

Hesse, with his brace of wives, and well nigh the whole of Germany in fact, altogether making up an extremely strong temporal power without which at its back the glorious "Reformation" never progressed one inch. But if we are to receive it as the proof of the "Reformation's" value that it made progress—as it undoubtedly did not—against great odds, we must also appraise it by the contrary, by its having failed wherever the temporal power opposed it. Can our Evangelical friends say, for example, why Admiral Coligni was not as successful in France with the aid of God Almighty as was Martin Luther in Germany—or why Catherine de Medici could successfully make such short work of the matter there.—The unblushing impudence, however, with which this vulgar story has been published, must be explained by the complete ignorance of its publishers—for in that way only can it be explained.

INASMUCH as one of the pleas put forward for the depopulation of Ireland is that it is too thickly inhabited, it is of especial interest for us to find an argument in favour of a country's being thickly populated. Such an argument we find in a recent number of the *Revue des Deux Mondes*; it relates to France particularly, but is applicable to any other country, and it runs to the following effect: Let us suppose France to be peopled by one million of inhabitants only, not only would the French people, taken collectively, be less rich, but individually they would be poorer. If France were more peopled vast extents of country, which, even as it is, are not cultivated, would be rendered productive. The excess of farm labourers does not injure agriculture, on the contrary, the falling off in French agriculture is due to the falling off in numbers of the rural population. Commerce depends on the number of merchants—industry on the number of workmen, science, or the number of savans. Among great masses of men, intellectual or physical force is almost proportionate to numbers. Ten miners do less work than one hundred—ten Frenchmen less work than a thousand. Let us admit that every workman earns five francs a day, and that on his living he expends four francs 75 centimes, he will save daily five centimes. Ten individuals would save two francs and a-half; one hundred would save twenty-five francs. If there were a population in France of 80 millions, instead of 40 millions, each Frenchman individually would not save much; but the annual savings of the country would be double what they are today. The bringing-up of children, indeed, costs a good deal, but in about fifteen years they, in turn, become producers and repay the money they have cost the family and the country during their childhood—that ill-advised people who have not reared citizens for the future will be punished even in their prosperity. They will be crushed by the commerce, the industry, the armies, and fleets of countries more fruitful in men. As to independence, that treasure of treasures, on what does it depend, unless on military force, and financial power, which are closely connected with the number of inhabitants? Does a small country possess a true independence? Is Greece as free as Russia, Denmark as independent as Germany? If we cast aside the fiction of neutrality have Belgium and Switzerland their autonomy as well assured as the great countries which surround them? But, as an example of the population that a country can support, let us take the following. In Belgium the density of the population is extreme; there are 190 inhabitants to the square kilometre. France, on the contrary, has only 70 inhabitants to the square kilometre. Consequently, if the population of France were one hundred millions of inhabitants, she would be still, in proportion to the extent of her area, less peopled than Belgium. The Belgians, nevertheless, do not seem to be dying of hunger. Their soil certainly cannot sustain them, but industry and commerce make up for the agricultural deficit. Man is a sort of primary living matter with which the destiny of a nation is built up. If the matter is abundant the destiny will be prosperous. All these uncleaned urchins will one day be men—soldiers, sailors, workmen, peasants. Who knows but there may even be found among them some productive artist, some profound thinker, some powerful orator, some inventor of genius? It is among these that the destinies of the future lie.

AT a meeting of the Howard Association held the other day in London, as we learn from the *Times*, a certain Mr. Randall "considered that prisoners should earn much more towards their own support. He queried, 'Why should the honesty of the nation be so heavily burdened with its rascality.'"—But then, perhaps, this Mr. Randall was a gentleman of an exacting nature and of the Gradgrind type. It is refreshing to think that among ourselves there is more moderation, and a kinder feeling for the condition of the poor captives.—Their labour, we understand, has become much lighter of late, and about twelve hours now represents six hours passed by them at work under the savage Caldwell régime.—And this is, of course, quite as it ought to be, and will prove most pleasing to the more benevolent hearts that are so plenty amongst us—

