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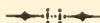
THE
COTTON FAMINE

OF 1862-'63,

WITH SOME SKETCH OF THE PROCEEDINGS THAT
TOOK PLACE IN CONNECTION WITH THE
LISBURN RELIEF COMMITTEE.

A New Edition,

TO WHICH IS ADDED A BRIEF NOTICE OF THE LATE
MR. A. T. STEWART.



WILLIAM MULLAN & SON,
BELFAST AND LONDON.
1881.



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30 Dec 47 TALMADGE

TO THOSE NOBLE AND GENEROUS-HEARTED PHILANTHROPISTS,
AT HOME AND ABROAD, WHO CONTRIBUTED SO LIBER-
ALLY TOWARDS THE RELIEF OF OUR LOCAL COTTON
OPERATIVES DURING THE SAD TIMES OF
1863, THIS LITTLE VOLUME IS RE-
SPECTFULLY DEDICATED BY
THE AUTHOR.

Lisburn, January, 1881.

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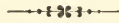


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THE
COTTON FAMINE

OF 1862-'63.



CHAPTER FIRST.



THE history of the international campaign, as carried on between the citizens of the Northern and Southern States of America during the four years that succeeded the Spring of 1861, includes, even in its least harrowing details, some of the saddest of modern chronicles. In all ages of the world, one effect of war has been to paralyse industry, and at the same time to sweep away much of its previous savings through the current expenditure. It may be questioned, however, whether at any previous period the blighting influence of that terrible scourge produced disasters so appalling as those that followed the warfare beyond the Atlantic. But the ill effects of that campaign did not end there. For a long series of years the spindles that whirled in the cotton mills of England and Scotland had drawn the great proportion of their raw material from the American plantations. Many millions of acres on the vast continent that flourishes under the Stripes and Stars were engaged in the growth of cotton during the season of 1860; perhaps four-fifths of the produce were landed in London and Liverpool, and nearly all that importation was worked up in British mills. But soon after the demon of war had been let loose on the fair fields of the American planters,

desolation spread on every side, and before the close of the second year three-fourths of all the cotton lands had been either destroyed or left untilled. Corn fields were trampled down, the greater part of the wheat crop was destroyed, and wherever the track of contending armies was to be seen, the whole face of the country was left wild-looking and desolate as it might have appeared a century before. Then it was that the effects of the war between the Northern and Southern sections of America began to tell on the social and commercial relations of the people on both sides the Atlantic. If we take the flaxen manufactures as an illustration, we find that the citizens of the United States imported from these realms 59,488,390 yards of linen in 1860, and only 21,169,000 yards the following year. The gross value of all the exports thence from Great Britain and Ireland in 1860 was £21,677,000, against £9,064,500 in 1861. This, however, formed only one portion of the losses then sustained. As already stated, the destruction of real property at the scenes of strife could hardly be estimated by the ordinary process of arithmetic: it far exceeded anything that followed the most fiercely-contested battles of Europe. The mere money cost was enormous, and the destruction of life was still more lamentable. Many were the stern lessons which that fratricidal campaign taught the statesmen and patriots of the New World, and hardly less instructive was the sermon which it preached to the senators of the Old Country. It was calculated that during the American war one hundred thousand men were killed, and four times the same number disabled. Many of the latter died after months of suffering and sickness—thus dying, as it were, many times. Then we have the domestic misery endured in so many households through the loss of their dearest relatives, and the worse than death on the battle-field which the tens of thousands endured in their maimed lives after what is called “the glory of war” had long ceased to have any influence on the popular mind. The actual loss sustained by the destruction of property was five hundred millions of dollars, and the injury done to business, by land and sea, was not less than one hundred millions dollars. Maffit, one of the Southern destructionists, boasted that in his own

case he had sunk ships and burned cargoes to the amount of eleven millions dollars. The *New York Herald* estimated that in the Autumn of 1863, several months before the proclamation of peace, the war-debt of the North and South amounted to five thousand millions of dollars.

One of the most valuable lessons taught the people of the United Kingdom by the American campaign was that which proved how largely the commercial prospects of the Old World, of Great Britain and Ireland, depended on the peace and progress of the New Land on the other side the Atlantic. Much attention and considerable anxiety prevailed in 1859 and '60 relative to the future supplies of raw cotton, the spindles of all mills in the United Kingdom being then dependent for the great proportion of their raw material on the products of the American plantations. One section of Britain's economists had been indulging in very wild delusions relative to the importance of the trade with our Transatlantic cousins. "We have only to look out for other markets as outlets for our produce and manufactures, and these, when found, may far exceed those of the United States," was often heard as the great semi-seerdom of those sages. It was said that Uncle Sam was getting too big for his boots, and that some exertion should, therefore, be made to curtail his physical dimensions; but the effects of the war in 1861 and '62, with the stagnation of commerce throughout the United Kingdom, proved how much our general trade was dependent on that of our republican relatives, and how little the political economists, to whom we have alluded, knew about the great question of American commerce with Great Britain and Ireland.

About the same time there arose a very portentous section of theorists, each of whom looked upon himself as having been gifted by Providence with prophetic wisdom respecting the discovery of extended fields of cotton growth. One of those sages stated that there would not be any difficulty in obtaining from other lands such quantities of raw material as would make Lancashire and Lanark quite independent of the American States as to getting food for their spindles. "The planters of the East

Indian cotton-fields," it was stated, "could deliver low qualities of cotton at from three half-pence to two pence half-penny per pound, and if the Americans were to close their ports against British buyers, abundant supplies of raw material could be had elsewhere." Such was the absurd braggadocia and silly flourish which were frequently heard for some time before the American war flung all wild theories to the winds. It was well known to every person who had considered the subject that the East Indian grower of cotton had almost illimitable resources within his reach. He could procure labour in abundance at the wages of one rupee—about two shillings—a-week for the best hands. Millions of acres of the finest soil for cotton culture lay partially idle, the plant was a natural product, and could be seen growing wild in many rarely-trodden districts; and yet it seemed to be quite forgotten, that, with all those advantages, the Asiatics had been far distanced in their race of competition with the planters of the New World beyond the Atlantic. Cotton, which the ancient writers described as the "wool of a plant," was grown in what are at present known as the Presidencies of Bengal and Bombay thousands of years before the Christian Era, but it was not until the Spring of 1786 that the energetic men of Georgia, in the juvenile Republic of America, commenced the enterprise of cotton-growing, and since then they have come to the front as the most extensive and most superior producers of that fibre in the universe. The silky product called Sea-Island, raised in the low ranges of coast that run between Charleston and Savannah, are unequalled for their beauty of texture. Some parcels of this class of cotton were sold in the Liverpool market at five shillings a-pound in August, 1863. Alabama and Georgia planters are able to raise three hundred pounds of cotton to the acre, while the growers in Surat and other Indian settlements cannot produce more than one-third that average. These facts had long been known to thoughtful men in this kingdom; but there was still floating about a race of self constituted philosophers, who, while indulging in projects about getting supplies of cotton outside the plantations of the Far West, propounded idealisms wild and fantastic as the dreamiest follies of that respectable class

of unbelievers who, some years ago, plagued the Churches with their absurdities on the Bible-wine question.

There had been no end of exultation with one class of political economists, for several years before this time, respecting the supposed capabilities of Queensland as a new field of cotton culture; and it was added that Egypt, if her powers were fully developed, could extend her growth of the same material ten-fold. But the youngest colony of the Australian Isles has never been able to make any way in cotton-planting. Some splendid samples of its growth have been shown in Liverpool, and very beautiful was its fibre. Still, such is the uncertainty of the climate, that the crop is very difficult to gather in harvest-time. And as to the home of the Pharaohs, the area is so limited, that the exigencies of the country require all the spare land for grain production and other purposes. Flax and cotton from time immemorial have had their full proportion of arable soil there, and that proportion is not likely to be extended. To America, then, the thoughtful men connected with the cotton manufacture could only look forward as the land of hope, no other country in the world being able to turn out such amplitude of supplies. Of this truth the spinners and manufacturers of Europe became fully aware in 1862 and '63, and bitter lessons were taught many men of the trade when prices of raw material ran up two hundred, then three hundred, and ultimately four hundred per cent. above the averages of previous years, and when imports fell off to a mere fractional proportion of those landed in 1860.

The rapidity with which British and Irish manufacturers of goods had been extending production during the forty years ending December, 1860, can only be rightly understood by taking into account the scale of importation during that period. America, in the meantime, had been the chief centre of production from which those manufacturers drew their supplies. We find, by the most authentic data relative to the aggregate imports into the United Kingdom at different periods, that in 1820 the landings of raw cotton amounted to 140,675,000 pounds; in 1840 the figures were 743,440,000 pounds; and in 1860 the large total of 1,140,550,000

pounds were landed. It is remarkable that in the latter noted year the American plantations raised the immense quantity of 4,860,290 bales of cotton, 2,669,432 of which crop were sent to Great Britain. Taking the bales at an average of 400 pounds each, the supplies from America in 1860 amounted to 106,772,800 pounds, but war had devastated American cotton fields to such an extent that in 1862 imports from thence into Great Britain only reached the fractional quantity of 71,750 bales.

Very little change could be noted as having taken place in the cotton market during the first year of the war. Towards its close prices went up a few points, and some far-seeing merchants purchased several thousand bales for the next rise. But with the advent of 1862 there came a rapid advance in value. This turn continued, and in the September of that year still tighter markets existed, the stocks of all qualities of cotton in the hands of Liverpool importers having fallen to 58,160 bales, against 880,680 bales held for the like date of 1861. At that time jute had gone up to 70 per cent. and flax 25 per cent. Then came the wildest speculation and the most absurd theories relative to substitutes for cotton. For a time these dreamy projects formed material for prosy leaders in the public papers, and ground-work for solemn platitudes in private circles. Every week brought out some strange proposition; but so bewildered by the utter stagnation of business were the people connected with the trade, and those of nearly all grades from the mill-owner to the most juvenile operative, that every panacea had its patrons. Learned savans seized on the subject, and delivered themselves of mythological soothsaying ridiculous enough to give it a place in some special section of the British Association, and men of otherwise sound judgment on 'Change propounded opinions on the question, "What are we to do for cotton?" which were grotesque as they were unpractical. When all this excitement of dread and doubt was almost at its climax, a firm of London lawyers announced that a client of theirs had discovered a substitute that would answer all the purposes of cotton, and that the supply was so abundant that every idle operative might at once be set to work in collecting it. The great

importance of that discovery, as the solicitors of the modern Columbus stated, was, that "it could be obtained in the United Kingdom in any quantity without displacing even a single acre of soil for other purposes." That announcement created great interest, not only in the land of looms and spindles, but in nearly all parts of the kingdom. Many letters appeared on the subject in the London papers. The city editor of the *Times* gave the project a fair notice in his columns, and rather lauded the person who had made the wonderful discovery. As a matter of course, the greatest secrecy was for a time maintained respecting the article and its whereabouts; but when the fact oozed out that the new fibre was to be found in a sea-weed—*Zostera Marina*—which abounds on the shores and sea coasts of England and Ireland, those who had been most disposed to canonize the projector were among the first to turn the whole affair into ridicule. An equally absurd proposal had its patrons about the same time. This was a plan to cottonize jute, but of course that plan soon fell to the ground.

Referring to the numerous projects set forth to make good the loss of supplies from America, a writer in one of the Belfast papers correctly stated—"The only substitute for the material that has worked such wonders in our manufactures is the '*Cotton itself*;' and when the "famine" was at its height, that axiom's truthfulness became apparent to all thoughtful men who were able to form correct opinions on the subject. About the close of the first half of 1862, the terrible effects of lessened supplies and dearer markets for cotton had left their mark on the chief seats of the trade. Only twelve months had elapsed from the time when the first boom of the cannon told that hostilities had commenced between the Northern and Southern States, when idle spindles and silent looms in all parts of Lancashire, and the scarcity of employment in other cotton districts throughout the kingdom, proved how much the success of the capitalists and the working ranks of the Old World depended on the peace and prosperity of the Western Republic. Imports of cotton, which to hundreds of thousands of people in the United Kingdom had become almost as vital a necessity as corn, were woefully short in 1862, the second year of the American

war. We have alluded to the supply of cotton sent us from the United States at different periods. The total landing from all sources, which amounted to 11,223,000 cwts. in 1861, had fallen off to 4,678,300 cwts. in course of the succeeding year. Prices in the interim rose from 8d. a-pound to 25d. for top quality Upland. American, East India advanced from 5d. to 16d. a-pound, and before the end of 1863 Upland sold at 28d. the pound. Rapid fortunes were realized by those who purchased large lots of the article during the Spring of 1862, and while the excitement lasted it seemed as if mines of wealth had been discovered by the successful speculators. At length came the reaction, and in the downward movement many went to the wall. But the result of the sudden increase of prices in the cotton market proved nearly ruinous to numbers of spinners. Many of those capitalists closed their mills, others worked short time, and factory-owners were obliged to discharge three-fourths of all their hands. The effect of this cessation of labour brought misery on many households, and threw multitudes of previously well-to-do families on the poor-rates. There were, in January, 1861, eleven thousand persons in the receipt of relief in the seven-and-twenty unions which form the cotton districts of the North of England, and for the same month in 1863 there were four hundred and fifty thousand paupers on the roll. In one of the largest unions the distress was so general that the available funds were quite inadequate to meet the demands on them, and for some months the rate of relief per week was only about thirteen pence a-head for every member, young and old. And yet the expenditure in Cheshire and Lancashire exceeded twenty thousand pounds a-week, causing a tax of five shillings in the pound on all rateable property. It was, indeed, a sad state of affairs to see thousands of the most industrious and best paid workpeople in Europe, after having been thrown from their high position of independence, reduced to the low level of mere paupers. That, however, was the inevitable, and they submitted to it without any loss of dignity. Outside the poor-law a noble work was carried on, and the extraordinary degree of benevolence which had been called into existence during that terrible visitation has no

parallel in the entire history of private philanthropy. America contributed very largely to the general fund, and the liberality displayed by many noble lords and generous commoners in our own country was really marvellous. According to the published accounts of the Lancashire Committee, the total contributions paid into their bankers for the support of the people during the cotton famine was as follows:—London Mansion House subscriptions, £503,131; Central Committee, £892,279; cotton districts, £254,380; general contributions, £283,989; and other subscriptions, £40,434: making the enormous total of £1,974,203!

At that time the Northern States of America were in the midst of their great struggle against the citizens of the slave-dealing South; yet it almost seemed as if they had forgotten their own troubles in the practical sympathy they exercised towards the sufferers in the Old Land, which had been the cradle of many millions of them. Large sums of money and liberal supplies of food were sent over the Atlantic to be distributed among the people of the English cotton districts. But British India, which was then in the receipt of about three millions sterling per month as the proceeds of her sales of raw cotton—the land that owed so much of her early prosperity to the manufacturers of Great Britain and Ireland—appeared to have forgotten the noble virtues of gratitude and generosity, and although frequently applied to for aid, did not send over a single rupee towards the relief of the distressed operatives. We have seen that nearly two millions of hard cash were raised to stem the tide of distress that had set in with such force, and which threatened to sweep away myriads of people in the North of England; but that amount, large as it was, did not include all, or nearly all, the offerings made to charity in course of that period of suffering. The Poor-law authorities were very active, and spared neither outlay nor exertion in their daily labours.

It would be utterly impossible even to approximate the amount which, throughout the long period of distress, was contributed by the mill and factory owners. An extensive firm, whose works were closed, had, many years before, erected several hundred cottages for their workpeople, and when the famine set in, they not only

remitted all rents payable by the tenants, but they bestowed on every family that had been engaged in their concern one shilling a-head each week, and every day they had a dinner prepared for such of their people as chose to partake of it.

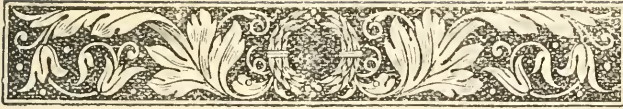
To give anything like a full history of all that was done by the employers of labour in those times would not be within the limits of this little work, and we can only allude to a few cases. A house engaged in the manufacture of cotton goods, shirting calicoes, and printers, kept one thousand people at work in good times, but when the dearth and scarcity of cotton raised the cost of production far beyond the market values of such goods, the proprietors were obliged to stop their machinery. For some months they supported, from their own private resources, all these people, and that sacrifice, it need scarcely be said, could only have been made at an immense amount of expenditure. Another mill-owner kept his spindles in motion at an actual loss of five hundred pounds a-week rather than permit the work-people he employed to fall back on the poor-rates. And yet, while this noble system of modern Samaritanism was being carried out in every section of the manufacturing districts, there was no end of the vituperation cast on "the cotton lords" and "heartless capitalists" by the Rev. Charles Kingsley and other one-sided thinkers. Sydney Smith has said that A never saw B requiring aid that he did not advise C to do something for him; and in all that period of pinching and poverty there were numbers of worthy persons who did nothing themselves in the way of alleviating distress, but seemed indefatigable in their abuse of every man that owned a tall chimney. In Manchester, where extreme poverty pressed on the operatives with extra power, the very spirit of benevolence was abroad, and superhuman exertions were made to render the action of the times as light as the hand of Charity could make it. One leading firm paid to the people who had previously been in their employment one thousand pounds a-month, and a great many smaller houses bestowed one hundred and twenty pounds a-week towards the support of their idle hands. We could give many other evidences of the princely spirit in which "the cotton lords" of that day distributed their bounty. Three

thousand people connected with the mills of Messrs. Fielding, of Todmorden, in Yorkshire, were unemployed for several months, and during all that time those employers gave their people one-half the average wages which the sufferers had earned when the mills were in full work—say, about eight shillings a-week. Distress in Wigan and its neighbourhood had greatly increased during the Autumn of 1862, and to aid in its alleviation Lord Lindsay and his father agreed to contribute one hundred pounds a-week for the succeeding five months, besides which they sent a cheque for five hundred pounds to the Mayor of that town to purchase clothes and bedding for the operatives.

But a great number of people outside the cotton trades, and who were rarely alluded to amid the intense sympathy called forth by the sufferings of the operatives, had very serious ills to battle with. This class consisted of retail dealers and other small shopkeepers, hosts of whom carried on business in the neighbourhood of public works in Manchester, Bury, Bolton, and Preston. The customers of such traders consisted almost solely of mill and factory workers; and when these people were thrown out of employment, the shopkeepers not only lost their custom, but they also lost their running accounts, and thus became involved in the general ruin. Nor did that phase of the calamity end there. The decreased circulation of cash in the retail trades affected wholesale merchants as well, and where hundreds of thousands of spindles and vast numbers of steam-loom factories were quite idle, the loss in payment of wages alone was £135,000 a-week. If to this sum be added the falling-off in business in the trades immediately dependent on the cotton manufactures, the decline of cash circulation for that year could not have been under ten millions sterling. What amount of money was lost by the owners of mills and factories in course of the cotton famine has never been even conjectured; for in this world of ours there is hardly ever a single thought bestowed on the misfortunes which employers of labour endure by commercial reverses and dulness of trade. When "bad times" set in, and stocks accumulate, the only course open for the manufacturer is that of lessening production, and as a natural result numbers of operatives are thus thrown idle. As a

general rule, the people who spent much commiseration on the unemployed workmen in 1863, never thought of the difficulties that surrounded the millowner in those days of darkness. It is true, that many Lancashire spinners and manufacturers were rich and well able to bear all the losses which arose out of the cotton famine; but numbers of others were men in the same trade, who had commenced business not long before that sad time, and were still fighting their way up the hill when the American war set in, and with that calamity came hosts of lesser ills, all of which bore with immense pressure on the funds of struggling capitalists. The peculiarity of popular feeling on some great questions is marvellously strange; and wonderful, indeed, is the fact, that while such great efforts were made on behalf of the workpeople in those times, there was scarcely a sentiment of sympathy bestowed on the proprietors of mills and factories. From the month of July, 1862, until the end of the ensuing year, the charity of the public was taxed to an extent hardly credible, and nobly did many members of the monied class outside the manufacturing interest respond to the calls made upon them; but, as we have stated, the burdens borne during that period by millowners—by those employers whose capital was locked up in buildings and machinery—were far beyond all estimate.

