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Miscellaneous Communications.

For the Presbyterian Treasury.
IRELAND.

What is the matter with Ireland? What are the CAUSES which depress her in the rank of nations?

1. To begin at the beginning, **POPERY** is one of the chief calamities. This is not a sectarian prejudice; it is an historical fact. Look at Italy, Spain, Portugal, Brazil and Mexico. Look at different parts of Ireland, the North and the South, and the curse is mainly in the semi pagan religion. True Christianity would have worked a reformation in the social state, that would have relieved it at least from degradation. It has been said that the Irishman depends upon his pigs, potatoes, and the poorhouse, but his worst dependence is on Popery, priestcraft, and St. Patrick. Disguise it who may, this is a prominent source of Irish depression.

2. Another cause is the **CONQUEST OF IRELAND**. To this a prominent place is assigned by Bishop Hughes. At the invasion of Ireland by Henry II. in the 12th century, only about a third part of the kingdom was subdued. The conquest was not completed until the invasion under Cromwell, and the terrible storming of Drogheda. At this time the English supremacy was established, by the confiscation of the estates of the rebels, which amounted to *four-fifths* of the whole. The treaty of Limerick under William III. after the battle of the Boyne, ended with an onerous system of political and ecclesiastical proscription. Since the rebellion of 1793, which amounted to nothing, Ireland has been too much at the mercy of British rule. It is due to truth, however, to state that Ireland pays fewer taxes of a national character than either Scotland or England, and that Ireland has cost the British government since the consummation of the Union

upwards of *seven hundred and twenty millions of dollars*, over and above the income received from that country. So says Douglas Jerrold, an ultra-radical in politics. It is pretty certain, nevertheless, that whilst Ireland has been no gain to England, England has not raised Ireland from her ruins, but has rather stood sentinel over them.

3. **ABSENTEEISM** on the part of many of the owners of the soil, has of course a share in drawing off the resources of the country.

4. A worse evil connected with this is the **SYSTEM OF TENANTRY** that prevails. There is a class of "middle-men," who stand between the landlords and the tenants—who rent from the former, and then underlet to the latter at high and extravagant prices. The whole system of tenantry and agriculture is deplorably low.

5. The excess of agricultural population is another ingredient in Irish woes. The population of Ireland is about eight millions, or one person to 2½ acres. The proportion of agricultural labourers in Ireland to those of England is as five to two. McCulloch asserts that there are at least "double the number of persons in Ireland that, with its existing means of production, the country is able either fully to employ or to maintain in a moderate state of comfort."

6. The general reliance upon a **SINGLE CROP**, (potatoes) and that, one that cannot be laid up for emergencies, is a great calamity. Cobbett calls the potato "the root of all evil" in Ireland, and there can be no doubt it has to do with the general rot in the social condition of that unhappy land.

These are the principal evils which reduce the Irish so low among civilized nations. Notwithstanding that her soil is better on the whole than that of England, that as a grazing country she is far superior, that she has great facilities for commerce, manufactures, mining, fisheries, &c., yet the amount of her productive capital is

small, and her labour is applied to the most extreme disadvantage.

These evils, Popery being on the top and bottom of the whole, are sufficient to crush poor Ireland beneath the bogs of social, political and religious degradation.

The primary hope of Ireland is in a reformation achieved by religion and education. R.

For the Presbyterian Treasury.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER TO A FATHER ON THE DEATH OF A PIOUS DAUGHTER.

There is no affliction, which, in some of its most touching details, is more difficult to endure with composure, than yours; yet, at the same time, none fraught with greater consolations.

It is true that the garnered hopes of years, seem blown away at a breath; and very hard is it to feel that all which we have laboured so untiringly to make an ornament and a blessing, is removed from our sympathy and view, just as it had begun to throw its fragrance over our rugged paths. Harder still is it to yield up the warm and affectionate heart, that was sustaining and comforting us in all the trials of life, and sharing with us in the hope of the Christian. To have all these fond anticipations rooted up by one blow and cast away, is a painful lesson for a parent to read, and at first it seems as if the trembling lips must break out in murmurs, and the fainting heart gather up all its strength to resist. But, as you are a friend of God, there is light for you behind the cloud, and you will yet see that the "Lord doeth all things well."

