

ACT OF THE UNION.

THE PENAL LAWS CONTINUED.

Some Strong Expressions of Opinion Regarding the Workings and Effects of that Abominable Code—How they Influenced Trade and Commerce.

Let us begin with the Rev. Sidney Smith's abstract of the hateful, despotic laws by which Ireland was crushed. To those who would object: "but this old system of laws has been repealed," the same writer would reply with Lord Macaulay: "Yes, but the spirit it gave birth to still remains."

Above all its effects, the deep and fearful wounds it has inflicted on this unhappy country, are still there; commerce, industry, and agriculture, have been for ages struck down by it. Until then Ireland had very large and important exports of cloth to foreign countries, and was able to undersell the English market. What did the English Parliament actually propose? It presented a petition to William III, urging him to suppress this source of Irish industry:

"Wherefore, we most humbly beseech your most sacred Majesty, that your Majesty would be pleased, in the most public and effectual way that may be, to declare to all your subjects of Ireland, that the growth and increase of the woollen manufactures there has long been, and will be ever looked upon with great jealousy by your subjects of this kingdom, and if not timely remedied, may occasion very strict laws totally to prohibit it and suppress the same."

The King answered: "that he would do all that in him lay to discourage the woollen manufacture of Ireland." Should this not bring the blush of shame to English statesmen? And soon after, acts were passed in Parliament, having for their object to force the Irish to send their wool to England, to be worked up in Yorkshire; from which period the English manufactured their cloth without molestation, and sold what they would to foreigners and to the Irish.

"In truth," said Mgr. Dupanloup, "there is only one word to describe such language, such acts, such laws. But it is a word I will not utter."

"And what shall be said of the navigation laws; the absolute forbidding of all direct commerce between Ireland and the colonies? No colonial produce was admitted into Ireland before it had been discharged in an English port." Thus Dean Swift writing on these laws, says:

"The conveniency of ports and havens which nature had bestowed so liberally upon the Kingdom, is no more use to us than a beautiful prospect to a man shut up in a dungeon."

"These laws," says Dupanloup, "I am aware, were afterwards repealed, when the English needed them no longer; but when a nation's commerce and industry have been thus struck down and stifled, who can fail to see the thing is done for ages? When the capitals of industry, the streams of commerce, advantages, encouragements, thews and sinews, have been transported elsewhere, you cannot bring all this back in a day. Time and extraordinary efforts are needed to do it. Ireland is making the efforts. But by what difficulties are they shackled? And, meanwhile, her population is decimating by emigration, or perishing of want."

Listen to M. DeBeaumont:—"Then as to agriculture and land property in Ireland. I will sum it up in one word: the Irish Catholics are not in possession of their own country. Under Elizabeth and Cromwell and King William, more than nine-tenths of the soil of Ireland was wrested from the Catholics and distributed among Protestants; hence you have at this day the flagrant scandal, that English and Scotch Protestants, Hessians and Dutch Lutherans, and French Huguenots, who form scarcely one-sixth of the population, are masters of seven-eighths of the land."

Is there any shame or scandal in all this for English statesmen? Do they like to hear the foreigner speak in the language just quoted?

And what sort of masters? Well, just let us hear the Times of 27th February, 1849:—

"Property is ruled in Ireland with savage and tyrannical sway. The

landlords there exact their rights with iron hand, and deny their duties with brazen brow."

Hear the Times of the same date, again, for we would not take upon ourselves to be responsible for such an accusation, or in such terms:—"Age, infirmity, sickness, weakness under every form, are in Ireland condemned to death."

On the 4th of April, 1856, Lord Palmerston spoke these memorable words in the House of Commons: "Every member of Parliament must be aware, that Ireland, for a long series of years, has been the victim of the mis-government of this country."

Mr. Bright said in the House of Commons, on the 6th of July, 1854: "No one can travel in Ireland without feeling that some enormous Crime has been committed by the government to which the people of these districts are subject." "What a great social crime," says the Times, commenting on this magnificent speech.

EVICCTIONS.

"The great mass of the tenants of our country have no legal right to the land they cultivate; and in despite of old ties and the most endearing recollections, they may be driven from it as easily as the flocks that graze upon its pastures." Memorial of Mr. Maguire and The O'Donoghue, to the Lord Lieutenant, Nov. 1859.

"According to law now in force, all improvements, of whatever kind, though entirely due to the labor and outlay of the tenants, become in case of eviction the property of the landlord." Letter of the Right Rev. Dr. Kearn, Bishop of Cloyne, April 15th 1860.

Mr. Smith, Master of the Rolls:—"Who in some hateful cases of eviction, left powerless by the law, and thrown off his guard, acknowledged himself forced to administer injustice."

