

for a fourth part of their number. Had these people been driven by insufficiency of land to the cultivation of the potato, as an almost exclusive article of diet, the same shocking results would have occurred, when it totally failed in the years 1847-48, as came to pass in Ireland, where even a fourth part of the people are said to have perished by famine and consequent pestilence, in spite of every effort made by the Government to stay the calamity, and by private benevolence. Money, not to be reckoned when human life was at stake, was poured forth like water, to the amount of eleven millions of pounds, as it was, indeed, when what was called the "cotton famine" happened in the manufacturing districts of England, during the American Civil War. The population of Ireland fell off to about 5,000,000. In the face of all these indisputable facts, Irish orators would have us believe that that country is capable of sustaining a population of 10,000,000 to 12,000,000, and that British misgovernment is all that stands in the way. It could only be by miracle. As we have seen, there are now in Ireland 160 persons to the square mile, 42 in our Ontario tract, a miniature of the Province at large. But let us go farther afield. In Portugal and Hungary there are only three-quarters of the present density of population in Ireland, in Spain only half. Of these countries Mr. Mott says: "They are chiefly dependent upon agriculture, though each of them has other sources of income much greater than those of Ireland."

At the time of the famine in Ireland the population was 8,000,000 at least—267 to the square mile. In the State of New York—one of the most flourishing communities in the world, with every advantage of trade, commerce, and manufactures, with enormous riches, the channel through which great part of the immense production of the Great West is poured, with the vast combined cities of New York and Brooklyn, and all its other cities and towns,—there are no more than 106 people to the square mile; while Ireland, according to this promised miracle, might support 326, more than three times the number. What real benefit can be counted on from such wild exaggerations? That Ireland is depopulated and impoverished by the Government surely demands proof very different from this sort of thing, from which no possible good can ever come. Mr. Mott discusses the "resources of Ireland." He says: "The people already employed upon the land are more numerous than the best cultivation will maintain in comfort." They are 65, while all is done in England by 45. The fisheries have declined, presumably because they have not been profitable. The wholesale value of the product of all the fisheries, not only round the whole British coast, but from many foreign seas as well, is about £12,000,000 a year. The utmost that Ireland could add could only be a small proportion, too limited for its profits to affect the nation generally. "There are," Mr. Mott says, "no forests to cut down; few minerals of special value to dig up." "Irish mines employ just 1,650 persons after all the stimulus that mining underwent some fifteen years ago." "Trade may increase, but it is impossible that anything important can be looked for till some special cause arises; even its probable nature cannot be suggested." "The decay of former manufactures is spoken of in a vague way. What, in real figures, did they ever amount to? Where were they? Where are the ruins of the deserted mills? The Ulster linen trade is the single exception of any national importance. Fifty years ago, some 12,000 persons were employed in woollen manufactures; the present number is probably less, but what are 12,000 in 5,000,000?" Mr. Mott lays bare the question of rent and absenteeism with similar acuteness, as evils, in their degree, doubtless, but out of real comparative magnitude; but space does not admit of our following him so far.

The existence of manufacturing prosperity and of other industries in Belfast, is positive proof that there is no governmental difficulty in the way, because the Government is the same in Ulster as in the other provinces. For all manufactures there must be the essential conditions. England is a manufacturing country, but draw a line across the kingdom south of the Trent, including about two-thirds of the whole area, and where will you find a manufacturing population or great cities, with the one exception of London? "Who thinks," asks Mr. Mott, "of bringing the cotton trade to Kent, or the iron trade to Lincoln?" The Irish cannot hope without a miracle to be exempt from the conditions by which all other people are bound. "It is the case precisely," says Mott, "of a family too large for the family income; unable sufficiently to increase it, but all continuing to live at home." In other words, the table is not large enough, nor the provisions abundant enough, for those who have to sit down to it. Why not go where an abundant meal can be provided? Ask those who are partaking of it now, whether they would go back to short commons. All this is no disparagement of Ireland or the Irish, who have many excellent and engaging qualities; the present writer, who lives among Irish people, can speak to that. Why should Ireland be asked to perform impossibilities? There may be hardships in emigration and a tugging at the heartstrings; there is—the writer can speak to that too—but there is no disgrace. Large as is the Irish element in the population of the United States, the German is larger still. A great emigration is always going on from England, chiefly to Australasia. Mr. Mott says in conclusion, "I cannot here discuss the method by which the Irish could be induced to lessen their number sufficiently to cure their own distress. If it is a question of money, it is worth to England as well as Ireland almost anything that it would cost. But what is wanted is some kindly and far-seeing system that will not only bring the population to the proper number now, but will prevent it from increasing again except as the means of living increase."

D. F.

We cannot banish from us the divine breath—we must love.—*Amiel*.

JOTTINGS OFF THE C. P. R.