At the close of January, 1863, upland cotton, of a quality which, eighteen months before, had been sold at 9d. the pound, was quoted at 24d., but even at that figure could not be had in even one-fourth the supply necessary to keep the spindles in motion. Yarns and goods had pretty well followed in the wake of raw material. Mule twist, which in August, 1861, was quoted at 12d., sold at 25d. the pound; and Manchester factory-owners, who, at the former noted date, were selling 39-inch calico at 8s. 9d. the 36 yard piece, found ready sale for a similar article at 17s. 6d. the piece. If a fair supply of cotton could have been had, business would have gone on nearly as usual, but the scarcity of raw material left millowners no other course save that of closing their concerns. Hence, the operatives, from want of employment, suffered misery and privation far exceeding anything that could have been conceived on the subject.



CHAPTER II.

IT was not, however, in the great seats of the cotton manufacture, whether those of Lanark on the one side of the Tweed, or those of Lancashire on the other, that the grasp of poverty was most pinching during the extreme period of the cotton famine. Hand-loom weaving forms a large source of labour in the North-West district of Ulster, and immense quantities of muslins are produced there. At the close of 1860, within a ten-mile circle around Belfast, there were about 20,000 hands engaged in weaving, and perhaps 80,000 at work in embroidering muslin. The wages of these people had hardly ever been such as would have given them the chance of laying up any surplus fund after supporting themselves; and when the evil day came, when employment was scarcely to be had, and thousands of men, women, and children were unable to procure the means of keeping up mere existence, the sufferings of numerous families very much exceeded any degree of human wretchedness ever known in Ulster. In many weaving-shops half the looms were idle; a still greater number had not a single one engaged. And even those weavers who had been fortunate enough to get work rarely earned more than tenpence a-day, and others toiled for sixteen hours at the loom to gain the wretched income of eightpence. As the Winter season set in, vast numbers of the people became reduced to such a state of destitution, that, at the end of December, 1862, there were some families that had existed for whole days on boiled cabbage, seasoned with salt; others could not procure more

than one ration of Indian meal stirabout in the twenty-four hours. Nor did the wants of the weavers and embroiderers end there : hundreds of them were only partially clad, and in numerous cases there was neither sheet nor blanket in their sleeping apartments, the poor creatures being obliged to use their day-clothes as covering during the hours of rest. This state of suffering had gone on for some time, and at length, when an approach to semi-starvation had been endured, the real state of affairs became known to a few persons outside those districts. Ballymacarrett weavers were reduced to the very verge of destitution ; the operatives of Newtownards had struggled against the inroads of want until it was impossible longer to conceal it. But it was in Lisburn and its neighbourhood that the cloud of distress had fallen with the greatest density, and where in every section the very aspect of the people told in unmistakeable language that existence itself was threatened. Reports of a serious nature had been heard of the want and misery endured by the operatives, and in course of the Christmas week of 1862 those reports became still more alarming. During the holidays, Mr. David Carlisle, the Lisburn agent for the house of Messrs. Brown, Yates & Howat, muslin manufacturers, of Glasgow, personally inspected the cottages of weavers in the Maze and its immediate localities, and about the same time the writer of these pages made a similar investigation respecting the condition of the cotton operatives in Lisburn. The result of these inquiries was to bring out a mass of evidence which proved that poverty of the most intense description was all but general among those poor people. A requisition, of which the following is a copy, was speedily got up, and presented to the Chairman of the Town Commissioners :—

“SIR,—We, the undersigned inhabitants of Lisburn, respectfully request that you will be good enough to call, at an early day, a meeting of the ratepayers of this town for the purpose of considering the most effective mode of collecting funds for the aid of the distressed weavers of Lisburn, the Maze, and adjoining districts.

Hugh Seeds.	William Graham.
David Beatty.	Alfred Millar.
Robert Stewart.	J. & W. Brownlee.
John Barbour.	Jacob Bannister.
Robert Barbour.	Thomas M'Creight.
George Pelan.	George Thompson.
Samuel Musgrave, M.D.	John Finlay.
Michael M'Harg, M.D.	Robert Cordner.
Henry Major.	Lee M'Kinstry.
George & James Bell.	William Hanna.
Russell Kennedy.	Sam. Graham,

“Dated this 5th day of January, 1863.”

Immediately after having had the requisition signed, two gentlemen waited on the Town Commissioners, who were then holding their usual monthly meeting in the Court-house, and having presented the document, and urged the necessity for prompt measures, Mr. J. J. Richardson, J.P., who, in the absence of Mr. Lucas Waring, presided on the occasion, called a public meeting, to be held on the following Thursday. A number of large placards were afterwards printed and posted through the town and neighbourhood, calling attention to the objects of the requisitionists. The newspaper report will tell of the great necessity which existed for direct action in the matter.

On Thursday, the eighth of January, 1863, at half-past eleven o'clock, an influential public meeting was held in the Court-house, Lisburn, for the purpose of “devising means for alleviating the lamentable distress existing among the cotton weavers of the above districts.” There were present—J. J. Richardson, J.P., T.C.; J. W. Fulton, J.P.; Joseph Richardson, John Barbour, Robert Barbour, Samuel Barbour, Thomas Barbour, James Richardson, Thomas Ward, David Beatty, Joshua Lamb, James N. Richardson, John Millar, T.C.; George Stephenson, T.C.; John Stevenson, Samuel Kennedy, T. Kennedy, Hugh M'Call, T.C.; David Carlisle, A. Millen, George Pelan, Henry J. Garrett, Redmond Jefferson, T.C.; John Sloan, John Campbell,

M.D. ; James Megarry, A. Macartney, T.C. ; T. M'Creight, John Bradbury, J. Pennington, S. Musgrave, M.D. ; W. S. Darkin, Robert Alistair, Mercer Rice, Rev. H. Hodson, Rev. Mr. Franks, Rev. W. Hall, Rev. D. J. Clarke, Rev. E. Best, Arthur Gamble, James Boyd, William Brownlee, J. Kane, William Hanna, J. Mussen, William Young, Robert Mulholland, Wm. Johnston, Wellington Young, George Thompson, David Mack, T.C., John M'Clure, George Wilson, jun., and John Finlay.

Mr. GEORGE STEPHENSON, Solicitor, moved that Jonathan Joseph Richardson, Esq., J.P., take the chair.

Mr. MILLAR seconded the motion.

Having taken his seat as president,

Mr. RICHARDSON said, that although he was only filling the place of Mr. Lucas Waring, he had great pleasure in doing so. A requisition, signed by several of the influential inhabitants, had been laid before the Town Commissioners on the previous Monday, but as the Chairman could not attend, he (Mr. R.) had called this meeting. Most of those present were aware of its object ; he would, however, read the memorial as addressed to the Chief of the Town Council. Having done so, the Chairman, in continuation, said he felt highly honoured in being called on to preside at what was really a great occasion, the object of which was the good work of making arrangements to assist a most deserving body of suffering people. He had heard much of their poverty and privation ; but further information on the subject led him to say that all he had been told about it fell far short of the reality.

Mr. M'CALL, secretary *pro tem.*, said that as soon as arrangements had been made for holding the meeting on that day, he had got circulars printed and addressed to the principal gentry, merchants, and traders, requesting them to come forward and assist in the proposed work of charity. In addition to such notices, large posters had been extensively distributed in the town and neighbourhood, and he was happy to see so many friends of philanthropy had responded to the call. He would beg to read letters of apology he had received from some gentlemen who were unable to attend ;

“Lisburn, January 8, '63.

“SIR,—I regret much that business of importance will prevent my being present at the meeting for the relief of the distressed weavers, &c. The object is a very laudable one, and, I have no doubt, will be warmly taken up by the inhabitants of the town. For some time past the want of employment has been keenly felt by the poorer classes, especially among those who have hitherto gained a livelihood by weaving. In order, therefore, to alleviate, in some degree, their distress, large numbers of those who would otherwise have been destitute of any means of support, have daily, for some time past, been employed, on the part of Lord Hertford, in sub-soiling, draining, and other useful work in the neighbourhood of the town. Having ascertained of late that the greatest amount of distress lay in the Maze and Broomhedge districts, similar works have been commenced in those districts also, on the understanding that only those who are in real distress shall be employed; and, feeling convinced that reproductive works such as I have mentioned will ultimately be much better calculated to relieve distress than any other mode that may be devised, I have adopted this course of ‘giving employment.’ There may be certain cases, however, such as families consisting of young children unable to work where pecuniary relief may be desirable; and, as I presume a subscription list will be opened after the meeting for this purpose by those who cannot give employment such as I have named, I shall be obliged by your adding £5 to that list on my own private account. Hoping that the meeting will be a success, and that a large sum will be raised, I am, Sir,

“Your very obedient servant,

“WALTER T. STANNUS.

“The Chairman of the Lisburn Relief Meeting.”

“Lisburn, January 7, 1863.

“MY DEAR SIR,—I have received your circular, and I regret I cannot attend your meeting to-morrow without great inconvenience; but I shall be happy to assist the object in any way in my power.

“I rode out to Broomhedge the other day, and found the reports of the distress in that district were only too true. Something has already been done to afford employment to small tenants there, whether such tenants be weavers or no. I shall, however, be only too happy to subscribe to any fund which may be formed

“There appears to be some reduction of the distress in Lancashire; and if the Relief Committee there would only carry out the intentions of the subscribers—who would be glad to see their money spent where distress could be most relieved—if they would send over to this neighbourhood some of the superfluous cash.—Very faithfully yours,

“T. R. STANNUS.

“Hugh M'Call, Esq.”

“Glenmore, Lisburn, January 8, 1863.

“DEAR SIR,—I regret not being able to attend the meeting to-day, to be held in the Court-house, to collect funds to aid the distressed weavers in the neighbourhood of Lisburn.

“I need not say that I heartily concur in the object of the meeting, and as soon as I know the result I will tender my subscription. It will be desirable not to limit yourselves to the weavers only, as I believe there is great distress in the labouring classes. The weather being so very severe, out-door work is greatly retarded.

“The operatives of Glenmore Bleachworks and Millworks have been at work unsolicited, and will hand in a subscription of not less than £14 19s 8d, may be more.—Wishing that you may have a successful meeting, I am, yours, truly.

“J. RICHARDSON.

“Mr. Hugh M'Call.”

“Derrievoglie, January, 1863.

“MY DEAR SIR,—I regret very much my state of health will prevent me from attending your meeting to-morrow on behalf of the poor weavers of our locality. I shall, however, have much pleasure in contributing my mite, with others, when called on, as I believe these poor people are in very great distress and poverty, occasioned by the want of employment.—I am, my dear Sir, yours very truly,

“W. GREGG.

“Hugh M'Call, Esq.”

Lambeg, 5th January, 1863.

“MY DEAR SIR,—I regret that my business engagements will not allow me to attend the meeting to-day in aid of the distressed weavers; but when a subscription list is opened, I shall be glad to contribute towards their relief. I remain, very truly; yours,

“JOHN RICHARDSON.

“H. M'Call, Esq.”

The letters having been read,

Mr. JAMES MEGARRY, of Broomhedge, rose to move the first resolution. He said he had been requested to say a few words as to the state of the weavers in his locality, and for that purpose, and since he came into that Court-house, a paper had been put into his hands on which he was rather unprepared to speak. It was

only of necessity, from the very sad state of the country, that he came there that morning. They had heard a great deal about the Lancashire distress, and of the efforts that had been made to relieve it; but he believed that the people of their own neighbourhood at the present time were in a more pitiable condition than even the operatives referred to. He believed there were many men in the Maze and Broomhedge districts who, if they did not get immediate assistance, would be forced to take it where they could get it, or death must be the result. They had borne all patiently. There was not another district in Ireland, or England either, in which the people could have borne their distress in the same way while almost starving; and it was the last thing they would do to ask assistance. Some of the children of these poor parents would touch the feelings of the most careless. The speaker concluded by moving:—"That while we admire the efforts that have been made in this country to relieve the distress in Lancashire, we believe that vast numbers of the cotton weavers in our neighbourhood require prompt and effective assistance."

Mr. M'CALL, in seconding the resolution, said that few events had occurred during the present century which demanded so much attention and excited so much public sympathy, not only among those connected with the cotton trade, but among all other classes, as the distress that had been brought on certain parts of the kingdom by the war in America. He was quite sure that England never supposed the day would come when her own land—the wealthiest and most powerful country in the world—would have in its midst such intense suffering and poverty as that which then existed throughout her cotton districts. In the recently prosperous county of Lancaster and its environs, upwards of 400,000 people had been thrown idle by the dearth and famine of raw cotton, and these sufferers for months past were receiving alms at the rate of 2/- per head per week for every man, woman, and child connected with the trade. It was highly gratifying to think of the munificent sums that had been sent from nearly all parts of the world in aid of the Lancashire operatives, and that Ireland too had not been slow in forwarding her gifts to the same

treasury ; but he thought it strange that amid the wide-spread sympathy so aroused not a single word had yet been said about the distress and calamity that had fallen on the cotton operatives in their own neighbourhood. (Hear.) He was aware that many persons who should know more than they appear to do of the industrial history of their country, indulged in the idea that the cotton manufacture of the United Kingdom was almost confined to Lancashire and Lanark. The fact, however, was, that within a circle of ten or twelve miles around Lisburn, there existed a greater number of hand-loom weavers than could be found in either Manchester, Bolton, or Glasgow ; but the wages earned by Irish weavers, even in the best times, were far under those realized by the English or Scotch operatives. No other class of workmen in the kingdom were so easily pleased in the matter of wages as the weavers of the North of Ireland. Their wants were few and their habits simple ; indeed a state of things which an English operative could only look upon as that of sheer poverty would be considered by an Ulster hand-loom weaver as a condition of comparative comfort. He did not exaggerate when he stated that a Lancashire man would eat up in a single day an entire week's earnings of a Down or Antrim weaver. (Laughter.) Just before coming to the meeting he had read in the *Ashton Observer* of a young girl, a weaver, who lamented over her distress in being obliged to work inferior Surat cotton, and to eat Indian meal stirabout for dinner. Some of the people whose houses he had visited that morning, would be exceedingly glad to get employment in weaving any material, whether Surat or American cotton, and as for food they would be quite satisfied with a sufficient supply of India meal, but of that article they had not more than half the quantity requisite to support life. He had considerable experience of the condition of hand-loom operatives in and around Lisburn, and had recently visited their houses and weaving shops, and the state of some of these would be hardly credited. Not only were the unemployed in an almost destitute condition, but many of the employed were little better off. Very few of these men were able to earn more than 3s 6d in the week, and

out of that small sum they had to support a family. One poor fellow with a wife and four children, could only earn by toiling at the loom for fifteen hours a day, the sum of 4/- a week. That income was at the rate of eightpence a head for the weekly support of his family. According to the published accounts, the unemployed operatives of Lancashire were paid by the relief committee two shillings a week for each member of their households. The hand-loom weavers of Down and Antrim had not been reduced to their present state of destitution by any acts of their own; they were quite willing to work, but labour could not be had. He knew many of those people who, in point of ingenuity and skill, were far beyond any other class of working men; yet those same weavers were not only in poverty, but were literally starving. Fortunately for many families, the flax spinning trade had been brisk, and gave work to vast multitudes of people. He did not know what the result of the existing crisis in the cotton trade would have been in their own locality but for the extra employment given under the tall chimneys of Messrs. Stewart & Sons, Mr. J. J. Richardson, and Messrs. William Barbour & Sons. (Applause.) The experience of those trying times should bind together in closer relationship the people engaged in the linen and cotton trades of Ulster. After some further allusions to the existing crisis, Mr. M'Call concluded by begging leave to second the resolution proposed by Mr. Megarry.

Carried unanimously.

Mr. DAVID BEATY rose and said the resolution that had been placed in his hands referred to financial affairs. Probably the Secretary thought he was more cognisant of these matters because of his having known so much about the humble people whom he regretted to find in such a condition. He was one of the first persons who conversed with Mr. M'Call and his neighbour, Mr. Carlisle, on the subject; and rejoiced that he had been one of the earliest to bring the question before his fellow-townsmen. Very alarming reports had been heard from Broomhedge and the Maze by gentlemen in whom he could place the utmost reliance. There were there honest men, with honest hearts, and those poor weavers

would live on turnips rather than proclaim their poverty ; but the day of relief had dawned, and he felt happy to see so many of his townsmen coming forward in such an honourable cause, and a Richardson in the chair. (Hear, hear.) The Richardson family, one and all, had ever been the supporters of the humbler classes, and they were always ready and willing to move in any good work that was found necessary in the neighbourhood. But, with every respect to those gentlemen, there were others who were liberal employers too ; and every one who was present must have been delighted to hear the friendly spirit in which the letters of apology are couched from those who are ready with their subscriptions when this meeting is over. Before submitting the resolution, he wished to mention a matter which came under his notice. He happened to be for a short time in Buxton in October last, and having met with some gentlemen from Manchester, he asked them if the distress was as severe as the local papers represented it to be, and if it were extending in the district. They said, in answer to his inquiries, that they had a good right to know all about it—that they were ready to confirm the statements made in the newspapers, and every statement he had read were confirmed by those gentlemen. On Friday, when in Belfast, he had met with one of these gentlemen, who was on his way to Dublin, and asked him how matters stood at present in Manchester and district, and he replied that the distress was decreasing. He also said, if an application was made from their neighbourhood, that the manufacturers would, perhaps, contribute largely to their funds. He was very happy to see that so large a number of his fellow townsmen had come forward at the request of Mr. M'Call ; and he was no less glad to see there so many of the operatives, who thus find they are sympathised with. There were many present who had prepared their pockets to show that sympathy. These poor men had many claims upon them, and he only wished that his circumstances would enable him to give more liberally than he intended to so good a cause. He would, therefore, request the Secretary to set down his name for five pounds. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Beatty then proposed the resolution, which was as follows :—“That a

subscription list be immediately opened, and that a committee be appointed, with Mr. Millar as Treasurer and Mr. M'Call as Secretary, to carry out the objects of this meeting."

Mr. JOHN D. BARBOUR had very great pleasure in rising to second the resolution proposed by Mr. Beatty. Under any circumstances, he should feel gratified in taking part in a public meeting in Lisburn, but he felt especially so in the present case. He did not recollect the time, but many of those around him could look back to the period when the state of the trade enabled the cotton weavers to earn a rate of wages much above that of most other operatives. In the present position of that manufacture the whole amount of the cotton weaver's earnings would not procure the merest necessaries of life. With those and all other details connected with the terrible ordeal through which the poor people had then to make way, placed fully before the wealthier classes, he had no doubt there would be very little difficulty in getting up a large subscription list. From his own comparatively limited idea of the cotton manufacture, he was not able to form a correct opinion of the real income of a cotton weaver in full work; but from what he had read in one of the Belfast papers, that full grown men could not earn more than five shillings per week, whilst some weavers only made three, it was evident then that, when men in employment could only realise about one-third the rate of wages made in other trades, even the poor weavers who had full work must be in a very sad condition, whilst those who were idle must have to battle against the very extreme of poverty. He would not go further into the question, as there were other gentlemen to address the meeting, but conclude again by stating that he had great pleasure in seconding the resolution proposed by Mr. Beatty.

The resolution was carried *nem con.*

Mr. GEORGE PELAN said he begged to mention that the Lord Provost of Glasgow had some time before made an application on behalf of the unemployed weavers of that city for a portion of £80,000 which had been subscribed towards the Indian famine relief, and which had not been required for that purpose. He felt

assured that if the sad state of destitution to which a large proportion of the working ranks around them had been reduced by the cotton famine were rightly represented to the proper authorities, some portion of the unappropriated fund would be allocated to Lisburn. It might be well, therefore, for the committee to be appointed that day to act on the suggestion he had thrown out.

Mr. J. D. BARBOUR hoped that the Secretary would take a note of Mr. Pelan's suggestion. It was really most important, when so much distress had fallen on the people around their own doors, that every exertion should be made to add to the means of giving relief.

Rev. E. FRANKS, a Wesleyan minister stationed at the Maze, addressed the meeting at some length on scenes of distress which had come under his own notice, and which he depicted with such graphic power as to elicit the entire sympathy of every person present. He spoke of the cotton weavers of the district as a class of highly moral men, and second to none with whom he had ever before come in contact. He had been in England for a considerable time, and he knew much of the working ranks in that country, and he could say that the people of the Maze were those of which any nation might well be proud.

Captain WARD said that since he had entered the room a resolution had been placed in his hands, which he would read:—
 "That a letter be written to the Marquis of Hertford, calling his attention to the distress existing here at present, and respectfully soliciting his lordship's aid on behalf of the poor weavers in Lisburn and its vicinity." He said there was no question but the greatest distress prevailed amongst them at the present time. Indeed he himself had no idea until that moment that the calamity was so wide-spread, but he felt certain that every exertion would then be made to alleviate the suffering. So far as related to the immediate object of the resolution he held in his hand, he had no doubt of its success. The Marquis of Hertford and his forefathers had ever been kind and considerate, as well as benevolent landlords; and he felt assured that a letter written in accordance with that resolution would meet from his lordship such a response,

directly or indirectly through his worthy agent, as would satisfy the wishes of everyone present, and largely add to whatever funds might be raised for the aid of distress in Lisburn and the neighbourhood. He, therefore, begged to propose the resolution ; and he could not better evidence his own sympathy with the great object in hand than by asking the Secretary to add his name to the list for a subscription of twenty pounds. (Applause.)

