

Poetry.

Th The following selections are extracted from
SHELLEY'S Queen Mab:—

COURTIER.

Those gilded flies
That hasting in the sunshine of a court
Fatten on its corruption—what are they?
—The drones of the community; they feed
On the mechanic's labour; the starved child
For them compels the stubborn glebe to yield
Its unshared harvest; and you squallid form,
Lesser than fleshless mites, that wastes
A useless life in the unwholesome mine,
Drags out in labour a protracted death,
To glut their grandeur; many faint with toil,
That few may know the cares and woes of sloth.

WARRIORS AND LAWYERS.

War is the statesman's game, the priest's delight
The lawyer's jest, the hired assassin's trade,
And, to these ruffians, whose mean thrones
Are bought by crimes of treachery and gore,
The bread they eat, the staff on which they lean,
The garb they wear, the blood-red liveries, surround
Theirselves, participate the crimes
That force defend, and from a nation's rage
Scour the crown, which all the curses reach
That famine, fire, and penny breathes,
These are the hired braves who defend
The tyrant's throne—the bullies of his fear:
These are the ricks and channels of worst vice,
The refuse of society, the dregs
Of all that is most vile: their cold hearts blend
Deceit with sternness, and power with pride,
All that is mean and villainous with rage,
Which hopelessness of good, and self-contempt,
Alone might kindle; they are decked in wealth,
Honour and power, then are sent abroad
To do their work. The pestilence that stalks
In gloomy triumph through some eastern land
Is less destroyers. They rejoice with gold,
And promises of fame, the eagle with you
Already craves the service of his wings,
And readiness to die, and cherishes
Reputation for his ruin, when his doom
Is sealed in gold and blood!
Those too the tyrant serve, who, skilled to snare
The feet of justice in the toils of law,
Stand ready to oppress the weaker still;
And, right or wrong, will vindicate for gold,
Smearing at public virtue, which beneath
Their pitiless tread lies torn and trampled, where
Honour sits smiling at the sale of truth.

KINGS AND SUBJECTS.

Nature rejects the monarch, not the man;
The subject, not the citizen, for kings
And subjects, mutual foes, for ever play
A losing game into each other's hands,
Where stakes are vice and misery.

THE DOOM OF FAULSHAM AND TYRANNY.

Whence, whence thou, king, and parasites arise?
Whence that monstrous host of drones, who heap
Till and unenviable property
On those who build their palaces, and bring
Their daily bread?—From vice, black loathsome
vice;
From rapine, madness, treachery, and wrong;
From all that renders misery, and makes
Of earth this thorny wilderness; from lust,
Revenge and murder—And when reason wakes,
Loud as the volcano, the tyrant will have
The actions, and a mankind perceive that vice
Is discord, war, and misery; that virtue
Is peace, and happiness and harmony;
When man's mature nature shall disdain
The playing of its childhood;—kings shall
Will to its power to debase; its authority
Will utterly pass by; the gorgeous throne
Shall stand unoccupied in the regal hall,
Fast falling to decay; whilst falsehood's trade
Shall be as hateful and unprofitable
As that of truth is now.

Reviews.

THE HISTORY OF IRELAND, from the earliest
period of the Irish Annals, to the Revolution of
1848. By T. WRIGHT, M.A., F.R.S., &c. Part I.
—II. London: J. & F. Tallis, 100, St John
Street.

An impartial and trustworthy History of Ireland
would be one of the most valuable and interesting
works that author and publisher combined could
present to the public. In the 'address' which ac-
companies the first part of this publication, it is
truly said, that 'There exists at present no History
of Ireland of a character to be placed in the hands
of the general reader. Works of this kind, hitherto
published, are either imperfect in plan, defective in
research, or disfigured by the political or religious
prejudices of the writers.' The 'address' adds:
'It will be the especial aim of the author of the present
work to avoid this dangerous rock; he will en-
deavour to give, as far as the materials will permit,
a true picture of Irish history; and he will study,
above all, to relate the stirring events which have
come beneath his pen, as well as the causes which have
led to them, and the effects which have followed,
with the strictest impartiality.'

This promised impartiality is not so easy a matter,
for whether an author be 'Saxon' or 'Celt,' Catho-
lic or Protestant, Conservative or Progressive, it is a
difficult task to rigidly abstain from giving a favourable
colouring to one set of principles and partisans at
the expense of their opposites and rivals. Nor is
this all; even though able to divest himself of pre-
judice in dealing with the events of his own time and
reviewing the events of the past—the historian has
the still more difficult task of penetrating the pre-
judices and partialities of his predecessors, on whom
he must mainly depend for the reported facts of pre-
ceding centuries. To get at the truth of events
which have been disfigured by the mystifications of
'History,' is at the best a laborious, and often a
hopeless undertaking. Of Mr Wright's ability there
can be no question. We trust that when this publi-
cation is brought to a close, the same may be as
truly asserted of his allegiance to truth, in spite of
sect or party. If the author of this *History of Ire-*
land produces a work such as the 'address' we
have quoted from promises, he will confer a lasting
benefit upon society.

It affords us pleasure to speak favourably of the
work thus far. Part I. opens with an account of
Ireland as known to the Greeks and Romans, com-
mencing with the celebrated voyage of the Argo-
nauts. The ancient legends and masters of the world
seem to have been very little acquainted with 'Ierne'
and its inhabitants. It was not till the year 120
that the geographer Ptolemy gave an account of
the country, describing its coasts, harbours, rivers,
and seaport towns; of the interior of the country he
seems to have known but little. Notwithstanding
its imperfections, his account of 'Hibernia' possesses
considerable interest, even after the lapse of more
than seventeen centuries. The remainder of Part I.
is occupied with the legendary history of Ireland;
and although Mr Wright evidently has but little
faith in the annals of the mystic period of
Eith's history, he appears to have given a faithful
abridgement of those annals, from the time of the
landing of Noah's sons (1), to the holy and happy
time when, as namesake Lord of the streets de-
clares, St Patrick—

'Gave the snakes and toads a twist,
And bann'd 'em from ever.'

