



INSENSIBILITY TO FAMINE.

There are many people who do not know when they have had enough; but, according to Sir Fitzroy Kelly, there are also many—so many as to include the majority of Her Majesty's subjects—who cannot tell when they have had too little. Lord Derby's Solicitor General has made this discovery, and imparted the new-found truth to his constituents of East Suffolk, whom he is reported to have thus addressed at the hustings:—

"It has been said that upwards of 3,000,000 quarters of wheat more were imported in 1850 and 1851 than in 1845 and 1846, before the repeal of the Corn Laws took place. * * * While I admitted, as I do now, the truth of the fact that there was this increase in the importation, I venture to assert that the food, the comforts and enjoyments of the people have been in no wise increased, have not, taking them as a mass, been increased at all; for if 3,000,000 more quarters have been imported, 3,000,000 quarters less have been produced in this country."

The people at large, before the repeal of the Bread Tax, were certainly not in the perfect fruition of food, comforts and luxuries. These good things according to Sir Fitzroy Kelly, have since in no wise increased. Therefore they have diminished: for the population has gone on increasing. But the vulgar cry is still "Hooray for cheap Bread!" which, as your friend Euclid would, say, is absurd, ridiculous, preposterous, if it means scarcity, as it does if we are to believe Sir Fitzroy Kelly.

So much corn has been imported, so much less has been grown, so many more months to feed, so much less bread for each: that is the case of our learned friend. Well: suppose, we have not eaten so very much more bread than we used to eat. May not Sir Fitzroy Kelly find an explanation of this circumstance in the fact that we have eaten more meat? Bread is not the only article of food we rejoice in. A very general opinion prevails that Free Trade has enlarged our dietary altogether; so that the masses are not so restricted as they were to bread-dinners. Most of us go about under an idea that we have partaken, in additional measure, of beef, mutton, veal, and lamb: but this, the Solicitor General will perhaps tell us, is an illusion. Now it is not the fact, that he has himself been studying electro-

biology, and trying to impress the susceptible subjects of East Suffolk with a fancy that a bellyful is short-commons?

But if Free Trade is a delusion, why should the Derbyites seek to undeceive us? How cruel of them to disturb our blessed hallucination! If we imagine we have a Lotus in the big loaf, humour the national mania, allow us to continue in the enjoyment of it: if we are crazy, nevertheless you see it keeps us quiet.

GOLDEN PROSPECTS.—Owing to the expected influx of gold from Australia, it is reported in the best informed circles that Gold Stick will ultimately have his wand of office composed of the precious metal. The metal, however, will be less precious than it is at present; and the rise in comparative value of the secondary metallic substance, will render it, by and by, a much more fortunate lot than it is even now, to be born with a silver spoon in one's mouth.

A DOUBTFUL POINT.

Looking over a file of the *Times* newspaper the other day, our eye was caught by the following passage:—

"I consider as great Criminals those who, by personal ambition, would compromise the small amount of stability guaranteed us by the Constitution."

These gentle reader, are the words of PRESIDENT LOUIS NAPOLEON, delivered in his message to the French Assembly upon its opening in November, 1850. Their quotation, we think, is rather opportune just now; for if LORD MALMESBURY'S "Extradition of Foreign Criminals Bill" had passed into law, it clearly might have been questioned whether, in the event of the above speaker seeking refuge on our shores, we should not have bound, upon his own "considering," to send him back again.

OUR DOG DAY NEMESIS.—We had some thought in consequence of the heat, of presenting our readers this week with a number of iced *Punch*; but having to go to press rather before publication, it occurred to us that the weather might change in the meanwhile; and, besides, the refrigerative process would have been vitiated with some difficulty, which could only have been surmounted by the coolest impudence.