Mr. JOHN MILLAR said that, in coming forward to second the resolution which had been so well introduced by Captain Ward, he would refer to an erroneous opinion which had gained ground in some quarters. It had been stated, in relation to the distress prevailing in their midst, that only those who had been immediately benefitted by the cotton trade should be called upon to contribute towards the support of the suffering weavers, and that the lords of the soil should not be solicited to aid in the relief. This was, at least, a very narrow-minded view of the question, and totally opposed to the right reading of a landlord's duties. The Poor Law Act told the true state of affairs. If in the present case that law was extended, as it might be, and that the rates were made amenable to the support of the poor weavers, the local owners of the soil would have to contribute half the total amount of their maintenance. Seeing, however, the noble efforts that had been made to ward off the distress in Lancashire, and how liberally the landlords of that portion of England had aided in the same cause, he had no doubt that the owner of the Hertford property would display equal benevolence towards poor weavers, most of whom had been born and brought up on his estate. He concluded by seconding the resolution.

This motion was also carried unanimously.

Mr. JAMES N. RICHARDSON, of Lissue, said that the resolution calling Lord Hertford's attention to the weavers should not be confined to that class of workpeople. He would suggest that the letter about to be written to the landlord of the great estate on which they stood should be so worded as to request Lord Hertford's support on behalf of poor weavers and other suffering people. Within the last week a greater number of men and

women had called on him for assistance than he had ever known seek aid.

Mr. JOSEPH RICHARDSON, of Springfield, stated that he was just about to make an observation to the same effect. In his neighbourhood the farm labourers were nearly as badly off, and some of them quite as destitute as the cotton weavers. He would therefore propose that an alteration be made in the resolution, and that it should read "On behalf of the cotton weavers and others."

Mr. JOSHUA LAMB was also of opinion that the resolution should be altered, and the required change made.

The CHAIRMAN put the amendment proposed, and it was at once agreed to.

Mr. M'CALL said it had been suggested that a deputation should be sent over to Glasgow for the purpose of giving the heads of houses in that city some correct data relative to the destitution existing in and around Lisburn. He felt assured that those firms which, though their agents had been giving out muslin webs to be woven in that neighbourhood, would aid any Relief committee that might be formed that day in warding off the effects of the cotton famine. The Glasgow manufacturers had long been large employers of labour at the loom, but much of that demand for hands had ceased. One firm that some time before kept 2,000 people engaged, did not then employ above 200, and another house that formerly gave work to 1,000 weavers, had not a tithe of that number employed. In the mean time, however, and whether or no any action be taken in the matter, he would suggest that it might be well to consider the best mode of alleviating the cases of distress so well known to some of those present. Many of the sufferers were weavers in the employment of these manufacturers, and he felt sure, if applied to, they would contribute to the fund. He wished to know the best means of bringing the cases before these gentlemen. As to what local landlordism had done he was glad to learn that Lord Downshire, with his usual liberality, had given £50 to the Fund raised for the weavers in the neighbourhood of the Maze. But that course of

action was only in accordance with his Lordship's character as a resident landowner. In 1847, when the dearth and destitution prostrated so many people on his property, the Marquis contributed to their support more than the total sum given for a like purpose by any half dozen of the other owners of land in Ulster.

Mr. BEATTY remarked that, in 1847, Lord Downshire had contributed by gifts of food and sums of money, about £20,000 towards the relief of the poor people on his estate.

Mr. DAVID CARLISLE in reply to what had been stated by Mr. M'Call, relative to the proposed appeal to the cotton manufacturers of Glasgow, said he was sure if letters were written them, a liberal response would be the result. He was gratified to say he had that morning received from the house for which he was agent, an order to get a number of webs woven, which for a time at least would employ 300 people.

Mr. ROBERT ALLISTER said his feeling was quite in favour of the poor cotton weavers, for they had suffered a great deal of distress. It was sixteen or seventeen years since he became agent for parties in Glasgow, and during the intermediate period the power-loom had to a large extent displaced the hand-loom. Some six or seven years ago he employed 500 or 600 weavers, but most of such work was now done by steam power.

The CHAIRMAN said he had listened with great pleasure to the different speakers, and in reference to the present state of affairs, he would add that the distress in Lancashire had been great. It was a county in which the spinning of cotton had been more extensive than in any other part of the world; and the war in America had prostrated it to a lamentable extent. On behalf of the suffering people an appeal had been made to the whole of the United Kingdom, and to most parts of the civilised world. That appeal, he was glad to say, had been very generously and nobly met. A nobleman, whose name he should mention—Lord Derby—had he believed, in the first instance, subscribed £1,000—his last subscription was £5,000. He hoped the Marquis of Hertford would read over the proceedings of that day; and he trusted that, having due reference to his position—having regard

to the large stewardship which he possessed, and the claims upon him as a landlord, he would take Lord Derby as his example, and come forward in the manly worth of that noble house under whose arms he now stood. [The heraldic insignia of the family of Hertford is placed above the bench in the Lisburn court-house, and just over the seat occupied by the chairman.] He trusted that Lord Hertford would not forget the poor people on his own property, now suffering so much from compulsory idleness, and that towards their relief fund he would contribute in a manner worthy the proprietor of these broad demesnes.

Mr. LAMB proceeded to explain to the meeting a regular course of relief which he had conducted for some days past in his district. He had given temporary relief to no less than one hundred families.

Rev. HARTLEY HODSON wished to say a few words. He had only that moment returned to town, having been in the country on special business, and but for having had that duty on hand he would have been among the earliest of those assembled at the commencement of the meeting. Many of the gentlemen present were aware that having been promoted to a rectory in a distant part of the county, his immediate connection with Lisburn, as one of its pastors, would very soon cease; but the interest he felt in his dear friends, the people of the town in which he had spent so many happy days, would only end with his life. (Applause.) He felt rejoiced in stating that, during his long period of labour among them, he had experienced much kindly feeling from all sects of people, and it gladdened his heart to see there that day the representatives of so many creeds, met for the noble purpose of benevolence. Lisburn had always exhibited the utmost sympathy with distress, and had come forward nobly and liberally to respond to calls from other places, and although not the first time they had brought out the influence and property of their good town to meet that occasion. He had only to say that the Secretary might put his name down for ten pounds. He might add to his dear friends that, no matter what part of the world his future lot should be cast, or wherever he might reside, there never should

be destitution affecting the community of Lisburn in which his heart, pocket, and hand would not be always open. (Applause.)

Mr. J. W. FULTON, J.P., said it was only that morning he had received a notice to attend that meeting. He regretted to observe, during the time he had stood in this Courthouse, that there seemed to be some desire to set one landlord above another. (No, no.) By such a course they would make the meeting a local one, and that would not further the cause of charity. The distress in the districts around them had been created by the same cause as that in Lancashire—the Cotton Famine—and it appeared to him that that was the ground on which they should apply for aid at a distance. The people themselves had nothing to do with the cause of it. If they had anything to do with it, then the subscriptions should be of an entirely local character. He was not connected, as was very well known, nor had he anything to do, with either the Hertford or the Downshire estate, and he had simply come there as a landed proprietor to assist in alleviating the distress. He had heard since he came into town that efforts had been made by Lord Hertford, through his agent, to contribute towards the assistance of some farm labourers, which proved they were not backward in relieving want; but the distress they had then met to consider was that caused by the Cotton Famine. This was the ground which enabled them to apply to the richer classes in England for relief—upon the ground that the workmen here who were thrown out of work were similarly circumstanced to those in Lancashire. The Earl of Derby, to whom reference had already been made, always kept great numbers of the labouring ranks in employment at his seat at Knowsley; but, besides doing so, his Lordship had contributed six thousand pounds to the Relief Fund. He felt certain, therefore, that the facts of the distress then existing in Lisburn had only to be made known to Lord Hertford in order to secure his Lordship's co-operation in the work.

At the conclusion of Mr. Fulton's speech, it was arranged that the following gentlemen should constitute the Committee of Management:—Dr. Musgrave, Dr. Campbell, J. N. Richardson,

David Beatty, John Sloan, John Bradbury, David Carlisle, James Megarry, Joseph Richardson, Bennett Megarry, George Pelan, J. J. Richardson, Redmond Jefferson, Captain Bolton, Joseph Shaw, the Rev. Hartley Hodson, Rev. M. M'Kay, and Joshua Lamb, together with the Treasurer and Secretary.

A subscription list was then opened, and a very handsome total was made up as the contributions of the gentlemen present.

When all the business part of the proceedings had been concluded, Mr. FULTON, J.P., proposed, and Mr. REDMOND JEFFERSON seconded, the following resolution:—"That we present our hearty thanks to the Chairman for his kindness in presiding over the meeting of this day, and also for the interest he has ever taken in the well-being of the working ranks."

Mr. J. J. RICHARDSON acknowledged the compliment in brief terms, and the proceedings terminated.

In course of the forenoon some hundreds of people connected with the cotton trade had assembled on the street, opposite the Court-house, and as the meeting dispersed, its members were loudly cheered.





CHAPTER III.

IMMEDIATELY after the conclusion of the public meeting, the newly-appointed Committee assembled to consider some matters that required direct attention, and one of these was that of appointing J. J. Richardson, J.P., as President. It was also arranged that in all meetings five should form a quorum ; and, as many of the families of weavers required immediate assistance, it was ordered that advertisements should be published in the Belfast newspapers for twenty tons of Indian meal, five tons of oatmeal, and ten tons of coal.

In reference to a proposed purchase of blankets suited to the wants of the people, Mr. Richardson, of Springfield, said he could procure a lot of—say fifty pairs—from a Yorkshire manufacturer on terms much cheaper than ordinary rates. The order was then given to Mr. R., with a request to him that the goods should be delivered in course of the ensuing week.

No time was lost in commencing the immediate work of charity, and therefore in the course of the afternoon of that day, Mr. Alfred Millar and Mr. David Carlile visited the houses and workshops of some of the most distressed people, and gave each family an order for rations of food and fuel. A large number of the unemployed were also attended to, and temporary relief given to them at a house appropriated for that purpose. The announcements which appeared in the papers next day relative to the extent of distress that prevailed among the weavers resident in the cotton manufacturing districts in and around Lisburn, aroused intense interest. Nearly four hundred pounds

were subscribed at the meeting, and before the end of the week large additions had been made to the sum total handed over to the Treasurer.

After the publication of the advertisements for contracts, several arrangements were entered into for food and fuel, the distress being so great that it became necessary to set about alleviating the wants of the people at once, and for that purpose ten tons of Scotch coal (hard Ayr) were purchased from Mr. Millar at 13s a ton. He also supplied (as required) ten tons of white and yellow Indian meal at £8 7s 6d and £6 15s the ton, as in quality. Mr. James Crossan arranged to deliver five tons of Indian meal at £8, and the Messrs. Brownlee agreed to give the Relief Committee five tons yellow meal at £7 13s 9d the ton. Besides these supplies, there were five tons of prime oatmeal taken from Mr. Millar at £11 15s the ton. Mr. Macartney offered to weigh out Indian meal at one shilling a stone, and on such terms five tons were contracted for.

It has been stated that circulars requesting attendance at the meeting were sent to the gentry, clergy, and other inhabitants of Lisburn and its neighbourhood. On the day succeeding that of the public meeting, the Secretary had the following letter from the Rev. Robert Lindsay, curate of the Cathedral:—

“Lisburn, January 9th, 1863.

“MY DEAR SIR,—I am very sorry that I was unavoidably prevented from attending the meeting held yesterday in the Court-house, relative to the distress among the cotton weavers. It would have given me great pleasure to take part in the good work, but I had special duties to look after which could not be set aside. From personal experience going in and out in my daily visitings of the homes of the poor, I know that great destitution exists at present, as well in town as in the adjoining districts. With all their sufferings I can heartily sympathise, and feeling assured of success in this great work which has been so auspiciously commenced. I beg to enclose one pound to help it onward.—Yours very truly,

“ROBERT LINDSAY.

“Hugh M'Call, Esq.”

Before the close of the week ending January 10, the Committee appointed to carry out the system of distribution was busy at work,

a wide district of country, which included a circuit of several miles around Lisburn, was divided into districts, and sub-committees were elected in each locality to act under the guidance of the Central Committee. It was arranged that the members should meet every Tuesday for the dispatch of the business of all the districts, and on each Saturday afternoon a Special Committee sat for the purpose of managing the distribution in Lisburn and its immediate vicinity. Besides these committees, there was a Ladies' Convention that met twice a week, and the members of which attended to the purchase of clothing, getting inside wearables made up, and attending to their distribution among the female portion of the cotton workers. The following are the names of this committee:—The Hon. Mrs. Stannus, Mrs. Nicholson, Mrs. Whitla, Mrs. Pim, Miss Whitla, Miss Malcolmson, Miss Stewart, Miss M. Stewart, and Miss Campbell.

According to a resolution passed in Committee, letters soliciting aid were written to those manufacturers in Scotland who had agents employed in giving out work to weavers in this country. Application was also made for assistance to the muslin manufacturers of Belfast, as well as to leading merchants of that town; but first in the list of appeals was that sent to the Lord of the soil. The following is a copy of the letter:—

“Lisburn, January 13th, 1863.

“MY LORD,—The Committee appointed to manage the fund for the relief of the distressed cotton weavers and others in this town and its neighbourhood, have desired that I should respectfully call your Lordship's attention to the subject. You may be aware that the dearth and scarcity of cotton have brought the trade across the Channel to a state of almost general stagnation. But probably your Lordship does not know that in this neighbourhood several hundreds of people, who are quite dependent for their living on the cotton manufacture, have been thrown idle. The result has been that many hand-loom weavers and their families are now suffering the extreme of poverty. In the *Northern Whig* and *News-Letter*, copies of each of which I take the liberty of sending your Lordship, you will find some general detail of the wide-spread calamity created by this sad visitation. In the hope, then, that you will be good enough to assist us in carrying on the work of benevolence at this time of distress, the Committee confidently appeal to your generosity. The greater portion of the people now on the relief list were born and brought up on the

Hertford estate. Hitherto they have upheld by their own industry the noble principles of self-reliance, and only seek for aid when forced to it by stern necessity. I have the honour to be, my Lord, your obedient servant,

“HUGH M'CALL.

Secretary of Committee.

“To the Most Honourable,
The MARQUIS of HERTFORD, K.G.,
Bagatelle, Paris.”

A few days after the first meeting was held in Lisburn for the formation of the Relief Committee, Mr. James N. Richardson called on the Secretary to say that he thought his friends Messrs. Richardson, Spence, & Co., of Liverpool, if applied to for that purpose, would be able to assist in collecting funds in their town. The following letter was accordingly written and sent off to the firm referred to by that gentleman:—

“COTTON OPERATIVES’ RELIEF FUND.

“Lisburn, January 20, 1863.

“MESSRS. RICHARDSON, SPENCE, & CO., LIVERPOOL.

“GENTLEMEN,—A member of our Committee, Mr. J. N. Richardson, of Lissue, handed me this morning a letter addressed to your firm by the Chairman of the Liverpool Committee of the International Relief Association, requesting some details relative to the state of the cotton operatives of this country.

“You are, perhaps, aware that for nearly forty years past, in this section of Ulster, the hand-loom department of the cotton trade has been extending, and is now far ahead of most other sources of employment, the Glasgow manufacturers having nearly all their plain and fancy muslins made and embroidered in this and the next county.

“The causes which have produced such distress in Lancashire have acted with still greater severity on our poor operatives, who were only able, in the best times, to earn bare subsistence, and consequently, when the collapse came, they had no reserve funds to fall back upon. As the dulness of trade has existed for at least eighteen months, the condition of hosts of our people can hardly be conceived. Many of the families to whom relief was given to-day are without a single article of bedclothing. Some were unable, from want of means, to kindle a fire in their miserable houses for twenty-four hours; others had not had food for a similar period. Hundreds of the weavers in Lisburn and neighbourhood have not even good dry straw to sleep on; not one in four has any covering, save, perhaps, an old quilt. Even the weavers in work

cannot earn above 7s a week on the best class of webs, while in ordinary instances the earnings do not exceed a net amount of 3s a week for the support, in many cases, of a whole family. The hand-loom cotton weavers—men and boys—and the sewed muslin workers—women and girls—number about 100,000. Lisburn and its districts, taking a ten-mile circuit, have long been the principal seats of the hand-loom cotton manufacture—in fact, nearly the whole of the goods made by hand for the Glasgow houses and all those produced for Belfast manufacturers, were made in this locality.

“As we do not recognise out-door relief in Ireland, the Poor-law only meets those cases which it finds inside the walls of the workhouse. In general, what is called the workhouse test has been found to do well in Ulster, as, except in times like the present, the Poor-law system is quite equal to the requirements; and, only in 1837, when money was raised for the cotton weavers, and in 1847, when soup-kitchens were erected in Lisburn for the general poor, there has been any necessity for outside aid.

“In the Lisburn division of our union the poor rate during the past year was 1s 2d to the pound. The next rating will be higher, as the number of paupers at present in the workhouse is about one-third more than that of January, 1862, and nearly twice the number of January, 1860. Still, in proportion to the total population of the union, the ratio of pauperism as it exists in the workhouse, is small, being little above 500 in a gross census of 70,000 persons. In this part of the country, however, the number of people who take refuge in the workhouse cannot be considered as correct data of the poverty that exists outside, many people preferring to live in their little habitations and to subsist on half food, and that food of a very inferior description, rather than go into the workhouse; and, had it not been for the exertions recently made by the resident gentry, farmers, and others, many weavers and their families would have died of sheer starvation—I am, gentlemen, truly yours,

“H. M'CALL.”

Messrs. Richardson were exceedingly prompt in calling the attention of the merchants resident in the city bordered by the Mersey, to the destitution that prevailed in and around Lisburn. As the best mode of giving publicity to the facts, that respected firm sent the following letter to the *Daily Post*, and on the 24th, both this letter and the one from Lisburn appeared in the Liverpool paper:—

“DISTRESS IN ULSTER.

“TO THE EDITOR OF THE DAILY POST.

“SIR,—On the 15th inst. you were good enough to publish and comment

on a note from us relative to the distress among the cotton operatives in the North of Ireland. We are since in receipt of a letter from the Secretary of the Lisburn Relief Committee, and will be pleased if you can give space for it in the *Daily Post*, as it will, no doubt, induce the charitable to add to the subscriptions we have already received. —We remain, yours respectfully,

“RICHARDSON, SPENCE, & CO.

“Liverpool, January 23, 1863.”

The letters given in the *Daily Post* had the effect of causing further inquiry into the state of the cotton workers in the North of Ireland. For several months previous to the first intimation of the distress existing about Lisburn, the gentry and merchants of Liverpool had been making the utmost efforts to aid the people of Lancashire, nearly half a million of whom were then reduced to absolute pauperism in consequence of the loss of employment. Still, there was the catholicity of benevolence ready to do something for those of the Northern Irish who had fallen into destitution from precisely the same causes that brought extreme poverty to the doors of the cotton workers of Lancashire. How well the good samaritans of Liverpool responded to the appeal made to them by the Lisburn Relief Committee will be seen in the future pages of this narrative.

The great pressure on the funds, and the then uncertain hope of any immediate revival of trade, caused much thought about the most effective plan of using the means in hand, so as to give more than mere temporary relief to the people. Some members of committee suggested that it would be well for the sturdy and youthful operatives to emigrate. The following letter was accordingly written to an agent in London :—

“COTTON OPERATIVES’ RELIEF COMMITTEE.

Lisburn, January 20, 1863.

“SIR,—I have read, in yesterday’s *Times*, a letter of yours, headed ‘Free Emigration to Queensland.’ As there are many young people in this part of Ulster who would gladly emigrate to that colony if they had the means, may

I request you would be good enough to let me have some definite information respecting the class of persons that would be taken on the free passage system.

“I am, &c.,

“H. M'CALL, Secretary.

“Henry Jordan, Esq.,
Emigration Agent,
17, Gracechurch Street,
London.”

It will be seen by the annexed reply to this letter that the fund from which the cost of sending emigrants to Queensland was to be defrayed had been raised for the special purpose of sending out Lancashire men :

“GRACECHURCH STREET,

“London, January, 23, 1863.

