

PROTESTANT CIVILISATION.

ANGLO-SAXON AND PROTESTANT ENGLAND IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY
—AN AWFUL PICTURE OF MODERN SAVAGERY—IGNORANT OF EVERY-
THING EXCEPT CRIME.

(From the 'Dublin Freeman.')

Those phrases of fine sound, "Happy England," "Merrie England," and all the rest, have a bitter irony for many people of English birth. In the familiar school song the pupil thanks Heaven that has made him or her "in these Christian days a happy English child." The chant is very often the merest goody poetry of the lesson books. It has been averred, indeed, by some that the national self-glorification is worse than a hollow mockery, and that, with all her power and greatness and wealth, *there is deeper squalor, more savagery, and denser ignorance in England than in any other civilised country.* From time to time we are startled to learn that the nation which is said to be in various ways the envy and the paragon of the whole world, has in the heart of it a population more sunk in brutality and wretchedness, it might be added in vice, than exists in any of the lands to which it holds itself up as an example. The greatness and the riches of England are undeniable. The better classes of her working men eat four meals a day and enjoy wages, if not comforts, not possessed by their brethren in any other European country. But there are other workers whose lives are a terrible homily on the grandeur and the gold of the country in which they toil and starve. A picture appears in a Wolverhampton contemporary, describing the condition of the chainmakers who form the industrial population of a large district between Wolverhampton and Birmingham. Much has been said about the deplorable state of the English agricultural laborer. Much more could be said about the miseries endured by the patient Irish peasant. But the latter, except in the very grasp of famine, has never been worse circumstanced than are at present the chainmakers of Dudley Wood, Cradley, Cradley Heath, Old Hall, Neitherton, of Quarry Bank and Lye Waste. We should be sorry to say that the Irish peasant in his sorest ordeal had ever fallen into the *moral degeneracy which seems characteristic of these English workers.* But even in the matter of food and wages, incredible as it may seem, the Wolverhampton chain makers are in worse plight than the poorest Irish laborer. The story is briefly told. A third of the chain makers are women. The villages of the district are each a cluster of little smithies, inferior to a Connemara cabin. In one of these half-a-dozen furnaces might be seen in full blow during the fierce temperature of the late August days. Men, compelled by the heat, wrought at their work naked to the waist; women and young girls, working in the same smithies, followed the example of the men. No more need be said on this point. Young and good-looking girls, aged from twelve to eighteen years, toil at these furnaces eleven or twelve hours a day, and earn by their oppressive and degrading labor five or six shillings a week. There is no case of such brutal slavery in this country, and long may our females want employment before such occupation is open to them. The poor girls on being questioned were found to be most woefully ignorant. Most of them did not even know the name of the SAVIOUR; of religious truths they had not formed an idea; the merest rudiments of secular learning were unknown to them. No wonder. These unfortunate women are, in effect, slaves, chained to their task. Their degradation is attributed in great part to "the unmanly conduct and character of the men." These true Black Country "lamb" are described as spending their time "idling and loafing about in the most shameless manner." They have abandoned the position of breadwinners to their wives and children, and only make themselves felt in the household by squandering as much of the miserable earning as they can lay hands on, "ill-treating those who earn it at the same time." Aged and feeble women were found hammering away in smithies, helped by children of tender years, all haggard and hungry looking. In one miserable hovel was found at work an emaciated young woman, who had evidently but a short time before given birth to a child, which was wrapped in rags and placed on a heap of ashes in the corner. The mother had been obliged to get up out of the bed she should have been in to earn a bit to eat for herself and her infant. The condition of the sex in this region of South Staffordshire was eloquently set forth in the observation of a married woman, who said "she didn't know how it was; in other places where she lived men kept their wives—here the wife had to keep the husband." In reply to an inquiry respecting her lord and master, she declared that if she escaped being beaten for not having brought home money enough, she thought herself well off. And this, it seems, is the sort of family relation prevailing in the district. Notwithstanding, we doubt not, men will stand this very day on platform or pulpit, in the very district where such things exist, and will give thanks that England is not as other nations, nor her people lost in the physical and moral darkness enveloping the people of lands not marked out for the special favor of heaven. There are many things to complain of in the lot of our poorer fellow-countrymen, but surely there is no community in all Ireland so wretchedly off or so much to be pitied as the chain makers of the Black Country.

