

# The Resources Of Ireland.

BY "CRUX."

At this particular stage of Ireland's affairs, the most critical, perhaps, since the Act of the Union deprived her of a Parliament. It may be of interest to have some idea of the actual industrial resources of the country. I have been taking my time with these articles, picking up along the way, here and there, information from the pens of some of the foremost Irish writers of the last century. Were I to so continue it would take months and months before I would reach the ultimate object in view—a treatment of the present day movements of a rival nature, both regarding the language and the literature of the Old Land. And yet, I do not feel that I have been losing any time. Suppose I were to go on for a year thus, at all events I would have the satisfaction of participating in a very small way if you will, in the revival of a section of Irish literature. Of course no one is sure of to-morrow; but even were my humble pen to cease in the midst of the work, there are others more able and better informed who would take it up and complete it. Consequently I am in no hurry to reach the end; there is a vast mine of Irish literature in front of me, and the more it is excavated and the more the precious ore is brought to the surface the better for the people and their cause. Consequently, in the presence of the industrial issues of the hour, I make no excuse for returning to those essays of Davis, and of taking some extracts from one on the "Resources of Ireland." Remember that what follows, after a few more necessary explanations, that I have to interject, was written in 1843—sixty years ago—but that it is all as applicable to-day as it was at that time.

In 1843 Dr. Robert Kane, secretary to the Council of the Royal Irish Academy, Professor of Natural Philosophy to the Royal Dublin Society, and of Chemistry to the Apothecaries Hall of Ireland, Dublin, published a very instructive book entitled "The Industrial Resources of Ireland." Some time earlier the famous Bishop Berkeley put, as a query, could the Irish live and prosper if a brazen wall surrounded their island? The question had been often and vaguely replied to. Dr. Kane at length answered it, and proved the affirmative. It was in commenting, in the "Nation," upon Dr. Kane's work that Davis gave the valuable information contained in the essay from which what follows is taken. Referring to Dr. Kane, he wrote:

"Confining himself strictly to the 'land' of our island (for he does not enter on the subjects of fisheries and foreign commerce), he has proved that we possess 'physical' elements for every important art. Not that he set down to prove this. Taste, duty, industry, and genius, prompted and enabled him gradually to acquire a knowledge of the physical products and powers of Ireland, and his mastery of chemical and mechanical science, enabled him to see how these could be used.

"He was as successful as any man lecturing on subjects requiring accurate details could be; and now he has given, in the volume before us, all his lectures, and much more. He, then, is no party pamphleteer, pandering to the national vanity; but a philosopher, who garnered up his knowledge soberly and surely, and now gives us the result of his studies. There was, undoubtedly, a good deal of information on the subjects treated of by Dr. Kane scattered through our topographical works and parliamentary reports, but that information is, for the most part, vague, unapplied, and not tested by science. Dr. Kane's work is full, clear, scientific, exact in places, extent, prices, and every other working detail, and is a manual of the whole subject.

"In such interlarded subjects as industrial resources we must be content with practical classification. Dr. Kane proceeds in the following order: First, he considers the mechanical powers of the country—viz., its fuel and its water powers. Secondly, its mineral resources—its iron, copper, lead, sulphur, marble, slate, etc. Thirdly, the agriculture of the country in its first function—the raising of food, and the modes of cropping, manuring, draining and

stacking. Fourthly, agriculture in its secondary use, as furnishing staples for the manufacture of woolsens, linens, starch, sugar, spirits, etc. Fifthly, the modes of carrying internal trade by roads, canals, and railways. Sixthly, the cost and condition of skilled and unskilled labor in Ireland. Seventhly, our state as to capital. And he closes by some earnest and profound thoughts on the need of industrial education in Ireland.

"For the present, we shall confine ourselves to the subjects of the mechanical powers and minerals of Ireland."

This section is now selected for the reason that it applies in a particular manner to the issues of the present hour.

"The first difference between manufactures now and in any former time, is the substitution of machines for the hands of man. It may, indeed, be questioned whether the increased strength over matter thus given to man compensates for the ill effects of forcing people to work in crowds; of destroying small and pampering large capitalists, of lessening the distribution of wealth even by the very means which increase its production.