“SIR,—In reply to your inquiry relative to free emigration to Queensland, I have to inform you that such passages are only granted to operatives selected from the cotton districts of England, and from a fund collected for that purpose.

“I am, &c.,

“HENRY JORDAN.

“H. M'Call, Esq., Lisburn.”

The weather was very severe during the greater part of the month, and reports were sent in from the country telling of great distress there in relation to clothing. At one of the meetings of committee, Sir James M. Higginson, of Brookhill, stated that he had visited some cottages in his neighbourhood, and, by the appearance of the poor people there, he thought clothing was even more required than food itself. Mr. Richardson, of Lissue, also reported cases of destitution hardly credible, and of which only his own personal inspection would have led him to form any correct idea. In consequence of these and equally sad statements from other quarters, two hundred pairs of blankets were ordered from a Yorkshire house, and five thousand yards of linen were purchased and made up into inner clothing by the Ladies' Committee. All this supply of blankets, sheets, and other requisites was immediately distributed to the people who most required such gifts—the town getting one proportion, and the different country districts according to their wants.

The Central Committee, having, from the commencement of their duties, arranged that their weekly meetings should be held in the old News-room, Lisburn, every Tuesday morning, a large attendance of members met together at ten o'clock. Many of those gentlemen resided some miles away in the country; but so great was the interest evinced in the work, that when the stated hour arrived the president was always found in his seat, and very few of the other members were absent. Indeed it seemed as if, for the time being, personal consideration had given way to a higher order of feeling, and that the wide action of benevolence had imparted to those connected with the management of the business, a more than ordinary spirit of genuine catholicity.

Besides the attention paid to the distribution by the Committee, two officers—Messrs. Close and Wilson—were appointed at moderate salaries. The principal duties of these officers were to visit the houses of the persons receiving aid, to examine into each case for the purpose of seeing that it was such as had been represented, and to report on the general state of the people.

During the earlier proceedings of the Relief Committee many curious and highly-interesting traits of character were discovered. In some instances there was exhibited, even amid the temptations of poverty, a spirit of independence worthy the highest respect. One poor fellow, whose earnings at the loom only amounted to five shillings a week, out of which he had one shilling to pay for house rent, supported himself and two young children on the remainder; and as his wife was ill in the fever hospital, he had to look after the infants and cook his own meals, besides working at his web. Except some underclothing and a couple of blankets, this man did not receive, nor would he take, any aid from the Committee. Another weaver who had a web, for the weaving of which he was paid at the rate of 1s 10d the twelve-yard piece, worked fifteen hours a day, and when he retired to rest at night his wife wove till next morning, thus keeping the loom constantly going, and this alternate continuation of labour they maintained for three months, that they might not be obliged to seek charitable aid. A very poor man, nearly seventy years of age, was said to

be in want of bedclothing, and a member of the Committee called on him, and sent him a blanket and two sheets. Next day the old fellow waited on the donor, and, after expressing his thanks for the kindness that had been shown to him, handed back the gift, saying he would try to struggle through the difficulty without any outside aid. In another instance a weaver was called upon by one of the Committee and offered assistance. He declined accepting anything. "I feel greatly obliged to you, Sir," said he, "but, bad as the trade is, I am still able to earn four and sixpence a week at the loom, and having only myself and my wife to support, I can get on pretty well. Whatever I might obtain from you would only take away so much from people worse off than I am."

At one of the meetings held about the end of January, Mr. Richardson, of Springfield, stated that he had felt greatly annoyed by some attempts at imposition on the part of persons seeking relief. But he had no little pleasure in alluding to cases of a different class, and in which the honesty of industry was fully shown. In his locality there lived a family of three persons; the daily earnings of each of them was just fourpence. These people were offered rations of meal and coal, but refused to take either, so long as they could earn a shilling a day between them. Equally honourable was the conduct of a very poor weaver to whom he (Mr. R.) offered relief. The man said he did not require aid, as another member of Committee had already attended to his wants.

Many such instances of self-respect and sturdy independence might be given. But, on the other hand, there were some cases in which cunning was as largely practised. On the whole, however, and taking into account the wide area over which the distribution extended, instances of imposture were few when compared with the aggregate number of recipients.

As numbers of the higher class of merchants in the United States, and also in Canada, were natives of Lisburn or its neighbourhood, letters were written those gentlemen and papers sent to them relating to the local distress. To Mr. A. T. Stewart the following letter was posted:—

"COTTON OPERATIVES' COMMITTEE.

"January 21, 1863.

"DEAR SIR,—I take the liberty of sending you copies of last week's *Whig* and *News-Letter*, in which are given reports of the proceedings of our Relief Committee, as well as details of the great destitution that prevails around us. I am well aware that, long as has been your residence in New York, you have not forgotten your old associations with Lisburn, and your native place, Lissuc. Much of the distress that has fallen on the cotton weaving population here is to be seen within a certain circle of Pear Tree Hall—a place dear to your early recollections. Some hundreds of weavers, embroiderers, and tambourers in that part of the country have been out of work for the last three months. At best these people could have had little provision made for a time like the present, the scanty wages earned by them, even in good times, not being more than the amount required to meet the mere necessaries of every-day life. May I, therefore, hope that the generosity that marked your sympathies towards the suffering people of the West of Ireland in 1847 will prompt you to think of the fireless hearths and foodless homes of hosts of the industrious families of this town and the Maze in this time of sorrow and sadness.—I am, dear Sir, yours truly,

"HUGH McCALL.

"A T. Stewart, Esq.,
New York."

In addition to the above, the Secretary sent communications of a similar character to Mr. Walter Magee, of New York; to Mr. Thomas Richardson and Mr. Thomas O'Neill, of Philadelphia; as well as to each member of the Workman family in Montreal and Ottawa; and the Messrs. Boomer, of Toronto.

The applications for relief had increased very much before the end of the first month. Indeed these appeals, so urgently made, caused each member of committee to use every exertion for collecting funds, and in that charitable work the several firms of the Richardson family and the house of Messrs. Barbour & Sons rendered most efficient service.

It may here be observed that the Secretary thought it well to make out reports of all meetings of committee, detailing the progress of the work. Those reports were regularly given in the *Belfast News-Letter* and *Northern Whig*, and their publication had the best effect in keeping before the public full accounts of the prevailing distress among the weavers, and, at the same time, largely increasing the subscription list. Besides such local

influences, it was suggested that some history of the affairs should be sent to the *Times*, and, accordingly, the following communication was written and forwarded to the leading journal:—

D I S T R E S S I N L I S B U R N .

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

SIR,—May I request you would be good enough to let me have a portion of your space for the purpose of giving some detail of the lamentable condition to which the hand-loom weavers in this quarter have been reduced. It was not generally known on your side of the Channel, until a very recent date, that the cotton manufacture formed the chief source of employment for several thousands of people of both sexes, in Down and Antrim, and that hand-loom weaving of plain muslin and embroidery of goods were carried on here to an extent exceeding that of all the other parts of the kingdom put together. Lisburn, for nearly a century past, has been the great seat of Ireland's operative cotton trade. About the end of 1794 the late James Wallace erected in his cotton mill at Lisburn the first steam-engine ever seen in Ulster. A very large business was done here and in Belfast, the number of hands employed at the commencement of the present century having been about 20,000. The trade progressed slowly till 1823, when, to the dismay of the local manufacturers, Mr. Huskisson threw aside the fiscal barricades by which the Irish trade was protected against British competition, by a duty averaging 15 per cent. on all imports of cotton goods and yarns. No sooner, however, had the enterprise been left to itself than it rose rapidly, and labour being cheaper here than in Scotland, several of the Glasgow manufacturers sent agents over here to get the goods woven, and established depots for that purpose in different parts of the country, greatly to the advantage of the working ranks.

In addition to the hand-loom weavers, who were employed in vast numbers by Belfast and Glasgow firms, many thousands of women and girls were engaged in embroidering muslin. These latter-named workers, when well skilled, were able to earn excellent wages, and the result was to raise the condition of a large section

of the female population to a point of comfort that had never before been attained in Ireland. The American war, in addition to all other evils that followed in its train, deprived the great majority of these people of their sole means of employment. Not only was one principal outlet for the sale of muslins and calicoes partly sealed up, but supplies of raw material fell off, and, as a consequence, prices rose so high that manufacturers could not make goods to sell at a profit. On the poor weavers and embroiderers in the North of Ireland the result fell with great severity. Employment decreased until the ratio of the idle to those in work became in some parts of the country as five to one. Some idea of the state of the weaving ranks in Lisburn and its neighbourhood may be formed from the fact that eight manufacturing houses which, at the close of 1860, gave regular work to 10,000 hands, have not at present 1,000 looms in work. Ten Belfast firms that had 1,500 persons employed in Lisburn, the Maze, Broomhedge, and other localities, have only 300 weavers engaged at present, and many of the manufacturers have ceased to make goods altogether. This decrease of employment has been going on for nearly two years, and is now at the lowest point ever reached. In fact, whole families for weeks past have been eking out existence on a class of food which would hardly be given to the lower animals. I shall give a few cases:—One poor woman in the neighbourhood of the Maze, and who received relief off the Committee yesterday, has a sickly husband out of work and six small children. She declared that had it not been that a neighbour gave her some turnips which she had boiled and used as food, she and her children might have been lost—these turnips being the entire sustenance they had had from Saturday till Monday. In another instance a family of ten was found not only without food, but on being questioned on the matter, it turned out that not a single shirt or other article of body linen was among the wretched group. Inquiry having been made on this point in the next cabin that was examined, a poor fellow said that he and his wife had still some remnants of underclothing, but that of such necessaries the children were utterly destitute. Again, there is an almost total want of beds and bedding in the

habitations of the cotton weavers. In not a few cases a parcel of damp straw, without either sheet or blanket, forms the sole sleeping place of the father, mother, and two or three mere infants, each resting at night in the ragged garments worn by day. Even in the less destitute abodes of the operatives, the Committee found entire families without a single shred of blanket, an old sheet and quilt constituting the sole amount of bedclothes. One case there was where eight children, from the ages of four to eighteen, slept with the parents in the one department. The wages of the people in work are far below the lowest ever known. Not even in the former history of the labour market in the West of Ireland could sadder examples be found. It is not unusual to find men who must work at the loom fourteen hours a day to earn a net income of 4s per week—some make only 3s, and others again 2s 6d for six days work. In all their privations there has been kept up a spirit of independence, and a disposition to battle as long as possible against the inroads of want that seems almost incredible. It is quite usual to find families existing on a sort of gruel, made of the cheap description of Indian meal, and this only twice a day; others, again, have been living on boiled cabbage, with a little oatmeal shaken over it. In 1847 the farmers, who were not nearly so hard pushed as they are at present, had means to aid the poor around them; but this season, what with the defective corn crops and low rates for produce, very few of the small landholders are able to assist their distressed neighbours. Farm labourers, too, have been so much competed with by the weavers out of employment, that they are fast falling into a very low state of poverty. On Thursday last a public meeting was held in this town to raise funds in aid of the poor cotton weavers, and on that occasion £280 was subscribed. Since then further sums have been sent in, making the total this day £350. Of this aggregate one manufacturing house gave £95, and another family gave £120—each of them having liberally subscribed to the Lancashire fund a few weeks ago. An appeal on behalf of the distressed weavers has been made to the Marquis of Hertford, of whose splendid estate in this country Lisburn is the capital. No other property in this island has been more

advantaged by the working of the linen and cotton trades than that of the Hertford estate. It is, therefore, anticipated that his Lordship will contribute liberally on behalf of the poor people now suffering so much from the collapse in the cotton manufacture.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

HUGH M'CALL,

Secretary to the Relief Fund.

The wide circulation enjoyed by the leviathan of Printing House Square sent the tale of distress into quarters where the cotton weavers of Ulster had never before been heard of. Many benevolent persons resident in the British metropolis and other parts of the South of England wrote the Secretary for further information on the subject, and especially to learn how far the operations of the cotton manufactures entered into the general system of industry in and around Lisburn. Of course these communications were all replied to, and in nearly every instance the result was that of bringing additional contributions to the Relief Fund. Among the first of these was a gift of ten pounds, together with an interesting letter from Lord Portarlington, and in which his Lordship expressed the great sympathy he felt for the suffering people. It was very fortunate that during that season of suffering the price of food had become much cheaper than usual. Indian meal of good quality was purchased for distribution at £7 15s a ton; and prime oatmeal at £11 15s per ton; American flour sold at 19s 6d to 24s a barrel, and other articles of every-day use were equally moderate in price.

At the weekly meeting held on the 31st January, reports were read from the Secretary of the Ladies' Committee calling on the Central Committee to aid in giving relief in a form different from that of food. The Rev. Robert Lindsay said that the Ladies' Committee was most anxious to get material for making up clothing for poor women, the wives of cotton weavers. In the whole course of his experience, he added that he had never known

such want of night as well as day clothing in those parts of the town and country which were chiefly inhabited by weavers. Mr. J. N. Richardson supported the appeal made by Mr. Lindsay, adding that no time should be lost in making some arrangements for the increased distribution of blankets and sheets.

Mr. JOSEPH RICHARDSON begged to call the attention of his brother members of Committee to the great necessity which he saw every day for the supervision of a local inspector. He himself had not time to attend to all the cases of distress in his own part of the country, and he felt pretty certain that most other gentlemen present could say the same. In order, therefore, to avoid being imposed on by pretended claimants for aid, as well as to do full justice to real objects of distress, he would propose that a paid inspector be appointed for each district.

Sir JAMES M. HIGGINSON quite agreed with the previous speaker. The system of relief had become so complicated, there was so much to attend to, and the cry for help was so general, that the business could only be rightly accomplished by the assistance of accredited officers. In the course of a pretty general experience, gained during his residence in different parts of the world, he had always found that where certain work was to be accomplished, the sure mode of having it done well was to pay a fair remuneration to the employé. Let the persons, then, who might be appointed as inspectors, be fairly paid.

Doctor CAMPBELL said that, so far as Lisburn had been concerned, the plan of having inspectors at work had in other days proved most effective. It was, therefore, resolved that the proposition of Mr. Richardson be agreed to.

Letters from correspondents in distant parts of Ireland were read in course of the meeting, each of these enclosing cash orders for the assistance of the operatives. Mr. William Malcolmson, of Portlaw, sent ten pounds; and Mr. John Malcolmson, of Waterford, also contributed an equal sum to the treasury. During the early movements of the Relief Committee, the Secretary had written a short history of the distress in Lisburn, and sent it to the Rev. Beauchamp Stannus, A.M., rector of Woodbury, Salterton,

Exeter, and second son of the venerable the Dean of Ross. Almost immediately after the receipt of that communication, Mr. Stannus sent a five-pound Bank of England note as his own subscription, and with that donation the following letter was received :—

“ Woodbury, Salterton, Exeter,
Jan. 21st, 1863.

“ DEAR MR. M'CALL,—I had no idea until I received your letter and the papers you were good enough to send me, and which contained reports of the proceedings of your Committee, that the unemployed weavers of my native town and its neighbourhood were in such distress. Please hand the enclosed to Mr. Millar, your Treasurer, and be good enough to say to that gentleman that I will have great pleasure in trying to collect further subscriptions in aid of the sufferers from the benevolent in my parish.

“ Believe me, truly yours,

“ BEAUCHAMP STANNUS.

“ Hugh M'Call, Esq.”

From this time the claims of the Relief Fund became still more pressing, as the weather had set in with extra severity, and the cry for food from the sad homes of the poor was almost general. The distribution of blankets was pretty liberal, but in each case a personal examination of the homes of the claimants was made by members of Committee in order to avoid imposition.

Mr. Nussey, blanket manufacturer, of Yorkshire, writing on the 31st of January, announced that he had forwarded per Liverpool and Belfast steamer his contribution of ten pairs of blankets for the poor weavers.

The following extract, taken from a second communication forwarded to the Editor of the *Times*, will show how much was done for the distressed weavers, as well by the charitable people at home as by the benevolent at a distance :—

“ Scarcely had it become known that hosts of the industrious people here were in want and suffering, when liberal subscriptions were sent in to our Treasurer, most of them from different parts of England, and some from the South of Ireland. In one case the rector of a parish in Devonshire—a clergyman connected with Lisburn by early ties and associations—had not only given a

handsome donation to the fund for the aid of our people, but he is at present engaged in collecting subscriptions in his parish and among his friends outside for the same purpose. In another instance a gentleman residing in Paris, and who had not forgotten Lisburn as the home of his childhood, having seen in the *Times* some reports of the sufferings endured by our people, sent us a donation of £5, but with a request that his name should not be given. Several of the leading merchants of Liverpool are also busying themselves in raising funds. A large sum has already been collected there, and when the real condition of the poor in our cotton-weaving districts becomes more extensively known, there can be no doubt that still greater efforts will be made to assist the distress and desolation that so widely prevails in hut and hovel. As many errors exist respecting the extent to which the cotton trade has been carried on in Ulster, it may be well to make a few further statements on the subject. In my former letter I alluded to the fact that, from the advent of free trade in the cotton manufactures of the United Kingdom, the hand-loom department of weaving had been gradually concentrated in the district which lies within a certain circle around Lisburn. While the vast factories, with their thousands of power-looms, rose one after another in Glasgow; and while mechanical power in that wonderful emporium of scientific skill gradually absorbed a great proportion of the cotton manufacture, the production of muslins by hand became transferred from that city and its suburbs to this part of Ireland. In the meantime, the spinning of cotton yarn, once a very extensive source of enterprise in Lisburn and Belfast, fell off so rapidly that at present it forms only a fractional part of the trade. The classes of goods woven here were principally those intended for export. At one period, however, at least one-fifth of all the finer descriptions of Muslins were made for the embroidery houses, and sold to them in the grey state. Now, taking as an illustration the year 1853, a season of great activity in the sewed muslin trade, it will be far within the limits of the employment given that year to state that there were one hundred thousand hands engaged in that department of the manufacture, the estimate of wages paid among the

peasant girls of this country during those twelve months having been set down at three-quarters of a million sterling. One Glasgow firm was then paying for embroidery work and in wages to agents and other employé's in Ireland an average of £500 a day, an almost incredible amount of outlay, but, nevertheless, one which can be well authenticated. From that date, and until the Autumn of 1858, the fancy trade of muslin embroidering fell off very considerably; but with the improvement which then took place in general business, all sections of the cotton manufacture rose into greater activity, and at the end of 1860 the weaving of muslins occupied about twenty thousand hands, and the sewed muslin trade, with all its details and accessories, immediate and remote, employed fully eighty thousand people. Since that period the weaving of plain goods and the embroidering of muslins have been gradually declining. Large numbers of the operatives of both sexes have either left the country or got into some other mode of earning subsistence, but there still remains an immense population which has clung to the loom, the sewing hoop, and the tambour frame, even while the wages to be earned frequently fall below the sum paid to the Asiatic labourer. Some idea will be formed of the downward turn in the prices paid for weaving cotton goods during the last sixty years, from the fact that in 1802 £7 10s was paid for weaving, and £1 5s for winding the weft of a "set" of lawn of certain length, and that an equal length and similar description of web is at present being worked at £1 10s, weaving and winding included. The same class of work is, however, among the best that can be had, and fortunate is the operative who has the skill to weave or the interest to obtain one of those webs, as good hands can earn 7s 6d a week at them. But the majority of those in employment do not earn one-half that amount, and during the last ten days a still larger number of looms have been thrown idle. In fact, so long as raw material stands at its present rates, little improvement can be looked for in the trade. On an average, cotton has risen three hundred per cent., while in some cases the increased value of the finished article barely touches one hundred per cent. It is, therefore, quite impossible for the manufacturer to

sell his goods on terms proportionate to the cost of production, and consequently makers have little inducement to keep workpeople employed.

