

In Ireland the lives of the population have for years been dependent upon the growth of a single vegetable. But when it grew, as was stated by the late Charles Buller uncontradicted in the House of Commons, on an average there were 2,000,000 persons who, in that Island, were unemployed for thirty weeks in the year. To what extent famine and emigration have since diminished the numbers, I have no means of accurately judging; but it appears, in 1848, besides the £10,000,000 granted by Parliament for the relief of Irish distress, and Provisions sent from other Countries, £1,216,679 were raised in Ireland for the support to the Poor, and that 1,457,194, or nearly 1 out of 5 of the entire population, received relief.

In Scotland, where the population is only 2,620,000 a fifth more than that of British America, £545,334 were expended for the relief of the poor in 1848, more than was spent by the four British Provinces on their Civil Government, roads, education, lights, interest on debts, and all other services put together; 227,647 persons were relieved, the amount expended on each being £2 7s. 9d. a sum quite sufficient to have paid, in a regularly appointed Steamboat, the passage of each recipient to British America.

In England, in the same year, £6,180,765 were raised for the relief of the poor, or 1s. 10d. in the pound on £67,300,587. The number aided was 1,876,541, or about 1 out of every 11 persons occupying this garden of the world. The sum paid for each was even higher than in Scotland, being £3 5s. 10d. per head, more than sufficient to have paid the passage to North America from Liverpool or Southampton.

I turn to the workhouses of England, and find that in 1849 there were in these receptacles, 30,158 boys and 26,165 girls, of whom 8,264 were fit for service. In Ireland under 18, there were 60,514 boys and 66,285 girls, the aggregate in the two Countries being 185,122.

Turning to the Criminal Calendar it appears that in 1848 there were committed for offences in England, 30,349; in Scotland, 4,900; and in Ireland, 38,522, making 73,771 in all; of whom 6,298 were transported, and 37,373 imprisoned.

I find that in 1849 you maintained in Ireland a Constabulary of 12,823 men besides horses, at a cost, taking the preceding year as a guide, of £562,506 10s. In England and Wales you employed 9,829 Policemen (including the London Police) at a cost of £579,327 4s. 8d. From Scotland I have no return.—But taking the above facts to guide us, it appears that, for mere purposes of internal repression, and the arrest of Criminals, to say nothing of Beadles and innumerable Parish Officers, you maintained, in addition to your Army, a civic force double in number the entire Army of the United States, at a cost (Scotland not being included) of £1,141,833 14s. 8d.

Think you, my Lord, that when a Republican points exultingly to the returns, and contrasts these statistics of poverty and crime with the comparative abundance and innocence of his own Country, and which he attributes to his own peculiar institutions, that a British Colonist does not turn, with astonishment at the apathy of England, to the millions of square miles of fertile territory which surround him; to the noble rivers, and lakes, and forests by which the scenery is diversified; to the exhaustless Fisheries and to the motive power, rushing from a thousand hills into the sea, and with which all the Steam Engines of Britain cannot compete?

Driven to attribute to British and Irish statesmen a want of courage and forecaste to make these great sources available to maintain our brethren and protect their morals, or to suspect the latter of being more idle, degraded and criminal than their conduct abroad would warrant, we gladly escape from the apprehension of doing general injustice, by laying the blame on our rulers. May it be the elevated determination of Her Majesty's Advisers to relieve us from the dilemma by wiping out this national reproach.

One set of economists propose to remedy this state of things by restraints upon nature, which are simply impossible, and would be wicked if they were not; another large political party desire to feed the people by a return to protection, and the revival of class interests, with all their delusions and hostilities; a third look hopefully forward