

escape the attacks of disease and the connexion of the disaffected, emigrates to Great Britain. The easy communication now established with Ireland, enables him to come over at the most trifling expense, and consequently may be said to have almost annihilated the barrier of the sea, which otherwise might have kept the contagion of poverty from our shores. He offers his labour in the British market. Labour, the ware he deals in, cannot, like other commodities, be kept back till its price is favourable. The destitute must offer the sweat of his brow for whatever he can get, to allay the cravings of his hunger; his competitors in the market, must bring their prices down to his; and the English and the Scottish labourer will be reduced to accept the wages of an Irish peasant. In some places this result has actually come to pass. In the west of Scotland, the wages of labour are reduced by this cause, nearly to the bare means of existence. In the west of England, the same cause is in operation, and the same consequence is beginning to be felt. At Manchester, the competition of Irish workmen has reduced still lower the miserable pittance, to which our own great competition had already reduced the wages of our artizans. "The question of Emigration as connected with Ireland," says the last Report of the Emigration Committee of 1827, "is already decided by the population itself, and that which remains for the Legislature to decide, is the point to which the Emigration shall be directed; whether it shall be turned to the improvement of the North American Colonies; or whether it shall be suffered and encouraged to take that, which otherwise must be, and is, its inevitable course, to