“Immense good has been done since the founding of the fund for the relief of poor people in this neighbourhood. Food, in the shape of Indian or oat meal, has been supplied twice a week to more than 2,000 families, and a weekly ration of coal is also added. This would be considered a very limited scale of relief in Lancashire, where the people had been used to ample supplies of pretty high-class diet; but in this neighbourhood, the cotton weavers have been so long living just inside the pale of poverty, that the rations are generally received with the utmost thankfulness. As in all such cases, there have been instances of imposition on the part of the recipients; but, on the other side of human nature, there have been found many admirable illustrations of honesty and self-reliance. In a district about three miles from Lisburn, a family of three persons earned only 4d. a day each. A gentleman who visited these poor people offered to have rations sent to them, but they honestly refused any relief, stating that they could live on 6s. a week till better times came round. In another case, an old man, nearly seventy years of age, was found weaving a web on which he could earn 1s. a day. He had a wife to support, and, when called on by a member of committee, he said he was glad to see relief given to those worse off than himself, but for the present he did not require aid. In addition to food and fuel, an arrangement has been made to distribute clothing among the people in the rural districts. Were I to state the real condition of hundreds of poor men, with their wives and children, it would appear astonishing how, in this wintry season, they are able to exist in low-lying, damp, and badly-ventilated cabins, and this, too, when the clothes they wear could hardly be called else than mere rags. One member of our committee examined the homes of fifty weavers, and of all these, only three possessed a single blanket for each. Were out-door labour practicable, a few of the idle could get employment, but such has been the unfavourable state of the weather, that farm labour is at a stand, thus adding hundreds of people to the list of the struggling and destitute.”

This second of the series of letters to the London *Times*, sent the news of the distress in Lisburn to still more distant parts of the Kingdom, and gave wider publicity to the facts connected with the state of the weavers in the cotton districts around that town. Many new friends were consequently added to those who had been enrolled as contributors, and before the Society had been more than four weeks in existence the subscription list showed a total contribution of more than one thousand pounds.

Messrs. Richardson, Spence & Co., of Liverpool, did good service to the great work, and by their influence much sympathy in favour of the poor operatives was produced in that maritime capital, and that sympathy displayed itself in the practical form of liberal contributions from the large-hearted merchants there.

Several members of committee having suggested that application should be made to Mr. Daniel James, chairman of the Liverpool Committee of the International Relief Committee, the following communication was forwarded to that gentleman, in the hope of obtaining from the Society of which he was president, some portion of the breadstuffs which a number of the generous citizens of the United States had sent over for the relief of the distress in Lancashire :—

“ Cotton Operatives’ Relief Committee,
“ Lisburn, Feb. 9, 1863.

“ DANIEL JAMES, Esq.

“ DEAR SIR,—One of our respected friends here has requested me to write you on the subject of our mission as collectors for the suffering cotton operatives in this part of Ulster. We are aware that the International Relief Committee got up some time ago in Liverpool has had to deal with the most wonderful visitation of distress ever known in the history of human suffering. Lancashire, the home of the cotton spindle and cotton loom, has been prostrated by the terrible results of the revolutionary war in America, and to the lasting honour of all ranks of those who had means of alleviating the effects of this calamity, the amplitude of benevolence has far exceeded anticipation. In this country we have not such resources; and although our own people of different grades have liberally contributed towards the relief fund, the great demands on us call for increased exertion to obtain support outside local boundaries. May I, therefore, request that you would be good enough to read this communication to your Committee, of which you are president, and give us your assistance in supporting our appeal. “ Believe me, truly yours,

“ HUGH M’CALL, Secretary.”

In a very few days after posting that letter, the annexed reply came to hand :—

“Liverpool Committee of International Relief Committee,
“ Feb. 12, 1863.

“ HUGH M'CALL, Esq.,

“ Secretary of Lisburn Relief Fund.

“ DEAR SIR,—I have great pleasure in stating that after laying before our Committee your letter relative to getting some aid for your suffering people, they have agreed to send you 100 barrels of flour. But before we can allocate further supplies, I have been requested to call on you to be good enough to give us further information respecting the extent of the distress, and the number of families who are now getting relief in your neighbourhood.

“ I am, dear Sir, yours,

“ DANIEL JAMES, Chairman.”

On receipt of the communication announcing the handsome gift, the following letter was sent to that gentleman :—

“Cotton Operatives' Relief Committee,
“ Lisburn, Feb. 19, 1863.

“ DANIEL JAMES, Esq., Liverpool.

“ DEAR SIR,—I have great pleasure in noting the receipt of 100 barrels of flour, which your Committee have kindly sent us in aid of the poor people here. Your query as to the number of persons receiving assistance from our society, I cannot reply to as I would wish, several of the sub-committees having yet to send in their weekly returns. Irrespective, however, of these, I find that in the last six days, we gave relief to upwards of one thousand families. And now, Sir, permit me to request, that you will say to your Committee how highly we estimate the ready response which they made to our appeal for aid, towards relieving from all but starvation the poor weavers around us. In late days England has ever been the first to aid the poor Irish, and now that an extraordinary calamity had fallen on the people in this part of Ulster, the promptitude shewn in sending the supplies of food is worthy the people of a great nation. Indeed, it may be questioned whether on any former occasion the spirit of English benevolence was ever shewn in greater strength than in this instance. Lisburn is little known in many parts of England, probably some of those who have contributed so generously to our funds had never before heard of this seat of Ulster's cotton trade.

“ Believe me, truly yours,

“ H. M'CALL.”

In addition to the direct gifts of food and money sent the managers of the Relief Fund, there were many instances of

generosity shewn in other cases. When it became known that the good people of the Liverpool Committee were about to act so liberally, a question arose as to the conveyance across Channel of such gifts as they might set apart for that purpose.

Application was, therefore, made to Mr. John M'Kee, Belfast, agent of the Belfast and Liverpool Steamship Company, and in due course that gentleman replied, to say that the directors of his Board would carry, free of charge, from Liverpool to Belfast, any moderate quantity of breadstuffs sent from the former port for the relief of the Lisburn cotton operatives. The Secretary at once advised Mr. James of this act of liberality on the part of the Belfast Steamship Company. He had also the pleasure of reporting a notification from the Directors of the Ulster Railway, that they would carry free over their line any goods or breadstuffs which benevolent individuals at a distance might forward the Committee for distribution.

Some changes having been made in the Committee from the date of its first formation, we here give the names of the gentlemen acting as members at the end of February, 1863 :—

Sir J. M. Higginson, K.C.B.
 John D. Barbour, M.P.
 Walter T. Stannus, J.P.
 William Barbour, J.P.
 Jonathan Richardson, J.P.
 David Beatty
 Dr. Musgrave
 Dr. Campbell
 Joshua Lamb
 Rev. H. Hodson
 Rev. Dr. M'Kay
 Rev. R. Lindsay

David Carlile
 Rev. W. Breakey
 Rev. E. Kelly, P.P.
 Rev. M. M'Kay
 Rev. D. J. Clarke
 Bennet Megarry
 James Megarry
 George Pelan
 Robert Allister
 R. Jefferson
 John Sloan
 J. Bradbury

J. J. RICHARDSON, J.P., Chairman.
 JOHN MILLAR, Treasurer.
 HUGH M'CALL, Secretary.

If any additional proof were required to show how much real good and widely disinterested kindness abounds in what some clergymen call "this wicked world," the wonderful efforts made in 1862 and '63 to aid the sufferers prostrated by the Cotton Famine would finally settle the question. It would seem that in that terrible time the very exercise of benevolence had increased the disposition of its votaries to be more generous ; for it was

found that in many cases those persons who had done most for the sufferers of Lancashire were the largest contributors towards the fund for the aid of the poor weavers and other operatives in the cotton districts of Ulster.

It has been stated that letters were written by the Secretary to several mercantile gentlemen in New York and Philadelphia, for the purpose of enlisting their sympathies in favour of the poor people then enduring such distress. One of the gentlemen to whom application was made (Mr. Walter Magee, of the firm of Messrs. Campbell, Magee, & Co., New York, himself a native of Lisburn) took the utmost interest in the affair. He called on the principal merchants of that city and gave those gentlemen some details of the sad condition to which the people who worked at the cotton trade in this part of Ulster had been reduced by the Cotton Famine. Mr. Thomas Richardson, of the firm of Messrs. Richardson, of Philadelphia, and Mr. Thomas O'Neill, of the same city, were also Lisburn men, and each of those merchants effectively exerted himself in the benevolent work.

The letter sent Mr. James, of Liverpool, on the 19th, had been promptly acted on, as will be seen by the annexed communication—

“Liverpool Committee of International Relief Committee,
“Feb. 21st, 1863.

“HUGH M'CALL, Esq.,

“Secretary of Lisburn Relief Fund.

“DEAR SIR,—As per advice note on the other side, we have forwarded to your address, by this night's steamer, a second instalment of one hundred barrels of flour ex 'George Griswold,' which is hoped will arrive safely. We purpose sending you about five hundred barrels more, in such lots as may suit the agents of steamers, but so as to make up the number allotted to your district by this Committee.

“I am, dear Sir,

“DANIEL JAMES, Chairman.”

To this letter the Secretary replied as follows :—

“Cotton Operatives' Relief Committee,
“Lisburn, Feb. 22, 1863.

“DEAR SIR,—I have just received your very welcome letter, advising me of the shipment of a further lot of flour for the assistance of the distressed weavers here.

“Once again permit me, on behalf of those poor people, and in the name of our Committee, to thank you for all this amount of broad benevolence on the part of that Relief Fund of which you are Chairman. I hope that the people of Lancashire, as well as those of Down and Antrim, now also suffering from the effects of the cotton famine, will never forget the open hands and kind hearts on both sides the Atlantic, which have contributed so liberally for the relief of the distress and suffering that exist here and in your part of England.

“Believe me, your obedient servant,

“HUGH M'CALL, Secretary.

“Daniel James, Esq.”

On the 27th of February, the following letter was received from Mr. Daniel James :—

“Liverpool, February 26, 1863.

“DEAR SIR,—We have forwarded to your address, by this evening's Belfast Steamer, 167 bags of Indian corn, for the relief of distress in your district and its neighbourhood. It will gratify us if you be good enough to allocate a fair proportion of this corn to the Relief Committee at Newtownards, and a like share to the Committee of Relief appointed for Ballymacarrett; the remainder you can apply to the use of your own people. We thought better to send all to you, and let you divide it, rather than make three shipments of the lot. It is a part of the George Griswold's cargo. You will have some parcels of flour by next steamer. Hoping this corn will arrive safe to hand, and that it may be acceptable to all,

“I remain yours,

“DANIEL JAMES.

“Hugh M'Call, Esq.”

By the next post, the Secretary wrote in reply thanks to Mr. James, and requesting that gentleman to convey the hearty acknowledgments of the Lisburn Committee to his Committee for their great kindness, adding that he (the Secretary) would attend to his request as to the Newtownards and Ballymacarrett Committee. The following was written the Rev. Mr. Roe, Secretary of the Ballymacarrett Committee :—

“Lisburn, February 27, 1863.

“DEAR SIR,—I have this day been advised by Daniel James, Esq., Chairman of the International Relief Committee of Liverpool, that he had shipped by one of the Belfast Steamers, 167 bags of Indian corn, to be applied for relief of the distress among the cotton weavers. Mr. James requests me to apportion this gift fairly between Ballymacarrett, Newtownards, and Lisburn.

With the sanction and advice of our Chairman and Committee, I have thus arranged the distribution—Fifty bags of corn to your Relief Committee; forty bags to Newtownards; and the remainder to Lisburn, our district having by far the greatest amount of distress to relieve. As the corn is at present lying at the goods sheds of the Belfast Steamship Company, which has kindly carried all such contributions free of charge, I shall feel indebted by you having your share removed at your earliest convenience. I enclose order for its delivery.

“I am, dear Sir,

“HUGH M'CALL,

“Rev. Mr. Roe, Ballymacarrett.”

By the same post a letter was sent to the Newtownards Relief Committee, advising the members that forty bags of corn were lying for them at Donegall Quay, Belfast, and urging the immediate removal of the gift.

Mr. Walter Magee was one of the most energetic of New York merchants, and immediately on receipt of the Secretary's letter he lost no time in making known to the philanthropic men of that city the distress under which one class of people in his native place was then suffering. How successful he had been in his appeal will be seen by the following letter:—

“48, Murray Street, New York,

“Feb. 20, 1863.

“DEAR SIR,—I have collected about sixteen hundred dollars to be distributed between the poor weavers of Lisburn and Lurgan. The money would have been sent you by this mail, but exchange has suddenly advanced about eight per cent., and in consequence it has been thought well to wait a week, as I think the exchange will then be lower than it is to-day. When I send you the cash I will give you the names of the gentlemen who have subscribed to the fund.

“Believe me, very truly yours,

“WALTER MAGEE.

“Hugh M'Call, Esq.”

By the succeeding mail from the Empire City, a letter arrived enclosing bank bills to the amount noted, and with that communication there came the following list of subscribers:—

William Watson ...	...	dols.	500	Richard Bell ...	...	dols.	50
J. & J. Stewart & Co. ...	...	500	John M'Convill ...	...	...	25	
Campbell, Magee, & Co. ...	...	300	Edward Armstrong	...	...	25	
Henry L. Hoguet ...	...	100	W. G. Townley ...	...	...	25	
Eugene Kelly ...	...	50	William Whitewell	...	...	25	



CHAPTER IV.

SUCH was the result of our application to the citizens of New York. But besides these sums so readily contributed, the princely munificence of Mr. A. T. Stewart (noted in another part of this little work) enabled the Committee to extend the operations of the charity far beyond anything they could have anticipated. In the meantime, the people of Philadelphia had not been idle. Mr. Thomas O'Neill, to whom the Secretary had written on the subject, called on several friends, and after some consultation it was arranged that a public meeting should be held, and the matter fully discussed there. The following extract from the Philadelphia Press gives the chief points of the proceedings on that occasion :—

“Yesterday, a meeting, under the presidency of Archibald Getty, Esq., was held in the Corn Exchange, to consider the best means of alleviating the distress that exists among the cotton operatives of Lisburn, Ireland. The first speaker was Doctor S. Mackenzie, who gave a full detail of the terrible state of poverty to which the weavers and embroiderers connected with the cotton trade in and around Lisburn had been reduced in consequence of the war then going on between the Northern and Southern States of America. He (the Doctor) had seen letters on the subject, and he believed that the people who had been brought up to the cotton trade in the part of Ireland to which he alluded, had borne in silence the greatest privations, in consequence of the stagnation of trade at the loom and the sewing hoop. Those who know the habits of the working classes in the North of Ireland, need not be told of their natural love of independence, and how severe must

have been their distress when they let the world hear of its effects. At the time he was speaking, there were hundreds of families in that part of Ulster, which were on the very verge of starvation; and it was only when fireless hearths and foodless homes could no longer be borne with, that their privations were made known."

"Mr. Thomas O'Neill said he did not intend to add much to what had been said by Dr. Mackenzie. Early in the week he had received a letter from Mr. M'Call, Secretary of the Relief Fund, and from that communication he would just read one passage:—'You will see by the reports in the papers I send with this that the war on your side of the Atlantic has created great distress among the cotton operatives in this quarter. Are there any other Lisburn folk beside yourself and Mr. Thomas Richardson in the city on the Delaware? If so, perhaps you could raise a few pounds for us. Everything helps in such a calamity. All the suffering said to be endured by the Lancashire people would fall far short of that borne in this part of Ireland.' On receipt of this communication, which told so much in so few words, he (Mr. O'Neill) had called on some of his brother citizens, and each of them expressed himself gratified to hear that arrangements were being made for the purpose of doing something in the case. He was glad to see by the number of friends present that the subject had been taken up in a right spirit.

"Mr. E. G. James, of the firm of Messrs. Thomas Richardson & Co., said he felt much pleasure in attending the meeting. The senior partner of his house had been unable, from a prior engagement, to be present, but he had requested him to say he would gladly contribute to the fund about to be raised. He (Mr. James) had no doubt that, if a general call were made on the merchants of Philadelphia they would heartily respond, and he had no doubt that five thousand dollars could easily be raised. He, therefore, moved that a committee be nominated to take active measures for the carrying out of the project. The motion was unanimously agreed to, and the President accordingly appointed the following gentlemen:—Edward G. James, Geo. A. M'Kinstry, Hugh Craig,

R. A. M'Henry, C. J. Hoffman, Dr. R. Shelton Mackenzie, Geo. Raphael, Charles Knecht, Edmund A. Souder, Joseph W. Millar, and Thomas O'Neill."

It will be seen by the annexed list of subscriptions raised in Philadelphia, how well the good citizens of that famous seat of commerce responded to the call of humanity on that occasion :—

	dols.		dols.
John A. Brown	500	Mercer & Antelo	50
Peter Wright & Sons	100	Massy Collins & Co....	50
George Bullock	100	And C. Craig & Co.	50
Wray & Gillilan	100	David Graham & Co.	50
Jacob T. Alburger & Co.	100	Booth & Kennedy	25
Edmund A. Souder & Co.	100	George A. M'Kinstry	25
Thomas Richardsen & Co.	100	Joseph Wm. Miller	25
Proprietors of Girard House	100	George Whitely	25
A. R. M'Henry	100	Josiah Bryan	25
Alex. G. Cattell & Co.	100	D. B. Kershaw & Co.	25
J. A. Dogherty & Sons	100	Workman & Co.	25
Cope Brothers	100	John Wood & Co.	25
Henry Cope	100	J. H. Michener & Co.	25
Alfred Cope	100	Angier Hugel & Co....	25
Morris Tasker & Co....	100	John Barnett	25
John Woodside & Co.	100	William W. Cookman	25
Henry Windsor	100	William Brice & Co.	25
R. F. Lepper	100	Mackey & Hogg	25
James H. Orne	100	James Steel	25
R. Patterson	100	H. J. Adams & Co.	25
Riddle & Leich	100	S. Morris Wain	25
John Gibson, Sons & Co.	100	H. & H. W. Catherwood ..	25
H. Craig & Co.	100	James A. Hull & Co.	25
W. S. Smyth & Co.	100	James P. Perot & Brothers	25
S. & J. M. Flannigan	100	John Hartman	25
S. & W. Welsh	100	W. Taylor & Co.	20
Eliza P. Gurney	100	Robert Creighton	20
George Raphael & Co.	50	T. M. Apple	15
John R. Penrose	50	W. Sanderson & Son... ..	10
Adam Moffitt... ..	50	Captain James Snow	10
Robert Taylor & Co.	50	W. Duke Murphy	10
Charles Kelly... ..	50	J. B. Lippencott	10
Pritchett Baugh & Co.	50	L. E. Ballard	10
Hay & M'Devitt	50	P. B. Mingle & Co.	10
Samuel Riddle	50	Buzly & Co.	10
James Graham	50	Cask	10
M'Cutcheon & Collins	50	Mrs. J. B. Vanosten... ..	10
C. J. Hoffman	50	John M. Smiley	10
Alexander Young	50	Malone & Co.	10
William B. Thomas	50	A Lady	5
Charles Cummings	50	A Lady	5
Alexander Heron, jun.	50	Andrew Alleson	5
James Alderice	50	Francis O'Connor	5
William M. Baird	50	Stephen Carr... ..	5
Thomas Clyde	50	A. Groves, jun.	5
William P. Clyde	50	George Read	5
Wilmon Whilden	50	J. Agnew	1
William M'Kee	50	Joseph D. & Mary D. Brown, }	151
Thomas Sparks	50	by Hands of Dilwin Parish }	

The lists of contributions from the benevolent and generous citizens of New York and Philadelphia tell in language easy to understand how much real charity may be found in all lands. If the right chord be only touched, a hearty response to any appeal made on behalf of those who are bowed down by sorrow and suffering is rarely refused. Ireland owes much to America, but in few instances had the people of the wide land of Columbia shewn the depth of their kindness to the small Isle of the West so promptly as during the Cotton Famine.

At the general meeting of the Relief Committee, held on Tuesday, the 10th of February, 1863, Sir JAMES MACAULEY HIGGINSON, C.B., in the chair,

The Rev. EDWARD KELLY, P.P., gave some sketch of a visit he had paid to the homes of some of the people in Chapel Hill, Long Stone, and the lanes leading from those streets. He said there was great want of bed-clothing in the houses of many families, and he would suggest that members of the Ladies' Committee should be requested to look after these people. It was well known how much good had arisen from the exertions put forth by that Committee; in fact, it had done work which could hardly be said to be in the way of their other friends doing; and if the matter to which he alluded were placed in the hands of the ladies, he was certain the poor people would have their wants fully attended to.

The SECRETARY said that his friend Father Mooney had that morning called his attention to the subject alluded to by the Rev. Mr. Kelly; and as that gentleman had special opportunities of forming correct opinions on the matter, he felt assured the Committee would attend to it.

Mr. GEORGE PELAN bore testimony to the great exertions made by the Catholic curate. He said Mr. Mooney's attention to the poor—not only of his own Church, but of all other creeds—was worthy his character as a Christian minister. More than one gentleman in town had spoken to him on the subject; and he (Mr. Pelan) was glad to have the opportunity of alluding to the promptitude and energy displayed by the Rev. Mr. Mooney in furthering the objects of the Relief Committee.