The adventures of 'the Milesians; the institutes of
Ollamh Fodhla; the building of the Palace of
Emania; the wars of Ossian's heroes; the conquests
achieved by Nial and Dathi; the preachings and
miracles of St Patrick; with many other stories,
equally wonderful, find place in this portion of the
history.

Part II. opens with an account of Ireland during
the earlier Anglo-Saxon period, and some forty
pages follow which are almost entirely filled with
accounts of civil contentions, the sanguinary con-
flicts of rival chieftains, and the Danish invasions.
Almost the only bright pages in this dark record are
those which tell of the events of those heroic times,

'When Malachy was the collar of gold,
Which he won from the proud invaders.'

And when Malachy's still more famous rival ruled
Ireland, from north to south, from sea to sea, and
Danes and all other enemies—foreign and domestic—
acknowledged the sovereignty of Brian Boru. It
was in the reign of the great Brian that a 'young
dancer of surpassing beauty, robed in a costly dress
covered with jewels, carrying in her hand a wand,
with a gold ring of great value fastened to the top,
wandered, without attendants, from the northernmost
part of the island to the south; and no one attempted,
either in face of day, or under cover of the shades of
night, to rob her of honour, to strip her of her
rich apparel, or even to steal her ring of gold.' This
pretty little romance at least indicates a high de-
gree of prosperity and public order during the more
fortunate years of Brian's reign. Unfortunately, these
days did not long continue. The treason of an in-
ferior chief was the fatal cause of that famous battle
of Clontarf; in which, although the Danes were
finally defeated and terribly destroyed, the great
King Brian was himself slain, together with the flower
of Irish chivalry. The story of this battle is told
with great power, and Mr Wright does justice, both
in the matter and manner of this portion of his work.

to the splendid heroism of the Irish victors in that
memorable battle. The 'glories of Brian the brave'
will never fade from the page of history.

But the victory of Clontarf—though glorious, wisest,
best, fell on that battle-field; and the country
immediately relapsed into that state of anarchy
which rendered the subsequent invasion of the Nor-
man brigands a matter so comparatively easy. It
is a fact which should not be lost sight of, that in
the very first quarrel between England and Ireland,
the former was the aggressor. Nearly 500 years
before Strongbow's invasion, Egfrid, King of Nor-
thumbria, sent an army into Ireland, com-
manded by a Saxon earl, named Beric, 'who,'
says Bede (the old English historian), 'miserably
wasted that harmless people, which had
always been most friendly to the English.' It is
true that about two hundred and fifty years sub-
sequently, a combined Danish and Irish army entered
the Humber, and invaded England, and were de-
feated with great slaughter by the English king,
Athelstan; that, however, appears to have been the
only occasion on which the Irish acted the part of
aggressors, and got what all aggressors deserve,
well trounced for their pains. Unfortunately, the
good cause is not always victorious, otherwise,
the fate of the Irish at Brannaburgh, and the
Danes at Clontarf, would have been shared by the
mail-clad ruffians who laid the foundation of that
rule of wrong which for seven centuries has in-
flicted misery upon Ireland, and dishonour upon this
country.

The dissensions of the Irish chiefs, and their
treachery to each other—which too often took the
shape of positive treason to their common country—
appear to have been the main causes of Ireland's
ruin. The crimes of Dermot MacMurrough, and the
infamy of his paramour Devorgilla—the Helen of
Ireland—paved the way for Irish slavery. The
history of the flight of Dermot to England, and his
subsequent return leagued with the sworn enemies
of his country; together with the capture of Wex-
ford, the invasion of Ossory, the arrival of Strong-
bow, and the capture of Dublin, takes Mr Wright,
concluding portion of Part II. 'When,' says Mr Wright,
speaking of the first campaign of the English
adventurers in Ireland, 'when we consider the small
number of invaders, their success appears wonderful;
but it was the victory of trained soldiers over un-
disciplined valour, and the Irish were defeated less
by deficiency of courage than those who fought, than
by the want of unity among the different petty
states, and the consequent absence of the vigorous
councils necessary on an occasion when the inde-
pendence of the whole island was threatened.' To
this should be added the fact so humiliating to Ire-
land, that numbers of her own sons, influenced by
ambition, personal hatred, or a thirst for rapine,
were but too ready to league with the invaders
against their own country. Under such circum-
stances the loss of national independence was the
least of inevitable calamities.

Mr Wright strongly and properly condemns the
wholesale slaughtering committed by the invaders,
and the cruelties they inflicted on the prisoners who
fell into their hands—the beginning of that wicked
policy of striking terror into the Irish, which has
been continued to the present time.

This work is printed with large clear type on
good paper, and the embellishments are of the first
class, although, we think, with the exception of the
map of Ireland, out of place. Part I. contains, in
addition to the map, an engraving representing the
arrest of Lord Edward Fitzgerald, and an illustrated
title page, portraying the entry of George the Fourth
into Dublin. Part II. contains an engraving of the
trial of Daniel O'Connell, in 1844. We submit that
these illustrations should have been reserved for
future parts. Engravings of the Battle of Clontarf,
and some other subject from the ancient history of
Ireland, would have been more appropriate at the
present stage of publication. Thus far we may con-
scientiously recommend this 'History of Ireland' to
our readers.

