

sider the State of Ireland, will prove that many of the most alarming insurrectionary movements have either originated with tenants dispossessed of their farms, or have been materially aggravated in their extent and duration by the discontent and wretchedness of this class of the population; and it must be obvious, that so long as the population remains in this state, it must at all times furnish abundant materials to be worked upon by turbulent or designing individuals at any period of temporary discontent. The evils of a redundant population, with all the incidental consequences, have been universally felt and acknowledged; and various suggestions have been made for their partial relief.

But Your Committee cannot but express their opinion, that a more effectual remedy than any of those temporary palliations which have been offered, is to be found in the removal, by Emigration, of that excess of labour by which the condition of the whole labouring classes is deteriorated and degraded. The question of Emigration, as connected with Ireland, has been already decided by the population itself; and that which remains for the Legislature to decide is, to what points 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 will be, and is, its inevitable course, to deluge Great Britain with poverty and wretchedness, and gradually but certainly to equalize the state of the English and Irish peasantry. It may not be superfluous to state, that subscriptions have actually been entered into for this very purpose of promoting Emigration to Great Britain; and the daily increasing communication between the two shores affords a facility for the execution of this system, the consequences of which cannot be viewed without alarm. In point of fact, the numbers removing from Ireland to England have infinitely increased, and the character of the emigration has been changed from one of labourers leaving their small farms and cottages, to which after a temporary absence they were in the habit of returning, into an emigration of vagrants, who have neither the ties of home, nor the hope of obtaining provision to induce them to go back; their only hope is to obtain in England the means of subsistence, which they can effect in no other way than by displacing a certain proportion of the labouring English classes in consequence of their competition. Dr. Elmore, an English medical gentleman, who has been resident for twenty years in the south of Ireland, states, that subscriptions are now actually in progress for removing paupers from Ireland to England (especially to Manchester) in bodies of about forty each, so that their arrival may not excite any particular jealousy. The details upon this subject will be found in his evidence given in answer to the Questions numbered in the margin. And in the Appendix will be found some Returns from the Mendicity Society in London, showing the great increase of Irish paupers upon their lists during the present year, as compared with former periods.

QUESTIONS,

4412,

4413.

Your Committee cannot too strongly impress upon the House, that between countries so intimately connected as Great Britain and Ireland, two different rates of wages, and two different conditions of the labouring population, cannot permanently co-exist. One of two results appears to be inevitable,—the Irish population must be raised towards the standard of the English, or the English depressed towards that of the Irish. The question, whether an extensive plan of Emigration shall or shall not be adopted, appears to Your Committee to resolve itself into this simple point, Whether the wheat-fed population of Great Britain shall or shall not be supplanted by the potatoe-fed population of Ireland; whether Great Britain, in reference to the condition of her lower orders, shall or shall not progressively become what Ireland is at the present moment.