

ly may be difficult; but, with the united and earnest efforts of all who are the friends of the working classes it ought, after all, to be only a question of time.—What measures can be brought to bear upon the other root of the evil is a more delicate question, and will require the nicest care in handling, for there you cut into the very quick of the working man's condition. His children are not only his offspring, to be reared for a future independent position, but they constitute part of his productive power, and work with him for the staff of life. The daughters especially are the handmaids of the house, the assistants of the mother the nurses of the younger children, the aged, and the sick. To deprive the labouring family of their help would be almost to paralyze its domestic existence. On the other hand, carefully collected statistics reveal to us the fact that, while almost 600,000 children between the ages of 3 and 15 are absent from school, but known to be employed, no less than 2,300,000 are not at school, whose absence cannot be traced to any ascertained employment or other legitimate cause. You will have to work then, upon the minds and heart of the parents, to place before them the irreparable mischief which they inflict upon those who are intrusted to their care by keeping them from the light of knowledge—to bring home to their conviction that it is their duty to exert themselves for their children's education, bearing in mind at the same time that it is not only their most sacred duty, but also their highest privilege. Unless they work with you, your work, our work, will be vain; but you will not fail, I feel sure, in obtaining their co-operation if you remind them of their duty to their God and Creator. Our Heavenly Father, in His boundless goodness, has so made His creatures that they should be happy, and in His wisdom has fitted His means to His ends, giving to all of them different qualities and faculties, in using and developing which they fulfil their destiny, and, running their uniform course according to His prescription, they find that happiness which he has intended for them. (Cheers.) Man alone is born into this world with faculties far nobler than the other creatures, reflecting the image of Him who has willed that there should be beings on earth to know and worship Him, but endowed with the power of self determination, having reason given him for his guide. He can develop his faculties and obtain that happiness which is offered to him on earth to be completed hereafter in entire union with him through the mercy of Christ. But he can also leave these faculties unimproved, and miss his mission on earth. He will then sink to the level of the lower animals, forfeit happiness, and live separate from his God, whom he did not know how to find. Gentlemen, I say man has no right to do this. He has no right to throw off the task which is laid upon him for his happiness. It is his duty to fulfil his mission to the utmost of his power; but it is our duty—the duty of those whom Providence has removed from this awful struggle, and placed beyond the fearful danger—manfully, unceasingly, and unflinchingly to aid by advice, assistance, and example, the great bulk of the people, who, without such aid, must almost inevitably succumb to the difficulty of their task. They will not cast from them any aiding hand, and the Almighty will bless the labours of those who work in his cause. (His Royal Highness sat down amidst loud applause.)

JESUIT EXTRAORDINARY.—The *Ami de la Religion* states that the Rev. Father De Wattwil, of the Society of Jesus, has by his will, bequeathed to the Canton of Berne the greater portion of his patrimonial inheritance, which amounts to more than 100,000 francs (£4,000 sig.), to be distributed by the Cantonal Government—the majority of whom are Protestants—amongst the poor and indigent of all sects and creeds without distinction.

WHERE RAGS COME FROM.—Two-thirds of the rags imported to this country, come from Italy, being collected at Genoa and Trieste, from the Turks, Greeks, and Syrians, who use vast quantities of cheap cotton cloth, whence they are shipped to this country, there being no home demand to work them up into paper, as there is no free press or free books in Italy. No Protestant country ever exports rags.

Mr. R. C. Carrington writes to the *Times* from the Bodhill Observatory "that a tolerably bright telescopic comet was discovered on the 22nd by Dr. Klinkerfues, of Göttingen, about an hour after midnight. By a second notice, which very closely followed the first, it appears that the same object was independently detected at Paris on the 23rd, by M. Diem, of the Imperial Observatory. It may not be unnecessary to add that the appearance and path of the present body offer no similarity to those of the comet of 1856."

