

any drain, continued year after year, amount to an aggregate sum of incalculable magnitude.

Q. How did this gigantic abstraction of Irish money act on the condition of people.

A. I cannot better describe the condition to which incessant plunder had reduced our people, than by quoting the following words from an article in the *Times* newspaper, 26th June, 1845: "The facts of Irish destitution," said the *Times* of that date, "are ridiculously simple. They are almost too common-place to be told. The people have not enough to eat. They are suffering a real, though an artificial famine. Nature does her duty. The land is fruitful enough. Nor can it fairly be said that man is wanting. The Irishman is disposed to work. In fact man and nature together do produce abundantly. The island is full and overflowing with human food. But something ever interposes between the hungry mouth and the ample banquet. The famished victim of a mysterious sentence stretches out his hands to the viands which his own industry has placed before his eyes, but no sooner are they touched than they fly. A perpetual decree of *sic vos non vobis* condemns him to toil without enjoyment. Social atrophy drains off the vital juices of the nation."

Q. Was that description of the condition of our people written before the potato-blight appeared?

A. Yes? in the month of June preceding that calamity.

Q. What remarks do you make upon it?

A. I observe, firstly, that it shows the hideous evil of being governed by another country. Our wealth is carried off to aggrandize the dominant nation, leaving the vast mass of its producers in a state of "real though artificial famine." In no self-governed country is such a thing possible as a famishing people in the midst of overflowing abundance produced by their own labour.

Q. Is it not said to be a great advantage to Ireland to possess the rich markets of England for her cattle, corn, and butter?

A. It would be an advantage to pos-

sess the English market for our produce, if England allowed us to retain its price. But the produce is taken, and then the money we receive for it is taken also, to pay absentee rents and absentee taxes; and to meet the various other drains already mentioned. That species of traffic in which the purchaser carries off not only the goods but also a large portion of their price, cannot be esteemed beneficial to the seller.

Q. What other remark is suggested by the *Times* description of the state to which our people had been reduced in 1845?

A. That a people so thoroughly impoverished were destitute of the power of self defence against the visitation of the potato blight. Ireland could not accumulate national capital when vast masses of her national income were perpetually carried off by England; and accordingly the blight, of which the severity would have been greatly mitigated by home-rule and its resulting wealth, produced a terrible and desolating famine among the people whom the Union had plundered and prostrated.

Q. What said the Irish Poor Inquiry Commissioners in 1836?

(To be continued.)

Whatever purifies, fortifies also the heart.

Patience, by preserving composure within, resists the impression which trouble makes from without.

LIVING TOGETHER.—We have seen, on a printed slip, a set of pithy maxims on the "Art of Living Together." We do not know who wrote them, but they are full of good-sense, and might well be laid to heart by everyone who is called to live in constant companionship with another, whether as husband and wife, college chums, or partners in business. We quote:

"Avoid having stock subjects of dispute."

"Do not hold too much to logic, and suppose that everything is to be settled by sufficient reason."

"If you would be loved as a companion, avoid unnecessary criticism upon those with whom you live."

"Let not familiarity swallow up all courtesy."