

then, to pursue them to their adopted homes with the same. British rulers, however, spurn all such teaching. Our system of colonization reflects as much disgrace on them as ever. Colonies are planted without any effort of statesmanship,—they are fed by no natural and appropriate stream of emigration,—fostered by no paternal care, nor yet organized upon any just and constitutional principles. The great process by which new empires should be founded goes on without plan, without arrangement, and without the smallest exertion of that policy which men consider necessary for their merest undertakings. Every thing is left to the rough chances of accident. Some thousands of our inhabitants, harassed and impoverished by misgovernment, annually betake themselves to ships without organization or concert, and have no sooner escaped from the fangs of oppression at home, than they find themselves the victims of neglect and knavery abroad. This is British colonization !

“What have the great and powerful done to mitigate these sorrows, and to conduct emigration on a plan commensurate with the greatness of the country, and the grandeur of the purposes to be achieved? Loud complaints are made of our crowded population, and emigration is held forth as the sovereign and only remedy. But those who talk most on the subject, are the parties who seem least disposed to act on their own principles. The aristocracy and men of capital are fluent in their praise of the advantages to be derived by crossing the deep. But do they set the example? Do they strive to lay hold on the glittering prize which they present to the dazzled eyes of the half-famished labourer? Do they take advantage of their superior information, their capital, their expansive views, and their capabilities for leading and organizing communities, and, throwing all upon the common altar of the country, go forth at the head of bands of enterprising and willing men, to discover new regions, and lay the foundation of new empires? Shame upon them, they shrink from such noble, though arduous undertakings. What a spectacle do the ruling classes of this country present! Every parliamentary speech recommends emigration as a remedy for national distress; and every agricultural association echoes the cry. And, all the while, what are members of parliament and agricultural associations doing? Manual labour is discouraged, cottages are torn down, estates are cleared of their tenants, trade is suppressed, the very fowls of heaven are watched and guarded by armed keepers, and every measure resorted to by which the people may be reduced to the alternative of choosing either to emigrate or starve.

“Men who allow themselves to be frightened by the bugbear of an over-crowded land may well be excused for their eagerness to encourage emigration; but there is no palliation for the ignorance, or something worse, which pursues emigrants to the farthest corner of the earth, with the same misgovernment and neglect which first drove them from their native country. Common prudence,—the very success of emigration, in fact,—suggests that colonies should be governed with the utmost care,