

THE CARBONEAR STAR,

AND CONCEPTION BAY JOURNAL.

Vol. I.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 1833.

No. 26.

TO LET.

For a Term of Years as may be agreed on.

A desirable WATER-SIDE PREMISES, measuring about 63 feet East and West, situated in the central part of this Harbour, and well adapted for Building on.—For particulars, apply to

JONATHAN TAYLOR,
Or
SAMUEL C. RUMSON.

Carbonear, June 5, 1833.

NOTICES.

NORA CREINA.

PACKET-BOAT BETWEEN CARBONEAR AND PORTUGAL COVE.

JAMES DOYLE, in returning his best thanks to the Public for the patronage and support he has uniformly received, begs to solicit a continuation of the same favours in future, having purchased the above new and commodious Packet-Boat, to ply between Carbonear and Portugal Cove, and, at considerable expense, fitting up her Cabin in superior style, with Four Sleeping-berths, &c.—DOYLE will also keep constantly on board, for the accommodation of Passengers, Spirits, Wines, Refreshments, &c. of the best quality.

The NORA CREINA will, until further notice start from Carbonear on the Mornings of MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, and FRIDAY, positively at 9 o'Clock; and the Packet-Man will leave St. John's on the Mornings of TUESDAY, THURSDAY, and SATURDAY, at 8 o'Clock, in order that the Boat may sail from the Cove at 12 o'Clock on each of those days.

TERMS AS USUAL.

Letters, Packages, &c. will be received at the *Newfoundlander Office*.

Carbonear, April 10, 1833.

DESIRABLE CONVEYANCE TO AND FROM HARBOUR-GRACE.

THE Public are respectfully informed that the Packet Boat EXPRESS, has just commenced her usual trips between HARBOUR-GRACE and PORTUGAL COVE, leaving the former place every MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, and FRIDAY Mornings at 9 o'Clock, and PORTUGAL COVE the succeeding Days at Noon, Sundays excepted, wind and weather permitting.

FARES,

Cabin Passengers 10s.
Steerage Ditto 5s.
Single Letters 6d.
Double Ditto 1s.
Parcels (not containing Letters) in proportion to their weight.

The Public are also respectfully notified that no accounts can be kept for Passages or Postages; nor will the Proprietors be accountable for any Specie or other Monies which may be put on board.

Letters left at the Offices of the Subscribers, will be regularly transmitted.

A. DRYSDALE,
Agent, Harbour-Grace.
PERCHARD & BOAG,
Agents, St. John's.

Harbour-Grace, April 5, 1833.

BLANKS of every description for sale at the Office of this Paper.

POOR LAWS FOR IRELAND.

(From the Monthly Review.)

We have received a small pamphlet, entitled *Poor Laws for Ireland*, written by R. Montgomery Martin, the author of *Ireland as it was—Is—and ought to be*, &c. The great leading object of this brief work is to prove, that a system of poor laws in Ireland is a measure demanded—first, as one of justice to England; secondly, as one of humanity to Ireland and England as well; and, thirdly, as one of self-preservation for the empire at large.

In developing the effects of the want of the poor laws in Ireland, whilst such laws exist in England, Mr. Martin dwells particularly on the consequences of the immigration of the Irish labourers into England. The practical questions to which the consideration of this subject gives rise, have received the attention of Parliament. The select committee appointed to report on the advantages or disadvantages of emigration in the year 1826, expressed its deliberate opinion, at that time, to the following effect:—that one of two results is inevitable—either the Irish population must be advanced to the standard of the English one, or the English depressed to that of the Irish; or, as they put it in another shape, whether the wheat population of Great Britain, shall or shall not be supplanted by the potato-fed population of Ireland?

The same opinion as this was long ago declared by Mr. Malthus, who stated that the continued increase of the labouring population of Ireland would prove most fatal to the labouring classes in England, because their constant and still augmenting influx lowers wages, and prevents all that vast good being done which would, under favourable circumstances, be accomplished by their superior prudence. After going through the several stages of the process of degeneration, Mr. Malthus concludes by stating, that, if the people increased and continued in their present state, there could be little if any greater degree of security and tranquillity in Ireland.

