

MAY 8, 1886.

A Woodland Flower.

How could I know, O tender woodland flower... With petals blue and soft as summer... That from the dust of long-forgotten-pleasures...

A CRUSHING INDICTMENT.

AN ENGLISH BISHOP ABRAIGNS HIS NATION FOR ITS CRIMES IN IRELAND. Irish World Staff Correspondence. London, April 10, 1886.

THE ENGLISH NATION ARE A NATION OF PLUNDERERS.

"'Toud think no thieves lived in the former... Did not some grave examples yet remain... I ask full space to-day for an authentic indictment against the aristocracy, the nobility, and the kings and queens of England by an Englishman—An English Bishop.

The charges of plunder and murder are brought straight home against the whole crowd of "the leading men of England," since the days of the Norman Conquest, 800 years ago, down to the days in which we live, read, and write, by this learned and valiant Bishop who has come upon the stand to testify against his countrymen, prompted by the breath of the Almighty God.

INDICTMENT OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE. An address delivered in the Town Hall of Birmingham, in England, by the Most Rev. Edward G. Bagshawe, Catholic Bishop of Nottingham.

PREFACE. In the following address I have put together a few of the principal and salient facts of the history of England in Ireland. In doing so I have felt indignation, and I have expressed the indignation which I feel.

In recounting these horrors, however, my intention has not been to stir up ill-will, but to put an end to it by helping on their removal. While they are continued it is impossible that the bitterest discontent and indignation should not continue along with them.

Thus, Sir John Davies, Attorney-General of King James I, tells us that "when the English Pale or colony was expelled, so first planted all the natives were expelled, so as not one Irish family had so much as one acre of freehold in all the five counties of the Pale. This, then, I note as a great defect in the civil policy of this Kingdom of Ireland, in that for the space of 350 years at least after the conquest first attempted, the English laws were not communicated to the Irish, nor the benefit and protection thereof allowed unto them.

THE IRISH TONGUE AND IRISH NAMES FORBIDDEN BY LAW. By the Statute of Kilkenny in 1366, the English King, Edward III, it was made a crime punishable by the loss of his entire lands for any settler to speak the Irish tongue, to use an Irish name, to wear the Irish apparel, or to adopt any guise or fashion of the Irish.

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NO COMPLAINTS FROM IRELAND PERMITTED. To prevent complaints of ill-usuage reaching home to the English Lord Deputy in Ireland caused a law to be passed enacting that any one attempting to visit England without special license should forfeit all his goods and chattels, half to go to the informer.

BUTCHERIES OF MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

As regards confiscation of lands, butcheries of men, women, and children, and other acts of cruelty and perfidy in the days of Queen Elizabeth and her successors, it is impossible to do more than to allude to a few of the principal outrages among them.

QUEEN ELIZABETH, THE EXTERMINATOR. Elizabeth's Lord Deputy Sir Walter Raleigh attempted to destroy Shane O'Neill, the great Ulster chieftain, by a gift of poisoned wine, and that failing, had him murdered by a spy. Her armists destroyed nearly half the population of Ireland. Under her Deputy's career the Irish of the Province of Munster were almost exterminated, men, women, and children being slaughtered indiscriminately, and their houses, corn, and cattle destroyed.

AND, after there was no longer an Irish soldier in arms, more of the inhabitants were killed by starvation in pursuance of the order of the Queen's Deputy than perished in the three French revolutions by Jacobins, Reds, and Communists.

Elizabeth gave plenty of Irish land to her favorites.—10,000 acres to Sir Christopher Hatton, 13,000 acres to Sir Arthur Herbert, 1,000 acres to Sir Arthur Hyde, and about the same amounts to S. W. Courtneir, Sir G. Lyttam, Sir George Boucher, and numerous grants to many others.

THAT'S THE WAY. And that's the way the Irish landlords got their lands all over the island. A simple method—kill all the inhabitants, then take, seize and divide their lands among the murderers!

KING JAMES I. OF ENGLAND. James I. confiscated over two million acres of land in Ulster, which he gave to English and Scotch settlers, and sold also in London, for cash down, to a whole colony of city quillies who revel on the rents they draw to London down to this day.

THE PERFIDY OF KING CHARLES. King Charles I. found this a fortunate circumstance, and he sent the Earl of Strafford, at the head of an army, with another small army of "judges" to have these estates declared forfeited to the Crown for want of enrollment.

AWFUL BUTCHERIES—CROMWELL'S REIGN. The awful butcheries perpetrated in Ireland on the occasion of the Irish rising of 1641 by Sir John Coote and other officers of the Long Parliament, and afterwards by Cromwell, are too well known to need many words.