With a "hand of iron and a brow of brass," as the Times expressed it, the landlords at their pleasure sweep out the poor Catholics from their land.

AS TO OPPRESSION.

"On the 22nd Oct., 1859, the Connaught Patriot published a distressing list of tenants evicted by a member of Parliament from his property. And why? For the crime of having exercised their rights as independent voters. Now, in praise of the immortal O'Connell, let us say, one of the great services he rendered to his country was, to give it a conscience in politics."—Quoted by Mon. Dupanloup.

"Landlords, then, evict on political grounds; they evict to avoid outlay; they evict on grounds of religion; and they evict on no grounds whatever. . . . the law still leaves the tenants completely at the landlords' mercy."

And again:—"But I ask, is there any parallel to such a fearful discretionary power, which can thus deliver over a wretched tenantry, bound hand and foot, to the mercy of a landlord?"

Still from the same:—

"So long as this frightful state of things, this entire bondage of the Irish to their landlords, continues let me not be told that the penal code is abolished; that the Irish are emancipated, and enjoy English freedom in its fullness. The first of all liberties, I ask—the liberty to live; do they possess it?—No!"

"As to liberty of conscience, they have that you will say, beyond a doubt. . . . If a landlord wills to drive off from his land the tenant who does not send his children to the Protestant school, has he not full power to do so? And is that power never exercised? Last November, (1860) amid torrents of rain and sleet, in the wild mountains of Partry, sixty-nine wretched beings were flung out on the road by Lord Plunket, Protestant bishop of Tuam, in consequence of their refusal to go to the Protestant school. . . . I argue not the point. I leave it with the following words from the Times: "These evictions are a hideous scandal; and this bishop (Lord Plunket,) should rather die, or fling himself on the charity of his diocese, than be guilty of such a crime."

The Morning Star expressed itself, in language as strong, if not stronger, on Bishop Plunket.

Say what you will of all this:—"No!" exclaims Macaulay; "no artifices can blot out the stigma of persecution which disgraces the Established Church." "I do not," says he again,

"speak in anger, or with a view to excite anger; I do not speak with rhetorical exaggeration: I express with calmness and deliberation, in the only proper terms, an opinion which I formed many years by, and confirmed by all my observations and reflections, and which I am ready to support with argument, when I say that, of all the institutions which exist in the civilized world, the Established Church in Ireland seems to me the most absurd. . . . Nowhere does the church of a small minority enjoy such privileges. . . . In this country alone we see a society of 8,000,000 of men supporting a church of 800,000"—Speeches of the Right Hon. T. B. Macaulay, 1854, p. 380.

Sidney Smith expresses himself in terms perhaps even stronger:—"It can safely be said that such an abuse is not to be met with in all Europe, in all Asia, in all the known parts of Africa, nor in all we have heard said of Timbuctoo."—Works of Sidney Smith, London, 1854, vol. III, p. 581.

Lord Normanby, when Viceroy of Ireland, thus addressed the statesmen of his own country, speaking to them of the evils he had seen, and grieved to see himself powerless to remedy:—"I look on you as having more influence for evil than I have for good. . . . I have met there with depths of despair, to which a friendly voice could penetrate no longer."—Speech of the (then) Earl of Mulgrave, in the House of Lords, on the state of Ireland, Nov. 24, 1837.

In speaking of emigration:—"When the inhabitants of a country quit it en masse, because they cannot live there, is not the government of that country judged and condemned."—John Stuart Mill's Principles of Pol. Econ., vol. I, p. 381.

This must suffice for the present; and yet we are only at the portal of the subject.—EDITOR TRUE WITNESS.

VITAL STATISTICS.

In conformity with a law passed during the last session of the Legislature, the Provincial Board of Health will begin, with the 1st, of July the collection of vital statistics in the 846 municipalities of the Province.

The important point in this law of statistics is to require that before any burial is allowed, a certificate signed by the physician who attended the deceased and establishing the cause of death be furnished to the person entrusted with the registers of civil status (the clergyman). When no physician has been called, two credible persons or the clergyman give a certificate establishing to their knowledge, the cause of death.

These certificates, which will be forwarded monthly to the Provincial Board of Health, will be a source of precious information for the Board. They will show that localities of the Province have the highest death-rate, which diseases have caused a heavy mortality in certain places and not in others, which are the diseases prevailing in certain districts, which seasons are most fatal, what ages and sexes suffer more, and what are the professions mostly affected, &c. &c.

These statistical data, the Provincial Board will study with the result that often it may be able to indicate to municipalities the remedy which would reduce their death-rate, which, in some cases, is enormous. (15 municipalities had a death-rate of over 50 per 1000 inhabitants during the year 1890).

