

nearly one-half of all the families in Ireland lived in dwellings of but one apartment each. Two-thirds of the population lived by manual labour, and subsisted on potatoes. Nearly one-third were out of work, and in distress for thirty weeks of the year, while not less than one-eighth were paupers, or on the very verge of pauperism. As to crime, the committals in Great Britain with thrice the population, did not amount to the same number as in Ireland, being for example in the year 1850, 31,281, to 33,326—or upwards of three to one. And while three-fourths of those committed in England were convicted, in Ireland owing to the conspiracy against law and justice, only one-half were convicted, while from the same reason assassination was committed in open day, and the murderer screened from justice. On the average of eight years previous to 1853, there were 25,000 soldiers in Ireland, one-fourth of the whole British army, which is sufficient to control 156,000,000, of whom 120,000,000, were Heathen and Mahometans, besides a force of 13,000 constabulary.

And need we tell what a picture was presented during the famine. When the potato crop failed, famine and pestilence stalked through the land, and its horrors may be dimly imagined from the simple fact, that the population which in 1841 was 8,175,124, and should have been over 9,000,000 in 1851, on that year only amounted to 6,515,794. Thus it had virtually decreased two and a half millions, or nearly one-third—an amount equal to the whole population of Scotland. The number of paupers had risen from 31,108 in 1841 to 768,570 in 1851. In 1848 actually one-fourth of the whole population were receiving aid—and during the same period no less than 270,000 dwellings were swept away.

Now we ask why should a state of things be presented there so different from what obtains on the other side of St. George's Channel? Why should the very name of the country on the one side, though naturally the richest, be a synonyme for ignorance, brutality, beggary and crime; and that on the other side be as universally the synonyme for intelligence, industry and virtue.

Does the cause lie in its taxes? Who that knows anything of English legislation knows not that in Great Britain, the taxes are thrice as numerous as they are in Ireland—that the Englishmen and the Scotchmen are subjected to a long list unknown in Ireland, on carriages, gigs, horses, dogs, servants, heraldry, and till lately income, while its only heavy taxes, were poor rates, county cess, and tithe rent charges, all of which were spent in the country.

Is it to the union with England and the neglect of the Imperial Government? We might ask in that case, how came it that the trade of Ireland was declining before the union—and that since that event the Southern Provinces have been retrograding while the Northern have been advancing? How is it that the union is a blessing to Scotland, which is only represented by 40 members in the British Parliament, and a curse to Ireland, which has 105? Is it that England has neglected this portion of the Empire? Take a specimen of her neglect. Since 1800, 33 committees of Parliament, and 21 Government commissions have been appointed to inquire into the causes of her miseries and the best means for their removal, while £26,000,000 sterling, have been given in mere grants and advances, £1,000,000 to construct harbours, £8,500,000, to encourage manufac-