The evil, the folly, the absurdity, the extravagant expense attending the immigration of Irish paupers into England, and then sending them in many instances back again, must speedily become so intolerable as to require to be put down on the instant. The number of these paupers who annually come to England is decidedly on the increase; and the Irish landlords, in the spirit of that atrocious selfishness which has ever characterized their body, have literally adopted a system of transport for sending their surplus population to that country.

Although attention has been drawn but comparatively lately to the subject of Irish immigration, yet it may be described as an evil of very long standing. So far back as Charles the First's reign, we find a proclamation issued respecting "the swarms of paupers" who came over from Ireland upon the disbanding of Charles's army in that country. The proclamation directed that these persons should be handed on, as it were, from constable to constable, until they arrived at one of the specified ports from which they were to embark for Ireland. The system of immigration has scarcely ever since been interrupted, and it is now carried on to such an extent, as that it is now common for the rent of the cotters' land in Ireland to be earned in England, and sent across either to the proprietor himself, or, if he be an absentee, to his steward.

The expense of sending back the paupers to England, is by no means the least oppressive of the grievances which result from the present system of immigration. An Irishman, by residing three years in Scotland, becomes entitled to parochial relief, and this is a source of expense which it is quite unjust that the people of the northern kingdom should be called upon to endure. But the grand evil, under the head of disbursements, is the expense of passing Irish paupers. This is the heaviest on those districts which have sea-ports on the western coast, because they are the thoroughfare of the Irish, and are charged with the entire expense of the

transit of such persons by sea to Ireland. It appears from authentic returns, that the number passed from Liverpool to Dublin, in the five years ending in 1830, was no less than nearly twenty-nine thousand, the expense of which, to the counties that had to transmit these paupers, was £56,120! Bristol alone, it is calculated, is obliged to apply £1000 a-year to this transport. Truly may our author conclude, upon this view of the existing facts, that the patience with which the rate-payers of this country sustain such an interference of their rights, and so large an invasion of the property which they so laboriously acquire, is highly creditable to the splendid liberality of the British public.

It is the opinion of Mr. Martin, (which, indeed, he only shares in common with every reasonable and disinterested individual in the country,) that the effective, or rather the only, cure for the evil just mentioned, is the enactment of a system of poor laws for Ireland. The author sets out with expressing his surprise, that the abstract right of the poor to national relief, and, if necessary of national relief, should ever be a subject of doubt in a country where the very domestic animals and beasts of burden are even secured from harsh treatment by laws strictly enforced.

Taking it for granted, then, that the poor should be provided with sustenance by those who are enabled to furnish it, as a general and imperative law of society, Mr. Martin thinks it wholly unnecessary to inquire if the condition of the lowest classes in Ireland is such as to demand legislative protection. The fact that they are so is too striking to admit of a doubt, although the author is ready to admit that this state of destitution is confined to those of the humblest class. Mr. Martin appeals to the evidence of Dr. Doyle, as one of the men best acquainted with the situation of Ireland, in favour of the establishment, forthwith, of poor laws. The Doctor believes, that all other measures but this one, for the improvement of Ireland, will be perfectly nugatory:

"I have no doubt," says Dr. Doyle, "that a compulsory rate would have the effect of increasing the capital to be usefully employed in Ireland. I have no doubt, whatever, that a legal assessment, which would take a certain quantity of money from those who now spend it in luxuries or in distant countries, and which would employ that money in the application of labour to land in Ireland, would be productive of the utmost benefit to the country at large; and, I think, that benefit, so far from being confined to the poor themselves, or to the class of labourers immediately above the destitute, would, ultimately, and at no distant day, redound to the advantage of those proprietors out of whose present income I would suppose the portion of that income to be taken. The reason of my opinion is, that when the proprietors of the soil of Ireland would be impelled, by a consideration of self-interest, to watch over the levies to be made of their property, and over the application of those levies; and that the necessity of doing so would induce many of them, now absent, and, more particularly, those of moderate income, to reside in Ireland. Then, with regard to the money thus levied, and with which the committee would be enabled to give employment to able bodies in times of want and distress, if that money were employed, whether in public works, or by the owners of land in useful improvements, I have no doubt but lands which are now enclosed would rise very much in value, the quality of the tillage be considerably improved, and that of agricultural produce greatly altered for the better; so that, in fact, everything which constitutes property in Ireland would gradually become better and more valuable than it now is, or than it ever will be under the present system."

