

ACT OF THE UNION.

THE REPORT OF THE HOUSE ON THE IRISH POOR.

This Report Appeared in 1830; the Only Available One of a Like Nature; Given 30 Years After the Union was Consummated; Adam Smith and other Authorities.

In reproducing extracts from this Report and in commenting thereon, we will argue with the actors therein, as if they were present in the flesh. Most, if not all of the arguments, are as applicable to Ireland of to-day, as they were to the Report of 1830.

Fifty tons weight of Eggs, and ten tons of live and dead Poultry, are sometimes shipped from the Port of Dublin in one day.

"In 1829, the Exports from the single Port of Waterford reached £2,136,934, a sum less by £170,000 only than the whole Trade of Ireland for seven years, a century before.

"Exports to Great Britain.
1801—£3,270,300 12 0
1825— 7,048,934 5 6
"Imports from all Parts.
1801—£4,621,344 16 6
1825— 8,596,785 8 11"

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ON THE STATE OF THE IRISH POOR—1830.

The Irish Parliament, in 1779, in a voice that could not be misunderstood, said that, "it is not by temporary expedients, but by a Free Trade alone, that this Nation can be saved from impending ruin." This unequivocal and spirited language opened the eyes of Lord North and the English Nation; and the haughty Minister who contemptuously refused some very trifling commercial advantage in 1777, brought forward his propositions in the English Parliament, granting Free Trade to Ireland.

We endeavored to prove, in our last articles, that the landed monopoly had undermined and subverted Irish manufactures:—it is our intention in the present to prove, that the same many-headed monster annihilated her trade, with the exception of that portion of it which can scarcely be called trade—the transportation of rude agricultural produce for the supply of the English markets. These are open to Ireland, but the colonies, and every other market in the world, are shut against her. There is nothing more easy of proof, than that neither the landed interest of England nor that of Ireland gained anything like what is generally supposed by the corn monopoly, or a tithe of what was lost to the community by it; that it was the intermediate monopolists that reaped all, or nearly all, the advantages, and that the landed monopolists were made the tools and instruments to bolster up the others. The innumerable monopolies that have been generated by it would instantly vanish into empty air, if the great landed one were done away with; but we might as well attempt to reason with the billows of the ocean, or the winds of heaven, as with monopolists of any description; no matter whether they are landed monopolists, mercantile monopolists, or slave monopolists—they will cling to their monopoly to the last, though they may at the same time bring down ruin on their own heads, as well as on the heads of their victims. You may crush the monopoly, but it is the extreme of folly to think of reasoning with the monopolists. If reason could have effect on the landed monopolists, the strongest could be given, and it could be proved, that any measure that presses on the industry of the country must be injurious to them, their interests and those of the community being the same.

The great object with the committee of the House of Commons on the state of the Irish poor, from whose report we have taken the extract that heads this article was to prove the vast increase in the trade of Ireland since the Union and her unrestricted intercourse with England. "Fifty tons of eggs and ten tons of live and dead poultry are sometimes shipped from Dublin in a single day!" triumphantly exclaimed the chairman of the committee, Thomas Spring Rice, Esq., M. P. for the commercial city of Limerick, one of His Majesty's under secretaries of state for the treasury. We cannot say which feeling predominates in our mind—scorn, or indignation—at having such a gross delusion foisted on the public as a proof of the prosperity of

Ireland. Ridicule and laughter would be the most appropriate weapons to use on such an occasion, were it not that, at the very time that committee was laboring to prove the rapidly improving state of Ireland, her wretched inhabitants were suffering all the horrors of famine, and the Premier of England was stating that there was no remedy for it; that famine was periodical in Ireland; that it should take its course; that it was beyond the power of legislation to meet or cure the evil! In the face of appalling wretchedness, misery and famine stalking abroad in every corner of Ireland—in the face of the avowal of the Prime Minister—the committee on the state of the Irish poor attempted to prove that the commercial, agricultural, and other interests of Ireland were rapidly improving! It is our present intention to prove that they imposed on themselves, and grossly deluded those who placed any reliance on their report.

To show that trade is flourishing and agriculture advancing, it is not necessary for parliaments or their committees to announce the pleasing intelligence; it is easy of proof. The question to be asked, and which every man can answer, are these: How is the great body of the people situated? Are they well clothed, well fed, and well lodged—are they contented—are they happy? Let these questions be put with reference to the Ireland of 1830—or the Ireland of to-day; the answers will decide whether the country is prosperous, or otherwise. This is the opinion of a great authority on this question, Adam Smith, who says:—"The liberal reward of labor, therefore, as it is the necessary effect, so it is the natural symptom of increasing national wealth—the scanty maintenance of the laboring poor, on the other hand, is the natural symptom that things are at a stand—and their starving condition, that things are going fast backward."

