this beautifully got up work, which is really a perfect gem in floral literature, and decidedly the best thing of the kind published. The work consists of 100 pages, one beautifully colored flower (a group of Paeonies), and 300 illustrations, with descriptions of the best flowers and vegetables and how to grow them, and all for the small sum of five cents. Every family having the least taste for the cultivation of flowers should send for the “Floral Guide.”

The Guide is published by Mr. James Vick, Rochester, N.Y. State, whose nurseries are world famed.