

ACT OF THE UNION.

DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE ON ANTIQUITY OF IRISH INDUSTRIES.

William Third—Disgraceful petitions by Lords Spiritual and Temporal—Private Letter of William to Lord Galway—Utter destruction of Irish Trade—William basely concedes the demand of the Protestant Woollen weavers—A Committee of the House—A huge fraud.

[By a typographical error in our last number, the publication of that rare pamphlet "The Choice of Evils," from which we have quoted, was made to read 1875 instead of 1785.—Ed. T. W.]

The writer quoted in our last article besides establishing the antiquity of Ireland's claim to manufactures, also clearly pointed out the causes that prevented this extension. We quote him at some length on this important point:—

"But very different were the effects produced by the inglorious bills passed both in England and Ireland in the reign of William III., which I shall next produce, as another example to confirm my doctrine of that control which the different branches of the Legislature in a limited Government have over the Executive, to the prejudice of the Empire at large. But before we set it down let us remark that Ireland was in possession of the woollen manufacture before the reign of Edward III., when that fabric was first exclusively encouraged in England, and that she was at that early period distinguished for making friezes.

"It cannot be supposed, that, during an almost continued warfare between the natives and the invaders, for above five hundred years after the English Revolution under Henry II., the nation could arrive at superlative perfection in manufactures, when their progress was so slow even in England, that the sagacious Hume gives the most mortifying picture of their state in the sixteenth century."

"The foreign artificers," says he, "in general, much surpassed the English in dexterity, industry, and frugality; and hence the violent animosity which the latter on many occasions exercised against the former, who were settled in England. So great was the number of foreign artisans in the city, that at least fifteen thousand Flemings alone were at one time obliged to leave it, by an order from the Council, when Henry VIII. became jealous of their favor for Queen Catherine."

"However, it appears that this country (Ireland) possessed an export trade in the woollen manufacture upwards of two hundred years back. This export, it must be owned, was not very considerable; yet it was considerable enough to alarm the commercial jealousy of England, which became outrageous when it saw on the Journals of the Commons of Ireland the following wise resolution, A. D. 1695:—

"Resolved—That it is the opinion of this Committee, that the House must be moved to appoint a Select Committee to prepare heads of a Bill for the better making and regulating of the Woollen Manufacture of this Kingdom, and for repealing or making alterations and amendments in the Act of the 17th and 18th of Charles II., intituled, 'An Act for the true making of all sorts of cloth called old and new Drapery, etc., etc.'"

Die Veneris—10 Junu, 1698.

"The following address from the House of Lord of England was presented to the King:—

"We, the Lords, Spiritual and Temporal, in Parliament assembled, do humbly represent to your Majesty, that the growing manufacture of cloth in Ireland, both by the cheapness of all sorts of necessaries for life, and goodness of materials for making of all manner of cloth, doth invite your subjects of England, with their families and servants, to leave their habitations, to settle there, to the increase of the Woollen Manufacture in Ireland, which makes your loyal subjects in this Kingdom very apprehensive, that the farther growth of it may greatly prejudice the said manufacture here, by which the trade of this nation and the value of lands will very much decrease, and the number of your people be much lessened there.

"Wherefore, we humbly beseech your Most Sacred Majesty, that Your Majesty would be pleased, in the most

"public and effectual way that may be, to declare to all your subjects of Ireland, that the growth and increase of the Manufacture there hath long and will ever be looked upon with great jealousy by all your subjects of this Kingdom, and if not timely remedied, may occasion very strict laws to tally to prohibit and suppress the same; and, on the other hand, if they turn their industry and skill to the settling and improving the Linen Manufacture, for which generally the lands of that kingdom are very proper, they shall receive all countenance, favor and protection from your royal influence, for the encouraging and promoting of the said Linen Manufacture, to all the advantage and profit that Kingdom can be capable of."

"The Lord Steward reported His Majesty's answer to this effect, viz:—

"That His Majesty will take care to do what their Lordships have desired."

Comment on the Lords Spiritual and Temporal is unnecessary. We will copy from the same source, the cringing and equally debasing address of the Commons, to the pliable and soulless King.

Die Jovis—30 Junu, 1698.

"The following address was presented from the English House of Commons:—

"Most Gracious Sovereign—We, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons in Parliament assembled, being very sensible that the wealth and power of this kingdom do in a great measure depend on the preserving the Woollen Manufacture, as much as possible, entire to the realm, think it becomes us, like our ancestors, to be jealous of the establishment and increase thereof elsewhere, and to use our utmost endeavors to prevent it.

