

their families from starvation, and during the six months in which they do not engage in the cultivation of their patches of ground there is no employment for the peasants, and they cannot earn money to pay their landlords. If this is the case—and it will not be disputed—I should like to ask, where is the point of contact between the Home Rule Bill and the necessitous condition of the people? I should like to know how a Parliament in Dublin could provide money to pay the rent of those peasants any more than the Parliament of Westminster? I should like to know whether this Dublin Parliament can so affect the sun that shines and the rain that falls so that they shall come just at the right time and bring forth crops for the Irish people? I should like to know whether this Dublin Parliament will so affect the markets that any little produce Irish peasants may have to sell over and above their necessities shall bring a better price than it has been bringing for some years past? I should like to know whether this Dublin Parliament is going to revive the industries of Ireland? I should like to know whether this Dublin Parliament is going to bring capital into the country; and whether, before it brings in capital, it is going to establish peace and quiet in that country so as to secure the confidence of capitalists and encourage industry? I think that a Dublin Parliament is not any more likely to do so than is the Parliament of Westminster to which the Irish people send representatives? I will answer my own question and say, no, emphatically, no. There is nothing in this Home Rule question, there is nothing in any Home Rule measure, there can be nothing in any Home Rule measure which can affect Ireland in this way, and I am satisfied that the remedial measure which so many seem to think is going to remove the difficulties regarding Ireland will have no effect of that kind whatever. And I here beg it to be understood, clearly and distinctly, that I am in favor of Home Rule for Ireland. I believe the Irish people should have the privilege of managing their own local affairs. I believe they should have all the privileges in that respect we Canadians possess, considering the different circumstances of the country, and I for one would be willing to do anything in my power, to render any service possible that would in any way facilitate the granting of Home Rule to Ireland, such a measure of Home Rule as the wisdom of the legislators of Great Britain, such as the people of the United Kingdom are willing to approve, such a measure as might be thought best suited to the circumstances of the Irish people. Forty-eight years ago Ireland supported, we are told, eight millions of people. To-day we hear that she gives a bare subsistence to less than five millions. I may fairly ask this question: Has the absence of Home Rule depopulated Ireland, has the want of a Home Rule measure been the cause of the people leaving Ireland? I think not; I think that no such proposition can be affirmed and sustained. We next ask, What is it that has depopulated Ireland? The question may, to some extent, be answered by the experience of this our own Canada. What is it that sends our people out of the country, out of Canada which is as dear to our people as is Ireland to the Irish people? My own experience, and I have conversed with many who have left Nova Scotia for the United States and afterwards returned to that Province temporarily, is, that it was because they were unable to obtain employment they crossed the line, and they say that, notwithstanding all the advantages the United States possess, there are many things in our own country which are so dear to them that if they could obtain employment in Canada they would willingly come back and bid good-bye to the States. It is therefore, the want of employment which, in a very large measure, leads our people to emigrate. I know there is a feeling and a desire to see the world, and I would not give much for a young man who is willing to confine himself to

any particular country all his lifetime. I have felt that myself, and I rejoice when I see a young man desirous of going over the world and of ascertaining what other people are doing, mixing up with people of other nationalities, and seeking to ascertain whether he cannot possibly make a name for himself in some other part of the world. But, Sir, in the main our people after having gone abroad desire again to return to their own country, and Irishmen love their country so well that they have only left it because they have not had employment at home. And why have they not that employment at home which they had at one time? There was a time when Ireland had industries—when she had commerce and manufactures, but where are they now? They have gone, and that is the real trouble that affects Ireland. People are very apt to say that Ireland has no industrial resources, that all she is fit for is to raise potatoes. On that point I wish to quote from a writer who understood, I presume, what he was writing about—I refer to Sir Robert Kain, who, in his work on the Industrial Resources of Ireland, says:

“The constitution of the rocks and soil of Ireland, its extent of ores and fuel, its supply of water, its extent of lakes and rivers, its harbors, all fit it for industry in agriculture, in manufactures, and in commerce in a degree which, although not entitling it like England to grasp at the commercial and manufacturing supremacy of the world, should certainly enable it to be the source of employment and comfort to its own people.”

I know that various reasons have been given for the decay of Irish manufactures, and whatever the true reason may be, it is the one which makes this problem so difficult to solve, especially to the Parliament of England. I should be very sorry to be accused of any pretence whatever to lay down any rule by which this problem can be solved. But I hold to this, that the methods that some of us imagine are going to solve the problem will never solve it; Home Rule never will solve it. I trust, however, that there will arise some man among the friends of Ireland who will meet the difficulty and remove it. I feel satisfied that the gentlemen who are now at the head of the Irish party, however deserving they may be of credit, are not the men who are going to lead Ireland up to a state of peace and prosperity such as she enjoyed at one time. We want some other person possessing different views of the matter from those which are held by the men who now lead Ireland. There is another point to which I wish to call the attention of this House. An hon. member said yesterday that of the large value of the exports of Ireland one-half the amount was paid out as rent to the landlords, and he characterised that condition of things in a very strong manner. I forget the exact words he used, but they were to the effect that it was something like a blot on the civilisation of the country that the peasants of Ireland should be required to pay such a large amount of money, received for the exports of the country, by way of rent to their landlords. Why, Sir, a very good authority tells us that the Irish people pay a very much larger sum for something that is of less value to them than the land for which they pay rent. A statistician of some note informs us that the drink bill of Ireland for the ten years preceding 1880, amounted to an annual average of \$65,000,000, being \$11,000,000 more than the rent paid for the land. Now, Sir, I say that any country of less than five millions of population which will pay \$65,000,000 in the shape of a drink bill, for something that does them no good, something that does them injury every time and continually, something which is degrading to the people of the country, something which is destroying their moral sentiment and feeling—I say any such people as that are making a grand mistake, and are themselves placing obstructions in the way of their prosperity. Give us another Father Matthew, another regenerator of Ireland like him—one who will say to the people of Ireland, You must get rid of this tremendous tax; and if