EMIGRATION.—The decrease in emigration to the United States continues. Last year there was a falling off. This year the diminution is still greater. During last month the whole number of emigrants arriving at New York was 9,262; in July, last year, the number was 15,634—a decrease of 6,372. Of the immigrants arriving there last month, 1,812 came from England, 421 from Scotland, 37 from Wales, 1,762 from Ireland, 2,240 from Germany, 339 from Austria, 932 from Sweden, 359 from Norway, 114 from Denmark, 257 from France, 118 from Switzerland, 47 from Spain, 220 from Italy, 111 from Holland, 224 from Russia, and 106 from Poland.

MARSHAL BAZAINE has, it is said, been soliciting service in the Russian, and afterwards in the Danish army, but in both instances without success.

THE MAYNOOTH SYNOD.

The Irish National Synod which closed its sessions at Maynooth College, on September 20, was the second assemblage of the kind held in Ireland since the passage of the Emancipation Act. The first was held at Thurles twenty-five years ago; and of all the Irish prelates who attended the first, only four survive to participate in the deliberations of the second. These are Cardinal Cullen, Archbishop MacHale, Bishop Delany of Cork, and Bishop Kelly of Derry.

The proceedings at Maynooth, as is the rule in such cases, were conducted in strict secrecy, and the decrees passed will not be made public until approved at Rome. Cardinal Cullen, however, in a public address at the close, stated that the statutes adopted were designed "to counteract increasing infidelity and lukewarmness in religion and revolution in politics."

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT.

MESSRS CAREW & COMPANY wish to notify to the Dundedin public that they have commenced business as

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MISSING FRIENDS.

INFORMATION wanted of Mrs. MARY CULITY, maiden name Mary Lyons, who left London in 1865, for Auckland, N.Z. When last heard of she was living in Auckland (about a year since), in which city her husband died. Any information concerning her, by which her present address may be traced, will be thankfully received if forwarded to this office; or to Mr. Patrick O'Brien, No. 2, Chapman place, Chapman street, Charleston, Massachusetts, United States.

INFORMATION wanted of Mrs. MARY JONSON, maiden name Mary Wadden, native of Coedross, Parish of Durrah, Lower Ormand, County Tipperary, Ireland. Any information concerning her will be thankfully received by Mrs. Sherlock, Westport. Letters from home await her.

HIBERNIAN AUSTRALASIAN CATHOLIC BENEFIT SOCIETY.

(Registered under the Friendly Societies Act of Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, New Zealand, and South Australia),
and at present

NUMBERING ONE HUNDRED AND TEN BRANCHES,
AND ABOUT
FIVE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED MEMBERS.

CLEARANCES ARE GRANTED AT NO EXTRA CHARGES TO MEMBERS

THE SOCIETY IS FOUNDED UPON THE FINANCIAL
BASIS OF OTHER BENEFIT SOCIETIES.

THE ENTRANCE FEES AND RATES OF SUBSCRIPTION
Will be found to compare favorably with those
CHARGED BY OTHER SOCIETIES,

And are as Moderate as practicable, having due regard to the benefits secured, a synopsis of which is subjoined:—
A Benefit Member receives during illness £1 per week for twenty-six consecutive weeks, 15s for the next thirteen weeks, and 10s for further period of thirteen weeks; on death of wife £10, at his own death his relatives receive £20. He has medical attendance and medicine for himself and family immediately on joining. If a single man with a widowed mother, and brothers and sisters (under 18 years of age), he has medical attendance and medicine for them. A Member removing can have a clearance which will admit him into any branch of the Society in the locality to which he may remove. Honorary and Life Honorary Members are provided for, and may, on payment of a small weekly contribution, secure medical attendance. The Society is also for the purpose (as its name indicates) of cherishing the memory of Ireland, and promoting the religious, social, and intellectual condition of the members. Any person desirous of having a branch opened shall make application to a branch, verified by signatures of not less than thirteen persons not members, who wish to become members thereof: also the signature of the resident Priest, if available, and at the same time forward the sum of 10s each as proposition fees.

Branches are established at Invercargill, Lawrence, Dunedin, Naseby, Oamaru, Christchurch, Greytown, Charleston, Addisons, Brighton, Greenstone, Waimea, Hokitika, Wellington, Reefton, Onehunga, Otakuhu Auckland, Napier, Akaroa, Lyttelton, Grahamstown and Nelson.