Think for a moment of your child, safe in heaven; think of the terrible wickedness, and temptation that an all seeing God described in her path, and saved her from—of her probable loneliness and want of protection, had you been taken from her. I tenderly feel for you, as I remem-

THE AMERICAN BOARD.

"The receipts of the Board, for the financial year which ended on the 31st of July last, from all sources, amounted to \$254,056. The expenditures during the same period were \$282,330; and the debt on the 1st of August, 1847, was \$31,616. Hence, the balance against the treasury on the 1st of August, 1848, was \$59,890.

It may be interesting to the readers of the Herald to know what have been the receipts for the last twelve years. The following table presents the facts in a condensed form; and it will be seen, at a glance, how little progress we have made in this department of benevolence:

Years.	Receipts.
1837, - - -	\$252,076.55
1838, - - -	236,170.98
1839, - - -	244,169.82
1840, - - -	241,691.04
1841, - - -	255,189.30
1842, - - -	318,396.53
1843, - - -	244,251.43
1844, - - -	236,394.37
1845, - - -	255,112.96
1846, - - -	262,073.55
1847, - - -	211,402.76
1848, - - -	254,056.46

The indebtedness of the Board has now become so great, that measures must be taken to discharge a considerable part of it during the coming year. This is the only prudent course, and the question is, How can such a reduction of the debt be effected? The answer is obvious. The contributions must be materially increased, or the expenditures must be diminished. And unless the Prudential Committee shall be satisfied that they can count upon such an increase, they will feel themselves constrained to cut down the appropriations to the missions, knowing, at the same time, that the consequences cannot fail to be most disastrous. As the usual time for making the annual allowance to the different missions is soon after the meeting of the Board, they are looking forward to the next meeting with very great solicitude. In fact, the question of 'reduction, or no reduction,' must be decided by the friends of missions who shall have come together on that occasion."—*Missionary Herald*.

Board of Publication.

Publication Rooms 265 Chestnut street, between 8th and 9th streets, Philadelphia.

J. P. ENGLIS, PUBLISHING AGENT.

For the Presbyterian Treasury.
POWER OF THE PRESS.

The press, under Providence, is now the most potent human instrument of influencing the destinies of man. A paragraph in a monthly paper, is now read sometimes by a million of persons. If well penned, and containing important truth, how incalculably extensive the effect! Suppose a salutary impression to be made on only one of a thousand of those who read the paragraph, the result is, that by writing a few lines we may benefit a thousand persons. This is not all. Truth is never confined to the person into whose mind it enters: it will certainly be communicated to others; and no limit can be fixed to the extent of the circulation of a wave of knowledge, when once put into circulation. And let it be pondered by such as have the ability to write effective paragraphs—to say nothing of books—that the effect will not terminate with the present age, nor with the next—nay, it may not cease until the last trumpet shall sound. Alleine, Baxter, and Doddridge, and Bunyan, are now doing ten times as much good, as in the age in which they lived, for Bunyan's works are

now read by ten times as many persons as they were then.

What an encouragement is this to such as hold the pen of "a ready writer." The man who spends all his time in writing paragraphs for the public prints, though unknown to fame, is doing a good work, and will receive an ample reward. But the press is like the tongue; a fountain of life, or a poisoned spring, which sends forth deleterious streams. How great the responsibility of editors! They are accountable for all the corrupt matter which proceeds from their press. How will some of them answer for the injury inflicted on the public, by their corrupting books; and especially for the injury done to the susceptible minds of the rising generation? The effect of many publications is evil, simply because they occupy the time which should be spent in the acquisition of important knowledge; others, because they unduly excite the mind, and thus unfit the person for the serious business of life. Our most popular, and fascinating works of fiction, are of this character. But many, and especially those imported from the continent of Europe, contain a concealed but deadly poison. They are calculated to undermine virtuous principle, and to destroy all regard to religion.

A. A.

For the Presbyterian Treasury.

A PLENTIFUL SUPPLY OF PREACHERS TO
DESTITUTE CONGREGATIONS!
GOOD NEWS!

