

tionable systems of tenure of land, and by abolishing such restrictions as the laws of entail and primogeniture impose on the transfer of real estate in most European countries; and the whole standard of life may be permanently raised, and the moral and intellectual status of the community permanently improved by the more complete diffusion of a sound education, physical as well as moral and intellectual, among the masses.

It is manifest, therefore, that all these causes of pauperism of which we have spoken, as well as others which have not been specified, are adventitious and removable, not fixed and necessary in their character. But there is one cause which must be placed in the second category, which is altogether, in the last resort at least, beyond the control of the masses to counteract, and beyond the effort of the reformer and philanthropist to neutralize,—one whose effects may be retarded, indeed, but which must, in the end, prevail over every barrier opposed to it. The human race, and indeed the whole animal kingdom, exists under the dominion of a law, absolute as a decree of fate, stern and relentless as a fiat of doom,—a law, the discovery of which by Malthus towards the close of last century has revolutionized the whole science of Political Economy, opened up new views of humanity and of the conditions and limitations under which it exists, and furnished to earnest inquirers a key for the successful solution of some of the most difficult problems in social statics, many of which had, before that time, presented insuperable obstacles to human progress and the amelioration of the evils which afflict society in densely peopled countries. The law itself may be thus succinctly stated: "*The capacity of the human race for increasing in numbers is greater than its power of multiplying the means of subsistence;—in other words; the ratio of increase of mouths to be filled is greater (potentially, if not actually) than the greatest possible ratio of increase of the food to fill them.*" Of course there are circumstances in which the operation of the law is scarcely felt, as, for instance, in a country which is in actual process of settlement, like Canada or the United States. Its effects only become in any degree noticeable when population becomes dense, and when the demand for food has brought into requisition very inferior agricultural land. But that it always and everywhere exists is shewn by the rapid increase of population in new countries compared with those which are older and more thickly peopled. And in process