This opinion of that great man, like every other opinion of his, is at the same time based upon the most profound knowledge of human affairs and on the most splendid principles of benevolence and humanity. What a contrast does it not exhibit to the pigmies who now-a-days pretend to be political economists, and who presumptuously arrogate to themselves knowledge sufficient to guide and direct the movements and actions of seven or eight millions of people! Can any man be found, who will have the audacity to state, that the industrious and laboring classes of the Irish are even tolerably "well fed, lodged, and clothed?" Will any be found to deny "the scanty maintenance of the laboring poor," and that the only change in their unhappy lot is from bare subsistence to "periodical starvation?"

But, said Sir James Graham, first Lord of the Admiralty, "Never was there a country that derived more benefit from another than Ireland has from England since the Union. That country derived wealth from this, and this found her the market for her produce." If he had said, found "Consumption" for her produce, and that, like hungry gluttons, the English consumed everything raised from the soil by the Irish people, without leaving them even husks for the swine, there would have been some truth in his assertion; but we must dismiss the opinion of Sir James Graham, who appears to have been as profoundly ignorant of the principles of trade and commerce, and the true source of national wealth, as he was of the true state of Ireland, or of the character of the Irish people.

We have given Adam Smith as an authority to prove, that if the working industrious portion of the community are poor and miserable, none of the superior grades can be very well off. We stated, that the Irish population was reduced to the lowest state of destitution; in opposition to this state of things, the committee on the state of the Irish poor had the hardihood to aver, that the commercial prosperity of Ireland was advancing with most rapid strides. They triumphantly put forward their proofs, which appear at the head and front of this article, in the amount of exports from all Ireland in general, and from the port of Waterford in particular. "Out of their own mouths they shall be condemned." From the facts they have given us, we shall prove that Irish trade was equally subverted with her manufactures. We shall follow the example given in our last article, when speaking of the ruinous state of the manufactures of the country. It will not, we presume, be disputed, that the seven or

eight millions of exports from Ireland consist chiefly of agricultural produce. "The last, the lowest, and most disadvantageous species of commerce," says Archdeacon Paley, "is the exportation of raw materials for wrought goods—as when wool is sent abroad to purchase velvets—hides, or peltrie, to purchase shoes, hats or linen cloth. This trade is unfavorable to the population, because it leaves no room or demand for employment, either in what it takes out of the country, or in what it brings into it. "Its operation on both sides is noxious:—by its exports, it diminishes the very subject upon which the industry in the same proportion that it supplies the consumption of the country with the produce of foreign labor." Did we not quote our author, it might be supposed that the opinion we have stated was intended to apply to the trade now carried on between England and Ireland. Is not, then, the trade which is carried between the two countries, as far as Ireland is concerned, "the last, the lowest, and the most disadvantageous?" Before we have concluded these articles, we will conclusively show, that the Irish merchants are the unrequited agents, or, rather, the mere pack-houses of the English monopolists.

The advocates for these things as they are, and for the Union, say, if Ireland obtains Home Rule, the English markets will be closed against her butter and bacon, her live and dead stock; invested capital will be removed to Britain—nothing will remain but BLUE RUIN for Ireland.

Such are the consoling prophecies of the Ascendancy, the Monopolist, and the Orange parties. But those carion birds of evil omen, who so flippantly drum such stories into the ears of the credulous, are not aware, that it would not be the first time the English markets were shut against Ireland. The commercial jealousy was as vindictive and as indefatigable as the Manufacturers' jealousy. The British Parliament prohibited the importation of live stock into England, when they thought it injured their own country and served Ireland—when they found this prohibition had a directly contrary effect to that which was intended, that it absolutely served Ireland, they at once repealed the law. They would act precisely on the same principles at this day, if they found their advantage in doing so—so consistent is honest John Bull. Commercial monopolists are like insatiable tigers, ever ready to pounce upon their prey. But what would be the inevitable consequence to England, if she did shut her ports against Irish produce? In that case she would have one of two things to do—either to give the sole monopoly to the English landlord for the supply of the English markets, thereby putting the people on short commons, and by which means the price would be, at least doubled—or she would throw her ports open to all other agricultural countries. Could she, if she acted on the former, be able longer to supply the world with her cheap manufactures—and would she not at once be reduced to the necessity of consuming her own manufactures, as well as her own corn, butter, and bacon? And if she adopted the latter course, would any other country in the universe take the same proportion of her manufactures as the Irish? Could she refuse to give Ireland the same privileges as she would give foreigners? If she did, then the

people of Ireland would be reduced to the melancholy alternative of eating their own corn, butter, pork and beef, together with the "FIFTY TONS OF EGGS AND TEN TONS OF LIVE AND DEAD POULTRY," instead of potatoes and salt, (often moistened with their salt tears); and of shearing their own sheep, manufacturing their own wool, and wearing it themselves. All this to the mortification and ruin of the landed monopoly, and the debauched and absentee rouses. We tell those ignorant alarmists, that if a wall of brass, fifty cubits high, were raised between England and Ireland, the people of the latter country would be able to support themselves, and be in a far better situation than they are at present. England, Home Rule, or, no Home Rule, will receive Irish produce as long as it is her interest to receive it and not one day longer.—E. E. TRUE WITNESS.