But it is especially respecting contagious diseases that these certificates will be important to the Board. At the end each month, the Board knowing the exact number of deaths caused by each contagious disease in every locality of the Province, will be able to inquire immediately into the measures taken to check such diseases and by ordering a rigid enforcement of isolation and disinfection will often prevent an epidemic. The Board relies upon the medical profession to furnish it with accurate and reliable data and entertains no doubt as to its support, since the want of Legislation on the subject, which existed up to last session, has often drawn the attention of the medical corps.

A SIMPLE WAY TO HELP POOR CATHOLIC MISSIONS.

Save all cancelled postage stamps of every kind and country and send them to Rev. P. M. Barra, Hammonton, New Jersey, U.S. Give at once your address, and you will receive with the necessary explanations a nice Souvenir of Hammonton Missions.

ROMAN NEWS.

Gleaned from the London Universe.

Mgr. Agliardi has left Rome for his post as Nuncio at Vienna.

Seven sisters of the Congregation of Jesus Christ have left Genoa by land for Southampton, and thence by steamer for Chicago and Canada.

Mgr. Merry del Val has been appointed the Ablegate to present the Cardinal's biretta to Mgr. Schaulch, Bishop of Gran-Varadino, in Hungary.

Cardinal Vannutelli has renounced the see of Bologna, as we anticipated, and now takes rank among the Cardinal Bishops, having accepted the suburban diocese of Frascati, near Rome.

Cardinals Graniello and Sarto were present in Rome at the Consistory of Monday and received their nominations and the calotte from the Pontifical officials. They were subsequently paid the usual visits of ceremony.

Two French nuns, Sister St. Ambrose, of the Hospice of Lisieux (Calvados), and Sister Alexandrine, of the Congregation of St. Joseph of Cluny at Brier (Finisterre), have received medals of honor for their brave conduct during the cholera epidemic of last year.

Reverend Mother St. Pierre has left Napier in New Zealand, via Sydney, on her way to take part in the election of a Superior-General of the Order at Lyons. She was accompanied by Mother St. Rosaire, Provincial of the Order in New Zealand. For thirty years this excellent lady has been the object of respect and affection in the far land, winning the esteem of Protestant and Catholic alike. It was touching to witness the marks of attachment paid to her at her departure by the poor and the orphans under her charge.

By the new creations the College of Cardinals has been augmented to sixty-two, and as there are two Cardinals reserved in petto, since the Consistory of the 16th of January, only six hats are vacant to complete the plenum of seventy. There are thirty-four Italians, counting the lately-appointed Cardinals Graniello and Sarto. The non-Italians are twenty-eight, thus divided: France, seven—Thomas, Desprez, Langenieux, Richard, Meignan, Lecot, and Bourret; Austria, five—Schonbron, Dunajewski, Gruscha, Vaszary, and Schlauch; Germany five—Von Hohenlohe, Ledochowski, Melchers, Krementz, and Kopp; Spain four—Benavides y Navarrete, Monescillo y Visco, Gonzales y Dias Dunon, and Sans y Fores; Portugal, two—Serreira dos Santos Silva and Neto; America, two—Taschereau and Gibbons; England, Vaughan; Ireland, Logue; Belgium, Goossens; and Australia, Moran.

QUEBEC'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE HOME RULE FUND.

HON. ED. BLAKE'S ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF QUEBEC'S CONTRIBUTION.

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

June 5, 1893.

DEAR SIRS,—I am truly obliged by your kind letter of 28th May, enclosing draft for £167.8 s., being the proceeds of the City of Quebec Home Rule subscriptions.

I have transmitted the draft with your letter to Messrs. Justin McCarthy, T. Sexton and John Dillon, M.P's, trustees of the fund, with the request that it should be duly acknowledged.

With many thanks for your kind wishes and with the request that you would convey to your fellow subscribers my sense of their goodness in rendering such material assistance to the cause,

I am, yours faithfully, EDWARD BLAKE.

WM. SLATTERY, Esq., AUGUSTUS CONVEY, Esq., Quebec

The following acknowledgment of Quebec's contribution to the Irish Home Rule Fund has been received:—

IRISH NATIONAL FEDERATION,

24 Rutland Square,

Dublin, 8th June, 1893.

MESSRS. WM. SLATTERY AND AUGUSTUS CONVEY, Quebec.

GENTLEMEN,—I have much pleasure in handing you, enclosed, a receipt for your remittance for £167 8s. 8d. (\$319.00) to Parliamentary Fund, through the Hon. Edward Blake, M.P., and in conveying to you and your generous fellow contributors and workers in the cause the sincere thanks of the committee for their timely assistance.

I am, gentlemen, Yours faithfully, JOHN C. ROONEY.

Lady on leaving a crowded tramcar: Well, I'm glad to get out of this crush. I've had to stand on one foot all the way. Voice from the corner: Yes; and that one foot was mine.