Royal Correspondence. The Private Letters of
Queen Victoria and Louis Philippe, on Political
and Domestic Subjects. London: W. Strange,
21, Paternoster Row.

The originals of these letters were discovered at
the Tuileries, in the secret portfolio of the ex-King
of France, after his flight from Paris on the 24th
of February. This collection is edited by the author
of 'Sketches of her Majesty's Household,' several of
whose works have been favourably noticed in this
journal. Copies in French of the original letters are
given, together with translations and very copious
notes, explaining political facts and allusions which
otherwise might not be comprehended by the gen-
eral reader. A good deal of royal rumour is laid
bare in this little book! and, truth to say, the lum-
bug, at least so far as the Spanish marriages were
concerned, does not appear to have been exclusively
on the side of the Pagn of France; the Coburgs and
Palmerstons appear to have been as deep in the mud
as his ex-Kingdom was in the mire. In fact, both
parties played a deep game, in which, of course, the
veteran gamester triumphed. Palmerston, with all
his trickery, and the hungry Coburgs, with all their
disinterested zeal, were both combined—not match
for the great Jew-trafficker of the Tuileries. For a
rich exposure of royal morality and royal decency,
we commend the reader to 'Our very dear Brother'
Philippe's letter to his *chère bonne Louise*, the
Queen of the Belgians, in which the 'nobility' of
the Queen of Spain, and the 'virility' of the prince,
who is now her husband, are discussed with a free-
dom which might not seem out of place in the cor-
respondence of a horse-dealer reviewing the quali-
ties of the animals he might be disposed to purchase,
or wished to dispose of, but which reads queer
when human beings—we will not say 'royal per-
sonages'—are the subjects of such brutal com-
ments.

In this work the reader will be reminded of the
fraternal hug given by Louis Philippe to Prince
Albert, when the latter went on board the *Gomer* to
welcome the former to England. He will be in-
formed, too, how 'my poor Montpensier' rivalled
Prince Albert in suffering 'from that odious sea-
sickness'; how the Princess-Royal wrote to the
lodge at the Tuileries, and how, in return, the little
lady received a 'duck of a doll' as a present from her
'Old Cousin [old cozener?] Louis Philippe.' These
and many other bits, independent of the politi-
cal portion of the correspondence make this book
worth perusal. That the old trickster was often
troubled with prophetic fore-shadows of his
future, is manifested in several parts of this corre-
spondence. We quote an example of this in a letter
addressed to Queen Victoria, in December, 1844—

FOREBODINGS OF THE FUTURE.
I perfectly comprehend, as your Majesty reminds me,
how rash it would be to give one's self up too long before
bad projects and hopes which so many circumstances
might frustrate and render chimerical; and, above all,
with respect to your Majesty's excursion, as to the pe-
riod which might be the happy one to give you an
St. George, and to do you the kindness of Paris on a grand
or as small a scale as might suit you, or Prince Albert.
Above all things, I beg both of you to be assured that
whatever my desires may be, that this journey should
take place, I would never consent to permit you to under-
take it if it had not previously acquired an entire and ab-
solute conviction that you would be there received as
our own people, I was received in England, that
conviction I now entertain; but I know too well the
man, and the times in which it has been given me to
live, ever to approach to reply for the future; and my ad-
vice now is to engage one's self too long before the near
approach of the future, so that we might be enabled to
form some judgment as to what is permitted to us to ac-
complish, and what is forbidden.

In another letter dated January 29th, 1846, al-
luding to the potato disease, Philippe wrote, 'It is
not the first time I have seen, in my long career,
that trifling cause have produced great events.' The
reader will connect with this the great event which
two years afterwards levelled Philippe's throne, and
sent him, like Cain, a fugitive from his country. A
banquet was forbidden, and—Louis Philippe lost his
crown!

Queen Mab. A Philosophical Poem. By Percy
Bysshe Shelley. London: J. Watson, 3, Queen's
Head Passage, Paternoster Row.

To criticise Shelley's immortal poem is not our
present purpose. Had we sufficient space at com-
mand, it would be a labour of love to point out the
most beautiful portions of this magnificent work,
but we must forego that pleasure, and be content
with selecting here and there an extract for the gra-
tification of those who have yet before them the rich
enjoyment of reading *Queen Mab* for the first time.
Our principal reason for calling attention to this
work, is to point to the lovers of genuine poetry
who may not possess this poem, that the copy pub-
lished by Mr Watson is a neat, cheap, and unmis-
taken edition, which they would do well to obtain.
This edition is enriched with the celebrated 'notes,'
and has prefixed a sketch of the life and writings of
the poet.

We do not agree with all the ideas and sentiments
expressed in *Queen Mab*; but regarding the poem as
a whole, we have no hesitation in asserting that no

young can rise from its perusal without feeling more
than ever wedded to virtue, and bound by that tie
to struggle for the happiness of mankind, and the
triumph of Truth and Justice.

Under our usual head of 'Poetry,' we will found
some extracts from this poem; we here give the fol-
lowing additional selections:—

CONSUMER.

Commerce has set the mark of selfishness,
The sign of its all-enveloping power
Upon a shining orb, and called it gold:
Before whose image bow the vulgar great,
The vainly rich, the miserable proud,
The mob of peasants, nobles, priests and kings,
And with blind feelings reverence the power,
That grinds them to the dust of misery!
But in the temple of the shining hoards
Gold is a living god, and rules in scorn
All earthly things but virtue.

THE REIGN OF THE PROSPERITY.

