

CANNOT EUROPE'S COLONIES FLOURISH WITHOUT PERPETUATING THE CHAINS OF AFRICAN SLAVERY?

WE, some six months back, addressed you on the subject of scorched Africa—her golden sands—and her deeply-injured sons. The subject is a teeming one, and abounds with recollections of a very interesting kind; recollections in which Europe has long been a prominent actor, and in which she has sometimes incurred a fearful responsibility. England, the generous and the free (merited epithets of eulogy), England the liberator of the unfortunate, and the munificent helper of those who have none else upon earth to help them, has indeed been prominent in her commiseration of the lot of the Africans. England, as comporting with her established character for humanity, and her love of freedom has, in the leading policy of her conduct towards Africa, led the way in nobly pointing out to Europe her duty in the requirements which civilisation and religion exact from her in regard to the unfortunates of this most central continent of our globe.

Will not all other nations, also, of this civilised portion of the earth assist her in the glorious work? England is rich in Colonial jurisdictions. If, as is so generally asserted, “the sun never sets on her empire”—if the soils over which she has acquired a sovereignty are many of them of high fertility—if no nation on the earth which we inhabit has such ample means of enriching itself through foreign territorial possessions; in the view of these things we, sometime back were tempted to ask, why Ireland should continue to exist destitute and pauperised to anything like the extent which for the last half century she has done? Boundless arenas await her pauperised inhabitants, in other parts of the earth; soils of luxuriant fertility, and of a power of productiveness far exceeding the utmost capabilities of the Emerald Isle, are subject to England's jurisdictions, and offer their riches as the return for the investment of capital and the employment of labour, furnishing a remunerative harvest, which might be had for the gathering. These opportunities for augmenting England's wealth, and for feeding the starving thousands of her population we have, often, been at pains to point out.

In Ireland gaunt famine has lately spread desolation and ruin over the land, and our immediate attention was directed to her calls. We, therefore, felt it imperatively a duty to examine a few of the causes which operate in keeping Ireland below that standard of civilisation and riches which should characterise so important a section of these realms. We have said, that England with her vast Colonial means of amassing riches, and engendering comfort, and diffusing contentment throughout her borders, should not suffer Ireland to exhibit so perpetually on her soils discontent, discomfort, and to so great an