

This will soon be gone. The stronger race absorbs the weaker. By generosity and a great spirit of Catholicity the Irish without effort absorb the English. Had Ireland been given to greed and grab as England—her world influence—or authority would more than equal that of England. But the Irish like England she would be hated, and eventually doomed to destruction. Ireland prefers to give and not to take.

Q. Is that why Ireland is poor?

A. Though poor she is rich in all that flows from nature's hand—"rich in the Emerald wall that guards her Emerald land."

Q. What makes Ireland poor in some respects?

A. In brief, England's control, interference and restrictive laws.

Q. How does England restrict the Irish, give instances?

A. In 1663 (Chas. II.) The Cattle and navigation acts passed by England cut off Ireland's foreign trade and crippled her merchant marine. The mistress of the seas could not bear even a weak rival. Ireland's cattle trade with England was thus banned to aid the English Industry.

In 1698, (William III)—on petition, of the English woollen manufacturers had his parliament enact legislation prohibiting Irish woollen made goods from entering England, and as the navigation Act banned them from foreign trade, the Irish must keep their cattle and woollen goods at home.

The English said, the Irish might manufacture cotton goods. But the Irish made such success of the cotton Industry that the English Government put 25 per cent duty on exported cotton goods and also legislated, that only coarser cotton goods should be manufactured.

Still the linen manufacture was left to Ireland—but in the reign of Queen Anne the Irish enterprize and genius was over-come by the English putting a duty upon Irish linen goods, and bonusing the English and Scotch linen goods to boot! So much for English control and restrictions of Irish trade and Irish export. With slight modifications, England's control of Irish activities goes on.

Q. How do the Irish people act under all of these restrictions? And English penal laws?

A. The Irish, people for generations accustomed to walking abroad, and breathing freely of their native air, with head erect, shoulders up and chest extended,—do certainly object when England puts them in straight jackets, and lays heavy burdens upon their shoulders. They object certainly.

Then their grand old step-mother England determines they must have a spanking. And she sends over the channel an army equipped with hand grenades, tanks, machine guns and bombing planes. And she tells the world the Irish cannot govern themselves!

Q. But has not England granted huge sums of money from the Imperial purse to enable the peasants of Ireland to buy or lease their lands?

A. The Imperial government borrows monies from the Irish imperial bank—the custodian of the Irish people's money—pays the bank 2½% hands the money to the retiring landlord who prefers investing the money in other securities—and the government charges the Irish peasant purchaser three and one quarter per cent for the money so borrowed and given the landlord. This interest, the purchasing peasant pays in addition to the principal—25 years rental—or what-