especially in the North.—The prisoners themselves will also appreciate the change very much, and the advantage they seem to have enjoyed in perusing the papers containing the reports of the late commission will no doubt enable them to decide correctly as to where their gratitude is due.—The commissioners, we may add, made no remark in their report as to this affair of the newspapers, but then, perhaps, they consider them, or some of them, as improving almost as lectures to the criminal mind, and lectures, we know, are looked to for the production of the most admirable fruits there—to be given, for example, "The Coming Man," or "Comets," for a pattern should be enough to reform Newgate itself.—The prisoners, no doubt, fully understand that the "Government stroke" is now alone expected from them, and that no officer will report them unless it be for something very remarkable indeed.—All must be above board, now, and honorable, and no tale-bearing can be tolerated.—There is honour among thieves, in fact, with a vengeance.—But if the prisoners are to have better times than they had under the iron rod of the past, the officers have resolved to spare no pains or trouble, in order to fulfil the duties of their place most zealously and well. The officers, we conclude, will all take example by their superior the Inspector, who is most devoted to his duties, and a thorough zealot in discharging them.—The Inspector, in fact, if rumour be correct, will for the future be at the trouble of coming all the way from Wellington to decide in cases that might be supposed to fall within the jurisdiction of the Visiting Justices, and to be capable of being decided therefore at a much less expense to the public funds—but where the prisons are concerned we know expense is a matter of not the smallest consideration.—Even as it is, we understand that there is a case awaiting the Inspector, and which a Justice has declined to inquire into—believing himself unauthorised to do so; it is a charge of insubordination brought against a warder by his superior officer, who is in charge of the bulk, and a Visiting Justice has suspended the warder in question pending an inquiry. The wear and tear of travelling, then, is of no consequence at all to the Inspector in comparison with the fulfilment of his duties, and as to the increase of travelling expenses—well, all this will be saved when that sum of £82,000 has been profitably invested in the great central penal establishment at Wellington—where, we conclude in passing, flax for the million or something equally useful will be spun or ground by means of the best possible kind of treadmills. We may add that it was possibly in anticipation of the additional travelling to be undertaken by the Inspector, Mr. J. C. Browne, M.H.R., voted for an increase to that gentleman's salary, being aware of the Inspector's intention to confer on Lawrence Gaol the privilege of receiving all prisoners sentenced up to six months hard labour, and who so far had been sent to the gaol at Dunedin.—Meantime, we are narrow-minded and sordid enough to be of Mr. Randall's opinion that prisoners should earn as much as possible towards their own support, and we think also with the gentleman in question, that the honesty of the nation should be as little burdened as possible with its rascality,—even though prisoners should be made to do a full day's work, and prison officials, even the highest and most honourable of them all, should be recommended to spend as little money as possible on their travelling expenses.

IT is a curious thing in connection with the report SEVERAL of the Dunedin Gaol Commissioners, that it has CURIOUS THINGS, condemned a man because he carried out his duties as the law directed him.—Mr. Caldwell, in fact, has been condemned for disobeying illegal orders, for, as Captain Hume had not, until quite recently, been legally appointed, any orders he might have issued in the gaol were illegal, and could only have been illegally obeyed. Yet we see two magistrates who are supposed to be the masters of everything connected with the law, condemning Mr. Caldwell for disregarding illegal mandates—and this surely is a very strange aspect of affairs. But, indeed, the gentlemen in question may be held excused if their action was a little out of the ordinary course. The position they occupied, in fact, was a most extraordinary one, and it is not wonderful if it confused their minds in some degree. It is a very unusual thing to find such an appointment as that made by our Minister of Justice of two magistrates belonging to the Department of Justice, for the purpose of conducting an inquiry into charges made against other officials of the same department—that is, the Visiting Justices and the Gaoler. The whole affair, in fact, smacks of a family matter, and it would seem as if the head of the family—the Minister in question, had been over-much engaged in it, as if he had, in fact, been judge and prosecutor all in one. Mr. Graham Berry, on the contrary, for example, when lately appointing a commission to investigate certain charges brought against the Medical Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum at Sunbury, in Victoria, expressly declared that it would be most unfair to appoint Government officers to carry on the investigations, and was careful to choose three independent gentlemen instead.—But then, Mr. Graham Berry acted like a colonial politician, whereas, in all probability, our own worthy Minister had received some instructions as to how these kind of