"And, therefore, we cannot, without trouble, observe, that Ireland, which is dependent on and protected by England in the enjoyment of all they have, and which is so proper for the Linen Manufacture, the establishment and growth of which there would be so enriching to themselves and so profitable to England, should of late apply itself to the Woollen Manufacture, to the great prejudice of the trade of this Kingdom, and so unwillingly promote the Linen Trade, which would benefit both them and us.

"The consequence thereof will necessitate your Parliament of England to interpose to prevent the mischief which threatens us, unless Your Majesty, by your authority and great wisdom shall find means to secure the trade of England, by making the subjects of Ireland pursue the joint interest of both kingdoms.

"And we do most humbly implore Your Majesty's protection and favor in this matter, and that you will make it your royal care, and enjoin all those you employ in Ireland, to make it their care and use their utmost diligence to hinder the exportation of wool from Ireland, except to be imported hither and for the discouraging the Woollen Manufactures in Ireland, to which we shall always be ready to give our utmost assistance."

"His Majesty's answer to this address was as follows:—

"Gentlemen—I shall do all that in me lies to discourage the woollen manufacture in Ireland, and to encourage the linen manufacture there, and to promote the trade of England."

Now, let us hear the Dutch Usurper in another quarter. The following is an extract from His Majesty's private letter to Lord Galway, then one of the Lords Justices of Ireland:—

"It never was of such importance to have as at present a good Session of Parliament, not only in regard to my affairs in that kingdom, but especially on this here.

"The chief that must be tried to be prevented is, that the Irish Parliament takes no notice of what has passed in this here, and that you make effectual laws for the linen manufacture, and discourage as far as possible the woollen."

In this we see that every word of the Usurper breathes fear of the traitors who called him to the throne. His head was almost as insecure on his shoulders as was the head of Charles, and the usurped Crown was in much more danger of being "kicked into the Boyne," than was ever the Crown of Queen Victoria, by the Orange miscreants—the ultra-loyalists, who conspired to set her aside for the Duke of Cumberland.

Now, we shall draw on our author

once more for a part of the Lord Justices' speech, in response to William's private letter quoted above.

"Tuesday, 27th September, 1698.

PART OF LORD JUSTICES' SPEECH.

"Amongst these Bills there is one for the encouragement of the linen and hempen manufactures. At our first meeting we recommended to you that matter, and we have now endeavored to render that Bill practicable and useful for that effect, and as such we now recommend it to you. The settlement of this manufacture will contribute much to people of the country, and will be found much more advantageous to this kingdom than the woollen manufacture, which being the settled staple trade of England, from whence all foreign markets are supplied, can never be encouraged for that purpose; whereas, the linen and hempen manufactures will not only be encouraged, as consistent with the trade of England, but will render the trade of this kingdom both useful and necessary to England."

"The woollen weavers, on the 12th of October, 1698, presented a petition to the House of Commons, in which they styled themselves 'Protestants,' in hopes that that might have some benign influence upon a Williamite administration. But the debased and degraded House, after ordering the Petition to lie on the table, administered a lesson to those obsequious and truculent 'Protestants' not to be easily forgotten. After threatening the petitioners with some of the advanced and enlightened arguments, England uses so effectually in bringing heathendom to civilization; the House came to following resolution:—

"Resolved—That a printed paper, entitled, 'The Protestants' case who are of the Woollen Manufacture of Ireland, humbly presented to the Honorable House of Commons,' delivered at the door of this House to the Members, is false, scandalous, and of dangerous consequence."

"Ordered—That a Committee be appointed to examine who was the author, printer, and publisher of this paper; and that they have power to send for persons and papers, and to adjourn from time to time, etc., etc."

So much for a Williamite Parliament answer to a Petition of 'Protestant' Woollen Weavers.

We shall now quote from our author another unique piece of legislation, which followed on the heels of the 'Protestant' Woollen Weavers' Petition:—

"Martis—3 Die Januarii, 1698.

"A message in writing from their Excellencies, the Lords Justices to the House, and of which the following is a copy, was read by the Speaker:—

"We have received His Majesty's commands to send unto you a Bill, entitled 'An Act for laying an addition duty upon woollen manufactures exported out of this kingdom,' the passing of which in this Session His Majesty recommends to you, as what may be of great advantage for the preservation of the trade of this kingdom."

"A Bill entitled 'An Act for laying an additional duty upon woollen manufactures exported out of this kingdom,' was presented. A motion was then made, that the said Bill be received. The previous question being put, the Bill, upon division, was received, 74 against 34.