RELIGIOUS NEWS.

There are four Indian boys studying in an Indiana normal school for the priesthood.

Cardinal Gibbons has declined the proposed \$10,000 purse his priests and people wanted to collect.

The 19th of March, the Feast of St. Joseph, will henceforth be officially recognized as a holiday in Portugal.

Mr. Albert Reinhart, a prominent young lawyer and a society leader in Cincinnati, is about to enter the Dominican order.

The Pope has issued a special dispensation to the Catholics of Naples from abstinence on Fridays as long as the cholera prevails in that country.

An academy for the higher education of young ladies is to be erected in Lake Linden, Mich. It will be conducted by eight Jesu-Marie Sisters of Montreal, Canada.

Reports from Molokai state that Fathers Conrady and Wendelin are in good health, notwithstanding reports to the contrary. Also that leprosy is on the decrease.

Most Rev. Francis Janssens, D. D., archbishop of New Orleans, has recovered from his recent attack of illness, which he contracted while making his visitation of the parishes in his archdiocese.

Fathers Postage and Hartman, S. J., who have had long experience amongst the inhabitants of Mashona land, have completed a grammar of the Mashona language, and it is now going through the press.

The news from Castel-Gondolfo, Rome, as to the condition of the famous archeologist, Commendatore de Rossi, is fairly satisfactory. He is recovering strength. His left side, however, remains paralyzed.

The Convent of La Rabida at the World's Fair attracts by far more people than any other object on the grounds. It is jammed all day by the crowds anxious to see the treasures it contains.

The Bishops of Campania, at a conference held under the presidency of Cardinal Sanfelice, decided to send a protest to the Italian Senate and Chamber against the bill giving the civil marriage ceremony precedence over the religious.

A movement is on foot to present a testimonial to the American Catholic novelist, Mrs. Anna A. Dorsey. The most Rev. Archbishop Ireland and Rt. Rev. Bishop Keane, of the Catholic University, head the list with a hundred dollar subscription each.

Mgr. D'Ambrosia, Archbishop of Durazzo, in Albania, who is eighty-three years of age, recently resigned his office. His successor has just been appointed in the person of Father Bianchi, who has served as a parish priest in the archdiocese for seventeen years.

The Pope gave audience to Monsignor Bartlett, of Baltimore, with whom His Holiness conversed for a long time on the extension of the Catholic Church in the United States. Monsignor Bartlett presented to the Pope a list of American converts.

The episcopal see of Jafna, vacant by the promotion of Mgr. Melezan to the archbishopric of Colombo, Ceylon, has just been filled by the appointment of the Rev. Henri Jonlain, O. M. I. The new Bishop, who is a Frenchman, has labored in Ceylon since 1860.

The Manning Library Association, of Wilmington, Del., has appointed Rev. Dennis J. Crowley and J. Bradford Gibney, delegates to the Nineteenth Annual Convent of the Catholic Young Men's Union at Chicago, on September 6th and 7th.

September 14 has been fixed as the date for the investiture of Bishop Hennessy of Dubuque, with the Archbishop's pallium. The sermon on the occasion will be delivered by Archbishop Ryan, of Philadelphia.

A remarkable change of attitude on the part of the Catholics of Switzerland has occurred. Since 1873 the priests and high officials have been appointed by public suffrage, but the Catholics have always refused to take part in the voting. Recently at the Bern church election the Catholics went to the polls and easily carried the day for their candidate by 114 votes to 25.

A recent despatch from Panama says: Mgr. Ordóñez, Archbishop of Ecuador, died in Quito on June 12. He was elevated to the archbishopric fourteen years ago. His family was one of the wealthiest in the Republic. It is said he left all his wealth to the Church and the poor. Mgr. González succeeds him as Archbishop.

Noticing the increase of Catholics in New England, the writer of the "Signal Station," in the Baltimore Baptist, says: "In nearly every place Catholics equal Protestants in numbers, and, in many sections, far outnumber them. I think I saw stated, on the authority of the recent census, that Romanists outnumber Protestants, taking New England as a whole."

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