

These letters were first published in the Boston Daily Advertiser in December, 1851, and January, 1852.

In collecting them together, I have made such additions, as the publication of new documents permitted, to the statistics they contained; and I have annexed, to the whole, some notes and tables which I have thought would be useful in reference.

The facts and statistics in these letters, have been collected, from time to time, in the course of my professional duty, as a minister in a large inland town. Every clergyman will understand me, when I say, that from the very first, any efforts to help the poor, bring up the whole question of duty to the stranger who is within our gates. Whoever is attempting systematic relief must meet at once the question, whether an undue share of that relief is not claimed by foreigners. I found, also, very early in my experience of such matters, that, under the Statutes of Massachusetts, it is much easier to provide from the generosity of the public for the unfortunate born among ourselves of our own blood, than for those as deserving, who came from abroad, or were born from foreign parents.

I found it very hard, however, to collect the statistics, on which to found any opinion or argument on the questions of duty thus presented. And, therefore, when after some correspondence and conversation with gentlemen acquainted with the subject, I had brought together the facts which are embodied in this pamphlet, I felt it a duty to publish them in a form, which should show their bearing on efforts for the poor in this community. I publish them now, therefore, with the hope that I may thus save some others the pains which it has cost me to collect them;—with the wish that with the light to be gained from such facts as they accumulate,—our legislation may some day be improved;—and with the conviction that the more widely attention is called to the details of the Great Emigration, the more extensive will be the feeling that it has been too much neglected in this country by governments and public men.

With such objects in view, I have sedulously turned aside from the curious speculations as to matters of politics or religion which connect themselves with this Emigration. I have addressed myself only to the measures which are taken, and those which might be taken, to conduct, with as little suffering as possible, this removal of a nation from one hemisphere to another. I can hardly enumerate the different gentlemen to whose kind assistance I have been indebted in these inquiries. The energetic officers of the Massachusetts and New York Emigrant Commissions, of the Boston Society for Preventing