sent to the capitalist’s mind any motive to induce him to part with his capital. Thus that degree of co-operation between the capitalist and labourer, which effects such wonders in this country, cannot exist in a country where land is excessively cheap ; and production, wanting that co-operation, is reduced to the minimum. The labourer certainly gets the whole produce of the soil ; he has no­thing to pay to a capitalist for the use of his implements ; but then it is a very small whole that he secures. In like manner, the capitalist may perhaps felicitate himself on having nothing to pay for labour. In his turn he se­cures all the produce of his fields, but that all is extremely scanty.

Another evil of the excessive cheapness of land is, that there can be no combination of labour wherever it exists. There may be some degree of skill, together with many other valuable qualities, generated by the labourer’s habit of independent exertion ; but that exertion is isolated, and results which require the combined exertion of numbers can never be attained.

It must be further evident, that where each individual possesses a considerable breadth of land, only a small por­tion can generally be brought under cultivation. The cul­tivated spots are therefore scattered over a vast extent of country ; dispersion of population necessarily exists ; and barbarism prevails throughout the country. In a country so circumstanced, a man scarcely knows his neighbour ; schools cannot be maintained ; and the very rudiments of the social state become extinguished, if indeed they ever appeared.

Into a country in such a condition, capital would speedily cease to flow, because there would be nothing to attract it ; and the country would soon exhibit the phenomenon of a po­pulation of pauper land-owners. There would be no colo­nization, properly so called ; there would simply be the emi­gration of masses.

The last colony deliberately established on the principle, if such it can be called, of rendering land as cheap as pos­sible, was that of the Swan River in 1829. Mr Peel was the first grantee. He took five hundred thousand acres, and marked out his land around the port. This, says Mr Wakefield, in his evidence before the Waste-Land Com­mittee in 1836, was as much as to say, “ this is a desert ; no man shall come here ; no man shall cultivate this land.’’ Other persons took large blocks ; and so complete was the dispersion, that the settlers could not find each other. “ That,” continues Mr Wakefield, “ was why some people died of hunger ; for though there was an ample supply of food at the governor’s house, the settlers did not know where the governor was, and the governor did not know where the settlers were. Then, besides the evils resulting from dispersion, there occurred what I consider almost a greater one, which is the separation of the people, and the want of combinable labour. The labourers, on finding out that land could be obtained with the greatest facility, the labourers taken out under contracts, under engagements which assured them of very high wages if they would la­bour during a certain time for wages, immediately laughed at their masters. Mr Peel carried altogether about three hundred persons, men, women, and children. Of these, about sixty were able labouring men. In six months after his arrival, he had nobody even to make his bed for him, or to fetch him water from the river. He was obliged to make his own bed, and to fetch water for himself, and to light his own fire. All the labourers had left him. The capital therefore which he took out, viz. implements of husbandry, seeds, and stock, especially stock, immediately perished. Without shepherds to take care of the sheep, the sheep wandered and were lost ; eaten by the native dogs, killed by the natives and by some of the other colonists, very likely by his own workmen ; but they were destroyed. His seeds perished on the beach ; his houses were of no use ; his wooden houses were there in frame, in pieces, but could not be put together, and were quite useless, and rotted on the beach. This was the case with the capitalists gene­rally. The labourers, obtaining land very readily, and run­ning about to fix upon locations for themselves, and to establish themselves independently, very soon separated themselves into isolated families, into what may be termed cottiers, with a very large extent of land, something like Irish cottiers, but having, instead of a very small piece of land, a large extent of land. Every one was separated, and very soon fell into the greatest distress. Falling into the greatest distress, they returned to their masters, and in­sisted upon the fulfilment of the agreements on which they had gone out ; but then Mr Peel said, ‘ all my capital is gone ; you have ruined me by deserting me, by breaking your engagements, and you now insist upon my observing the engagements when you yourselves have deprived me of the means of doing so.’ They wanted to hang him, and he ran away to a distance, where he secreted himself for a time, till they were carried off to Van Diemen’s Land, where they obtained food, and where, by the way, land was not obtainable by any means with so great facility as at the Swan River.” (Report, &c. 53—4.)

That the semi-barbarous state of what are called new countries arises from the extreme facility of acquiring land, was first shown by Mr Wakefield, in a little work called a Letter from Sydney, published in 1829;@@1 but his views had been communicated to government, we believe, before the departure of the Swan River settlers. The remedies which he proposed have since been substantially adopted, and wherever they have been applied, they have been at­tended with singular success.

Facility of acquisition being the evil, the remedy con­sisted in removing it by placing a price upon the waste lands in our colonies, and by stopping all alienation except in consideration of a price.

The first consequence of requiring a price for land is, that the labourer is compelled to labour a while for hire, until he shall have saved a sufficient sum to enable him to become a purchaser ; and by devoting the proceeds, or a considerable portion of the proceeds, to defray the cost of removing people from the country in which people are abundant to the country in which they are deficient, a continual supply of labour is kept up. The supply being thus guaranteed, the colony becomes at once attractive to the capitalist ; capital flows readily into such a country ; and combination of labour, with perfect co-operation be­tween the capitalist and labourer, being secured, produc­tion is facilitated and accelerated.

The mode of expending the labour-fund is another point of importance which requires explanation. The object is to relieve the population of the old country, and to increase to the utmost that of the new country, at the smallest pos­sible cost. How is this to be done? Evidently by select­ing the emigrants as to age and sex. By confining the ex­penditure of the emigration-fund derived from the land, to equal proportions of both sexes between certain ages, say eighteen and thirty-five, we give the greatest relief to the old country, and provide for the rapid peopling of the new. In other words, we remove from the country where people are in excess, to the country where they are deficient, the greatest germ of future increase at the small­est cost.

“ By removing the selected class,” says Mr Wakefield,

@@@1 Edited by R. Gouger, Cross, Holborn, 1829.