

sey. In the year 1815, when the rigour of the English corn laws was greatly increased, it was intended to extend the corn laws to Guernsey, and the other Norman Isles; but the inhabitants bestirred themselves, and succeeded in warding off this terrible blow to their prosperity. For their success in this struggle, they were in a great measure indebted to the exertions of Mr Brock, the Judge or Bailiff as he is termed, of Guernsey—a gentleman, who appears, on all occasions, to have been the good genius of the island. The inhabitants of each of the islands presented Mr Brock with a piece of plate, as a token of gratitude for his services on the occasion in question. The people of the Norman Isles, are not only allowed to import corn for their own use, from wheresoever they choose, but they are permitted to export all the corn they themselves can grow, to England. This being the case, the people of course consume but very little of the wheat their own islands produce.—This latter supply is kept for the English market; so that there is the singular anomaly constantly going on, of corn from the Baltic actually sailing by the coasts of England to supply the people of the Norman Isles, and to enable them to send to England, the wheat which is growing at their own doors.

Provisions of other kinds are at prices proportionately low, with those of wheat.—The ordinary price of good meat, is fourpence per pound; that of moist sugar, from threepence to fourpence a pound; potatoes sell for threepence a peck; the price of butter varies from sevenpence to tenpence per pound. Tea, though cheap compared with the price in England, (the price of the best black tea is from half-a-crown to three shillings a pound) is dearer than it otherwise would be, did not the monopoly of the East India Company extend to the Norman Isles. The tea consumed in these islands, is not subject to a farthing of King's tax, so that the sole cause which keeps up the price of tea in these islands, is that the East India Company have a monopoly of the supply.—So much dearer, however, does this make the tea, that it is a constant article of smuggling from France. With the exception of tea, of which I have just spoken, and spirits, on which there is an import duty of one shilling a gallon, a perfectly free and untaxed importation is allowed of every species of food, and, indeed, of produce of every kind. The consequence is, that as far as their limited demand will command a market, the inhabitants of the Norman Islands can select from the whole world, the produce which each country is best able to furnish. Instead of using dear and bad Canadian timber, they employ good and cheap Baltic timber. Christiana deals, twelve feet long, nine inches broad, and three inches thick, sell for £15 15s. 6d. per 120, or rather more than half-a-crown each deal.

Among other things which are cheap in Guernsey, in consequence of their being free from taxes, I may mention newspapers.—With a population of only twenty thousand people, the inhabitants of Guernsey support five weekly newspapers. The usual price of a newspaper is sometimes a penny, sometimes twopence. The taxes collected in the

islands are very light. A tax of a shilling per gallon, on imported spirits, is the only indirect tax of any kind whatever. The principal tax is a direct one, of a very fair kind. It is a property tax, not only for his land and houses, but for money which he may have in the funds, for money lent on mortgages, &c. The produce of this tax is appropriated to the support of the two hospitals, and the paving and lighting of the town. In addition to this property tax, and the tax on spirits, the church receives a tithe on all kinds of corn, on fish, and on a few kinds of agricultural produce of small importance, but not upon hay. This tithe completes the list of taxes in the Norman Isles.

If it should be a matter of surprise, that these islands should have been so highly favoured by those who have had the framing of laws, imposing taxes, the explanation is readily given. The Norman Isles are so much nearer to the coast of France than that of England, that it would not be a difficult matter for the inhabitants to transfer their allegiance from England to France.—This would be a serious loss to England, as the islands are of great use as an asylum for English vessels, especially in time of war.

The importance which has been attached to the possession of these islands, and their peculiar situation, has, no doubt, been the principal reason for the considerate manner in which they have been treated.

Next to the blessings of light taxes and unrestricted importation of food, I may mention the state of the laws of inheritance as being very favourable to the happiness of the people living in the Norman Isles. In our own country, when a man dies, his estate, if consisting of freehold land, goes altogether to his eldest son, the other children being left to do as well as they can; at least, this is the case if the man has not left a will to direct that his property shall be divided, which is seldom done. But in Guernsey, and the other Norman Isles, a much fairer arrangement is adopted. Two-thirds of the estate are divided equally among the sons, however many there may be, and one-third among the daughters. This plan of division, though only an approach to perfect justice, is evidently much better than the one followed in this country.

In order to prevent an unnecessary splitting up of estates, it is provided that the eldest son shall, if he has it in his power, be allowed to pay each of his brothers and sisters the value of their share of the property, and then retain possession of the whole himself.

The consequence of this state of the law of inheritance is, that instead of the property of the islands being held in large masses, each acre of which is but of insignificant value to the owner, the islands are covered over with clusters of small estates of from four to five to forty or fifty acres, so that every person has a little plot of land which he can call his own. We all know how men's hearts are set upon this, and what a powerful stimulus it is to greater exertions, superior economy, and a love of independence.

Next to the equal division of property, which prevents waste and extravagance on

the one hand, and extreme poverty on the other, I may mention the abundance of paper money in the island of Guernsey, as a great cause of the prosperity of the island.—The paper money is issued by the government of the island, and in the following way. When any great undertaking has been determined on by the States, (as the representatives of the people are called) such, for instance, as the opening of new roads, there is, immediately, an issue of one pound notes by the government. These notes are sent out as the work proceeds, and as money is wanted. When the undertaking is completed, and begins to yield an income, the notes are gradually bought in again, and new undertakings are commenced. The notes are not payable on demand: indeed the government has not even an office, at which the notes can be presented. Nevertheless, the notes are never refused. The people find by experience, that their representatives "The States," do not issue the notes in greater abundance than the demand for them justifies, and consequently no depreciation in their value is to be feared. Moreover, the purposes for which the notes are issued, are of advantage to every man in the island; so that every one looks upon them as coming from the bank to which he is a partner.—Here then, in the little island of Guernsey, we have, perhaps, the only instance in the world of a really national bank; a bank in which the whole property of the state is the security, and the profit of which is shared by the people at large.

By means of this truly "healthy" currency, undertakings of great magnitude (considering the size of the island) have been executed during the last few years. One work alone, namely, the opening of a new street into the town, the erection of a market-house in it, and the purchase of the neighbouring land, cost eighty thousand pounds. The profits of this undertaking have enabled the States to erect another market-house, for the sale of fish. This building is really on a magnificent scale. I am quite sure there are towns in this country, containing four times the population of the whole island of Guernsey that cannot boast of a market-house equal to it. A college for the education of the middle-classes of the island, has been erected at an expense of forty thousand pounds. A spacious court of justice has been built, and new and excellent roads have been made crossing the island in different directions.—*Chambers' Journal.*

"The Temple of Ignorance is the innermost Court of Bedlam."—HARRIET MARTINEAU.

EDUCATION OF THE PEOPLE.—The celebrated Cuvier argued that knowledge should precede power, that the people should be instructed in political rights before they should be possessed of them. This plan, like the plan of the scholar of Hierocles, for learning to swim without incurring the dangers of the water, would be a great convenience were it possible.

The same power which would resist the expansion of popular rights, would resist the knowledge qualifying for the exercise of such rights. On the other hand if the people are strong enough to obtain power