"We sincerely lament, with Lord Wharcliffe, the loss of domestic manufactures; we would prefer one house-wife skilled in the distaff and the dairy—home-bred, and home-taught, and home-faithful—to a factory full of creatures who live amid the eternal roll, and clash, and glimmer of spindles and rollers, watching with aching eyes the thousand twirls, and capable of but one act—tying the broken threads. We abhor that state; we prefer the life of the old times, or of modern Norway.

"But situated as we are, so near a strong antagonist, and in the new highway from Europe to America, it may be doubted whether we can retain our simple domestic life. There is but one chance for it. If the Prussian Tenure Code be introduced, there is much, perhaps every hope of retaining or regaining our home-stead habits, and such a population need fear no enemy.

"If this do not come to pass," (as it has not) "we must make the best of our state, join our chief towns with railways, put quays to our harbors, mills on our rivers, turbines on our coasts, and under restrictions and with guarantees set the steam-engine to work at our flax, wool and minerals.

"The two great mechanical powers are fire and water, Ireland is not endowed with both.

"We do not possess as ample fields of flaming coal as Britain; but even of that we have large quantities, which can be raised at about the same rate at which English coal can be landed on our coast.

"The chief seats of flaming coal in Ireland are to the west of Lough Allen, in Connaught, and around Dungannon, in Tyrone. There is a small district of it in Antrim.

"The stone coal, or anthracite, which having light gas, does not blaze, and having much sulphur is disagreeable in a room, is found, first, in the Kilkenny district, between the Nore and the Barrow—secondly, from Freshford to Cashel, and thirdly, in the great Munster coal country, cropping up in every barony of Clare, Limerick, Cork and Kerry.

"Our bogs have not received justice. The use of turf in a damp state turns it into an inferior fuel. Dried under cover, it is more economical, because far more efficient. It is used now in the Shannon steamers, and its use is increasing in mills. For some purposes it is peculiarly good—thus, for the finer iron works, turf, and turf-charcoal, are even better than wood, and Dr. Kane shows that the precious Baltic iron could be equalled by Irish iron smelted by Irish turf.

"Dr. Kane proves that the cost of fuel, even if greater in Ireland by no means precludes us from competing with England.

"In water-power we are still better off. Dr. Kane calculates the rain which falls on Ireland in a year at over 100 billion cubic yards; and of this he supposes two-thirds to pass off in evaporation, leaving one-third, equal to near a million and a half horse-power, to reach the sea. His calculations of the water-power of the Shannon and other rivers are most interesting. The elements, of course, are the observed fall of rain by the gauge in the district, and the area of the catchment (or drainage) basins of each river and its tributaries. The chief objection to water-power is its irregularity. To remedy this he proposes to do what has increased the water-power on the Bann five-fold, and has made the wealth of Greenock—namely, to make mill-lakes by damming up valleys, and thus controlling and equalizing the supply of water, and letting none go to waste.

Here we will have to skip whole pages of most interesting details

concerning the relative merits of rundershot, overshot, breast and turbine wheels, and pass on to the consideration of the mineral resources. But we would draw attention to the fact that the writer of these details and the student of these subjects is the same Davis the poet—the author of the stirring ballads, and of the historic essays. What a versatile genius!

"We have at Avigna an inexhaustible supply of the richest iron ore, with coals to smelt it, lime to flux it, and infusible sand-stone and fire-clay to make furnaces of one the spot. Yet not a pig or bar is made there now. There are the copper mines of Wicklow, Knockmahan and Allihies; the lead, gold and silver mines of Wicklow; the silver mines of Ballylilly; and the endless building materials and marbles.

"Why, then, are we a poor province? Dr. Kane quotes Forbes, Quetelet, etc., to prove the physical strength of our people. He might have quoted every officer who commanded them to prove their courage and endurance. Their soil is productive—the rivers and harbors good—their fishing opportunities great—so is their means of making internal communications across their great central plains. We have immense water, and considerable fire power, and, besides the minerals necessary for the arts of peace, we are better supplied than almost any country with the finer sorts of iron, charcoal and sulphur, wherewith war is now carried on. Why is it, with these means of amassing and guarding wealth, that we are so poor? The remote causes were repeated foreign invasion, forfeiture, and bad laws. Disunion, self-distrust, quick credulity, and caprice, were the weaknesses engendered in us by misfortune and misgovernment; and they were the allies of oppression; for, had we been willing, we had long ago been rich and free. Knowledge is now within our reach; if we work steadily; and strength of character will grow upon us, by every month of perseverance and steadiness in politics, trade and literature."

