

proceed to Scotland for the purpose of making known the formation and objects of the Association, the Commissioners take this opportunity of briefly advertizing to those considerations which may naturally be expected to obtain for the Association the support of the public, and to render it in its practical operations productive of vast advantages both to the Mother Country and the Colonies.

The first consideration is the distressed state of the Population of Scotland. From the documents and evidence laid upon the table with this report, it is established that destitution not only prevails to an alarming extent in that kingdom, but that it is of a nature which requires immediate and effectual redress. The excess of population which exists beyond that for which the country can afford the means of subsistence, or furnish adequate employment, in the islands and western coast of the counties of Argyll, Inverness, and Ross, is estimated at from 45,000 to 80,000 souls. In 1836 and 7, the famine and destitution in those districts was so extensive, that many thousands would have died of starvation, but for the assistance, amounting to £70,000, which they received from the government and the public. The concurrent testimony of all the witnesses examined by the Emigration Committee (1841) lead to the belief that the recurrence of similar distress is not merely probable, but from the nature of things, absolutely certain, because the population is rapidly increasing, without any corresponding increase in the natural productiveness and resources of the country.

Again, from the exposition by Dr. Alison, of the destitution which prevails amongst the poor generally, of Scotland, at an influential Meeting, held in Edinburgh on the 23rd of March, 1840, the Lord Provost in the Chair, it was declared—"That the Meeting had reason to believe that the poor in some parts of Scotland, and especially in the large towns, and in the Highlands, are subject to a greater degree of misery and want than is to be found in England, or in most other civilized countries;" whilst, from the Report on Pauperism, adopted by the Synod of Lothian and Tweeddale, it appears, "That Scotland is fast falling in the scale of morality. Crime, disease, and pauperism are increasing more rapidly in this than in any other State in Europe. From the evidence laid before the Combination Committees of Parliament, in 1839, it appears, that while the committals for crime have been tripled within the preceding twenty four years in England, they have been increased more than thirty fold in Scotland. Disease and poverty have been nearly tripled in Edinburgh and Glasgow, during the last twenty five years, while the population is not increased more than fifty per cent. During the last sixteen years in Glasgow, population has advanced about seventy per cent., while crime has increased five hundred per cent. It is obvious from this alarming state of matters, that unless adequate remedies are immediately applied, the whole frame-work of Society will be driven to pieces."

The second consideration is the necessity that exists for strengthening British influence in our North American dominions. The late events in Canada has demonstrated the necessity of introducing into that Colony a sound British population upon a national scale—whilst the points at issue between this Kingdom and the United States, renders it a matter of paramount policy to increase in British America monarchical institutions, to multiply the relationships which unite the parent and the offspring community, and to consolidate that union of interests, and feeling, which is the most lasting bulwark whether against foreign aggression or domestic revolt. On the value of our North American Possessions it is superfluous to dwell. It will be sufficiently appreciated when it is kept in view that the retention of these Colonies is essential to the permanence of Britain's supremacy in every region of the globe, and to the maintenance of her position as Mistress of the Seas. Apart from all considerations of a commercial nature, Nova Scotia, as comprehended in its ancient limits, from geographical position, mineral wealth, and water facilities, must ever remain the *Arx et Domicilium* of British power in the Western World. Under the various necessities of the Mother Country, the hostile tendencies of the United States, and the troubled aspect of affairs in every portion of the Empire, it is both political wisdom and the bounden duty of the State to develop by all possible means the vast resources of our North American possessions, and to make them available for the relief of those exigencies, whether of a moral or physical nature, which concern the prosperity and peace of the Nation at large.

The third consideration is the benefits that must arise from a well conducted system of Emigration, under the auspices of so influential a body as the Consulting Council of this Association. That body not only comprehends many of the chief landed proprietors in Scotland, but also a large number of the Baronets, a class of the Scottish Nobility who received their family honours for the express purpose of advancing the work of Colonizing North America. The Emigration Committee reported last Session to the House of Commons their joint opinion, that "a well arranged system of Emigration would be of primary importance," and they added, that "it seemed to them impossible to carry such a system, upon so extensive a scale as would be necessary, into effect, without aid and assistance from the Government;" but the Commissioners are hopeful, that under the auspices of the Peers and Baronets of Scotland, such effect will be given to the practical operations of this Association, as shall render them most effectual for that end. Under the supervision of this Council the best guarantee will be held out to the public, whether of Scotland or of the United Kingdom, that every aid will be rendered to the Settler who shall be located upon the lands of the Association. The connecting tie

between the landlord and his tenantry, which has hitherto formed the characteristic of the Scottish people, will be retained; and the strongest pledge will be afforded that the welfare of the Emigrant will be watched over and provided for so long as he remains under the protection of the Association.