Ordered, that the Secretary write at once to the Ladies' Committee on the matter brought forward by the Rev. Mr. Kelly.

The Secretary here handed in a letter from the Rev. Beauchamp Stannus, Rector of Woodbury, Salterton, Exeter, and in which was enclosed a cash order for £17 9s 2d, amount of subscriptions which that gentleman had collected from the good people of his parish as their contributions to the Relief Fund.

Mr. MILLAR said that much satisfaction and no little grateful feeling had been expressed out of doors at the liberality with which their friends in England had strengthened the hands and increased the funds of the Relief Committee. Contributions from many sources had been sent to them, and he was glad to see that in not a few of these instances old associations were not forgotten, and that was especially the case with the Rev. B. Stannus. That gentleman was born and had been brought up in Lisburn; and though many years had passed since he left for England, he had not lost any of his early attachment to his native place. He begged to propose the following resolution :—

“That the best thanks of the Lisburn Relief Committee be given to the Rev. Beauchamp Stannus, not only for his own liberal contribution to our Fund, but also for his kindness in collecting subscriptions in his own neighbourhood. And we gratefully acknowledge the benevolence of those ladies and gentlemen of Woodbury and its neighbourhood who have so readily responded to the call of their rector.”

The Rev. DAVID J. CLARKE said he could only express his entire concurrence in all the Treasurer had stated respecting the kindness of the Rector of Woodbury, Salterton, and those benevolent friends of charity who had contributed their subscriptions. The fraternal feeling displayed in that trying time would not, he hoped, soon be forgotten. All difference of creed and country seemed to have been cast aside, and nations had joined in shewing how much good there is in the world, after all that may be said to the contrary. He had great pleasure in seconding the resolution.

Sir JAS. M. HIGGINSON said that, as Chairman of the meeting, he had great pleasure in putting the question. But, independent of his position on that occasion, he was really proud to observe how fully the very kindly spirit in which the Rev. B. Stannus had taken up the subject, had been recognized by the Committee. He would just add a request, that the Secretary should send a copy of the resolution to the proper quarter.

Passed unanimously.

Mr. JOHN SLOAN, of Plantation House, said he could hardly state how very much gratified he felt in thinking of the readiness with which the generous-hearted people of that and other countries had entered into the good work of aiding the poor weavers. England had, indeed, been very kind. He, himself, had been engaged in manufacturing muslins as agent for a leading house in Glasgow during a period exceeding thirty years, and never recollected such a season of suffering among the working ranks as that through which they were then passing. In his own neighbourhood the people had been nearly lost for want of both food and clothing before the Committee commenced operations. He understood from the Secretary that nine hundred families, comprising about four thousand people of different ages, had received rations of food and coal in the previous week. That fact alone was sufficient to call forth the practical sympathy of all who had means to bestow on their suffering brethren.

Having given a pretty full statement of the subscriptions raised in America, we shall now take the list of names and contributions of the friends of the Fund in Lisburn and other parts of Ireland, as well as those of Great Britain and the Continent. In the first edition of this little work only the names of those who subscribed five pounds and upwards were published; but Mr. Millar having suggested that it might be well to give the entire list, and that gentleman having made out a complete copy of the whole, a full statement is now annexed:—

Leeds Relief Fund (per Mayor of Leeds)	£200	0	0
J. N. Richardson, Sons, & Owden	50	0	0
John D. Barbour, Fort House	50	0	0
Friends' Committee, Manchester	50	0	0
S. & T. Barbour, Hilden	25	0	0
Jonathan Richardson, J.P., Lambeg	25	0	0
Thomas Bateson, Belvoir	25	0	0
J. J. Richardson, J.P., Kircassock	20	0	0
Captain Ward, Lisburn	20	0	0
Sir J. M. Higginson, K.C.B., Brookhill	20	0	0
J. N. Richardson, Lissue... ..	20	0	0
Joshua P. Richardson, Wilmont	20	0	0
Robert Barbour, Hilden	20	0	0
Yates, Brown, & Howat, Glasgow	20	0	0
Barkley & M'Gregor	20	0	0
John Owden, Seapark	20	0	0
Richardson, Spence & Co., Liverpool	20	0	0
W. Inman, do.	20	0	0
Samuel Martin, do.	20	0	0
Brown, Shipley & Co., do.	20	0	0
David Malcolmsen, do.	20	0	0
David Stewart, do.	20	0	0
Segar & Tunnicliffe, do.	20	0	0
Contributed by Hilden Operatives	19	0	0
Collected at Woodbury, Salterton, Exeter, by the Rev. B. Stannus	17	9	1
Contributed by Glenmore Operatives	14	19	2
By Island Mill Operatives... ..	12	15	0
The Dean of Ross, Lisburn	10	0	0
T. R. Stannus, do.	10	0	0
Rev. Hartley Hodson	10	0	0
Joshua Pim	10	0	0
William Charley, J.P., Seymour Hill	10	0	0
Richard Bell, Belfast	10	0	0
J. & R. Workman, do.	10	0	0
Workman & Sons, do.	10	0	0
The Earl of Portarlington... ..	10	0	0
William Malcolmsen, Portlaw	10	0	0
John Malcolmsen, Waterford	10	0	0
Black & Wingate, Glasgow	10	0	0
Paterson, Jamieson & Co., do.	10	0	0
Anderson & Gray, do.	10	0	0
R. C. Aiken & Co., do.	10	0	0

Miss Wakefield	£10 0 0
Admiral Sir George Seymour, London	10 0 0
Rev. Alexander Orr, Salehurst, Hurst Green	10 0 0
R. L. Chance, Birmingham	10 0 0
"In Memoriam," Paris	10 0 0
W. G. Malcomson, Liverpool	10 0 0
Andrew Malcomson	10 0 0
Operatives of Messrs. Bell & Calvert's Mill, Whitehouse ...	7 11 0
George Fairley, Paisley	6 0 0
R. Workman & Co., Belfast	6 0 0
A. Meinnollf & Co., Hamburg, through W. Barbour, J.P. ...	5 12 0
Rev. B. Stannus, Woodbury, Salterton, Exeter	5 0 0
William Gregg, J.P., Derrievolgie..	5 0 0
W. T. Stannus, J.P., Manor House, Lisburn	5 0 0
J. W. Fulton, J.P., Braidjule	5 0 0
Mrs. Carleton, Rosevale	5 0 0
Matthew J. Smith	5 0 0
David Beatty	5 0 0
John Sloan, Plantation House	5 0 0
A. Macartney	5 0 0
David Carlisle	5 0 0
Robert Stewart	5 0 0
John Millar	5 0 0
Hugh M'Call	5 0 0
Robert Alistar	5 0 0
James Millen	5 0 0
W. Thompson, M.D.	5 0 0
Hugh Seeds	5 0 0
William Nicholson	5 0 0
John Roberts, J.P.	5 0 0
Mr. Hamilton, Woodbury, Exeter	5 0 0
A. Mohnlman, Hamburg, by William Barbour, J.P.	5 0 0
Wakefield, Nash & Co., Liverpool... ..	5 0 0
William Gardner, do.	5 0 0
Mrs. Smyth, Clifton, Bristol	5 0 0
A Foreign Friend	5 0 0
Forster Green, Belfast... ..	5 0 0
Mr. Corbet, do.	5 0 0
R. Macauley & Sons, do.	5 0 0
Dr. Andrews, do.	5 0 0
William Brown, Holywood	5 0 0
Mrs. Malcomson, Lisnagarvy House	5 0 0

John Richardson, jun.	...	...	...	...	...	£5	0	0
William Graham	...	...	...	...	...	5	0	0
William Coulson	...	...	...	...	...	5	0	0
Bennett Megarry	..	...	...	..	...	5	0	0
Colonel Garrett	...	...	...	...	..	5	0	0
John Birney	...	...	...	...	...	5	0	0
Mrs. Whitla	...	...	...	...	...	5	0	0
Richard Niven	...	...	...	...	...	5	0	0
Employés of Black & Wingate, Glasgow	...	...	...	...	...	5	0	0
Joshua P. Richardson	...	...	...	...	...	4	0	0
Mrs. Charrington, Surrey...	...	...	...	..	...	4	0	0
Major General Boyd, Bath	...	...	...	..	...	3	0	0
Snowden Corken	...	...	...	...	...	3	0	0
Miss Batt, Kingstown	...	...	...	...	...	3	0	0
Robert Neill, Mossvale	..	...	...	...	...	3	0	0
Michael Andrews, jun.	...	...	...	...	...	3	0	0
Rev. Dr. M'Kay	...	...	...	...	...	3	0	0
Lagan Navigation Company	...	...	...	...	...	3	0	0
Dr. Musgrave	...	...	...	..	...	3	0	0
Rev. Maurice M'Kay	...	...	...	...	...	3	0	0
Mrs. Maxwell, High Riding	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	0
H. & W. Seeds, Belfast	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	0
Captain Allan Millar, R.E.	...	...	...	...	...	2	0	0
Dr. James Patton	..	...	...	...	...	2	0	0
Mrs. Henry Hunter, Bath	...	...	...	...	...	2	0	0
John Bradbury	...	...	...	...	...	2	0	0
Henry J. Garrett	...	...	...	..	...	2	0	0
Mrs. Edgar	...	...	...	...	...	2	0	0
James Mussen	...	...	...	...	...	2	0	0
Captain Bolton, R.N.	...	...	...	...	...	2	0	0
Mrs. Vaughan	...	...	...	...	...	2	0	0
F. D. Finlay, <i>Northern Whig</i>	...	...	...	...	...	2	0	0
William Bullick	..	...	...	...	...	2	0	0
Adam Blackburn	...	..	...	...	...	2	0	0
Mrs. Eliza Richardson	...	...	...	..	...	2	0	0
Lindsay Brothers, Belfast	...	...	...	...	...	2	0	0
Rev. James Hall, Limerick	...	...	...	...	...	2	0	0
Richard Allen, Dublin	...	..	...	...	...	2	0	0
Mrs. Mussenden...	...	...	...	...	...	2	0	0
Miss Cupples	..	...	...	...	...	2	0	0
A Friend	...	...	...	...	..	2	0	0
James Frazer	...	...	...	...	...	2	0	0

Mrs. Mitchell, Whiteabbey	...	..	...	...	...	£2	0	0
William Gilbert, Belfast	...	...	...	...	...	2	0	0
Joseph Magill, do.	...	..	..	...	...	2	0	0
Edward Charley	...	...	...	...	...	2	0	0
William John Magee	...	...	...	...	..	2	0	0
Mrs. Campbell, Cheltenham	..	...	...	...	...	2	0	0
Mrs. Dr. Pirrie, Belfast	..	...	...	...	...	2	0	0
Dr. George Whitla, R.A.	...	...	...	...	...	2	0	0
H. & W. Barcroft, Tyrone	...	...	...	...	...	1	10	0
Rev. William Breakey	...	...	...	...	..	1	10	0
George Duncan	...	...	...	...	...	1	10	0
Collected at Tottenham School, by Fred. C. Richardson	..					1	7	0
Henry T. Higginson, J.P.	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	0
W. Irving, Workington	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	0
Dr. Neilson Hancock, Dublin	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	0
Alexander O'Rorke, Belfast	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	0
H. & J. M'Cavana, do.	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	0
Rev. E. Kelly, P.P.	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	0
Rev. J. Mooney, C.C.	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	0
Rev. Robert Lindsay	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	0
Dr. M'Harg	..	...	...	...	...	1	0	0
Joseph Turner	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	0
W. S. Darkin	...	..	...	...	...	1	0	0
Thomas M'Creight	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	0
George Wilson	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	0
George Stephenson	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	0
Dr. Campbell	..	...	...	...	...	1	0	0
William Young	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	0
Alfred Millar	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	0
George Pelan	...	...	...	..	...	1	0	0
Samuel Kennedy	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	0
George Thompson	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	0
David Mack	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	0
John Finlay	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	0
Rev. D. J. Clarke	...	..	..	...	...	1	0	0
Redmond Jefferson	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	0
Thomas Swan	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	0
Thomas R. Pelan	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	0
James Megarry	...	...	...	..	...	1	0	0
Samuel Graham	...	..	...	...	...	1	0	0
John M'Bride	..	...	...	...	...	1	0	0
James Savage	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	0

Mrs. Ruth Clibborn	...	...	...	...	£1 0 0
Henry Calwell, Monkstown	...	...	...	...	1 0 0
Mrs. Donaldson, Cavanamore	...	...	...	...	1 0
Miss Annie Maine	...	...	...	...	1 0
Professor James Thompson	...	...	...	...	1 0 0
Rev. Samuel Dunlop	...	...	...	...	1 0 0
Lieutenant Roney	...	...	...	...	1 0 0
John Frazer	...	...	...	...	1 0 0
William Kelsey	...	...	...	...	1 0 0
Second Lurgan Presbyterian Congregation	...	...	...	...	1 0 0
W., per Messrs. Richardson, Spence & Co.	...	...	...	...	1 0 0
George Thompson	...	...	...	...	1 0 0
Dr. M'Cartney	...	...	...	...	1 0 0
Directors Northern Bank :—					
Hugh Montgomery	...	...	...	...	2 0 0
James Bristow	...	...	...	...	2 0 0
James T. Bristow	...	...	...	...	2 0 0
William Valentine	...	...	...	...	2 0 0
W. S. Crawford...	...	...	...	...	1 0 0
Collected by Mrs. Clibborn :—					
The Misses Rowley, Dublin	...	...	...	...	2 0 0
Victor Coates, Belfast	...	...	...	...	2 0 0
Mrs. Eben Pike, Cork	...	...	...	...	1 0 0
Laura and Alice Pim	...	...	...	...	0 15 11
A Friend on the Coal Quay	...	...	...	...	0 13 0
W. Wilson	...	...	...	...	0 10 0
John Flynn	...	...	...	...	0 10 0
Robert Culbert	...	...	...	...	0 10 0
George Briggs	...	...	...	...	0 10 0
Malcomson Greeves	...	...	...	...	0 10 0
James Murray	...	...	...	...	0 10 0
An Englishman's Wife	...	...	...	...	0 10 0
Arthur Tinsley	...	...	...	...	0 10 0
Alexander M'Cann	...	...	...	...	0 10 0
Edward Higginson	...	...	...	...	0 10 0
John Stevenson	...	...	...	...	0 10 0
David M'Blain	...	...	...	...	0 10 0
Joseph Hall	...	...	...	...	0 10 0
Robert Mulholland	...	...	...	...	0 10 0
George Wilson, Belsize	...	...	...	...	0 10 0
William Foote	...	...	...	...	0 10 0
R. & W, Reid	...	...	...	...	0 10 0

James Phillips	£0	10	0
Samuel Young	0	10	0
Rev. Mr. Rich, Brighton..	0	10	0
Mercer Rice	0	10	0
Alexander Boyd... ..	0	10	0
Thomas Silcock... ..	0	10	0
Joseph M'Clure	0	10	0
Robert H. Neill... ..	0	10	0
Mrs. Watson	0	10	0
Gregg Brothers	0	10	0
Mrs. Armstrong... ..	0	10	0
Adam M'Clure	0	10	0
J. & R. Turner	0	10	0
Deane C. Taylor	0	10	0
William Clarke	0	10	0
William M'Comb, Belfast...	0	10	0
John Connor	0	10	0
Robert Reid	0	10	0
Rev. J. Brown	0	10	0
Ralph Jefferson	0	10	0
Robert Jefferson..	0	10	0
Patrick Fleming... ..	0	10	0
Joshua Corkin	0	10	0
Thomas Nuckle... ..	0	10	0
John Corkin	0	10	0
John Major	0	10	0
John Simpson	0	10	0
John Connor	0	10	0
W. J. Murdoch	0	10	0
David M'Lean	0	10	0
Robert M'Murray	0	10	0
George Carson	0	10	0
Thomas Carson	0	10	0
Richard Murdoch	0	10	0
William Mussen ..	0	10	0
John Gilliland	0	10	0
David Boal	0	10	0
John Douglas	0	10	0
Jacob Green	0	10	0
Abraham Green... ..	0	10	0
Isaac Bell	0	10	0
John Turtle	0	10	0

Samuel Duffield...	...	...	...	...	...	£0 10 0
Richard Fair ...	..	...	...	...	...	0 10 0
James Hutchinson	...	...	...	...	...	0 10 0
David Braithwaite	...	...	...	...	...	0 10 0
Thomas Dunlop...	...	...	...	...	...	0 10 0
Thomas Hickey...	...	...	...	...	...	0 10 0
Joseph Scandrett	...	..	...	...	...	0 10 0
John Anderson ..	...	...	..	...	...	0 10 0
James Murray ...	...	...	...	...	...	0 10 0
William Gray ...	...	...	...	..	...	0 10 0
Thomas Quin ...	...	...	...	...	...	0 10 0
Governor and Female Pupils at Friends' School	...	...	...	...	...	0 8 0
John Smith ...	...	...	...	...	...	0 7 0
James Braithwaite	...	...	...	...	...	0 5 0
Miss M'Kee ...	...	...	...	...	...	0 5 0
M. & J. M'Cloy...	...	...	...	...	...	0 5 0
Peter Connery ..	...	...	...	...	...	0 5 0
William Dunwood	...	...	...	...	...	0 5 0
Samuel M'Connell	...	...	...	...	..	0 5 0
John Heaney ...	...	...	..	...	...	0 5 0
G. A. R. (per <i>News-Letter</i>)	...	...	...	...	..	0 5 0
William Fleming	...	...	...	...	...	0 5 0
John Kelly ...	...	...	...	...	...	0 5 0
James Hunter ...	...	...	...	...	...	0 5 0
Miss Wright ...	...	...	...	...	...	0 5 0
Aaron Watson ...	...	...	...	...	...	0 5 0
Abraham Lamb...	...	...	..	...	...	0 5 0
Thomas Tate ...	...	...	...	...	...	0 5 0
Sundry smaller sums	...	...	...	...	...	0 6 0

NOTE.—This list contains all subscriptions made up to the Autumn of 1863. At the commencement of the following year, Mr. Robert Hart, Collector of Customs at Hong Kong, sent over the handsome gift of one hundred pounds, which was not included in the account. There were also to be added to this list the large gifts of flour and Indian corn, received through Mr. James, of Liverpool, from the International Relief Committee, and which were value for about one thousand pounds.

At the conclusion of the second month of the Relief Committee's labours, there had not been any diminution of demands on the Fund; but the great cry of the people by that time was for clothing.

On the 3rd of March, 1863, there was a full Board in attendance, Dr. CAMPBELL in the chair.

Dr. MUSGRAVE said he had been over a great portion of the Maze district some days before, and he had recommended that five-and-twenty pairs of blankets be handed over to the Subcommittee of the Maze for distribution. Agreed to.

Mr. JAMES N. RICHARDSON having some time ago stated that he intended to make an application to the Friends' Committee of Manchester, for a share of the breadstuffs sent them from America, reported that he had received a reply to the effect that one hundred barrels of flour would be granted to the Lisburn Committee.

A vote of thanks having been passed to Mr. J. N. Richardson, that gentleman was requested to convey the hearty acknowledgments of the Committee, to the "Friends" of Manchester.

Mr. Beatty handed in a cheque for £25, from Thos. Bateson, Esq.; and £10 each was reported as the subscriptions of Messrs. W. G. Malcomson and A. Malcomson, of Liverpool.

While this abundance of gifts was being poured into the treasury, and while the generously-disposed of far distant lands, as well as those in our own country, on whom Lisburn had no claim, save that of poverty, were displaying the very spirit of generous fraternity, not a word of reply had been received to the letter sent the lord of the soil. Much complaining was heard out of doors on the subject, and very frequently the inquiry, "What has Lord Hertford contributed to the Relief Fund?" was made in the Committee-room. But to all such questions there was only the one answer to be given.

In course of that meeting, some pointed remarks were made relative to this matter, and several members complained of the great want of common courtesy displayed by the Marquis. After much discussion, however, and in the charitable hope that his lordship had not received the letter sent him, the following resolution was passed:—

“That, having heard that Mr. Joseph Richardson is about to visit Paris, and that while there he may have occasion to call on the Marquis of Hertford, we request our Secretary will make out a copy of the letter as posted to his lordship on the 13th of January last, and also write a second communication on the same subject, and that he will beg of Mr. Richardson to lay the two letters before Lord Hertford, and respectfully to urge on his lordship the strong claim the Lisburn Relief Fund has on his liberality.”

In accordance with this order of Committee, the following letter was written :—

“Lisburn, March 3rd, 1863.