Enough for the present of this analysis of Ireland's resources. Neft week we must go a step farther—and to do so we must go away back in order to rush ahead—by taking up, in a brief and concise manner, the Commercial History of Ireland, or rather the History of Irish Commerce and Trade. The retrospect will merely serve as a guiding star for the future.

## SPRING AILMENTS.

### The Blood Needs Attention at this Season—Purgatives Should Be Avoided.

Spring is the season when your system needs toning up. In the spring you must have new blood, just as the trees must have new sap. With new blood you will feel sprightly, happy and healthy. Many people take purgatives in spring, but this is a serious mistake, as the tendency of all purgatives is to further weaken the system. The one and only sure way to get new blood and new strength is to take Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. They actually make new, rich, red blood—they are the greatest spring tonic in the world. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills speedily banish all spring ailments. Miss Bell Co-hoon, White Rock Mills, N.S., says: "I have found Dr. Williams' Pink Pills a splendid spring medicine. I was very much run down; the least exertion exhausted me, and I had a constant feeling of languor and sluggishness. My appetite failed me and my sleep at night was disturbed and restless. After I began the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, there was a speedy change for the better, and after taking a few boxes, I felt stronger than I had done for years."

You can get Dr. Williams' Pink Pills from any dealer in medicine, or by mail post paid, at 50 cents a box, or six boxes for \$2.50, by writing direct to the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont. Do not let any dealer persuade you to take a substitute. Substitutes never cured anyone—the genuine pills have cured hundreds of thousands in all parts of the world.

## Social Democrat.

"No man can be a Catholic and a Social Democrat." So said Archbishop Quigley during his episcopate in Buffalo. He said that he will repeat the statement in Chicago. And as the archbishop is well acquainted with the theories held and taught by Social Democrats, and is, besides, an authority on Catholic doctrine, there can be no doubt as to the truth of what he says—Catholic Union and Times.

# Lenten Observations.

(By An Occasional Contributor.)

"Harper's Weekly," which is never to be accused of harboring an idea favorable to Catholicity, has published some remarkable comments upon the subject of "Keeping of Lent," in the United States. It is not that the article contains anything new that we refer to it, but simply to draw our own conclusions therefrom. Remember it is a strictly Protestant organ that gives expression to these views, and that they are written out for Protestants, in a Protestant country. We simply wish that our readers will remark how, apart from the religious aspect of the subject, there is a wisdom in the Lenten principle, which even the greatest opponents of the Catholic Church are bound to admit—and they admit it by their practice. The article says:—

"Our generation is not irreligious, but the prevailing tendency is to be more concerned about the conduct of life than about salvation. Perhaps we are rashly and ill-advisedly calm about salvation, but our interest in it tends to be indirect. We incline to the feeling that our immediate concern is to make the most and the best of our lives, and that if we do that, whatever follows will take care of itself. Our use of Lent is determined by this general sentiment. We don't so much try to square accounts and make direct and special progress towards Heaven, as to fit ourselves for the recurring duties of earth. And, of course, Lent gets observance chiefly from women. Our leisure class is nine-tenths women, and even the business women are better able to adapt to their daily tasks the Lenten duties they undertake than most men are. Business does not stop for Lent, though when old Trinity calls Wall street to prayers, many a man lays down his muck-rake, and heeds the invitation to his soul. The usual concerns of life go on, the children go forth to school, the bread-winner goes to his desk or his bench, the bread-maker to his dough. The fixed employments and engagements do not budge, but the mistress of the house and the grown-up daughters can adapt their occupations somewhat to the season. When a Lenten service comes in the morning, they can get to it if they choose, and when Professor Darley lectures on the Outlook for Civilization, their morning engagements can be arranged to include him also. Reading clubs are particularly active in Lent. So are all other women's clubs, and what with the increased diffusion of ideas, and the moderate slackening of the social pace that gives more time for sleep and reflection, such social intercourse as is left is not unlikely to be exceptionally remunerative.