This Association has the further advantage of the able assistance of Col. Sir Allan Macnab, who enjoys equally the confidence of his fellow subjects in Canada and the United Kingdom, and the opportunity offered by his instrumentality of securing valuable lots of land, in the midst of dense settlements, by which not only the happiness of the Emigrant will be promoted, but the wealth of the Association secured.

From the Report on Emigration to Canada just issued, it appears that during the last twelve years 321,807 persons have emigrated to Canada, and 347,632 to the United States, being an average of 26,800 yearly to the former, and 28,700 to the latter. The Commissioners are hopeful that under an Association such as this the whole stream of Emigration from Scotland will be concentrated in British America, and that its operations will materially tend to unite the Mother Country and the Colony, to realize their mutual interests, and to perpetuate their connection and prosperity.

The Report having been read, the following series of Resolutions were submitted.

The Meeting having deliberated upon the same, and Sir Allan N. Macnab, Speaker of the late Legislative Assembly of Upper Canada, and a Member of the present United Parliament of Canada, Mr. Ogden, Her Majesty's Attorney General for Eastern Canada, and other gentlemen, having expressed their opinions in favour of the Association, and of the benefits which must flow to British America from a well arranged system of Emigration from the United Kingdom,—

On the Motion of Major General Sir James Cockburn, Bart., G. C. H., seconded by the Hon. and Rev. Sir William Dunbar, Bart., it was unanimously Resolved—

1st. That the Report presented by the Commissioners be adopted.
2nd. That a Deputation from the Board of Commissioners shall proceed to Scotland as early as possible, in furtherance of the objects of the Association.

3rd. That the Lord Provosts of Edinburgh and Glasgow shall be requested to preside at Meetings in those Cities, and that every means be used to secure a numerous attendance of Baronets and others.

4th. That copies of the Prospectus shall be sent to such Peers and Baronets of Scotland and Nova Scotia as have not yet joined the Association, requesting them to allow their names to be added to the Vice Presidents, or Consulting Council.

5th. That the Proprietors of Prince Edward's Island shall be invited to join the Fisheries Branch of the Association.

6th. That a Special Meeting of the Consulting Council shall be held at the Thatched House Tavern, St. James's Street, during the end of May, to receive the Report of the Deputation after their return from Scotland;—and that the said Meeting shall partake so far of a public character as to be open to all parties interested in promoting Emigration from the United Kingdom, or in advancing the Colonization of British America.

7th. That the proceedings of this Meeting shall be communicated to the absent Peers and Baronets of Scotland and Nova Scotia, and to such other persons as the Commissioners may think proper.

DOWNSHIRE, *Vice President.*

The Chair having been vacated, the thanks of the Meeting were tendered to the Most Noble the Marquess of Downshire for accepting the office of one of the Vice Presidents of the Association, and for the interest which he takes in advancing its objects.

BRITISH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION, *For Emigration and Colonization.*

At a Meeting of the Consulting Council, held at the House of the Association, 29, New Bridge Street, Blackfriars, London, 8th June, 1842.

The President, His Grace the Duke of ARGYLL, in the Chair.

The Minutes of the last Meeting of Council, held on the 29th of April, the Most Noble the Marquess of Downshire in the Chair, were read and confirmed.

The Minutes of the Meetings held in Edinburgh and Glasgow on the 24th and 27th ult., having the Signatures of the Lord Provosts of these Cities, were laid on the table.

The following Report from the Board of Commissioners was then read:—

The Commissioners report—That in accordance with the Resolution of the last Meeting of the Consulting Council, a Deputation proceeded to Edinburgh on the 17th ultimo; when the objects of the Association having been explained to the Right Honourable Sir James Forrest, Bart., the Lord Provost of the City, his lordship consented to convene a Public Meeting in furtherance of them, and to preside thereat; and the Deputation having had the honour of being introduced to the Most Noble the Marquess of Bute, Her Majesty's Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, His Grace was pleased to state the great interest which he felt in the Association, and to intimate his desire to have his name added to the list of Vice Presidents.

That a Meeting was held at the Royal Hotel, Edinburgh, on the 24th ultimo; at which, the Lord Provost, upon taking the Chair, stated that it had been convened in consequence of a Resolution to