DEFEAT OF THE SPIRIT RAPPERS.—The Spirit Rapping imposture has received its death-blow in Boston. The *Courier*, of that city, some time since, it will be recollected, challenged one of its high priests, Dr. H. F. Gardner, to produce some practical manifestation of their pretended power, with \$500 to be forfeited in case such manifestation should satisfy a Committee, selected and approved by both parties to the contract. The Committee went to work, investigated patiently, and spent a good deal of time in probing the thing to the bottom. The *Courier*, of Wednesday, contains the official report, which declares the test an entire failure on the part of the "Spiritualists." Nothing was exhibited to the Committee, which under the widest latitude of interpretation could be regarded as equivalent to either of the proposed tests, or any phenomenon which required for its production, or in any manner indicated a force which could technically be denominated Spiritual, or which was hitherto unknown to science, or a phenomenon of which the cause was not palpable to the Committee. The names of the Committee are a sufficient answer to any charge that may be made, that the investigation was unfair or impartial, viz.: Professor Agassiz, Benj. Pierce, B. A. Gould, Jr., E. N. Horsford. These gentlemen, in the course of their report, bear the following important and emphatic testimony:—"It is the opinion of the Committee, derived from observation, that any connection with Spiritualistic circles, so-called, corrupts the morals and degrades the intellect. They, therefore, deem it their solemn duty to warn the community against this contaminating influence, which surely tends to lessen the truth of man and the purity of woman." That there will be a certain class of minds to which their report will neither afford satisfaction nor bring conviction, we can easily anticipate. But eventually even these will learn at least this much—that science is a substantial thing not to be trifled with, or set aside, and that no general error can long prevail against the intelligent demonstrations of truth, by this means, however, they may still continue to ignore the authority of God's Word.

POPULATION—ENGLISH GROWTH AND FRENCH DECLINE.

Notwithstanding the restraints on the French press, tending to prevent the currency of any facts of evil omen, every now and then ugly indications will leak out, that all is not so sound and prosperous as our ally and near neighbour often professes. When the increase of population declines or ceases among a people, there is a sure sign of some radical mischief at work. Considering the vast stream of immigration from Great Britain of late, it would not have been very surprising had our population afforded such an indication. But that France, internally peaceful, proud of its martial resources, and issuing no tide of immigration worth mentioning, should so positively stationary in this respect, would be incredible, but for the sure evidence of the Census Report for the year 1856. French writers, who have eagerly predicted "la decadence d'Angleterre," must now look at home.

It appears, that from 1851 to 1856, the French people only increased by 256,000 souls. The British, during the same five years, have increased 1,157,000 souls, or four and one half times as much. The population of France is about double that of Great Britain; so that the British increase is nine times greater than the French.

Now, in the ten years from 1846 to 1856, we sent forth to our colonies 2,800,000 persons—a vast number of immigrants than ever left any country in the like time. So that it is here seen to be true, "there is that scattereth and yet increaseth."

Though France has contributed little to foreign immigration, there is a singular and undesirable internal migration, which the census discloses. The department of the Seine and Paris have gained 300,000 souls, or 50,000 more than the total increase in France in the last five years. The manufacturing departments have mostly increased, while the agricultural departments have decreased. The loss of labor in rural districts is sorely felt, while the people are crowding the towns and cities. Now, were this the result of a natural demand, it might prove a certain kind of prosperity; but it chiefly arises from the enormous sums of public money spent in the capital, and in great cities on the public works, or in order, artificially, to keep up the falling prices of bread and meat. The French have found their gold-fields in the great capitals, and have not been aware that they were only enriching themselves by increasing the burdens of their own taxation. The facilities given to ill-grounded speculation have created great seeming gains of wealth, and led to profuse expenditure in the centres of fashion. Sooner or later, such false stimulants must prove deceptive; and even already, the fact of a decline of the growth of population reveals the working of some strong prudential considerations counter-working the instincts of nature. Yet more strange is it to find, that while "the number of marriages increases, that of births seems to decline—showing an

evident anxiety on the part of fathers of families as to providing for their offspring."

It is not in a spirit of exultation or vain glory, but of gratitude to Divine Providence, that we contrast the state of our own beloved land with that of France. It appears that in Great Britain, from 1842 to 1856, "while the population has increased less than one-fifth the number of births for the year has increased nearly two-sevenths." Our "population is increasing in a greater ratio than it was fifteen years ago." While "population has increased one-fifth, the number of marriages has increased one-third." Not only so, but the elasticity of our commerce is marvellous. In 1842, the exports were £47,000,000. In 1845, they had risen to £60,000,000. In 1848, (the revolution year), they fell to £52,000,000. In 1851, they rose to £71,000,000; in 1853, to £98,000,000. They are stationary during the war years. In 1856 they leap up to the enormous figure of £115,000,000, and promise a further increase this year. All this time pauperism is steadily decreasing, and our national progress would hardly be credible, so unprecedented and so contrary to all political reckoning does it seem, but for the most unanswerable evidence.