"And the passed a law that Session, laying Four Shillings additional duty on every Twenty Shillings value of Broad Cloth exported out of Ireland, and Two Shillings on every Twenty Shillings value of Serges, Baizes, Jerseys, Stuffs, or any other sort of new Drapery, made of wool or mixed with wool, Friezes only excepted. But, as if this was not in effect a prohibition, the Commissioners of trade in England complained, that the duties on Broad Cloth, of which very little is made in Ireland, is 20 per cent.—but the duty on New Drapery, of which much is made, is but 10 per cent.; and in consequence of this representation, an Act was passed by the English Parliament in the following year (1699), declaring that—'For as much as wool and woollen manufactures of Cloth, Serge, Baize, etc., etc. are the greatest and most profitable commodities on which the value of land and the trade of the nation do chiefly depend:

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And whereas great quantities of the like manufacture have of late been made and are daily increasing in the Kingdom of Ireland, etc., and are exported from thence to foreign markets, heretofore supplied from England, etc.;—for prevention whereof, etc.' The statute then goes on to enact, that no Wool, Woollen Goods, Serges, Friezes, etc., etc., shall be exported, under pains and penalties of confiscation and imprisonment, and in another confirming statute, of transportation! In face of all these facts—how can the most rabid Orangeman, kneel down and defy the sacrilegious Usurper, that strangled the manufactures and industries, trade and commerce of his native land, to appease the jealous and hatred of England? But he is an inconsistent and irrational animal, dead to every principle of honor, honesty, and patriotism—consistent only, in his hatred of Catholicity, and his blind obedience to the rapacious landocracy who have used him as a tool and buffoon, to help them to uphold and keep alive the cursed spirit of ascendancy.

In our next issue we will treat our readers to some statistics—figures that cannot lie, and eloquently plead the cause of Irish self-government.

EDITOR TRUE WITNESS.

An expression of sympathy

We have learned, with deep and sincere regret, of the very severe and dangerous illness of Mrs. E. R. Gunning of Amherst street. The esteemed lady is most popular in the Catholic circles of the East End, and has been, always one of those true and exemplary women whose influence has been ever for good and whose faith has been practical. We hope, that, with the help of God, Mrs. Gunning may be spared to her family for a long time to come, and that the community and the church may not be deprived of her active presence for years to come. We may add that Mrs. Gunning is the daughter of one of our old and most respected citizens—Mr. Denis McCaffrey, who has ever been a friend of the TRUE WITNESS and a staunch supporter of the Catholic cause. He is one of those open, honest, and unpretentious men, who go about life, like a spirit of good moving in the bosom of society. We trust that, in his declining years, he may have the consolation of witnessing his beloved daughter's restoration to health and strength.

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THE OKA FARM.

Some Facts and Figures Supplied by the Abbott.

Dom Antoine, the Abbott of the Monastery of La Trappe, at Oka, furnishes some interesting facts regarding the large farm owned and worked by the members of the Order. Its area is 1000 acres, of which 288 acres are wooded 464 acres being opened up, 248 acres in cultivation and 35 acres in orchards and gardens. What is now producing was a forest ten years ago. The stones removed from the land have been used to erect a three story monastery with basement, stables and a fence around the cultivated parts. The walls vary from five to seven feet in width, and from four to eight feet in height. The farm is thus sown: Twenty acres in wheat, 13 acres in oats, 20 acres in barley, 4 acres in buckwheat, 51 cabbage for cows, 10 corn for ensilage, 10 potatoes, 1 carrots, 2 turnips, 3 cabbage of Slam, 4 beets, 5 beans, 7 timothy and 22 various. Hay fields will be opened up later on. From 100 to 150 head of cattle, producing 20,000 pounds of butter, 30 to 40 horses and 200 hogs are now on the farm. Some 1250 tons of manure is secured, making some 80 tons of manure per acre of manured land. The manure is always mixed with phosphate and nitrate is also employed. The crop of wheat is about 20 bushels per acre and the oats vary from 35 to 40 acres. The crop is better than any on the farm around. Each cow gives some 200 lbs. of butter per year. The creamery each year sends out from 40,000 to 45,000 lbs. of butter, some of which is made from milk supplied by the neighbors. The orchards are thus made up: 1000 apple trees, 1200 small fruit trees, 2000 vines, a quarter of an acre of strawberries and the same area in asparagus. The growing trees are: 10,000 apple trees of three years; 25,000 of two years; 50,000 of one year, and 45,000 of this year. Several young men are here to be taught practical farming.

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