All things are sold: the very light of heaven
Is 'eaten'; earth's inspiring gifts of love,
The smallest and most despicable things
That lurk in the abysses of the deep,
All objects of our life, even life itself,
Are for sale, the fellowship of men
Those duties which his heart of human love
Should urge him to perform instinctively,
Are bought and sold as in a public mart
Of undignified selfishness, that sets
On each its price, the stamp-mark of her reign.
Even love is sold; the solace of all woes
Is turned to deadliest agony, old age
Shivers in selfish beauty's loathing arms,
And youth's corrupted impulses prepare
For a life of horror from the blighting hand
Of commerce!

THE POOR AND THEIR OPPRESSORS.

The poor man
Whose life is misery, and fear, and care—
Whom the worn wakened but to fretful toil;
Who over hears his famish'd offspring scream,
Whom the pale mother's uncomplaining gaze
For ever meets, and the proud rich man's eye
Flashing command, and the heart-breaking scene
Of thousands like himself,—he little heeds
The rhetoric of tyranny; his hate
Is quenched as his wrongs; he laughs to scorn
The vain and bitter mockery of woe;
Feeling the horror of the tyrant's deeds,
And unreluctant but by the arm of power
That knows, and dreads his enemy.

Such is a true picture of the present; but we
believe with Shelley that—
'A brighter morn awaits the human day.'

For—
'Heavy dead selfishness has felt,
Its death-blow, and is tottering to the grave.'

The Tax-Payer's Catechism. By Effiaz. Liver-
pool: J. Shepherd, Scotland Road. London:
J. Cleave, Shoe Lane.

This catechism is put in the form of 'Dialogues
between Mentor and Telemachus on the Causes of
Charitism, and why little robberies are punishable
by law, and not great ones; addressed to Special
Constables, Flogging Soldiers, and all who through
ignorance give countenance to oppression.' The
exposure of the existing system—political and so-
cial—is well performed, in language the raciness of
which will be relished by most readers. It is about
the best 'fourpennyworth' of 'Useful Knowledge' we
have seen for many a day. It quite takes the shine
out of Lord Brougham's *Political Philosophy*. We
feel it a duty to recommend this little book to 'his
lordship' and to all his friends; not forgetting our
own.

The People's Charter. A verbatim Report of a
Lecture. By Samuel Kydd. London: E. Dipple,
42, Holywell Street, Strand.

A defence of Chartist principles, a sketch of the
history of Chartist, a vindication of the points of
the Charter, and sundry comments on the villainous
efforts of the Press to mix up Chartist, Commu-
nism, and Republicanism, with the view of damag-
ing all three, form the subject-matter of this Lecture.
When we say that Mr Kydd reasons well, and often
eloquently, we only tell our readers what is well
known to most of them. We warmly recommend
this pamphlet, and suggest to local councils the
propriety—for the sake of the cause—of publishing its
circulation amongst those hostile to, or ignorant of,
our principles.

An Appeal to Trades Societies. By Alfred A.
Watson. London: Watson.

This is a well-written appeal in support of the
principles set forth in the Plan of Trades Organisa-
tion commented on in our editorial columns in last
Saturday's *Star*. This tract deserves a large sale,
and its circulation amongst the Trades could not
fail to be productive of great good.

An Act of the People's Parliament for the reduc-
tion of Her Majesty's Civil List, &c., &c. London:
Strange, Paternoster Row.

A vast improvement on the general run of Acts of
Parliament. We hereby authorise this 'Bill' to be
'laid on the table' of every tax-payer in the United
Kingdom.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.—A Treatise on Female
Complaints. By Mrs Martin. London: 70,
Chandos Street, Charing Cross. The *Spy* of 1848.
By 'Stickfast.' Dyson, 121, Shoreditch. The
Illustrated Penny Almanack. Watson.

THE LABOUR QUESTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NORTHERN STAR.
SIR,—It would have been strange indeed, if the
commotions and insurrections of Europe had been
lost upon the Malthusian economists of England.
These men of cold calculation were quiet during
the turmoil and blood of actual fighting, but as soon
as revolt subsided, they have branched out with all
their powerful and craftily hoarded influences for
the spread of their doctrines. Let us understand
each other—the political economists of England are
powerful in talent and influence, and judicious in
the exercise of the means at their command—they can-
not be buried by any fine saying or significant sneer;
no, they must be battled with by an appeal to facts
and the use of reason. No swelling aphorism avails
much in a state composed of workers and arithmeti-
cians.

A writer in the *WESTMINSTER REVIEW* for
October, quotes the following extract from a speech
of M. Thiers:—'We must have a solemn, profound,
and frank discussion in the National Assembly, with
all the leaders of parties, paying every due respect
to men and to opinions, for we must needs know if
any one possesses the secret of suppressing at will
all the miseries of the people. If any one do possess
it he must divulge it; and if nobody possess it,
let no one promise it, for to promise in such a case,
is to pave the way for the effusion of human blood.'
Then follows a smart criticism on the words 'sup-
pression at will,' succeeded by the statement, 'That
the removable cause of misery then may be stated to
be twofold—ignorance and bad habits.'

The meaning of the author is clear, from the fol-
lowing extracts:—'It is no less true that when
man's productive labour has been added to the
utmost by knowledge, such is the prolific power
that forms part of his organisation, no efforts of in-
dustry and economy on his part, can enable him to
provide supplies continually increasing, so as to
keep pace with the demands of the continual in-
crease, consequent upon an uncontrolled use of those
powerful powers.'

