

successful campaign against Hillsborough's anti-emigration initiatives forced the latter to resign from his post as secretary of state for the colonies. When it seemed as if Parliament was ready to enact restrictions, Franklin mocked it in the pages of the *Public Advertiser*, suggesting that the surest way to "put a stop to the emigrations from this country now grown so very fashionable" was to castrate all American men so that potential male immigrants would realize that moving to America would cost them their manhood.¹⁸

But Franklin did not take the new initiative lightly. He prepared a public response to those calling for a check on emigration to North America and planned to submit it to the London's *Public Advertiser*, which had published an account of the proposed bill on November 16, 1773. In his rebuttal Franklin explained that restricting the flow of immigrants across the Atlantic was as practical as "calling for a Law to stop the Thames, lest its Waters, by what leave it daily at Gravesend, should be quite exhausted." The real cause of migration was the widespread misery in England and Scotland. The solution should be improving the lot of the people, not turning the British Isles into jails. "God has given to the Beasts of the Forest and to the Beasts of the Air a Right when their subsistence fails in one Country, to migrate into another, where they can get a more comfortable Living; and shall Man be denied a Privilege enjoyed by Brutes, merely to gratify a few avaricious Landlords?" Franklin, thus, considered the free choice of where to live and work a natural right.¹⁹

Occasionally Franklin got involved in the direct recruiting of artisans. In 1765, for example, he complained of the "Difficulty here to meet with good Workmen and sober that [are] willing to go abroad." He often complied with requests for introductory letters for industrial immigrants. He asked the prominent Philadelphian Richard Bache to assist a migrating tanner to establish himself in the New World.²⁰ In the 1770s he reported to American associates on English and Dutch canal technologies and recommended the re-

cruitment of an experienced engineer to plan and supervise the construction of a canal in Philadelphia. Franklin's most important venture in this field involved the migration of John Hewson, who introduced the British technology of calico printing and bleaching to the colonies. Rumors of Hewson's upcoming move excited the American press. The *Pennsylvania Gazette* reported on January 30, 1772, that "a person who has for many Years been a master in several large manufactories for linen, cotton and Calico printing . . . intends some Time this month to leave England for America with six Journey-men and all Materials for carrying on the said Business." The paper added that "unknown to English manufacturers," Hewson had shipped prohibited machinery to America, and concluded: "A manufactory of this kind will doubtless be encouraged by well-wishers to America." Two and a half years later Hewson announced in the same paper that he had opened a shop in Philadelphia, which was technologically on a par with the latest British calico printing and bleaching technologies. Franklin actively encouraged Hewson to move to the colonies and after the latter made up his mind, Franklin recommended him to leading men in Philadelphia and New York.²¹

Nationalist Republican

To conceive of American national intellectual property in the eighteenth century one had to think first in terms of a collective American identity. More than any other man of his generation, Franklin stands for the best in the burgeoning new nation and its culture. Author of the 1754 Albany plan for intercolonial cooperation during the French and Indian War and supposed originator of the revolutionary call "we all must hang together or we will hang separately," Franklin searched persistently for continental North American unity throughout his public service career. After the outbreak of