

climate is delightful, the people are frugal and industrious, and, thanks to St. Patrick, there are no snakes there. At one time the products of Irish manufacturing industries were celebrated throughout the world; and, to day, no household is properly equipped without liberal supplies of napery made in Ireland.

"The nation that manufactures for itself, prospers." The ambitions and restlessness of the Irish people have ever impelled them to accomplish and maintain their industrial independence; and if this independence has not been accomplished it is due to no fault of theirs. Circumstances which they could not control ordained differently. In the seventeenth century the raising of cattle for the English market was a lucrative business in Ireland, and a source of great wealth. This industry was destroyed through no fault of Ireland. Then Ireland built ships and established a vast and profitable marine trading with foreign countries; but laws in the formation of which she had no voice cut off and destroyed this trade. Then Ireland turned her attention to sheep husbandry and the manufacture of woollen goods, and, according to Froude, "Irish wool was the finest in Europe, and Irish cloth was eagerly sought after;" and then prohibitory laws destroyed these industries. At the time of the destruction of Ireland's woollen industry fifty thousand families were employed in it: when it occurred the exodus to America began. The coasts of Ireland teemed with fish and Ireland's fishing interest began to grow in magnitude and importance; but the adverse laws that compelled Irish fishermen to carry on their business in vessels that were not owned in Ireland, manned by crews who were not Irishmen wrought the destruction of the industry. The cycles of time brought to Ireland Grattan, Flood and others, and an enfranchisement that established a policy of Tariff Protection to Irish manufacturing industries; and then the wonderful spirit of Irish enterprise placed these industries in a higher and more remunerative condition than that country had ever known. The beautiful Island became a hive of humming industry; her harbors were filled with shipping; her commerce extended over every sea to every land, and her people were prosperous, contented and happy. "Protection to home industries" was the magic "sesame" that opened to a now happy people this entrancing vista of prosperity. Then came a political condition—the important feature of which was Free Trade as between Ireland and England; and the glow and sunshine of Ireland's prosperity faded into the darkness and gloom of the following years. Five millions of operatives in workshops and factories were thrown into idleness, and the almost countless establishments that gave profitable employment to these people were closed. According to the official reports, in 1822, the first year under Free Trade with England under the Act of Union, the population of Ireland numbered 8,000,000 souls; and of these the reports show that only 2,000,000 were employed. Those who had been employed in the industrial establishments of the country, finding no other occupation open to them, went upon the land to earn their living. Land rents went up and the price of farm products went down; and then came the famine and its attendant gloom and horror, when over 2,000,000 of the Irish people perished from want and starvation, and another 2,000,000 found refuge from the disaster by emigration.

Regarding the condition of Irish manufacturing industries at the time of the famine—in 1847—Thomas Francis Meagher said:

"The cotton manufacture of Dublin, which employed 14,000 operatives, has been destroyed. The stuff and serge manufacturers which employed 1,500 operatives, have been destroyed. The callico looms of Balbriggan have been destroyed. The flannel manufacture of Rathdrum has been destroyed. The camlet trade of Bandon, which produced goods valued at £100,000 a year, has been destroyed. The blanket manufacture of Kilkenny has been destroyed. The worsted and stuff manufactures of Waterford have been destroyed. The sateen and frieze manufacturers in Carrick-on-Suir have been destroyed. One business alone thrives and flourishes and dreads no bankruptcy—that of the Irish coffin-makers."

This is a brief picture of the variegated fortunes of Ireland in comparatively recent years; and perhaps the view will be subjected to similar kaleidoscopic changes for years to come. Perhaps not. It is to be hoped not; and the action of the Irish Industrial League in Ireland gives ground for that hope. "Heaven helps those who help themselves;" and when it is seen that the Irish people have determined to build their political hopes upon the sure foundation of industrial independence, they will receive greater sympathy and moral support from all the world than what they could ever hope for from any system of boycotting.

The scheme of this Industrial League is to promote and extend home industries. Meetings are being held throughout Ireland; councils formed, committees chosen and information asked for as to all particulars where there is the remotest possibility of reviving depressed industries or establishing new ones. Reports are requested as to all unused buildings suitable for factory purposes; the names of owners and the rent demanded; the character of the premises and water and other power available; the nearest railway stations, etc. Particulars are also requested as to the number and qualifications of skilled and other workmen available; and the probable farm and dairy supplies. The League want to know also where fishing stations are possible; what minerals are available, and all about them. It desires to have introduced into Ireland the latest best and most economical system of flax collection and treatment; and to stir up the people to interest themselves in all that concerns the industrial progress of their country.

A new Industrial Ireland would be a national endowment of world-wide importance, not only in making the people too busy to be discontented, but because all the world would share in Ireland's joy at her renewed prosperity and happiness.

ETHERIC FORCE.

HE is a rash man who would undertake to show that a limit had been reached in human researches into the mysteries of nature regarding the undeveloped forces, that she contains. We have ideas regarding the force of the wind. We have high authority for the statement that "the wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh or whither it goeth." Since those words were spoken, scientific investigation has discovered much regarding the wind, and scientists think they have some knowledge both of the origin and the destination of it. We know