“MY LORD MARQUIS,—On the 13th Jan. last, and at the request of the Cotton Operatives’ Relief Fund Committee here, I had the honor of writing your lordship to solicit your aid on behalf of the numerous sufferers who have been reduced to the greatest distress by the cotton famine. As I wrote you on that occasion, a great proportion of these poor people were reared either in this immediate neighbourhood or in the town that forms the capital of your estate. The Committee would, therefore, respectfully hope that you will respond to that appeal; and they feel certain, that if your lordship had only one day’s experience of the great distress that exists here, you would require no further influence to lead you to give liberally in support of the great destitution.

“I enclose a copy of the letter alluded to as having been posted to your lordship’s address some weeks ago; and as we have not had a reply to it, the Committee fear it has been mislaid in course of transmission.

“I have the honour to be, my Lord

“Respectfully your obedient servant,

“HUGH M’CALL.

“To the Most Noble the Marquis of Hertford, K. G.,
Bagatelle, Paris.”

This second letter, as well as a copy of the former one on the same subject, was enclosed in an envelope and handed to Mr. Richardson, for presentation to the Noble Marquis. During that gentleman’s visit to Paris, he had an interview with Lord Hertford, in course of which he introduced the subject connected with the cotton famine, referring especially to the distress that had fallen on the weavers of Lisburn and the surrounding districts, most of which localities were on his lordship’s estate. The envelope containing the letters was then handed to him, Mr. Richardson adding that he

trusted he would respond to the appeal. In reply, his lordship merely remarked that "he had received the first communication addressed to him by the Secretary of the Lisburn Relief Committee, but as his agent (Mr. Stannus) was then giving work to many labourers there, he did not see that any further aid should be required of him."

Here we have Lord Hertford's own testimony relative to what he considered to be the duties of a landlord who owned an estate of sixty-seven thousand acres. He had been informed that all but direct starvation prevailed in many parts of his property, and that great numbers of the operatives connected with the cotton manufacture were suffering from want, but not a line of reply had he the courtesy to send the Lisburn Relief Committee, nor did he contribute a single shilling towards alleviating the distress of the destitute people. He said his agent was employing people as common labourers, but for every one person Mr. Stannus had at work, the Messrs. Barbour, and the different firms of the Messrs. Richardson, and other large houses, employed fifty; yet all these flax-spinners and manufacturers contributed liberally to the Relief Fund. Lord Hertford's conduct in this case adds another to the many illustrations of the evils entailed on Ireland by absenteeism. Had he been even an occasional resident on the magnificent property that owned him for its lord, and had chanced to look upon the scenes that so frequently came before the Relief Committee, he could not have withheld his hand nor refused his sympathy for the sufferers who, next to the members of his own household, had the greatest claim on his generosity. According to the liberal laws of our country, every man has a right to live where he pleases. But if the owner of a princely property gratifies his tastes by residing in foreign lands, and if, in seasons of sorrow and suffering, when thousands of the people who live on that property have been stricken down by poverty, he closes his ear against every appeal made to him for assistance, then the State should step in and give some local authority power to tax that selfish landlord in such an amount as would be an equivalent for the public loss sustained as well by his absence from the seat of distress as by his want of charitable

feeling. At the time to which we refer, the Noble Marquis had for nineteen years been in possession of one of the finest estates in Ireland, an estate which included some of the best land in the Counties of Antrim and Down; and during that period his lordship had drawn upwards of half-a-million, in the shape of annual rental, from that splendid property. In the meantime, his contributions to the charities and other funds connected with Lisburn were miserably trifling. Of course, he had a just claim to his income, large as it was; but there are duties attached to all such rights, and his moral obligation to make certain returns for the hundreds of thousands of pounds sterling he had received from his Irish estate was just as incumbent on him as were the legal covenants of his tenants to pay him rents for the lands they cultivated.

Some days after the appearance of the first letter on the condition of the cotton operatives of Lisburn and its neighbourhood, in the *Times*, the Secretary received the following:—

“ Paris, Feb. 20, 1863.

“ DEAR SIR,—I have read with much interest, and considerable sorrow, the account given in the London *Times* of the state of poverty and suffering that now exists in your town and the surrounding districts. Having many old and cherished associations with Lisburn and its people, the story of the distress existing there has affected me more than I can well express to you. I enclose a bank order for five pounds, and shall feel greatly indebted should you be good enough to give me such information respecting the present state of the sufferers as you may be disposed to communicate.

“ Truly yours,

“ T. GRAHAM SMYTH.

“ Hugh M'Call, Esq.

“ P. S.—Please keep my name secret, and let the subscription appear in your list as that of ‘ In Memoriam.’ ”

[In the previous editions of this volume the name of our respected friend was kept secret, but now that so many years have passed since the time of the cotton famine, it cannot be considered as any breach of confidence to give that name in full.]

To this communication the Secretary wrote an immediate reply, of which the following is a copy:—

“ Lisburn, Feb. 25, 1863.

“ DEAR SIR,—Many and hearty thanks for your letter and its enclosure of five pounds. I shall, of course, keep your name out of print, and yet regret being obliged to do so. The depth of poverty to which the people connected with the cotton manufacture in this section of Ulster have been reduced through want of employment would appear almost incredible to those who know little of the Irish people’s power of endurance. We hear much about the American Indian, and how long he can bear up against semi-starvation, but assuredly I have heard about whole families that, for weeks before their distress was made known, could only muster means sufficient to procure one meal of porridge in the twenty-four hours. And yet such is the feeling of independence that prevails in many circles of workpeople that their wants were only made known through some of their more fortunate neighbours. We purpose sending a number of the younger people either to America or some of the British colonies, as, in the present state of trade, there seems little prospect of employment, at least for some time to come. I send with this a *Whig* and a *News-Letter*, in which full reports appear of last week’s proceedings, as noted in Committee.

“ Very truly yours,

“ HUGH M’CALL.

“ T. G. Smyth, Esq.”

It will be seen by the date of the next letter—a copy of which we give here—that our benevolent contributor did not permit a single day to pass before he forwarded a further donation.

“ 43, Rue des Faubourg St. Honore, Paris,

“ March 2nd, 1863. .

“ DEAR SIR,—The papers came to hand, and I feel grateful that you acceded to my request of keeping my name secret. Allow me to thank you for your letter and the kindly spirit that dictated it. I once heard of an epitaph to this effect—

“ What I have spent I lost.

What I have lent I lost.

But what I gave I have.”

Believing, then, that the Almighty ever repays, and with good interest, whatever is given in His cause, and being well satisfied with the security, I enclose you another five pounds. This, I propose, should be employed in aiding the poor people to emigrate, should your Committee so decide in applying a portion of the funds. If not, you can place it to the credit of the general relief. Still desirable of preserving my signature, ‘In Memoriam.’

“ I am, dear Sir,

“ Faithfully yours,

“ IN MEMORIAM.

“ H. M’Call, Esq.”

The supplies of cash, breadstuffs, and blankets sent in to the Lisburn Committee continued on the most liberal scale, but the drain on their resources became very great. It was well known to them that the assistance given to each family fell far short of that which had been the average in Lancashire; but even taking the rate of distribution then going on in their own district there was no doubt that the means at the disposal of the Committee would not admit of the same ratio of relief from that time to the end of Summer. While this question was being discussed in Committee, the constable who attended the weekly meetings, and was at other times engaged in making inquiries respecting the actual requirements of persons seeking relief, came into the room to announce that a deputation from the weavers of Bridge End, Lisburn, had a memorial to lay before the Committee.

The deputation was introduced by Mr. John Sloan, of Plantation House, and after a few words from an exceedingly intelligent member of the Weavers' Society, the memorial was read. It was stated in that document that there did not appear to be any well-founded hope that the existing state of depression would soon pass away. The weavers did not wish to continue as recipients of relief; for, however grateful they felt to the gentlemen that had so opportunely come forward to aid them in that time of poverty and privation, they respectfully begged that their benefactors would devise some means of sending, say, two dozen families to any of the colonies. In that case, the people who would get out to a land where their labours would support them might ultimately rise to comparative independence, and so far the field of employment at home would be lightened of a number of competitors for work when trade improved.

After some remarks from the Chairman, to the effect that the subject would be considered, the deputation withdrew.

The tone of the memorial, and the manly spirit of self-reliance it exhibited, caused many expressions of pleasure on the part of the Committee, and it was immediately resolved to accede to the prayer of the weavers, so far as the funds would permit.

Mr. MILLAR expressed the great satisfaction he felt at the care which had been taken in distributing the funds. Those poor families that were in their suffering most unobtrusive, and concealed rather than paraded their wants, had been sought out and attended to, and the relief in such cases was so given as not to hurt that feeling of delicacy which should ever be cherished. He was glad, therefore, to find that the distress existing in the ranks of the workpeople connected with the cotton trade had not affected the virtue of self-reliance among them ; and as the application to Mr. Jordan, the London Emigration Agent, had failed, he would suggest that a letter be sent to the Duke of Newcastle, Secretary of State for the Colonies, and that probably his Grace might be able to do something for them.

Sir JAMES M. HIGGINSON said there had been no end of what he considered as very romantic tales told about Queensland being superior as a colonial home for redundant population to any other isle of the far South, but had little faith in such imaginative stories. He preferred Canada to any of all her Majesty's distant possessions. Some of the most successful settlers in that section of British North America were Ulstermen. Having resided there in an official capacity for many years, he could, therefore, speak with some degree of confidence, not only as to the fertility of the soil, but respecting the great facilities that were to be found there for industrious immigrants. But as Mr. Millar had proposed that the Duke of Newcastle should be applied to, he thought that course might be taken in the first instance.

The following letter was, therefore, written to the Colonial Secretary : —

“ Lisburn, March 3rd, 1863.

“ MY LORD DUKE, — I have been requested by the Committee of the Cotton Operatives' Relief Fund to write to your Grace on the distress suffered here by the weavers, many hundreds of whom have been thrown out of employment by the cotton famine. We have raised money for their relief, and are at present giving food and clothes to many hundreds of families. But as little hope exists of any immediate improvement of trade in that manufacture, it has been suggested that a number of the younger operatives should be sent either to Canada or some of the isles of Australia. I presume your Grace may be aware that in

this part of Ulster it is quite usual for the hand-loom weavers in the rural districts to assist at out-door work in the fields, at certain seasons when ordinary hands are not able to do the work, and, consequently, that most of these weavers would be able to do farm labour. The object of our Committee in taking the liberty of writing to your Grace is, therefore, to inquire whether the Government would assist them in sending to Canada or Queensland say from four to five hundred of these poor weavers. It is melancholy to think that such numbers of people, able and willing to work, should be suffering from semi-starvation at home, while millions of acres of Britain's colonial lands lie idle and useless from want of hands to cultivate them. The Committee desires me to add that should your Grace require more detailed information on this subject, they will feel pleasure in sending it forward.

“I have the honour to remain, my Lord Duke,

“Your Grace's very humble servant,

“HUGH M'CALL, Secretary.

“To his Grace the Right Hon. the Duke of Newcastle,
Colonial Office, London.”

In course of post, a reply to this letter was received, couched in the stereotyped phraseology of Downing Street literature, the Chief of the Colonial Department winding up his curt communication with an expression of regret that “Her Majesty's Government was not prepared to undertake the responsibility of sending Irish emigrants to Canada.”

As a rule, the people of Ulster owe little to the Imperial Powers, no matter by what party such powers may be wielded. Throughout all the destitution, disease, and death that followed in the wake of the famine season, we not only supported our own poor, but sent contributions towards the alleviation of distress in the Western provinces. And in order to shew his appreciation of the self-reliance and benevolent spirit of Ulstermen, Lord John Russell, then Prime Minister, saddled the ratepayers here with an additional tax, known as a “Rate in aid,” for the people of Connaught. A more disgraceful act of injustice was never perpetrated than the passing of that law. If it had been an actual truth, and not a mere Governmental fiction, that the West of Ireland had the honour of being an integral part of the United Kingdom, the people of Lancashire and York, of Devon and of Warwick, should have borne their just proportion of assisting in the support of Connaughtmen, and Ulster ought only to have been called upon to contribute her own share of the tax.

In a somewhat similar spirit to that shewn towards the North of Ireland by Lord John Russell was an appeal to the Duke of Newcastle treated by that pompous politician. For more than a century the people of Ulster had never sought such favour of the British Government ; but, trifling as was the request of the Lisburn Relief Committee, the ducal Minister could not think of the great “responsibility of sending *Irish* emigrants to Canada.”

At that time the Imperial Government was flinging away immense sums in building the unsightly sea monsters called ironclads. Four-inch plates and six-inch planks were considered by my lords of the Admiralty as quite sufficient armoury to resist any cannon ball. The gunner’s art, however, was next tried, and Sir Wm. Armstrong produced a piece of ordnance that sent its shot through iron and timber as easily as though the combination had been no stronger than the side of a coal barge. Then commenced the war between the manufacturers of armour plates and the gun makers, until, at length, nine-inch steel and fourteen-inch teak were found unable to resist the increased power of cannon. In that play at projectiles some millions of money were spent, and not a few nautical abortions which (as was said in a discussion in the House of Commons, were “built to swim as a duck, but might go down like a diver”) were launched from the Royal dockyards. The mere cost of the internal fittings of any one of these ships would have paid the outlay incurred in sending many thousands of the cotton weavers to Canada and settling them there on Government lands ; but on the part of Ministerial Bumbledom that would have been rather too practical in its policy ; and hence, those who expected little at the hands of the British Cabinet were not disappointed.





CHAPTER V.

ALL this time rations of food and proportions of fuel were being distributed to the families of the cotton operatives, weavers, embroiderers, and tambourers. Members of the Ladies' Committee visited the homes of those people, and where it was found requisite such articles of inner clothing as were needed were given to each family. Sheets and blankets, as well as frocks for girls and children, were made up and distributed.

The Glenmore bleaching concern gave regular employment to about five hundred hands, and it was an exceedingly interesting trait in the character of those workpeople to find them shewing the best sympathy towards the cotton operatives in the form of a contribution of £14 19s. A similar movement was made by the people engaged at the Hilden Flax and Thread Works, who collected £19; the Island Mill people sent in £12 15s.; those of Whitehouse Mill—Messrs. Bell & Calvert's—forwarded £7 11s.; the employés of Messrs. Black & Wingate, of Glasgow, contributed £5; and the people of Messrs. Richardson, Spence & Co., of Liverpool, gave £2 6s. to the Lisburn Relief Fund. All this benevolence on the part of people, many of whom had little to spare, was further evidence of how much good there is in human nature, after all we hear to the contrary.

At the meeting of the Committee held on Tuesday, March 10th, the letter of Mr. Walter Magee, of New York, announcing the successful collection of funds in that city, and also letters from Mr. James, of the firm of Mr. Thomas Richardson & Co., Philadelphia, and Mr. Thomas O'Neill, of the same city, told the Secretary that

large subscriptions had been raised there. Votes of thanks were passed to those gentlemen, and it was ordered that by the next American mail letters should be written to each of them, as well in acknowledgment of his successful exertions, as to thank him heartily for his kindly recognition of the necessity of immediate action in the case.

In course of the meeting, the Rev. S. NICHOLSON said "he had received a letter from a brother Wesleyan, Rev. Mr. Livingstone, then of Halifax, Yorkshire. This reverend gentleman was a native of Lisburn, and having read of the distress existing among one class of the people, he purchased a lot of blankets and sent them over as his contribution to the Relief Fund, hoping the gift would be useful to the sufferers of his own town."

Mr. CARLILE expressed himself much gratified at the statement just made by Mr. Nicholson. The Rev. Mr. Livingstone was a minister of great ability, and, as such, an honour to Lisburn. He would propose that a letter of thanks be written to that reverend gentleman.

Ordered.

Mr. J. N. RICHARDSON inquired whether any reply had been sent Mr. James, of Liverpool; and if so, whether he could see a copy of the letter.

The SECRETARY said he had sent by the early post the following communication:—

"Lisburn, March 10, 1863.

"DEAR SIR,—In acknowledging the receipt of the last shipment of bread-stuffs, which makes a total of 700 barrels of flour, and 167 bags of Indian corn, your Committee has been good enough to send us out of the very liberal benefice that certain citizens of the Northern States of America have displayed towards our distressed people, our Committee return you their warmest thanks.

"It must be a source of high gratification to all classes of persons in this neighbourhood, and more especially those who have interested themselves in our system of relief, to know that so many kind friends had come forward to help them. And wonderful, indeed, is the fact, that at a time of unequalled dulness in the cotton trade, America, forgetting, as it were, her own internal sorrows, and looking with sympathy at the sufferers across the broad Atlantic, sends her queenly gifts of food to Lancashire and Lisburn.

"Ireland can never forget with what a liberal hand the citizens of the United States assisted her in 1847, a time of poverty and pestilence never previously equalled even in her annals. From a variety of causes, however, the present serious distress in this part of Ulster is in some instances as severe as it was at the time of that famine. Your gifts to our Committee have, therefore, been valuable in proportion to the generosity that bestowed them. In looking over all these incidents of kindly feeling, we can only hope that the noble spirit of benevolence which the open-handed citizens of America have displayed in this and other instances, will have the effect of creating still stronger bonds of relationship between the Western Republic and the old country.

"And now, Sir, let us again thank you for all your kindness, and wishing you, and every other member of your Committee, health, happiness, and long days of future usefulness,

"We remain respectfully yours,

"Signed on behalf of the Committee of the Lisburn Relief Fund,

"HUGH M'CALL, Secretary.

"Daniel James, Esq."

At the meeting of Sub-Committee, held on Saturday, the 14th of March, Dr. Campbell in the chair, it was proposed, after the routine business had been gone through, that the Secretary should write to Admiral Seymour, to solicit his aid, and that evening the following letter was written:—

"Cotton Operatives' Relief Fund,
Lisburn, March 14, 1863.

"SIR,—May I beg to call your attention to the distress now existing in the ranks of the cotton operatives in this part of the country. Since the commencement of the war in America, the condition of the people has been gradually becoming more distressing. Several hundreds of them are without work, and all means of support, and even those who have weaving to do can't earn more than a mere pittance, far under the lowest cost of purchasing food for themselves and families. As the great proportion of these people were reared on the Hertford estate, the Committee of Relief Fund respectfully place these facts before you; and, knowing the connection that exists between your family and the property of which Lisburn is the capital, they beg to solicit your favour in support of the destitute.

"I have the honour to be, yours faithfully,

"HUGH M'CALL.

"Admiral Sir George Seymour,
Admiralty, London."

The gallant Admiral was at that time looked upon as heir-apparent to the title and estates of Lord Hertford, and consequently the Committee felt that Lisburn had some claim on his generosity; nor were they disappointed. In bright contrast with the selfish indifference of the Noble Marquis, when appealed to for assistance, is the sturdy old seaman's reply to the Committee's appeal. We here annex a copy of the Admiral's letter:—

“Admiral Sir George Seymour presents his compliments to Mr. M'Call; and in acknowledging his letter of the 16th instant, which has only this day reached him from the Admiralty, he encloses a bank order for ten pounds towards the relief of the existing destitution in Lisburn and its neighbourhood, of the extent of which he has heard with great regret.

“15, Eaton Square, London,
March 17, 1863.”

On the 21st of March, Mr. Frederick Baines, of the *Leeds Mercury*, wrote the Secretary, requesting to have some information on certain points connected with the condition of the cotton weavers. He said it was probable his friends in that quarter would give the Lisburn Committee the means of extending their good work. A letter was accordingly written that gentleman, giving such facts as would best tell the story respecting the state of affairs then existing among the cotton weavers of all ranks in and around Lisburn. The following is Mr. Baines' reply:—

“Leeds, April 2, 1863.

“MY DEAR SIR,—I had this day the pleasure of joining in a vote for presenting a sum of money for the relief of the distress in your neighbourhood, and I believe Mr. Millar, Treasurer of the Lisburn Committee, will shortly hear on the subject from our Mayor. The information contained in your communication to me was just what was wanted. I am greatly obliged to you for sending it so fully and with such promptitude.

“Faithfully yours,

“F. BAINES.

“Hugh M'Call, Esq.”

At a very early stage of the Committee's labours it was determined that the area of relief should be divided into districts. That course was found necessary in order to guard against imposition, and it continued to be the rule in all future proceedings.

Sixteen districts were parcelled out, and for each a Sub-Committee was appointed with a paid inspector; and as the boundaries of each area had been specially defined by the Treasurer, the mode of distribution gradually assumed a direct system that worked harmoniously for all interests. The following order was issued for the guidance of officers in the country:—"Sub-Committees are expected to meet once a-week, to arrange the amount of relief to be given to each family. The Inspector of the District is to visit the houses of the weavers and unemployed labourers, and to give in his report to the Committee, who are to decide as to the persons to get rations, and to note the particulars of each case relieved on the blocks of the printed tickets. Relief in all cases to be granted according to the rules posted in the ticket-book."

