

£20,765,985. The last returns of the Registrar-General tell the further tale that there was less land under crops in 1873 by 261,804 acres, than in 1872, and if we estimate the decreased production at £10 per acre, we shall have to add to the above deficit not less than £2,618,040.

Much is said of the increase of live stock of late in Ireland, but it does little, indeed, towards compensating for the loss of the crops. What is the extent of this increase? In twenty years it amounted to £4,364,719, and when this is deducted from the falling off in the value of other productions in the same period, viz., £23,384,025, where, we ask, has been the gain to the nation by the cultivation of bullocks? The gain! Why the fact is, that because of so much land being given up to these bullocks, food has to be imported. In 1845, with a population three millions larger than the present, £5,284,079 worth of corn was exported. In 1872 corn was imported to the value of £8,874,171.

There is another important source of wealth and industry also declining, the fisheries. These were of great importance at one time in Ireland. Not less than twenty acts of the Irish Parliament are to be found relating to them, affording encouragement from time to time. They furnished 10,000 trained seamen to the Royal Navy at one time, and on the 12th April, 1782, men from that body composed the ship's companies which, under the command of Lord Rodney, obtained a brilliant victory over the Count de Grasse. In 1848 there were 19,652 vessels engaged in these fisheries, with 81,717 men and boys; in 1872 we find only 7,914 vessels, with only 31,311 men and boys so engaged!

Much is said about increased deposits in Savings Banks in Ireland. It appears that the average deposits in the year 1844, '45, and '46 were £2,842,141; in 1870, '71, and '72 the average was £2,818,526, a decline of nearly £40,000 annually,—not much, it may be said, but twenty-five years of the prosperity talked of by the English press should shew very different figures. And with all this the taxation of Ireland for Imperial purposes has been increasing! The amount of taxes from 1833 to 1852 was £84,230,020. In the twenty years following, that is, from 1853 to 1872, the total was £132,135,406, or a sickening increase of £48,000,000!

Here is a sad picture. In the short period of twenty years the population of Ireland has decreased three millions; the material resources

of the country have been declining, land falling out of cultivation; and taxation for Imperial demands increasing enormously!

In no other country in the civilized world has such a state of things existed in modern times; on the contrary, the last quarter of a century has been remarkable for the wonderful material progress of all the other nations of the earth.

Now, what is the remedy for Ireland? Is it to continue the present form of connection with England?

The present form of connection!

A continued renunciation of self-government!!

On the 28th February, 1843, O'Connell spoke thus. The wisdom of his words are more striking to-day than ever;

"Let me ask you," he said, "do you know any country which has submitted to slavery that has not purchased poverty along with it? What country has ever given up her power for self-government but brought ruin on its people? And do you know any country that has risen to liberty without achieving prosperity at the same time? Look to the United States of America, look to Venice, to Switzerland, look to Belgium, but the other day a pitiful Province of Holland, taxed most enormously for the bread, the meat, and, in fact, everything used in the country, and now look to the prosperity that extends throughout its surface. Again, to Norway, an instance that I like to cite, for although Belgium offered to take a separate legislature when it was refused to her she withdrew altogether; but in Norway the people have a separate and independent Parliament, involved in no concerns but its own, and though Norway had been overloaded with a disproportionate share of the public debt by Sweden, her native Parliament has succeeded in paying off every penny that they owed.

"Though a barren and sterile land, frozen in winter, and overheated in summer, it has, through the exertions of a domestic Parliament, acquired a degree of prosperity never before known amongst its population."

It would appear, then, that Ireland wants what Norway secured,—a domestic Parliament, in other words, HOME RULE. But some, ignorant of what Norway was or is, ask what is Home Rule? And others, who pretend to know what it is, say it is impracticable. Was it so from 1782 to 1800?

Under the Irish Parliament as it previously existed, we grant that little good was done.