

of wealth of most countries? For instance, are there one half the number of proprietors and occupiers of land now in England there were 30 or 40 years ago? Is it not a notorious fact that large landed proprietors buy up all the small farms and lots of land they can meet with? I have known parishes that had 40 or more small proprietors and occupiers of land, where now there is not more than one third of that number; the remainder generally become labourers, nearly their only resource, throwing an extra quantity of the article of labour into a market sufficiently supplied, and, consequently, depreciating its value below a just and equitable price, the landlord and fundholder reaping the benefit from the depreciation. But it will be asked, why will farmers give a greater rent than they can afford? I answer, because those farmers, that still have a little money left, must rent a farm at some price; they cannot do any thing else; all other trades and occupations are already overdone. The landlord is enabled to keep up his high rents by throwing three or four farms into one, thereby creating a competition, by reducing the number in the market; while, as I before said, two or three of these farmers must, probably, go to the parish; the one that gets the enlarged farm will curtail his expenses to meet the high rent, by reducing the number of labourers kept on the four farms; thus he impoverishes the farm, and that in return impoverishes him, until perhaps in a short time his resource also is the same degraded station, the parish.

I by no means intend unqualified censure to any class,—for it is not reasonable to expect land-owners will take low rents while they can get high ones, any more than any other classes will dispose of their property at a less value than it will bring in the market. It is the business of legislators, by wise enactments, to regulate, either directly or indirectly, those matters, and prevent unjust monopoly.

In manufactures, some of the arts, and navigation, this monopolizing system, chiefly through the aid of steam power, is still more apparent. Suppose, for a moment, that, within ten years from the present date, one-third of the human labour now required in Great Britain be superseded by machinery, in addition to the present amount, there would then be nearly half the population unemployed, or unprofitably employed, the evils of which, if not counteracted, must overwhelm the country in inevitable confusion: in a word, means