There must be no opening for misconception by
parental forethought; we specially point to a due
limitation of the number of births, the neglect of
which can never be effectually compensated by any
amount of industry and economy; and again
(quoted from Mill): 'One cannot wonder that
silence on the great department of human duty
should produce unconsciousness of moral obligation
when it produces oblivion of physical facts. That it
is possible to delay marriage, and to live in absten-
tialism while people are unmarried, most people are
willing to allow; but when persons are once married,
the idea in this country seems to enter any one's
mind, that owing to her having a family, or the
number of which it shall consist, is not at all
amenable to their own control.'

The writer mourns over the fact, that Christian
ministers have encouraged matrimony, and the
consequent increase of children born in wedlock—
and declares that this doctrine of Malthus and Mill
should be taught in every school and university,
and from the cushion of every pulpit in the land.

The extracts I have quoted are the gist of the
article in question, separated from the web of words
and phrases that surround them, which can only
serve to blind those readers who cannot comprehend
the true meanings of the doctrines indicated.

Before the doctrines can be listened to, I call on
their supporters to prove the following proposi-
tions:—

That the land of England is inadequate to the
maintenance of the whole population.

That increase of population does not tend to an
increase of national wealth.

That nature, which regulates all other animals in

number, suiting means to ends, will not, when re-
lated to just laws and wise institutions, regulate the
number of men born in a state, to the means of sub-
sistence.

It will be an easy task for me to prove that
the negatives of these propositions are correct. The
land in cultivation in Great Britain is estimated at
33,792,460 acres; the whole extent of surface at
51,000,000. Of the 17,000,000 not in cultivation,
one half at least may be put under the head of pro-
fitable, if cultivated. Mr Porter calculates that, in
the present state of British agriculture, it requires
the labour of nineteen families to produce 1,160
quarters of all kinds of grain; that is to say, each
family would produce about sixty-one quarters,
which would provide for the maintenance of fifteen
families. Thus one family of agriculturists would
support fifteen families of manufacturers, and the
power of steam machinery, as applicable to manu-
factures in this country has been computed to be
equal to 600,000,000 men; one man, by the aid of
steam, being able to do the work that it required
250 men to accomplish fifty years ago.

Mr Alison, in his work on Population, says,
'There is no instance in the history of the world of
a country being peopled to its utmost limits, or of
the multiplication of the species being checked by
the impossibility of extracting an increased prod-
uct from the soil; and that the main point in civilised
society is not: what are the productive powers of
nature in the soil, but what are the means that the
human race has for getting at these powers, and
rendering them available for general happiness.'

Mr Alison is right against all of you, refined ge-
nlemen though you are. The problem to be solved
'is not, 'Is man's labour applied to the earth cap-
able of providing for man's wants?' that point is settled—
although you seem conveniently to forget it. The
question is, 'By what means can the wealth already
created, and capable of being created, be rendered
available for man's uses?' The question is not to
displace wealth, but to distribute it and render it
fertile.

Mr Mill, in his Elements of Political Economy, says,
'If that condition is easy and comfortable' writing
of the people, all that is necessary to keep it so, is
to make capital increase as fast as population, or, on
the other hand, to prevent population from increas-
ing 'faster than capital.' That population has a
tendency to increase faster than, in most places,
capital has actually increased, is proved incontest-
ably by the condition of the people in most parts of
the globe. In almost all countries the condition of
the great body of the people is poor and miserable.
This would have been impossible if capital had in-
creased faster than population. In that case wages
must have risen, and high wages would have placed
the labourers above the miseries of want.

So far from the increase of capital being under
the increase of population, the fact is notorious, that
so great is the accumulated capital of this country,
that British capitalists have launched millions of
their surplus riches in speculations of foreign en-
terprise, to I believe, an incalculable extent. You
may every day hear our city merchants complain
that they have no outlet for their capital. Men, too,
who have made their fortunes within these past
thirty or forty years. Nor, is it true that the com-
forts of the people are to be measured by the wealth
of the state; for in no district in England has the
increase of wealth been so rapid as in the counties
of Yorkshire and Lancashire, and nowhere is misery
among the workers more general or more excessive.
A reference to the increase of trade since the year
1832, or an appeal to the returns of the property and
income tax of 1815, as compared with the Income
tax of Sir Robert Peel in 1841, will at once settle
the question in dispute, and convince the most
sceptical that the evil of England, at least, is not
the want of property, but the want of the power to
possess property on the part of the producers.

If, however, the argument of the economists were
correct—viz., that population increases more rapidly
than property—the increase of the powers of produc-
tion would be applicable to the end, and the increase
of the numbers of the people. In which case an
employment of the people on the new uncultivated
lands, and a general increase also of our scientific,
chemical, and mechanical powers, would be the more
humane course, and equally as sure as regards re-
sults. But what are the facts of the case? Our
workmen go idle four or six months out of every
twelve; they are able and willing to work. The econ-
omist says they are too numerous, and the increase
of property. Find them employment, then, and
they will find themselves the means of subsistence.
On the one side you see idle men—on the other waste
lands. Here you have bare backs—there you have
unsold shirts. The ruin and misery knows no limit;
and your fine-drawn abstract theories do not alter
the realities of the circumstances, so far as the inter-
ests of the labouring and suffering millions are con-
cerned. Either a better or a worse state. Oh, but you
repeat—months increase, but land does not increase.
True enough. Land does not expand in area. An
acre does not grow into an acre and a half in mea-
surement. But land expands in the powers of pro-
duction, depending upon man's knowledge and the
application of the same by labour to ensure produc-
tion—subject, of course, to all natural casualties.

You cannot spin a pound of cotton into two pounds,
cotton twist—yet you can by labour produce twice
the quantity of food, for either man or beast, from an
acre of land, highly cultivated, as compared with an
acre of land, of similar quality, idly and unculti-
vated. The argument does not rest, as commonly
set forth—upon the increase of land—but upon the
increase of produces. Mr Mill, and others of the
over-population theorists, are thoroughly aware of
this important distinction, but their disciples are in
no way scrupulous, and often contrive either to con-
found the reader by the use of a variety of phrases,
or to evade the question by the process of omitting to
state the fundamental facts fairly.

