

CHRISTIAN



VISITOR.

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REV. E. D. VERY,

"BY PURENESS, BY KNOWLEDGE—BY LOVE UNFEIGNED."—St. PAUL.

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[FOR THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.]

"Stars teach as well as shine."—Young.

The stars that sparkle in the night
Proclaim the power divine
Of Him who gave them all their light,
And liberty to shine.

With radiant beams they cheer the earth,
But own their borrowed rays;
And while they tell their heavenly birth,
Shine to their Maker's praise.

With awe profound they fill the soul
That gazes with surprise
At the expanse through which they roll—
The vast ethereal skies.

O, what a spectacle they show,
Of pure unsullied light,
While round the silent earth they glow,
Through each revolving night.

They call all nations to proclaim,
In solemn strains abroad,
The honours of that worthy Name,
Their great Creator, God.

"Vast are Thy works, Eternal King,"
Each humble spirit cries;
"Join every voice His praise to sing,"
Each glittering star replies.

All nature swells the boundless song;
Let every mortal then,
In a vast adoring throng,
Join and echo back, Amen.

G. McC.

THE IRISH EXODUS.

(From the London Times.)

The Celtic exodus continues to be the marvel of the day. From morning to night, from the arrival of the first trains before daybreak to the last which reach in the evening, nothing scarcely is to be seen along the line of splendid quays which adorn Dublin but the never ending stream of emigrants flying, as if from a pestilence, to seek the means of existence which their own inhospitable land denies to labour, and the modest ambition to live and die beyond the gloomy precincts of the Irish workhouse. Numbers of these adventurers are of the better class of farmers, and appear to lack none of the appliances requisite towards the bettering of their condition at the other side of the Atlantic—a healthy and more than comely progeny, a good supply of the most requisite articles of furniture and clothing, with some small capital to commence operations. The majority, however, have no such advantages to boast of, for a more miserable, sickly-looking, and poverty-stricken set of creatures it would be impossible to imagine even, hundreds of them—men, women, and children—being unprovided with shoes to their feet, and the females with no better covering for their heads than the commonest cotton handkerchiefs in the lieu of bonnets, while not one in fifty could lay claim to the luxury of a cloak as a protection against the inclemency of the coming winter. All hardships appear as nothing, so that the one great end may be achieved—flight from the Irish shores, no matter at what risk, or with what amount of danger and privation in perspective. Day after day vessels leave this port freighted with their human cargoes, without any diminution being perceptible in the throngs of peasantry which swarm the streets in the neighborhood of the quays. Three sailed at the close of last week with their full complements on board; three more have just come into dock, and it is expected that they, too, will clear out before Saturday next, if not sooner.

Judging from present appearances, it is more than probable that the severest months of the season will have little or no effect in checking the prevailing and altogether unparalleled mania.

The "rush" from the southern ports, too, is rather on the increase than otherwise, and is far and away on a more extensive scale than we in the Metropolis have any idea. On Saturday, a steamer left Waterford for Liverpool with nearly 400 emigrants on board, whose ultimate destination is the "free land of the west." The day was intensely severe; but wind and weather, be they what they may, have no terrors for these voluntary exiles.—The average numbers which sail from the port of Waterford alone since the season set in appear to be at the rate of 500 weekly.

Respecting the progress of emigration in Ulster, the *Western Star* publishes the following extract of a letter received from a gentleman who has been travelling through the northern province:—

"Having had occasion within the past three weeks to traverse a considerable part of Ulster, I made it my business to inquire, as I went along, into the condition of the small farmers—a race of as industrious people as are to be found on the habitable globe. Having heretofore been led to believe that they were most favorably circumstanced as regarded their position with the landlords, and from other causes, I must own I was not at all prepared for the almost general feeling of discontent which exhibited itself. I was much struck with the remarks of an intelligent middle-aged man, the occupier of a farm of about thirty acres, who, after informing me that he formed one of a party of seventy persons, comprising a dozen families, who were preparing to emigrate to Australia, thus proceeded:—

"Before next spring is over, many hundreds of the people of this Province will have quitted it for ever, and many others will follow; we have always been loyal to England, even in the worst of times, and although that is now forgotten, the day may come when the Government will regret that they allowed the interests of the industrious northmen to be sacrificed to such an extent as to force them to leave the homes of their fathers to seek a resting-place in a foreign land." As yet, so far as I have seen, it is with a feeling of deep regret that those poor people quit their native land. You see nothing of that satisfaction exhibited by them which is so marked, so extraordinary a feature as regards the emigrants from the southern and western provinces."

The *Daily News*, in remarking on the Irish Exodus, says:—"A great portion of the forced emigration from Ireland lies at the door of the landlord. He has evicted largely. Whatever mercy he might once have had upon the squatter, has, since the epoch of the Poor-law, vanished. He must not only have rent but a tenant on whom he can depend to pay it. He finds it cheaper to let his land go out of cultivation, than to people it with paupers. Hence, labour has grown scarce in many evicted districts. Large estates are at this moment to be found in the western province, on which there has not been a permanent letting during the last five years, because no man would take land at the rent and on the tenure for which the owner holds out. And while fine speeches are made in Parliament by Ministers, about assimilation and identification of institutions, the English public will probably marvel at learning that under no circumstances is out-door relief tolerated at the present moment in the sister kingdom. We are not now arguing for or against a particular mode of poor relief. The workhouse test may be in the abstract right and necessary as a fundamental rule in an or-

inary state of society; but in a country where, in the space of four years, 268,000 houses have been levelled to the ground, and where many of the owners of property keep up rents in the hope of regaining a Protective price for corn, to unhouse and to refuse land, when there is no class as yet to employ labour, is literally to bid the peasantry go to America, if they can, and starve if they cannot. We are led to these remarks by reading the following passage in the *Galway Vindicator*:—

