

supplying our needs, cultivation must be extended until that end is attained."

To the question, is not the fertile portion of the earth taxed to almost its full capacity, M. Comettant replies by quoting from a statistical work recently published by M. Ravestein, in which it is stated:

(a) That the population of the globe is one and one half billions.

(b) That the total area of the earth is made up of 28 million square miles of fertile land, 14 million square miles of steppes, and four million square miles of desert. The fertile portion is capable of supporting 207 persons to a square mile. While a square mile of steppes can supply the needs of 10 persons.

"Since," he says, "the fertile areas of the earth can support at least six billions of people, let us exact this from them and all our social ills will be banished forever. We may amend laws as we will, reform existing institutions, multiply benevolent societies. These steps will be only palliatives. The evils will continue to exist so long as the supply of food is not increased, which is at present insufficient to satisfy the wants of the human race. Agriculture alone, extended over the whole earth, can remedy existing evils, and ensure the happiness of mankind."

But by what means it may be asked, can men living in the too crowded districts, be induced to relinquish old associations, and go to a foreign country for the purpose of opening up new homes? Man is a social animal, as we are told, and does not like to separate from his fellows. It requires considerable courage to encounter the trials of opening up a new country. Moreover, every person has not an aptitude for cultivating the soil, and besides much money would be required to establish oneself in a new land. To the first objection, M. Comettant, replies: "When one is unable to gain a livelihood in a particular region, he does not hesitate to cut loose from old associations, nor is he loathe to leave friends who are powerless to save him from endless misery. If it would require great courage to face the hardships of a new country, how much more would he need to bear almost certain distress at home."

The second objection, that all men have not a taste for farming, is met by

citing the result of a practical test.

"The Foreign Office recently published a report of the English consul at Buenos Ayres relative to the attempts at colonization made by the Jews in the Argentine Republic. These attempts were followed by great success. In eighteen months out of the 50 million francs placed at the disposal of the Society by Baron Hirsch, 11 million have been expended and 3000 colonists have been permanently settled. Although for the most part composed of artisans, the new settlers have cultivated 16,000 *hectares*: Half of which is devoted to the culture of cereals, and the remainder to raising live-stock."

M. Comettant not only points out a remedy, but also shows how it may be applied. For such an enterprise having for its object the extinction of poverty and the prevention of its consequent evils daily becoming more formidable, hundreds of millions would be given by the rich, the writer thinks, with pleasure.

He suggests that an international congress purely economic and philanthropic be held for the purpose of placing the fertile areas of the earth at the disposal of those who would cultivate them. These areas should be granted to intending settlers with all the rights of private property, on the sole condition that they be worked by those to whom they were given.

The international congress should decide that all nations represented at this august assembly, offer to the poor of their respective countries the opportunity of procuring homes of their own. Along with a portion of land the intending settler should receive sufficient food to keep him and his family until such time as he would be in a position to supply himself. Moreover he should be given agricultural implements, animals for reproduction, a dwelling, the necessary furniture, suitable clothing and free transportation to the country in which he would desire to settle.

Those who would furnish the enormous sums of money required would be those who have more than is sufficient to keep them. These sums would be raised by means of an impost on the revenue and capital of the rich. This impost for the purpose of