I now ask attention to the sentence beginning—
'It is no less true that, when man's productive la-
bour has been added to the utmost, by knowledge, &c.'
&c. The writer omits to affirm that we have yet
arrived at that state. I venture to assert that we
never shall. There is the limit of man's knowledge,
and who sets limits to his powers? Every year
brings us important discoveries, hitherto unknown.
The peasant, but silent student in science, is
opening before our wondering senses, new fields for
the exercise of human ingenuity and the develop-
ment of human action. Man's powers are not, and
never can be, stereotyped, and his sources of gratifi-
cation and wealth are as endless as his thirst for
knowledge. The earth lays before him a waste, but
he breathes into its nostrils the breath of life, and it
becomes subservient to his power. Fear not that
nature will be exhausted by his labours.

What we are teaching, then, is it that we have
taught in our schools, and from our pulpits? Is it
the doctrine of forethought—such has ever been
enjoined alike in the Mosaic and Christian era; I
call on the Malthusians to formulate their creed; if
it be to be taught and preached, it must be plain,
and brought within the reach of the meanest com-
prehension. We know the ten commandments; what
is the eleventh—the commandment of Malthus? It
must be addressed to the poor, and read thus:—
'Thou shalt not be married, nor given in marriage,
except by order of thy masters, the rich of the land
in which thou livest; thou shalt not beget children
except thou canst be sure that the rich require to
hire them as labourers; or thou must administer
gases or poisons to thy children, so as to cause in-
fant death, unmindful of the commandment thy
God has made:—Thou shalt not kill; and thou
unmindful of the injunctions of the Old and New
Testaments, to multiply and replenish the earth.'

Such, sir, seems to me to be the real meaning of
the Manchester and Malthusian philosophers. I
hope that if this new commandment be added to the
laws of Moses—that the new worship will be taught
in high places, and among the mighty of the earth.
I am, your obedient servant,
SAMUEL KYDD.

CO-OPERATIVE LAND AND BUILDING LEAGUE.—At
a meeting of the Co-operative Land and Building
League held at Whitaker's Temperance Hotel, 93,
Great Ancoats Street, Mr W. Kinsman in the chair,
It was unanimously carried:—'That the rules, as
now read, be confirmed; and that the following per-
sons be authorised to receive names of new mem-
bers on behalf of this society, viz.—Mr Thomas
Whitaker, Temperance Hotel, 93, Great Ancoats
Street; Mr John Leach, 73, Rochdale Road; Mr
Thomas Roberts, hair-dresser, 25, Mount Street;
Mr W. W. Willis, printer, Old Church Yard;
Mr Francis Stanley, 5, Grimes Square, Bradford;
Mr W. Kinsman, 21, Smith Street, Gay-
thorn; Mr James Lloyd, Hope Street, next door to
the Blue Bell, Salford.' Some of the above persons
will also be in attendance at the People's Institute
every Sunday evening to receive names, and furnish
parties with rules and cards. Resolved:—'That
this meeting adjourn to Sunday morning, the 20th
instant, at ten o'clock, when business of importance
will be brought before the meeting; parties wishing
to join are invited to attend.' A district lecturer,
or information respecting the rules or
objects of the above society, for the purpose of
forming a branch, are requested to communicate
with Mr Thomas Whitaker, Temperance Hotel, 93,
Great Ancoats Street, Manchester, to whom all
communications should be sent.

