

PUNCTUALITY.

It is astonishing how many people there are who neglect punctuality, and thousands have failed in life from this cause alone; it is not only a serious vice in itself, but it is the fruitful parent of many other vices, so that he who becomes the victim of it gets involved in toils from which it is almost impossible to escape. It makes the merchant wasteful of time; it saps the business reputation of lawyers, and it injures the prospect of the mechanic, who might otherwise rise to fortune; in a word, there is not a profession, not a station in life, which is not liable to the canker of the destructive habit. It is a fact not always remembered, that Napoleon's great victories were won by infusing into his subordinates the necessity of punctuality to the minute. It was his plan to maneuver over large spaces of country, so as to render the enemy uncertain where he was about to strike a blow and then suddenly to concentrate his forces and fall with irresistible power on some weak point of the extended lines of the foe. The execution of this system demanded that each division of the army should arrive at the specified time punctually; for, if any part failed to come up, the battle was lost. It was by imitating this plan that the allies finally succeeded in overthrowing the emperor. The whole Waterloo campaign turned on these tactics. At Mt. S. Jean, Blücher was punctual, while Grouchy was not; and the result was that Napoleon fell and Wellington triumphed.

In mercantile affairs punctuality is as important as in military. Many are the instances in which the neglect to renew an insurance punctually has led to serious loss. With sound policy do the banks insist, under the penalty of a protest, on the punctual payment of notes, for were they to do otherwise, commercial transactions would fall into inextricable confusion. Many and many a time has the failure of one man to meet his obligations brought on the ruin of a score of others, just as the toppling down in a line of bricks of the master brick, causes the fall of all the rest. Thousands remain poor all their lives, who, if they were more faithful in their word, would secure a large run of

custom, and so make their fortunes. Be punctual if you would succeed.

REVIEWS.

"THE STORY OF IRELAND," by Dion Boucicault. Boston: James R. Osgoode & Company.

This is a neat pamphlet of 24 pages in which the eminent actor and dramatist, Dion Boucicault in a brief but perspicuous and forcible manner tells the tale of atrocious deeds of spoliation, tyranny and bloodshed perpetrated in Ireland by England from the advent of the Norman filibusters down to the present day when the Irish are still struggling against the avowed object of their alien rulers "to root them out from the soil."

The writer recalls to us in a summary but succinct form, the four remarkable periods of Irish history: 1. Prior to the Norman invasion. 2. From the feudal occupation under Henry II. to the Reformation under the Tudors. 3. Protestant Ascendancy, under Elizabeth until the rebellion of '98. 4. From the "Union" to this year of grace 1881. Mr. Boucicault tells how the work of confiscation was effected in Ireland by three great grabs: the church grab, the periodical land grabs and the office grab; and in reading these pages we see once more the nefarious designs which brought into operation that abominable penal code which the celebrated Edmund Burke said was "a complete system, full of coherence and consistency, well digested and well composed in all its parts;—a machine of wise and elaborate contrivance, and as well fitted for the oppression, impoverishment, and degradation of a people, and the debasement in them of human nature itself, as ever proceeded from the perverted ingenuity of man."

The pamphlet is a stirring effective one, and it will certainly, attain its object as an indictment of the British governing class before the bar of public opinion not only in England, but wherever the English language is read the world over.