

of their present inmates, and saved from the influx of others: the gaols would be emptied of their present occupants; and crime would become so much less tempting than the rewards of industry and virtue, that we should soon have a great diminution of the cases brought before our magistrates,—those beginnings of evil courses, which make a commitment to prison the first lesson in the *preparatory school* of a life of wretchedness and infamy. By the opportunities of employment offered at public works, and the fixing (if necessary) a minimum of wages sufficient to secure the labourer a comfortable subsistence, the young, the single, the able-bodied men would find that market for their labour which would relieve from their competition the less able and more aged father of a family. Will your system, Sir, enable you to do or propose any thing of this kind? Quite the contrary: it will preclude all payment of the public debt, prevent you from being ever able to do more than barely pay the dividends—*Tantalus à labris*—: it will call on the poor producers of all the wealth for greater sacrifices of health and life than are now required, exhausting as their hours of toil are: it will lower the price of corn as well as of all other commodities, bring on a stagnation of trade by draining the channels of commerce of their circulating medium, and consign the labourers in greater numbers than ever to the tender mercies of a poor law union house.

“All hope abandon, ye who enter here!”