In carrying the principle of this illustration into effect, Ireland would appear to be a gainer to an extent which, arithmetically considered, would be equal to the difference between forty-five millions sterling, the amount of the value of her present landed produce, and one hundred millions sterling, which, upon a moderate calculation, would

be the natural income derivable from the same land. This result is calculated on the amount of acres in Ireland, which is 17,190,726, and the average produce is estimated only as high as five pounds the acre. If it be said, that this calculation takes in a vast quantity of bog and other unclaimable land, the answer may be readily returned, that, in the opinion of engineers (Mr. Nimmo, for instance) best calculated to form an opinion on such matters, any bog is capable, by manure and tillage, and due management, of being rendered the most fertile land that can be submitted to the operations of the farmer. So that, in case justice was done to the whole soil of Ireland, it would be, according to Mr. Martin's reasoning, fully able, without any aid from manufactures, fisheries, or mines, to afford food and employment for not less than 51½ millions of human beings!

Here is a field of unbounded dimensions for the profitable employment of capital! why, then, does not capital flow into Ireland? Dr. Doyle's answer, in the spirit of which our author heartily joins, as the best, for it is the best that can be given to this question:—"Men," he says, "who have money to spare, will not take it to Ireland at present, because of the unsettled state of that country, because of the nightly outrages, because of the want of character of the common people. The great object, then, would be to prepare a quiet population, to take the lower orders out of the condition in which they are placed, and secure them from every temptation to disorder. This object would be accomplished, and it would be triumphantly so, because the existence of an assessment of Irish property would call home the absentees, and induce them to adopt the best and most convenient system for themselves."

Mr. Martin refers to one powerful motive why a system of poor laws should be established in Ireland as quickly as circumstances will admit. Dr. Doyle, he tells us, only speaks the sentiments of every man of experience in that country, when he represents, as he has, before the Select Committee on the State of the Irish Poor, that the physical condition of the latter has visibly degenerated from what it recently was.

"I recollect," observes this learned and spirited prelate, "when a boy, to see them assemble at public sports in thousands, and to witness, on such occasions, exhibitions of strength and activity, which I have not witnessed for some years past; for, at present, they have not either the power or the disposition to practise those athletic sports and games which were frequent in our country when I was a youth. Moreover, I now see persons who get married between twenty and thirty years of age; they become poor, weak, and emaciated in their appearance; and, very often, if you question a man and ask him what age he is, you will find he has not passed fifty. We have, in short, a disorganized population, becoming, by their poverty, more and more immoral, and less and less capable of providing for themselves; and we have, besides that, the frightful, and awful, and terrific exhibition of human life wasted with a rapidity, and to a degree, such as is not witnessed in any civilized country on the face of the earth."

Such are the principal motives which call for the establishment of poor-laws in Ireland; and, with respect to any objections which may arise against this measure, they never occupy our attention but for a short time.—It is usually said, that these laws tend to increase the population. Well, but population increases without them, and that, too, with a vengeance, for, whilst the population of Ireland doubled itself in three-and-thirty years, England took one hundred and fifty to perform a similar exploit.

Poor-laws, say the timid, tend to lower wages. Their power in this respect may be extraordinary; but if they can take off a jot from the wages of the labourer in Ireland, they are gifted with a power which no human penetration can discover. Then, when it is said, that the poor-laws demoralize the population, let it be asked, if the English poor, the very victims of those laws, are not pat-