Doubtless, among the latent causes of the difference between the two nations in the above respects, is the more domestic character of the English. It is to be feared there is a looseness of fidelity to the marriage relation, partly the effect of religious infidelity, and partly of Popery, which turns hallowed love into sensual indulgence, and so, in various ways, diminishes the fruitfulness of marriage. The effect of placing under the regulation of law the seductions of lawless lust, appears to be to lessen the shame of licentious habits, which inevitably prey upon the well-being and growth of families. The fondness of show, luxury, and fashionable appearance also tempts to a personal indulgence incompatible with the arduous and self-denying exertions to provide for an increasing and respectable family. The stables are preferred to the nursery. The rings, bracelets, and jewels are more desired than the matronly ornaments of loving, clustering children.—Plate, and feasts, and rich furniture, to dazzle the eyes of the *beau monde*, are more sought than the cradles, toys, and habiliments of growing boys and girls. The expense of clubs and of parties eats away the funds required for the schooling and education of posterity. Life becomes like an annuity which dies with the possessor, and leaves behind no invested capital to enrich those who come after.

If English family life is less selfish, more fruitful, and more happy, we owe it to our dear old Bible, our Gospel faith, our measure of obedience to the wise and holy laws of God. Let us beware how we imitate the laws of our ally. Let us carefully avoid the pernicious example of her profane Sabbaths, her closed Bible, her priestly slavery, her impatience of the restraints of real religion, her passion for the glitter of appearance, the indulgence of sense, taste, and mirth, and unholy abrogation of the social duties which, involving sacrifice, cost, and care, are nevertheless ever recompensed with the crown of prosperity, progress, and peace.—*British Banner*.

The Utah news is not important. From Salt Lake we learn that the dissensions among the Mormons had come to an issue. Three hundred of those who had become disgusted with the rule of Brigham Young, who go there by the appellation of "Apostates," had left for the Atlantic States. Two of the Apostates had also arrived in Carson's Valley, having run away from Salt Lake on the 6th of April, and swam Bear River near by to make good their escape. They tell some hard stories about the condition of the Saints. According to their accounts there are 6,000 Apostates at Great Salt Lake, who are in constant fear of a band of braves, employed by Brigham Young, known as the "Destroying Angels." They say that dead bodies are constantly found about that place, and that while the Mormons attribute their murder to the Indians, the Apostates believe they are murdered by the "Destroying Angels." They also represented that the leading Mormons preach openly against permitting any women or children to leave there.

THE FINAL SEARCH FOR THE ARCTIC EXPEDITION.—The (auxiliary) screw-steamer Fox left Aberdeen yesterday (Wednesday) morning, under Captain McClintock, R.N., to prosecute the final search for traces of the Franklin expedition. The Fox, originally built for a yacht, has been strengthened, and specially fitted up for this service at a heavy expense—the main portion of which falls to the noble-hearted Lady Franklin; the cost price of the vessel was, we believe, £2,000, and to that has to be added fitting out, wages, provisions, &c. Lady Franklin has been at Aberdeen for the past ten days, and witnessed the departure of the expedition. Captain McClintock, who commands the expedition, has had much experience in Arctic exploration, having been in at least two previous expeditions, and is a most intelligent and energetic officer. The other officers possess admirable qualifications for their arduous task. The ice master, it is understood, not only gives his services gratuitously, but, with a noble generosity, contributes £500 to the expense of the search. The crew, numbering in all twenty-seven, are mostly volunteers. Strict discipline will be kept up, and good pay allowed. The territory to be searched, as already intimated, is not large, and provision has been made for leaving the vessel, if necessary, and travelling by sledges, a work in which Captain McClintock has had great experience.—*Edinburgh paper*.

The cutting up of the immense piece of Copper in the Minnesota mine is progressing. Eight masses were taken off in April, weighing in the aggregate 50,601 lb., to which should be added 13 bbls. copper chips, 7,310 lb., giving a grand aggregate of nearly 58 tons. The total amount taken from it in every form, up to the month of May, is 70 tons and 582 lb. It will probably require one year more to get the great thing entirely cut up. The product of the Minnesota mine for April was 370,540 lb., or 185 tons and 550 lb. This is probably the largest ever taken from one mine in the world during a similar period.

THE FRENCH TRADING IN AFRICA.—The *Daily News* says:—"Although the Earl of Clarendon has no official information of the fact, it is nevertheless true that the French Government have entered into a contract with a Marseilles house for the supply of 10,000 Africans to Guadeloupe and Martinique."