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A HOME FOR EVERY INDUSTRIOUS MAN AND HIS FAMILY.
UNITED PATRIOTS' AND PATRIARCHS' EQUITABLE LAND AND BUILDING BENEFIT SOCIETY.
Enrolled and Empowered by Act of Parliament to extend over the United Kingdom.
Pat. Patrons.—T. S. DUNCAN, Esq., M.P. THOMAS WATLEY, Esq., M.P. D. B. CASSELL, Esq., M.P.
Hon. Secy.—No. 13, Tottenham Court, New Road, St. Pancras, London. DANIEL WILLIAM RUFF, Secretary.
ARRANGED IN THREE SECTIONS.—Value of Shares and Payments for Investors.
Full Share ... £120 payment of 2s. 5d. per Week, or 10s. 6d. per Month
Half Share ... 60 ... 2s. 5d. ... 5s. 3d.
Quarter Share ... 30 ... 1s. 2s. 5d. ... 2s. 5d.
Applicants are requested to state in the form the section they desire to be a member of.
No. 1. To enable members to build Dwelling Houses.
No. 2. To enable members to purchase or lease land, and to build or lease houses thereon.
No. 3. To enable members to purchase or lease land, and to build or lease houses thereon.
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commission of acts from which at calmer periods
they would revolt with horror.
The demand of every one of the prisoners
has been all that we could wish for. They have
preserved a calm and dignified deportment,
and shown a true and strong attachment to
their native country, which, in after years,
shed lustre upon their memory, and must, in
the meantime, commend them to the affections
of their fellow-countrymen. Their fate, so far
from deterring from future attempts for the
raising of Ireland from her prostrate and
miserable position, will, we are persuaded,
only act as an incentive to renewed efforts to
make it what it ought to be—free, prosperous,
and happy. If that desirable consummation
cannot be attained except by a separation from
this country, that will take place, in spite of
standing armies, spies, informers, and police
reporters.
ENDOWMENT OF CATHOLIC PRIESTS
IN IRELAND.
Lord John Russell was recently waited upon
by a deputation of the citizens of London, to
urge an early settlement of the "Jew Question,"
raised by the return of Baron Rothschild.
His lordship admitted the fairness of the
demand, but stated that Irish business
would take precedence of all other at the
commencement of the Session. So far, then,
we have an indication of the point to which
Parliamentary attention is to be directed on
its re-assembling, but of the mode to be
adopted, with reference to Irish business,
rumour tells nothing certain.
Looking at the manner in which the present
Cabinet threw away the opportunity presented
to them in 1847, of laying the foundation of a
new and better social system in Ireland, we
have no hope whatever of their doing any-
thing really effectual or practical in the
coming Session. They are incapable of de-
vising a comprehensive or statesmanlike mea-
sure; and if they could do that, they have
neither the courage to propose it, nor the
political influence requisite to carry it. From
that quarter, therefore, nothing is to be
expected that is likely to prove of positive
utility.
Numerous indications point to one measure
as likely to be proposed, which is eminently
Whiggish, and quite in accordance with the
political genius of the Premier—the Endow-
ment of the Roman Catholic Priests. His
lordship has, on more than one occasion, given
significant intimations of his desire to do so,
and the Peel Party are understood to be by
no means adverse to such a measure. It
would appear, from the attention bestowed
upon the subject, both by the Metropolitan
and the provincial Press, that there is a
likelihood of its being formally proposed, and
the Church and Dissenting interest are al-
ready beating up for an opposition to it,
should it be so. In addition to these two
classes of opponents, the proposal would, no
doubt, have to encounter the opposition of
those who object to all endowments of reli-
gious sects, on political grounds; so that even
if the Peelites and mere Whigs were to
coalesce, the probability is, that their united
forces would be insufficient to carry it.
But supposing they were, what would be
gained by it? Would it render the task of
governing Ireland a whit less difficult than it
is at present, or in the slightest degree abate
the real causes of that misery and discontent,
which render that country the "great diffi-
culty" of all English administrations? Nei-
ther. It is a gross mistake to imagine, that
because the Irish priesthood have, at present,
a powerful influence over their flocks, that they
will continue to retain that influence when
they become the pensioners of the state. The
priests are now looked up to with confidence
and respect, because the people believe that
their interests and their sympathies are iden-
tical. They look upon the priests as being
equally persecuted and robbed with themselves.
The State Church in Ireland is as great an
alien as are the owners of the soil. The
priests are the owners of the soil. The
land has been from its original Irish possessors;
and thus bound together by a sense of com-
mon injury, and a mutual antagonism to an
alien and oppressive Government, it is easy to
understand the enormous influence possessed
by the priests over an imaginative, religious,
and impulsive people, like the Irish.
But the sources of this influence will be at
once swept away by taking them into the pay
of the State. All the existing associations be-
tween them and the people would be de-
stroyed, and they would henceforth be looked
upon as being leagued with a Government to-
wards which it is impossible that any Irish
peasant can have any other feeling than that
of rooted aversion.
Even if the money for pensioning the Priests
could be found, and they were willing to accept
it, the bargain would be a useless one. The
consideration for which they were bought over
could not be secured. But both of these con-
ditions are wanting. The money cannot be
secured. In the face of a large annual deficit
in the revenue, and the necessity for adding
to the debt in a time of peace, it would really
be "too unendurable" to pay for keeping two
State Churches in Ireland. Heaven knows
that unhappy country is expensive enough to
us already, without adding a standing army of
Priests to the military and constabulary
forces, by which "law and order" are now
with such difficulty preserved in the British
Ireland. Next: even if the money were forth-
coming the Priests say they will not have it.
The Catholic Bishops have protested against
the scheme, so that their opposition would be
added to that of the parties we have already
named.
The plan, therefore, is futile and imprac-
ticable in every point of view, and the mere fact
of its ever having been entertained at all only
adds another to the long list of instances
which prove the total incapacity of our States-
men to deal with the evils of Ireland. These
evils arise from the pressure of unequal laws
—the deprivation of political franchises—the
bad tenure by which landed property is held—
and the consequent want of capital and em-
ployment, which is inseparable from the pre-
sent relation of landlord and tenant in that
country. If any Government would address
itself seriously and earnestly to the task of
ameliorating the condition of Ireland, these
are the things with which it must grapple, and
not be led away by such delusive mockeries
of reform as the pensioning of a few thousand
Priests, for the purpose of employing them
in keeping down the natural emotions of de-
spair and misery.
By force of arms, and priestly influence we
have just quelled an attempted rebellion, and
obedient juries have convicted its leaders at
Clonmel. The people of Ireland should be shown
that we do not intend to stop there, and leave
things as they have been. Now is the time
to step in with a bold and consistent system
of just and practical legislation, which would
give confidence and security alike to the cap-
italist and the labourer, and bring into play the
rich and yet undeveloped resources of
Ireland. Such a system would effect the ob-
ject they aim at—that of reducing the people
to quiet more speedily and effectively than
any other mode that can be adopted, and
in the long run, it would be by far the cheap-
est. But where are the men to propose or
carry out such a policy? We look for them in
vain, on either side of Parliament, or in any
combination of Parliamentary parties. The
truth is, that they are either directly in-
terested in maintaining the order of things in
Ireland, or else, afraid of meddling with the
landlords. The feeble and hesitating attempts
in the two last Sessions, to remove some of
the most glaring evils of the present land tenure,
and to promote the transfer of estates from
improvident landlords to the hands of cap-
italists, who would have called labour into
operation, only proved that the present Gov-