I AM indebted to Colonel Baker, late of the Blues, who has resided for two years in Kootenay, and was this summer elected by a Conservative majority to represent the district in the Provincial Parliament at Victoria, for the following information about this part of British Columbia, with the subjoined particulars of its climate, resources, and capabilities:

His rancho of Cranbrooke is situated near Joseph's Prairie, and not far from the Kootenay River, upon an elevation of 3,068 feet above the level of the sea; it contains 10,000 acres, 400 enclosed, and lies in the centre of a gold-bearing region, of which Perry Creek, nine miles distant, is the most remarkable example, several hundred thousand dollars having been taken from it. At Palmer's Bar, in the immediate vicinity, \$10 a day are still obtained.

The soil in this extensive property is a rich vegetable loam, differing from the Kootenay bottom lands, which are rich *sandy* loam, while the large benches on both sides of the river are a rich *sandy* loam. The fertility of the land about Cranbrooke is evident from the fine quality of its vegetables, roots, and grains. Pease and cucumbers, grown in the open air, were produced in constant succession from the middle of June till the middle of September, when I enjoyed them both. Potatoes and cabbages attained an abnormal size, one of the latter, which was weighed during my visit early in September, when then not fully developed, reached twenty-three pounds. A sunflower measured three feet seven inches round the seed bed. The black wax bean (a delicate plant) grows to perfection. Hops cover the houses in wild profusion. The quality of beetroot produced is extremely rich in saccharine matter, and heavy crops have been raised without any irrigation. Alfalfa, a species of lucerne, has been cultivated with great success.

The winter is short, snow usually appears about the end of December, and disappears at the beginning of March, never exceeding fifteen inches in depth; occasionally there are snow falls in November, but these are soon dispersed by the warm sun. The weather during this season is, on the whole, comparatively mild; but cold waves of a few days' duration do occur, and the thermometer has fallen to as low as 30° below zero. The maximum and minimum temperatures in the shade on the 29th January, 1886, were 57° and 33°, Fahrenheit. The geological strata is of the Laurentian and Cambrian, merging into the Carboniferous, systems as the Elk River district is approached. The timber is composed chiefly of large pines (the *Pinus ponderosa*), which often attain to four feet in diameter, and make excellent lumber. The Douglas Fir also reaches a diameter of three feet, and there is a valuable variety of larch, commonly called the tamarack, which differs materially from the species of that name common in the low country. This mountain kind is remarkable for its durable qualities in water, and also makes first-class wood for building purposes. Among the deciduous trees are the poplar, elder, and birch. It is thought that the larger fruits, such as apples, pears, and plums may be successfully cultivated, as the smaller berries, including currants, gooseberries, raspberries, and strawberries, grow abundantly.

The capabilities of the Upper Kootenay Valley and the Columbia Lake region for cattle ranching and horse breeding are of a very high order, especially the latter, as horses can range at large during the whole winter without extra food or shelter, and thrive in a wonderful manner upon the natural bunch grass of the country. With regard to cattle it is considered advisable to provide open shelter sheds for the cold weather, and to furnish them with a moderate amount of fodder, which can be procured in abundance from the hay marshes extending throughout the country. A very necessary item in stock-raising is the quantity and quality of the water. It prevails everywhere; large rivers flow in every valley, and numbers of fine creeks are met with in all directions, containing water as pure and clear as can be met with anywhere in the world, as well as excellent trout.

Although there is any amount of game in British Columbia, such as cariboo, elk, bear, black and white tailed deer, and mountain sheep and goats, it is very difficult to obtain, on account of the dense forests which are to be met with in the mountain region, and the number of Indians who are constantly engaged in hunting. It should also be borne in mind that it is well nigh impossible to have any sport without the guidance and assistance of some experienced Indian well acquainted with the country. White men, with very few exceptions, are practically useless.

The Gold Commissioner, Mr. Vowell, of Donald, and the Indian Commissioner, Dr. Powell, of Victoria, with Mr. Smythe, the Premier of British Columbia, arrived at Kootenay a week after we did, and camped upon the rancho, with the exception of Mr. Smythe, who became like ourselves a guest of Colonel Baker's. On the day before the Premier's departure a deputation of the settlers in the district waited upon him to welcome him to the country, and to request his able assistance with the Provincial Government in furthering the development of Kootenay. These views were admirably expressed and laid before Mr. Smythe by Colonel Baker, their representative, who called his attention to the pressing need of a waggon road between Golden City and the Upper Kootenay, to facilitate the conveyance of supplies at present carried by pack trains, and also to place the settlers within reach of a central market on the Canadian Pacific. Mr. Smythe replied to Colonel Baker's address in a short and concise speech, saying he had come among the people, and penetrated into the interior of the country, which he believed no Premier had ever done before him, to try to ascertain what were the urgent requirements of the settlers, and bring them before the House when it met. He hoped to connect the Upper Kootenay Valley with the outer world both by land and water, through the Columbia and Kootenay Rivers, which could be joined by a canal, and made navigable from Golden City to the interior.