

spondence from clergymen, employers, and physicians of all shades of opinion, and all spoke of the deep distress prevailing throughout the metropolis last winter.

Dr Lee, All Saints, Lambeth, said :

A very considerable number would be only too thankful to emigrate from this parish could they see their way to do so. I have never known such misery among the lower classes as they endured last winter; and it amazes me that statesmen do not insist upon a Government scheme of emigration to the colonies.

Mr Owen, St Jude's, Chelsea, said :

One-third of all trades are out of work, except the mendicant trade, which flourishes most when it is notorious that there is least work to be had. The well-known want of employment is an indirect endorsement of fraud. Whether falling commerce or surplus population be the cause, emigration meets both difficulties. There is no other remedial proposal so easy, so cheap, so otherwise desirable, as an extensive organisation to send men to where there is land on which to live by their labour. If Government would make an emigration loan advance, to be repaid after given periods, thousands would avail themselves of the boon, who soon will be a costly and dangerous burthen on local rates or public charity.

The Rev. T. Nolan, of Regent Square, wrote : " Out of a population of 11,000 there are 1,300 families depending on waged labour, the half of whom have not regular work."

The poverty of this part of London is coming in like an armed man. Desultory efforts no longer yield even a temporary mitigation. Government must grapple with the evil. The question is not of alms but of productive work, the want of which among skilled labourers is not so great as among unskilled. But a third of these have been without work last winter for three or four months. Of the shoemakers the greater part had only occasional employment during the winter. Five hundred are day labourers, of whom a third are unemployed three or four months. Tradesmen complain of want of business, ratepayers are greatly burdened, and general depression prevails.

A partner in one of the largest building firms in the metropolis, who was one of the best educated and most intelligent men he was acquainted with, told him the other day that their wages-book showed payments last year and this of more than a thousand guineas a week less than they had been three or four years ago; that he saw no prospect whatever of trade reviving, and that he could have to-morrow hundreds of men if he wanted them, able and willing to work, both artisans and labourers. The gentleman in question did not happen to agree with him (Mr Torrens) in all his views of emigration; and he made his opponents, whoever they might be, a present of the admission.