

"everything, even without rights." England could scarcely deny to Ireland what she admitted, for instance, in the case of Newfoundland. And, by the way, it is quite instructive as well as interesting to read the despatch of Lord Ripon, as Colonial Secretary, in 1832, communicating the decision of the Imperial Government that a Parliament should be organized in that colony. It says, *inter alia*, that the object was to "secure the attachment of the people by giving them a large share in the management of their own affairs; by affording an open field for the free exercise of talent and public spirit; by providing honorable ambition with a free object and reward; by ensuring immediate and careful attention to the various exigencies of society; and by promoting a frugal and judicious administration of public affairs."

Admirably expressed, my Lord Ripon!

Words of truth and soberness,—every one of which could have been applied to Ireland had not England, as Pitt bitterly complained, become "jealous of Ireland's prosperity," and therefore resolved to do what would not be quite so practicable in the case of a distant colony,—lying contiguous to a hostile confederacy,—subvert "right" by the force of "power."

But the question of right being theoretically admitted, let us return to what Lord Ripon would call "the various exigencies of society," which England, as a utilitarian country, is bound to respect, and which she has ever faithfully attended to, in her own interest. Do not these require domestic supervision in Ireland?

In glancing at Irish interests which the English Government will not, or cannot, attend to, "the waste lands" came under our view. A Royal Commission was appointed in 1809 to enquire, "immediately," said the document, into the practicability of reclaiming them. It closed its labors in 1814, having published four reports, at an expense to the Exchequer of £21,566. Throughout the whole of this compilation the feasibility and policy of reclaiming those wastes are exhibited in all forms of illustration; and it was established that they comprised nearly one-fourth of the entire island. The peat soil exceeded 2,820,000 acres. Of this, 1,567,000 acres are flat red bog, all convertible to purposes of agriculture. The remaining 1,225,000 from the covering of mountains, of which a very large portion might, said the Commissioners, be improved at a very small expense for pasture, or still more beneficially for plantation.

According to Sir Humphrey Davy there are peculiar advantages in the process of reclaiming bogs in Ireland, arising from the quantity of limestone and limestone gravel to be found contiguous to them, and from the marl or clay which in so many cases form the substratum of the bog itself.

The conclusion of the Commissioners was that all these lands could be made productive at a profit of from 10 to 15 per cent.

In 1819 a Parliamentary Committee, after hearing evidence at great length, "had no hesitation in reporting that there is an immense amount of land in Ireland easily reclaimable, and convertible to the production of grain, almost without limit, for exportation."

One of the witnesses before the Committee, Mr. Nimmo, declared his belief that "AN ADDITIONAL POPULATION OF TWO MILLIONS" could be provided for by thus utilizing those wastes.

Another witness, Mr. Leslie Foster, upon being asked what, in his opinion, were the obstacles to entering upon this national work, answered: "They are not financial or agricultural, but of a legal nature."

This is precisely the case in which a local legislature could act with effect. Its special function would be to alter, vary, or repeal old laws so as to meet national "exigencies."

In 1835 a Committee on Public Works made this subject one of special investigation. The evidence of a Mr. BALD, an engineer, is interesting from more than one point of view. After stating that he had been examined to the same effect in the years 1810, 1811, and 1812, he proceeded:—"After having surveyed these (Irish) morasses, I examined the drainings of Holland and the operations of the Dutch engineers, both in the northern and southern territory of that country, and I have been still more convinced of the practicability of draining the bogs, and also of improving the southern and western districts of Ireland. There are 4,500,000 acres of waste land in Ireland which are capable of being reclaimed. I am of opinion that bog reclamation ought to be undertaken by the Government of the country, because those lands are injurious to the health of the inhabitants. There are nearly a million of men in Ireland that could, during many months of the year, be employed in a most useful and profitable manner. It is lamentable to see not only those 4,500,000 acres lying in a state of nature, but to see so many men unemployed. I should think the system adopted in opening the Highland districts of Scotland should in all cases be