

The influence of this class of the Irish race, the happy homes it has created, the efficient service it has rendered, are all testimonies to the usefulness of the United States to Great Britain. Contemplate what would have been the result to the Irish race had not the continent of North America been opened to their usefulness.

The Influence of the Irish Politician.

Then as to the Irish navy, need it be said that he has been more useful in building up the United States than any other instrumentality. The canals, railroads, and other public works are the direct result of his hands, and while he has disappeared as a navy, he now comes forth as a contractor, and a boss of the Italian, the Pole, and the Russian that comes in this direction.

It is said that in New York an Irishman with four children is more powerful than half a dozen Americans. First, because owning the corner grocery or the saloon, he has access to more votes than his American neighbor. Next, his daughter being a school teacher, one of his sons a contractor and the other a policeman, he does more to regulate the affairs of his immediate vicinity than any other member of the community. But it is not alone by Irishmen as members of the British race that the policy of the country has been more or less dictated. Englishmen with strong intellectual force, especially in speakers and orators, and Scotchmen with their far-sighted shrewdness and ability, have contributed greatly to the success of that country. It is true that the German element, and more recently the Scandinavian, Polish and Russian immigration has somewhat submerged the English and Scotch, but the steady stream that sets in this direction from Great Britain is a constant evidence of the attractiveness of this region to the English people.

American Protection, England's Safety.

Aside, however, from the contributions to population by Great Britain to the United States, and the home which has thus been provided for so many of her people, with the enlarged opportunity which has thus been afforded them, the indirect advantage to Great Britain of the commerce of the United States is almost beyond estimate. The United States are by all odds the best customers of Great Britain. It is true that the policy of the States in recent years has been towards building up her own industries, and shutting out the products of the old world. There has been a severe and bitter commercial contest waging between them for supremacy within the markets of the United States, but attention is drawn to the fact that during this conflict England has had almost entire possession of the markets of the world. It is most fortunate for England that this policy has been pursued, for

had the same development in the foreign commerce of the United States taken place as has occurred in her internal commerce, and the principles of free trade been as successfully applied as those of protection, the foreign commerce of Great Britain would have been seriously affected. Indeed, there are those who look with apprehension upon any change of policy in the United States by which the cost of production will be materially reduced by decline of taxation, for, as Mr. Chamberlain said to the speaker, "No disaster could be greater than to have the United States enter foreign markets on equal terms of production with Great Britain."

The presence in the United States of enormous supplies of raw material, of cheap food, of great development in machinery, of abundant coal and nearness to the markets of the world, would make them a competitor against England of the keenest kind. Hence, while there may be some feeling of animosity created by the policy of the United States against England for the control of her own market, there ought to be a sense of gratitude that up to this time, this vast country has not competed with or injured Great Britain in foreign markets.

United States Britain's Best Customer.

But, even with a protective policy and an attempted commercial isolation, the United States is by all odds the greatest customer of Great Britain. Importing as the United States do no less an aggregate than a thousand millions of dollars worth of goods a year, a very large proportion of this enormous amount comes from the British Isles, and all of it is paid for through their instrumentality. A thousand million dollars a year is a vast sum of money, and those who think that the McKinley Bill, and the general policy of the United States has isolated her need only consider how enormous are these figures, aggregating almost three millions of dollars a day of imports. What is most wonderful, too, is that notwithstanding the exactions of the McKinley Bill, these imports are increasing very rapidly. For it is a fact, which very few have yet realized, that the provisions of that bill greatly enlarged the free list, and while it put up the duty on many articles, it reduced it on a great many others.

Britain's Profits from the American Carrying Trade.

But it is not alone in imports from Great Britain that the United States is her best customer, for it should be borne in mind that almost the entire carrying trade between Europe and America contributes to Great Britain. None realize better than the people of the Maritime Provinces what are the possible profits upon an enormous volume of shipping. The immense investment Great Britain has made in Atlantic liners which run like daily ferries