We are told of a certain eminent clergyman who being applied to by a vacant congregation to send them a minister who should be very eloquent, very learned, very spiritual, and very practical, and yet be content with a very trifling salary, recommended them to send to heaven for President Davies, as he would probably meet all their wishes, and not being cumbered with a material body, could afford to live very cheaply. But what the good man intended only as a witty rebuke is becoming every day an actual reality. There is a certain Association among us, who are engaged in this very work of bringing back the eminent worthies of past days; and without disturbing their rest, to make them preach to our own generation, most eloquently, most practically, and yet at very little expense! Being dead, they are yet speaking. For is not a *good book the very essence of a good man*? Do not good books (as glorious John Milton has phrased it,) "preserve, as in a vial, the purest efficacy and extract of that living intellect that bred them?"

We have been surprised to learn of late how much excellent preaching our Presbyterian congregations are enjoying. Without going out of their own houses, they can receive the instructions of a Doddridge, a Mason, and an Owen. They can listen to the persuasive exhortations of the man who evangelized Kidderminster, and to him whose conventicle at Bedford was thronged "as early as seven o'clock on a winter's morning." Every day in the week, they may feed on the strong meat of Charnock, and the honey of Philip Henry. They do not merely enjoy savoury preaching, but they have in some sense *pastoral instruction* likewise. *Hamilton* knocks at their door with the salutation, "Is God in this house?"—and *Alexander* comes in to tell them how to rear and to preserve the family altar. As they sit by their hearthstones, the sweet face of *McCheyne* smiles upon them, and they can listen to *John Newton's* unctuous talk as pleasantly as if he were seated on his celebrated "three-legged stool" beside them. For the old man of the household, *Boston* has his weighty

counsels; to the impenitent young man, *Baxter* presents his inviting "Call"—and in the ear of the thoughtless maiden, *Alleine* whispers his thrilling "Alarm." Even the children are not forgotten. *Janeway* has his "Token" for them, and "*Old Anthony*" his pleasant "Hints."

Within a few weeks, the little flock among whom it is my privilege to minister, have enjoyed a visit from these celebrated Divines. And not merely a flying visit, but they have come to abide with us. As I go from house to house in pastoral visitations, I am met by Doddridge, or Bunyan, or McCheyne at every threshold. How delightful it is to greet them—and to see their noble faces preserved to us by the cunning art of the limner! How they improve, instruct, elevate, and bless every family they enter! What a warmth of "in-door gladness" is diffused by their cheerful presence! How many souls they arouse, and lead to Christ!

But let me not forget to mention the kind benefactors who have brought these great men to sojourn with us. It is to the wise and liberal munificence of the PRESBYTERIAN BOARD OF PUBLICATION—who have given to the old worthies a new and comely dress, and enabled them to travel so cheaply—that we are indebted for these visits. And to their indefatigable and self-denying Colporteur, who has lately gone through our West Jersey Presbytery, we are indebted for a polite introduction to the venerable Fathers of whom we have been speaking. From all that we can gather in regard to this same "Presbyterian Board," we have no doubt that they will be willing, for a very moderate sum, to supply these silent, yet instructive preachers to every church in the Union. Let those destitute flocks that are but scantily supplied with living preachers, or who have none at all, send on their orders to Philadelphia, and they may soon welcome the arrival among them of a host of faithful instructors, who will make their dreary, churchless Sabbaths sweet and profitable, and enliven the coming winter evenings with that talk that "doeth good like a medicine."

T. L. C.

NEW TOKEN FOR CHILDREN.

This is one of the new publications of the Board, and will be found well adapted to Sabbath schools. It contains accounts of children and youth who were hopefully pious. The following is the sketch of the daughter of the Rev. Thomas Scott, the great commentator on the Old and New Testaments.

MARY SCOTT,

WHO DIED AGED 4 YEARS.

The Rev. THOMAS SCOTT, author of the Commentary on the Bible, thus describes the work of grace in his little child:

"At the age of three years and a-half, she had a most extraordinary and distressing illness, so that for several weeks she could not be induced to take either medicine or nutriment of any kind, but what was poured down her throat almost by main force. I had little expectation of her recovery, but I was under a full and deep conviction that all the human race are born in sin, and are utterly incapable of happiness hereafter, without regeneration and renovation by the Holy Spirit. This, if actually wrought in childhood, I was satisfied would begin to show itself about the time when children become actual sinners by personal and wilful transgression; and I was fully assured that she had become an actual sinner. Seeing, therefore, no ground to believe