If all this does not seem like very strict Lent-keeping, it must be remembered that this is in the main a Protestant country, and that not more than one-fifth of our population belongs to either of the two churches that recognize Lent as a season which brings religious obligations. With the other four-fifths Lenten observances are a matter of taste, to be taken for what they are worth, and borrowed or declined, as convenience dictates."

We are not now dealing, any more than does the writer of the foregoing, with Lent as an institution of religion. Merely considered from the material point of view, from the standpoint of health, of well-being, of recuperation, of inculcation of self-control, of temperate habits, of subjugation of the flesh and the will and the passions, of a privation for the sake of a more prolonged and keener enjoyment. Viewed thus, we see the wisdom of the Lenten obligation; and thus do we perceive in a fresh instance the wisdom of the Church in establishing such an institution. So very important, so transcendently so are the spiritual needs and eternal interests of man, that the Church's solicitude for our souls makes us often overlook the fact she is a good mother, in every sense, and is just as solicitous for our temporal welfare as our human happiness. If we go over the long list of all the Church's precepts we will find, to our surprise, perhaps, that she never laid down a law for the practice of her children that was not calculated to benefit them socially, domestically, physically, as well as morally and spiritually. And some time or other, under some circumstances or other, the non-Catholic world is forced, of necessity, to acknowledge this great truth—and indirectly great proof of the Church's infallible Divinity of origin—by putting into practice that at which they sneer, and by adopting, in their lives, that which they condemn.

# LEADERS IN IRISH NATIONAL SOCIETIES.



MR. J. P. CUNNINGHAM.

The present occupant of the presidential chair in the Young Irishmen's Literary and Benefit Association, Mr. J. P. Cunningham, has been a member of that organization since 1891. He has held the offices of collecting-treasurer and honorary-treasurer, served as a member of the Advisory Board, and on two occasions has been honored by being elected by acclamation to the important office which he now occupies. Mr. Cunningham is a young man, whose prospects are full of pro-

mise, enterprising, studious, honest and of kindly disposition he is certain to make his mark in the industrial sphere.

During the term of his office Mr. Cunningham has initiated 150 new members, and the Association has held some of its most successful public performances, notably that of St. Patrick's Day celebration at Proctor's Theatre which, it is said, is the banner event in the long record of this progressive and patriotic body.



MR. JOSEPH O'BRIEN.

Mr. Joseph O'Brien, one of the sturdy veterans—still in harness, for he was chairman of the great dramatic performance on St. Patrick's night this year, is a staunch friend of the Young Irishmen's Literary and Benefit Association, whose name was entered upon the membership roll many years ago. He has held various positions of trust from that of

a member of the old Committee of Management to the honored and much coveted position of President. Mr. O'Brien is in business on his account, and counts his friends by the scores in Montreal. He is a man of well known integrity and has the courage of his convictions so characteristic of every true Catholic Irishman.

## Random Notes And Comments.

THE MISSIONARY. — Ever since our Saviour instructed his apostles to go forth into all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, the spirit and the activity of the missionary have been continued. The missionaries of the twentieth century are doing the same work as the Apostles of the first. The work may not be attended with such physical danger; or rather, to put it in other words, there are fewer now being favored with the crown of martyrdom; but their work is none the less strenuous, and is not fully appreciated because the field of the modern nominal Christian's heart is a callous one to

work. They know so much of the truth, and do not abide by it. A heathen converted once usually abides by his instructions and is faithful to the obligations he takes. A man who has had all the advantages of a Christian mother and a Christian education, seemingly begins to think that such great blessings are his by right, that he always has religion at his command, that he may take off or put on, like a suit of clothes. He is a nominal Catholic; and in this advanced century where rationalism and materialism undermine religious instincts, a nominal Catholic is in as great need of a missionary as was ever the Cathayan or the North American Indian.

Look not mournfully into the past—it comes not back again. Wisely improve the present—it is thine. Go forth to meet the shadowy future without fear and with a manly heart.