William III, distinguished himself by his shameful, deliberate violations of his treaty of Limerick with Sarsfield, so honorably fulfilled by Sarsfield on his part.

MORE LAND ROBBERIES. Of course, a vast amount of land forfeitures was the necessary consequence of his perfidious victory.

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rival and injure those of England. In 1680 an act was passed in favor of English landowners, absolutely prohibiting the importation from Ireland into England of cattle, sheep, swine, beef, pork, bacon, mutton, butter, cheese, or wool.

In 1699, eight years after he signed the articles of Limerick with Sarsfield, King William III. gave his sanction to the following "Act" of perfidy, to wit:—An act which prohibited the Irish from exporting their manufactured wool to any other country whatever.

WHO SHALL, who can estimate the degree of ignorance and demoralization of the penal laws passed by the English influence in Ireland? The fate reserved for the poor Irish Catholics who were thus robbed of their lands and their trade by the English nation was still more embittered by the enactment of penal laws, which, contrary to the treaty of Limerick (which guaranteed to them civil and religious liberty), excluded the Catholics from Parliament, from the magistracy, from the corporations, from the universities, from the bench of justice, from a great number of offices, from the right of voting at Parliamentary elections, or at parish vestries, of acting as constables, as sheriff, or as juryman, of serving in the army or navy, or even holding the humble position of game-keeper or watchman.

THE IRON OF FATE. It was the irony of fate that to an Irishman was given the miraculous power of calling into activity the sleeping powers of the oppressed which ended in the overthrow of the English power in thirteen American colonies of three millions, which have now expanded into thirty-eight organized States, containing over sixty millions of people.

THE UNION WITH ENGLAND. At last, says the Bishop, seeing Irish property rights with lease and bounds free to act in 1752, England was resolved it should not last, and accordingly, by the expenditure of a million and a half pounds sterling, thirty-one peerages, and a multitude of other bribes, it prevailed on the Irish Parliament to vote the Act of Union.

THE PARLIAMENT WAS CORRUPT. The Irish Parliament that did so was thoroughly corrupt. Out of three hundred members about forty-five were returned by the influence of ten peers, and about two hundred members by only one hundred persons! Catholics were forbidden to sit in 1691, and forbidden by an Act of King George II. to vote for members of the House of Commons.

THE REVOLT OF THE AMERICAN COLONIES IN '76. [I take the great liberty of intervening a short paragraph into the Bishop's address, just here, to help the reader to form an idea of how a great change was made in the condition of Ireland and in its relations to England.

Three years before the Union, the debt upon Ireland was less than £3,000,000 sterling, but at the Union, in the year 1800, it amounted to £28,545,000. Among the items of expenditure were £13,000,000 for the maintenance of 60,000 English troops in Ireland, £1,500,000 for purchasing the votes and influence of owners of boroughs, £1,500,000 for compensating suffering Loyalists, £54,000 for informers, £1,000,000 for expenses in repression rebellion, £500,000 for lawyers, £500,000 for expenses of removing, etc.

Mr. Giffen's account of the matter in the Nineteenth Century is as follows:—According to the Act of Union, Ireland was expected to contribute to the joint expenditure of Great Britain and Ireland in the proportion of two-sevenths. In point of fact, Ireland could not do so under the strain of the enormous outlay at the beginning of the century. Under that arrangement, between 1800 and 1815, the Irish debt increased from £24,000,000 to £128,000,000, although Irish taxation was enormously increased, viz, £3,500,000 to nearly £7,000,000.

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for a moment that it was justly charged upon them, and that Ireland had been justly made to take her share of English debts and burdens, yet even so, according to this Protestant English accountant, Ireland's share of the burden of taxation is at the present day two fold more than, in proportion to her resources, she ought to be made to pay.

At present nearly the whole taxable income of the Irish people is, in fact, absorbed by the state. The taxable income being about £13,000,000 only, the Imperial Government, as we have seen, taxes nearly £7,000,000, and the local taxes are over £3,000,000, more, or about £10,000,000 in all.

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or success, but on the contrary has been inspired throughout by selfish greed, and has inflicted innumerable horrors and ruinous desolation on that afflicted land. It is time that Ireland should be allowed to administer her own internal affairs.

THE OFFERING OF AN HONEST LOVE.—Saw his wife separated from him and go into the world to seek another companion. Divorce looked upon in this was nothing better than a mockery of the sacredness of every thing that tended to lower the position of woman tended to the degradation of society.

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