

and made as prosperous and inviting as possible. British statesmen have turned deaf ears to all such suggestions. Their whole anxiety appears to be to get the people banished out of the country, no matter how hard and unfortunate their lot may be afterwards. Our colonies are either spoiled by a system of sickly and ill-advised protection, or blasted by the grossest injustice and mismanagement. Take the Australian colonies as an example. At an expense of £800,000, ship-loads of the poorest, most unskilled, and degraded creatures which the British islands could produce, have been thrown into these colonies. At the very same time that this has been done, a minimum price has been fixed on Crown lands by act of the home parliament, which is declared by the colonists to be 'so far beyond their value as to amount to a prohibition of their sale.' And, as if this was not enough, wheat, the produce of these same lands, notwithstanding the great expense of transportation, is subjected to the exorbitant duty of 5s. per quarter before it is admitted to the British market. Here, then, is a series of measures, than which, supposing that the utter destruction of these colonies was intended, we defy the ingenuity of man to discover any means more effectual for the purpose. Thousands of human beings are thrown upon a great uncultivated continent, whose only hope of usefulness, either to themselves or to the colonies, consists in being instantly set to work in clearing, tilling, and fructifying the wastes with which they are surrounded. But the very parties who have been instrumental in sending them there, as if for the very purpose of keeping them in idleness, and throwing them over to plunder and prey on the industrious colonists, make a law prohibiting the sale of those wastes, except at a price which men of capital refuse to give. And then, as if to make the ruin of the colonies complete, the land is rendered still more unsaleable, still less worth the price affixed upon it, and of course still more forbidding to the capitalist, by shutting up the natural and most extensive markets for its produce. A system of more stupid and heartless law-making cannot be conceived. It is an utter disgrace to the Colonial Office which concocts it, and to the parliament and people by whom it is sanctioned.

"This is a subject of surpassing interest and importance. It must be investigated more thoroughly by the people of this country than ever it has been. We have arrived at a crisis when emigration and the foundation of colonies are in a manner forced upon our notice. We say so, not because we attach any weight to the doctrine that the resources of our own country are exhausted, and that our population has become too large to be subsisted at home, but simply because we regard emigration and colonies as necessary adjuncts of a great commercial and enterprising empire. It must be confessed, moreover, that by long misgovernment and long misapplication of national energies, this country has been brought to a dead stand. Whether we have resources at home fully adequate for our wants or not, it is abundantly clear that these resources have not been developed in a manner commensurate with our wants. Our necessities have shot far ahead of our