verment did not dare to grapple with this
master evil firmly; and the successful resis-
tance made by the landed party to every
really useful portion of the Irish bills that were
brought in, showed that they are, as parties,
are now constructed, too powerful for any
Ministry to risk a quarrel with.
Therefore, we suppose, the old game of
equivocation and expediency will be played
over again. "There will be great cry and
little wool." The Session will open with
magnificent promises, and end with small
performances. Landlord rule and robbery will
be left untouched; and starvation, ejections,
and disease will be permitted to continue the
work of thinning the peasantry of a land which
is accursed by a system of misrule which com-
bines all the bad qualities of every form of
Government known under the sun. A pleas-
ant prospect, truly!
MR O'CONNOR'S TOUR.
We have been disappointed in not receiving
the looked-for reports of Mr O'Connor's
meetings in Scotland. It will be seen by Mr
O'Connor's letter that that gentleman has had
splendid meetings at Montrose, Aberdeen,
Dundee, &c. A full narrative from Mr
O'Connor's pen will appear in the "Star" of
next Saturday.
To Readers & Correspondents.
Mr J. SWIFT acknowledges the receipt of the following
sums for Mrs M'Donnell, viz.:—
Mr Goulder " " " £ 0 0 3
Mr Shepherd " " " " 0 0 2
Mrs Perkins " " " " 0 0 1
Mr Chippindale " " " " 0 0 2
Mr Thurman " " " " 0 0 2
A Friend " " " " 0 0 1
Total £ 0 0 11
CENTRAL VICTIM FUND.
Receipt of week ending Oct. 21, 1848.
Killingham, per Mr. Street ... £ 0 1 6
Mr. Rider, per Mr. Street ... " 0 1 0
Mr. Ball, Mansfield ... " 0 0 6
Worcester, per A. Z. ... " 0 0 6
J. Mayman, Ramsgate ... " 0 1 0
Polebrook, per A. B. Birnie ... " 0 3 0
S. Marchant and Brother, Cheltenham ... " 0 5 0
Netherthorpe, near Huddersfield, per J. Moor-
house ... " 0 4 0
John Heaton, Giggleswick ... " 0 1 0
Trowbridge, per J. Howell ... " 0 1 5
Swordwater, per H. Pollock ... " 0 2 0
People's Hall, Birmingham, per H. Radhall ... " 0 1 3
Total £15 11
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respect to the men who refused to give
 against Mr O'Brien, the judges have ruled
 John O'Donnell, a farmer of the better class
 Richard Stone, a half-famished lad of about
 been years are to be imprisoned for one year.
 On the 10th of October the jury returned in de-
 of paying such fine that they had further
 for a period of three months. Edmund
 n, the other man who refused to give evidence,
 for trial, true bills for high treason having been
 against him.

TRIAL BY JURY.
 The following letter was received by Southcote
 Esq. of Grenane, the foreman of the jury
 re O'Brien's trial:—

"I received intelligence that you were a *Pore*
 and jury on the trial of W. S. O'Brien, and that
 returned to a verdict of guilty on the ground and
 and imputed to him. But according to his evidence,
 if he is acquitted, he will be sure to do his duty
 be sure of a brother before a jury of his size. I
 will be sure to do his duty. I will be sure to do
 on prepared to meet the ordeal that that ever
 inflicted on any human being. If Mr O'Brien be
 or transported. For by the Lord of Heaven and
 they hand that rote this will send you and your
 or soul to the scorching flames of perdition.
 Signed by your unwearied enemy,
 Mr Manser, Genane.

CHROMIUM SENTENCES OF THE "IRISH TRAITORS,"—
 DUBLIN C. MICHISON.—C. O. DUFFY.—REPORTED
 BY JOHN MITCHEL.—THE LORD LIEUTENANT
 IT TO LONDON.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Dublin, Oct. 24th, 1848.
 the hangman now be only permitted to do his duty,
 in his own portion of the blood wages, and all
 his satisfactory order. Even if the Whigs should grant
 for their victims to-morrow, it will be only
 they may do, they may do, they may do, they
 to lap the blood of the stricken dead in their
 his master the lion growls within his view. Were
 that the vile wretches tremble before the robes of
 the people, the palls of the Chancel gallowes would
 be heard, squealing, on the blood of the noblest and
 of men that Europe ever gave birth to, would
 and for the carrion crows of the Gallowes before to-
 m's sun-down.

Francis Meagher, Terence Bellew M'Manus,
 C. O'Duffy, and the sentence of "IRISH TRAITORS,"
 day. The death of the assassin or common
 was "too good" for gallant Irishmen. The DOOM
 was dead was not enough for Irish gentlemen.—
 must be chopped into mince-meat, and their flesh
 to the ravens and foxes of the hills—(if such be
 re of her Majesty." Oh! will the sun ever set upon
 at day of Ireland's wrongs, and of the power of
 a's oppressors!

I, now, with his Whigs rest in peace, when I re-
 have not to break the good habits of the
 is not a murmur of opposition in the land! Is
 at a comfort? By no means! But the opinion
 is added by the cholera of 1848—have done their part,
 be easy to count the Celtic cranulums, which may
 in Ireland,

Irish papers will give you a fine, though gloomy
 of the closing scenes of the Chancel Commission.
 think the prisoners got a fair trial? Not ten
 Ireland would venture to say they did!

as remarked at the late Dublin Commission that
 Pease and P. got performed their duty in
 with gentlemanly spirit. The conduct of
 Doherty, at Chancery, was worthy
 worst days of Jeffrey, or our own worthy Lord
 ry.

are many here who think that 'the law will
 a course,' and the convicts be hanged. I do not
 itting, however. It is remarkable how the minds
 are here change every day. A few days ago and
 would incur the danger of a broken nose if he
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