

offspring; they take in the forsaken mother and her children, whom the husband and father would never desert, only that he knew he was thereby affording them legal protection. On the whole, it gives a respectable maintenance to pampered officials, who consume over a third of the rates levied for the ostensible purpose of maintaining the poor, but in reality to maintain blundering officials in princely lazarus-houses. We see what good is effected in towns by pious communities. We see foundling hospitals, penitentiaries, reformatories, and houses of orphanage all admirably conducted by the pious zeal of some humble religious, and supported by voluntary charity. Had these at their command the princely revenues that are extorted from the people for the maintenance of poorhouses, what would they not effect. It would be for the good of society at large that poorhouses were abolished altogether; that these abodes of wretchedness were converted to some useful purpose, and leave the poor to that fountain of human sympathy which God has planted in our nature, and from which flows those of charity that amalgamate the various classes of society, and that afford a more abundant, or, at least, a more effective and generous tide of charity to relieve the wants of the suffering poor.

(Conclusion in our next.)

CATECHISM OF THE HISTORY OF IRELAND.

(Continued.)

Q. What effect did the free Constitution of 1782 produce on the Irish Woollen Trade?

A. The most invigorating effect. The Trade, which had languished out a feeble existence, thenceforth experienced an important and extensive revival. "In 1800," says Mr. Ray, "there were in Dublin, ninety-one master-manufacturers in the Woollen Trade; and these ninety-one master-employers kept 1,122 looms busy in the making of broadcloths, druggots, and cassimeres; and the total number of hands employed in all branches were 4,938."

Q. What were the numbers in 1840?

A. The number of master-manufacturers in Dublin had then fallen from ninety-one to twelve, and the aggregate number of persons employed by them in all branches from 4,938 to 682.

Q. Does Mr. Ray trace similar decay through various other parts of Ireland?

A. He does.

Q. What does he say of the Cotton Trade?

A. He gives detailed evidences of its decay, and quotes from the Report of the Hand-Loom Commissioners (1839), the following passages: "In the early part of the present century, the Cotton Trade extended itself through several parts of Ireland, and was carried on to a considerable extent in Dublin, Drogheda, Collon, Stratford, Mountmellick, Limerick, and Bandon. Belfast, however, was the centre to which capital and skill were attracted.

For all practical purposes, the Cotton Manufacture may almost be considered as extinct in other parts of Ireland."

Q. Can you state the amount to which Ireland suffered by the decay of her domestic manufactures?

A. It would be difficult, perhaps impossible, to ascertain the exact amount; but it is probably much under the mark to average at £1,000,000 yearly, the money sent out of Ireland for English manufactures that had found an Irish market on the ruin of our own.

Q. What would those conjoint drains from Ireland have reached, on the above estimates, at the time of the famine?

A. Two hundred and thirty millions sterling.

Q. Are there any other modes in which England has managed to abstract our money?

A. Yes; several. There is a large amount of Irish money absorbed in London in the parliamentary expenses of passing Irish railway bills and other bills of private companies; in appeals from Ireland to the English House of Lords; in the commercial profits of banks and insurance companies which have offices and agencies in Ireland, but which are governed by an English directorate; in the interest on loans; in the London expenses of Irish law-students at the English inns of court, &c. All these different items of pecuni-