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## BACK TO IRELAND.\*

BY SAMUEL H. PYE.

### II.

"When Erin first rose from the dark swelling flood  
God bless'd the green island and saw it was good;  
The Emerald of Europe, it sparkled and shone—  
In the ring of the world, the most precious stone."



ORE and more as time passes is the tide turning in that direction, and the land that fifty years ago was nearly depopulated is rapidly regaining her lost children; returning to her with the added culture and refinement that years of residence among and association with the vigorous and progressive American people invariably bestow. They are going back to Ireland, not the poverty-stricken, down-trodden emigrants that left her shores in "forty-five," but men and women whose education and material wealth have been acquired under circumstances that call out all the best elements of one's character.

While these that emigrated to other lands have been labouring and saving to lay by something for the rainy day that comes to all, they have not forgotten the dear ones left behind, and the frequent remittances home have been used for the betterment of the little "pittaty" patch, the improvement of the paternal mansion, and the

education of the younger "childer"; and so carefully have these funds been husbanded and so marked have been the results, that the returning emigrant is amazed at the change he finds in the "dear ould home" and its surroundings.

The habits of life and the manners of the people have radically changed; industry and prosperity go hand in hand, and the pinch of hunger is no longer in evidence in the wasted form and shrunken faces of her inhabitants. "We have more ease," remarks a recent writer, "more leisure, more of the comforts of life, and we look forward with less anxiety to the morrow."

In a very large sense this change is attributable to the influence of returning emigrants of former years and to the development of the mind and the enrichment of the natures of those who remained at home, through the opportunities afforded for a liberal education, and by the easier circumstances and consequent relief from the carking cares of a life heretofore filled with the gloomiest apprehension as to the future, in a material sense.

America has benefited Ireland in so many ways besides that of

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