"In one fortnight, as the return of the relieving officers show, 629 additional paupers have been added to the burden of the impoverished union of Outerard. Of these 531 have been expelled from their homes by the Law Life Assurance Company, and 89 by Lord Oranmore, whose property is now in the Encumbered Estates Court. It is expected that the eviction returns, which the relieving officers are making out for the present week, will show a still greater increase in the number of exterminations, and a more rapid progress in the work of demolition. When the houses are levelled, it is a kind of proclamation that no human habitation shall again be tolerated on the estate—an intimation that it is not in contemplation to substitute a more improving, and, perhaps, a more industrious tenantry, than those evicted. The Law Life Assurance Company were mortgagees on the property of the late Colonel Martin, who inherited what might be justly termed the principality of Ballinahinch. They took it with all its incumbrances—with its neglected, uncultivated, and poverty-stricken inhabitants; but they have done nothing to improve their condition—they have done nothing to increase the value of the property, or develop the rich mineral resources which are known to exist in that part of the country. At the Spring Quarter Sessions for Clifden, they issued ejectments for about 6,000 individuals."

"Now we dare say there is a great deal of exaggeration in this account. We also bear in mind that the Assurance Company mentioned had come into possession of the Ballinahinch property by no desire of its own, but as the consequence of having lent money to an Irish landed proprietor. We must admit also, that the duty of the managers of that insurance company is first and chiefly to consult the interests of their subscribers and of their Company. But the ejection of 6,000 individuals from one district of a country, one district of these islands, is a fearful thing.

"We hold inquests upon individuals killed; shall we hold inquests upon the annihilation of multitudes?"

A Lake of Pitch.

A correspondent of the *Troy Daily Whig* writing from Port of Spain, island of Trinidad, under date of Feb. 3, says:—

"Last week I made an excursion to the Pitch Lake. Early on Friday morning I embarked in the steamer *Lady McLeod* for point La Brea, a distance of about 40 miles southerly along the coast. There was one passenger only to land with me at La Brea, Mr. Chapman of St. Vincent. An introduction by a fellow passenger to a neighbouring planter and to the supervisor, procured us mules to prosecute our enterprise. Mr. C. having a few miles farther to go, to visit a plantation on business, and his route being the same as mine, I accepted his invitation to bear him company as far as the lake.

Imagine a black surface—a dreary desolate black—spread out to the length of nearly half a mile by an eighth in width—slightly varied by many fissures—some of them but a step across, some just too wide to jump—a few of these fissures filled with short shrubbery, but most of them mere ponds of water, clear

as the mountain spring; and then imagine the whole bordered by a thick growth of trees and the graceful bending bamboo, and this whole border thickly hanging with profusion and variety of beautiful flowers—I know not the spot elsewhere where the eye can rest on such a profusion of flowers at a glance—and this may possibly convey some general idea of the peculiarity of a general view. For a closer inspection of the central part of the lake I was obliged to repeat my visit the next morning, securing the services of a negro to carry a plank to bridge the unjumpable fissures.

I then found spots where the surface of the pitch would gradually sink beneath my feet so that in a few moments I stood in a cavity ankle deep. Not wishing to pitch deeper, I changed my position. In other places it seemed to be boiling below; for the surface around me was bubbling and simmering like that of a pot over the fire while the gas disengaged was very strong. Though the surface of the lake is generally too hard to receive a foot print, just hard enough to cut readily with an axe, there are places where the pitch oozes out in nearly a liquid state, so that one may dip with a spoon. Some of the water fissures are quite deep, afford good bathing, and are tolerably well stocked with fish.

Near the lake I found a black man engaged in boiling pitch in several large boilers. A part of this he sells after boiling in a pure state and to the rest he adds a portion of lime, when it is shipped as mastie. He says he has cut from the lake a great many hundreds of tons, but he never penetrates more than ten or twelve inches below the surface, and the hole is always filled again within two days after the cutting. The supply is doubtless inexhaustible. But the pitch is not confined to the spot I have endeavored to describe. There are masses of it extending miles inland, and in several points it extends to the sea beach. At the last place it is cut out in large quantities, to ship to this city and some of the islands, to use in building and flagging the streets. It is used by the steamers, being largely mixed with coal, for fuel, and is recently coming into use for the manufacture of petroleum. But whenever these cuttings are made, on the lake, inland, or on the beach, the quantity is almost immediately made good, and in some places gradually increases. The neighborhood is in motion, very slow to be sure, yet there is, as it were, a growing up of the surface in spots, so that the houses in La Brea are found now and then to have a side or an end raised a few inches above its opposite."

Pines and Cedars of California.

Of all the wonders I have ever seen in the vegetable kingdom, remarks an observant traveller, nothing will bear comparison with the magnificent and lofty growth of cedars and pines, which embellish the hills and mountains that lead, and make up the Sierra Nevada range. The magnificence and grandeur of scenes, in which these trees abound, cannot be imagined by any man who has not seen them, and felt the awe and sublimity to which they give rise. I have counted, in a circle of fifty feet, thirteen pine trees, not one of them was less than 250 feet in height, nor were any of them marked by the slightest curve or inclination. They are the inimitable and lofty monuments of Nature, uninfluenced by sweeping storms and winds, unbent and undecayed by a centurian age. Not a limb or a knot can be found upon their bodies, until you reach an altitude of from one hundred to two hundred feet, beyond which height they continue to grow, until their towering majesty over-awes all surrounding objects, and affords a fit refuge for the noble bird which adorns the banner of our country. No man can travel