For so far in the Spring season not the least improvement could be reported in any department of the cotton trade. Destitution had been warded off, but the poverty of the people continued intense. In the hope of obtaining even partially free transit to Australia for a certain number of emigrants, the Secretary had written to Mr. J. H. Knight, of Kensington London, and also to Mr. A. C. Buchanan, as to Canadian passages, but in neither case did he receive a satisfactory reply. The different sub-committees in the country districts were then distributing fully as much of both clothing and food as they had given in the early part of February. On the 10th of April, the Chairman of Committee received the following letter from the Mayor of Leeds:—

"Town Hall, Leeds, April 9, 1863.

"J. J. Richardson, Esq.

"DEAR SIR,—The Committee having had represented to them the destitution now existing in Lisburn and its neighbourhood, have voted to you two hundred pounds, which I have the pleasure to enclose, for your poor operatives. Please acknowledge receipt, and oblige

"Yours, very truly,

"J. O. MARCH.

"Cotton Relief Fund, Lisburn."

This communication was read by Mr. RICHARDSON at the next meeting of Committee, and when the ordinary business of that day had been concluded,

Mr. BARBOUR, J.P., of Hilden, after referring to the generosity displayed towards the suffering weavers by the benevolent of nearly every country, proposed—

“That Mr. March, the worthy Mayor of Leeds, Mr. Baines, and all other gentlemen who had been concerned in handing over to the Sub-Committee the munificent gift of two hundred pounds, should be written to in terms of grateful acknowledgment for their handsome donation.”

It was then ordered that, in accordance with the proposition of Mr. Barbour, the Secretary should write letters to the Leeds authorities, conveying the thanks of the Committee.

Mr. J. N. RICHARDSON begged to say that as they had not been able to prevail on the Government to aid them in their emigration scheme, he had written Mr. A. T. Stewart on the subject, and he felt assured he would get a favourable reply.

A third communication was about this time addressed to the Editor of the *Times*, and in course of that letter the Secretary gave further details relative to the condition of the people and the liberal assistance contributed to the Relief Fund. The letter appeared in that paper in due course. Some passages are here given from it :—

“The publication in your paper of my former letters has had the effect of creating for the distressed cotton operatives of this district of the North of Ireland, an amount of sympathy of which our Committee could not have formed the most distant idea. Several private subscriptions have since then been sent us from Hamburg, and many benevolent merchants in the United States of America have also liberally contributed towards the fund. Nearer home, the good spirit of charity has been actively at work. England, ‘that never passes by on the other side’ when the wail of distress is heard in this country, has not forgotten her wonted munificence towards our people. Many of the kind-hearted in that land of almost boundless wealth and unlimited benevolence, who had only known Lisburn by name, and, until very recent date, had no idea of its being the seat of Ulster’s hand-loom cotton manu-

facture, have been among the first to send their gifts to our treasury. One good Samaritan, Mr. Chance, the generous philanthropist of Birmingham, contributed £10 in the first instance, and afterwards sent over a large parcel of religious tracts for distribution among the poor people. In my experience of the world I have found a great number of worthy and exemplary Christians who were profuse in their gifts of tracts, and exceedingly chary of their cash; but the gentleman to whom I allude adopted the more effective system of practical philanthropy by sending the money first and the tracts afterwards. To those merchants of Liverpool who have interested themselves so much on behalf of the cotton operatives here and elsewhere, the people around us owe a debt of gratitude, which, I hope, will never be forgotten. Indeed, every Irishman whose heart is in the right place—every man who can appreciate open-handed benevolence, no matter from what quarter it comes—must feel that in this case our fellow-subjects on both sides the Tweed have displayed remarkable liberality towards us, and this, too, at a time when the cry of distress at their own doors was intense beyond anything ever previously known in Britain's industrial history. You are aware, Sir, that a number of noble-hearted men in New York and Philadelphia, in addition to the gifts of money contributed to Lancashire, recently loaded three vessels with different varieties of food, and sent them to Liverpool—the flour, Indian corn, and provisions which formed their cargoes, to be distributed among the sufferers by the cotton famine. Under the auspices of a leading mercantile house in Liverpool, the Committee of the Lisburn Cotton Operatives' Relief Fund applied to Mr. Daniel James, Chairman of the Liverpool Committee of the International Relief Committee, for a portion of the cargo of the good ship *George Griswold*, and after some correspondence on the subject, in which were given full statements of the great extent of country over which our relief districts ran, we had the gratification to learn that 700 barrels of flour had been allocated to our Committee. Besides that munificent gift, our friends in Liverpool sent over last week 167 bags of Indian corn, with a request that one portion of the lot should be handed over for distribution to the Rev. Mr. Roe, of

Ballymacarrett, and who has taken great interest in the cotton weavers of his district ; and an equal quantity of the corn was sent to the Committee of the distressed operatives in Newtownards ; and the remainder kept for the use of the poor people in and around Lisburn. All this amplitude of liberality, as exhibited by the good and generous men in different parts of the world towards the victims of the American war in this country, adds one more proof in favour of the catholic sentiment, that, after all we hear to the contrary, there is far more good in human nature than those who whine about man's depravity would lead us to believe. It shews us that, let national jealousies act as they may on the surface of society—let the people of different climes and countries war as they will on matters of political antagonism—there is still to be found in the deeper strata of human feeling a noble spirit of generosity, which, under every variety of circumstance, never fails to respond to the call of want and wretchedness. It may be asked, what have we been doing with the funds so largely poured in on us for the aid of our suffering neighbours. In reply, I have to state that we have at present an aggregate of nearly 1,000 people on the inspectors' and sub-committees' books. Each family receives weekly rations of meal and coal, and in a great many cases they have been supplied with blankets. Others, again, have obtained from the Ladies' Committee various articles of clothing, the total number of persons so attended to being about six hundred. I regret to state, in reference to the condition of the great mass of the cotton operatives in this quarter, that it is not only more unsatisfactory than it was at the commencement of the year, but that, so far as can be seen into the future, there is little hope for improvement—at least for a long time to come. The Belfast manufacturers are doing very little in the way of production, and the Glasgow houses, who have agents for the giving out of work here, have been gradually lessening their extent of business. One firm, which had held out pretty well through all the dull trade of last autumn, and up to the middle of the past month, has also ceased to give employment, the result of which has been to throw several hundreds of hands into the previous mass of compulsory idlers. In the rural

districts many weavers are engaged at field work; but even here an evil arises because of their competing in the labour market with the ordinary class of farm operatives, thus in some degree bringing down the latter to the level of their own state. The weekly earnings even of those who are employed at the loom would not average more than about 6d. a-head for the seven days' support of each member of their families. I have before me a list, prepared by a member of our Committee, of thirty weavers, and of the whole only one realizes 7s. a-week in the gross—say, when expense of loom is deducted, a net income of 6s. a-week. But there are numbers of weavers who don't earn above 3s., and others again only 2s. 6d. a-week. Embroiderers that were able to make 5s. to 8s. at the sewing-hoop some years ago, do not at present exceed 2s. 6d., and tambourers on the average earn about 1s. 6d. for the six days' work."

This letter concluded the correspondence that appeared in the *London Times*.

During the proceedings connected with the distribution, and especially when the emigration scheme was under consideration, some strange propositions were made to the Committee by persons who seemed to know as little about Ulster as if its geographical position had been amid the wilds of the Far West. A London gentleman wrote to inquire what was the proportion of Roman Catholics to Protestants in the cotton districts, and whether the former were peaceably disposed. To this correspondent the Secretary wrote to say that "peace and good will prevailed among all sects in Ulster quite as fully as they did between the different classes of Protestantism in England." In his reply, that gentleman expressed himself very much pleased to learn that people of opposite creeds lived on peaceable terms, but seemed to feel no less astonishment than an Exeter Hall *habitué* would have done, had he heard of a missionary and a South Sea Islander walking arm-in-arm along the Strand.

About the same time, a lady who resided at Sydenham, London, wrote the Secretary to inquire about the different sects of religionists in the North of Ireland. Like many other denizens of

the world that exists on the banks of the Thames, the lady referred to had entertained the wildest ideas about the social condition of the Irish, and especially as related to the feeling that existed between the Roman Catholics and the Protestants. She had heard that the Lisburn Relief Committee proposed sending a number of the people then being partially supported on the public fund, to some of the colonies, and offered, on certain conditions, to give fifty pounds towards the cost of emigration. In reply, the Secretary wrote as follows:—

“Lisburn, March 23, 1863.

“MADAM,—On the part of the Relief Committee here, I beg to return you many thanks for your handsome proposal of contributing fifty pounds towards the cost of sending a number of families to some of the British colonies. You inquire what is the state of social feeling that exists between the Roman Catholic and Protestant peoples in this part of Ulster. I have great pleasure in stating that, as a general rule, the utmost good will prevails on both sides. In many parts of Ulster there are a few fire-eating clergymen connected with the Protestant Churches who occasionally forget that their mission should be one of peace, but even such ministers are being taught lessons of toleration; and except on the anniversary of the Battle of the Boyne and the natal day of Ireland's Patron Saint, the laity usually live in the spirit of kindly amity. National education, which, in its early days, was bitterly opposed by narrow-minded men both of the Episcopalian and Presbyterian Churches in the North of Ireland, has worked miracles in Ulster. And not the least important of these is the improved spirit of kindness it has cultivated in the social relations of young people, so far narrowing the confines of Church and creed. Thus the leavening principles of mixed education have brought into play much of the virtue of mutual harmony. The Roman Catholic lad who has sat at the writing-desk or on the school form with the juvenile Protestant learns more than mere elementary instruction; he finds much good fellowship exists with his neighbour, the same feeling is called forth on the other side, and thus mutual forbearance is being taught as well as lessons in arithmetic.

“Among the better educated classes here the difference of creed rarely interferes with the amenities of conventional life. At our meetings of Committee the Protestant rector and the parish priest, the Presbyterian pastor and Methodist preacher, meet together in the utmost spirit of good-will. Our Chairman is a Quaker, several of the most active members belong to the same sect, and in the distribution of relief no questions are asked respecting the private opinions of those requiring assistance.

“I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

“HUGH M'CALL.

“To Mrs. S. S.,
Post Office, Sydenham, London.”

To this communication the lady replied, to say that if the Committee would permit to be inserted in the Belfast papers an advertisement, of which she sent a copy, she would pay the cost of sending a certain number of Protestants to America; but would reserve to herself the right of appointing a Scripture-reader to embark with her *proteges*, and look after them during the voyage. The advertisement alluded to was to the effect that "A lady who resided near London would send over to New York a dozen families of the Protestant faith. She would also appoint a Scripture-reader who would have those people under his spiritual guidance, and that applications for free passages should be made to the Lisburn Relief Committee."

This proposal, well intentioned and kind as it was, could not be entertained, for reasons which will be obvious to our local readers. A second letter was written our lady correspondent, to say that as the people about to be sent out by the Relief Committee consisted of different sects of Protestants and many Roman Catholics, it would not be advisable to send any sectarian teacher. At the same time, we fully acknowledged the very generous proposal as to the money contribution. The lady's third communication will best tell what she wished to have done in the case:—

"Sydenham, London, April 2, 1863.

"Hugh M'Call, Esq., Lisburn, Ireland.

"SIR,—I have to thank you for the clear insight which your letters, the second of which is just to hand, convey to me respecting the general habits of the Catholics of the North. With regard to the insertion of the word 'Protestant' in the advertisement which I sent you, I beg to say that my desire was rather to avoid giving offence to the Roman Catholics than to limit the benefit of emigration to Protestants. But, should you consent to adopt the rest of the advertisement, you may omit the word 'Protestant.' Allow me, at the same time, to state that, in order to avoid misconception, if you succeed in carrying out your idea of sending out one hundred emigrants to one of the colonies, I will subscribe £100 towards the expense. I will, however, consider myself at liberty to deduct from that sum a year's salary for an efficient Scripture-reader, and also other means of improvement and comfort for the emigrants. I read with much interest the letter from Paris, as given in the report of proceedings published in the *Northern Whig* you were good enough to forward to me.

"I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,

"S. S."

At the meeting of Committee, held April 4, the Secretary read the letter of his anonymous correspondent "S. S." The emended advertisement that lady had forwarded in her last communication ran as follows:—

"The Emigration Society feel it to be a matter of primary importance that a large number of Protestant emigrants leaving the mother country should be accompanied by a well-instructed Scripture-reader, for whom, on reaching the colony, employment might be found. All the emigrants will be furnished with Bibles and other means of religious instruction, both as a means of safeguard for themselves and as a means of leavening the country of their adoption. A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump, and results beyond our conception may depend on the new life to be thus infused into the colony."

A lengthened discussion took place on this subject; but, all circumstances taken into account, it was unanimously agreed that, except at the risk of creating disunion among emigrants who were of different creeds, the Committee could not accept the donation. The Secretary was accordingly desired to communicate the result to his correspondent.





CHAPTER VI.

THE distributions of and to the people in want continued for the succeeding weeks of April on a very large scale. Letters were written to various emigration agents respecting the cost of sending a number of the weavers and their families to Australia, but nothing at all definite resulted from these communications.

In course of the ordinary proceedings at the meeting held on the 28th of that month, the SECRETARY stated that he had written to Mr. J. D. Barbour, M.P., who was then attending to his Parliamentary duties in London, requesting that gentleman to call at the Australian Emigration Office, and, if possible, get definite information respecting the terms on which emigrants could be sent out.

Sir JAMES M. HIGGINSON stated that he still continued of opinion that Canada was the land of hope for the unemployed hands connected with cotton weaving, and he thought no time should be lost in making arrangements for that purpose.

The SECRETARY said he had already written Messrs. Richardson, Spence & Co., of Liverpool, to request that firm to be good enough to inquire on what terms sailing or steamship owners would carry one hundred emigrants to Quebec.

Mr. MILLAR understood that sailing vessels took out passengers at £4 10s. each adult, and half that sum for children not exceeding twelve years of age. He had gone into the account of probable cost, and after making allowance for extra expenditure, in the form of clothing, between three and four hundred pounds would be required. Even the highest of these sums might hardly pay all expenses, as they must be aware how far the scanty wardrobes of the people had run down during the terrible ordeal through which they had passed during the last six months.

Dr. CAMPBELL hoped that some prompt measures would be used to facilitate arrangements, for really the aspect of affairs seemed to look darker as the Summer approached. And yet, he feared that in case of any extensive emigration, the best and ablest men would be sent away.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. J. J. Richardson, J.P.) agreed with Dr. Campbell's observation, as to the ablest men being most likely to emigrate ; still, as they were well aware that even these people were gradually descending into mere pauperism, he would choose the lesser of the two evils. In his opinion, there could be no better use made of the means in hand than to place a number of families in the sure way of not only earning a living, but of materially improving their condition.

The Rev. Mr. BREAKEY suggested that they should write to Sir James E. Tennent, relative to obtaining direct aid from Government in getting a number of the people away from suffering and semi-starvation. He felt assured that, with the large experience of Sir James on all such questions, much good might arise from communicating with him.

The SECRETARY said he had already had some correspondence with Sir James E. Tennent.

A full report of the sums contributed to the Relief Fund was laid on the table by Mr. Millar. The details of that account were as follows :—

Lisburn and its neighbourhood,	£480	9	3
Other parts of the cotton districts,	147	4	6
Other parts of Ireland,	238	14	6
			<hr/>
			£866 8 3
England,	£516	10	7
Scotland,	91	0	0
			<hr/>
			607 10 7
			<hr/>
			£1,473 18 10
Northern States of America,	1,376	16	8
Southern „ „	1	0	0
Colonial,	2	0	0
Interest paid by Treasurer,	2	18	7
			<hr/>
Total to April 25,	£2,856	14	1

After the items of these accounts had been read over, some conversation took place about the amount subscribed by the inhabitants of Lisburn, which, though large in individual cases, had not been so general as it might have been. It was, therefore, resolved—"That, seeing the liberality of persons at a distance from the scene of disaster, and as many persons in Lisburn and neighbourhood who had ample means of contributing to the fund had not yet given anything towards it, two or more gentlemen be appointed to wait on all such inhabitants and solicit subscriptions for their poor neighbours."

Mr. JOSEPH RICHARDSON said that probably Mr. Beatty would join the Chairman, Treasurer, and Secretary in collecting funds.

From the lists handed in by Sub-Committees in several districts, it appeared that for the week ending the 18th of April, there were 104 looms idle and 117 in work in one section of the Maze, and 110 employed out of the gross number of 257 looms; another district shewed that 251 heads of families were idle.

At the general meeting, May 5th, Mr. RICHARDSON, of Lissue, rose and said that the barque *Old Hickory*, with breadstuffs from Philadelphia, having arrived at Belfast; he would suggest that she be chartered to take out emigrants on her return voyage. Should his proposal be agreed to, however, he would hope that the greatest care should be taken in selecting the right sort of persons to get free passages. His own private opinion was, that weavers who had not sought assistance from that Committee should be offered passages as well as persons whose names were on the lists.

The Rev. D. J. CLARKE fully agreed with what had been said by Mr. J. Richardson. He thought a favourable opportunity of getting families out to America then offered itself, and he would, therefore, propose that the firm of Richardson Brothers be requested to make such terms as they could with the captain of the ship. Acting on that idea, he had written out a resolution which he would propose, and which was to the following effect:—

"That a sum of £450 be expended in sending one hundred

persons to Philadelphia, a preference to be given to married men with families, no emigrant to be above fifty years of age."

The proposition was seconded, and passed unanimously.

A Sub-Committee was then formed to look after the requisites for the sea voyage, and to procure some additional clothing for the people.

The report that the Relief Committee was about to make preparation for sending out to some American port a number of the families connected with the cotton trade caused much excitement among those people. Applications for free passages poured in to an extent far beyond the means of meeting them, and on mature consideration it was considered that a much wider range than had at first been thought of should be taken in. It was, therefore, proposed that, instead of one hundred adults, twice that number should be placed on the list, the usual mode of calculation in the arithmetic of emigration agents being that of considering any two children under twelve years of age equal to one adult.

At that time, there were several representatives of different British colonies residing in London, and it was considered by some members of the Relief Committee that, as partially free passages on certain conditions were offered to the isles of Australia, application should be made for the purpose of ascertaining the precise terms on which a number of families would be landed there. Mr. John D. Barbour, M.P. for Lisburn, as has been already stated, after having been applied to by the Committee, was then making all possible inquiry on the subject; and, in reply to the communication written him for that purpose, the following letter was received:—

"House of Commons, May 4, 1863.

"MY DEAR SIR,—Will you be good enough to state to the Relief Committee that, on receipt of your letter, I went at once to the Emigration Office, and had an interview with Mr. Knight, of Kensington, relative to the obtaining of free passages to Australia for one hundred families of cotton workers. The plan proposed by Government is, that a certain sum should be paid for each passenger, on what is called the assisted emigration system. This would involve

a cost of about £5 a-head. You can consult our friends on the matter, and let me have your reply. I shall be happy to do everything in my power for the furtherance of the Committee's objects in this case.

“Very truly yours,

“JOHN D. BARBOUR,

“Hugh M'Call, Esq.”

The CHAIRMAN expressed himself very warmly on the subject of this letter. He said the different members of the eminent house of William Barbour & Sons had not alone been large contributors to the Relief Fund in the first instance, but from the commencement of the Committee's labours those gentlemen had made most successful exertions in obtaining from their army of customers in different parts of the world a large amount of subscriptions. As to the member for Lisburn, he himself, on more than one occasion, had sought official aid on a certain question from that gentleman, and he had pleasure in stating that in each instance Mr. J. D. Barbour displayed all the business ability that had marked the successful history of the Hilden firm.

Sir JAMES M. HIGGINSON fully concurred in all their respected Chairman had said regarding Mr. Barbour's attention to them, and also the reference made to what the members of his house had done in collecting outside subscriptions towards their funds. And, while he would propose that in the meantime the Committee should confine their attention to the Philadelphia affair, he would propose that Mr. Barbour's letter be placed on the minutes. He would add, “that a letter be written to that gentleman thanking him for his attention, and at the same time stating that the Lisburn Relief Committee had at length agreed to make the United States the place of landing for their emigrants.”

Agreed to.

At the ordinary meeting of Committee, on Tuesday, the 19th of May, Mr RICHARDSON, of Springfield, announced that he had finally settled with the captain of the Old Hickory for conveying a certain number of people to America, and every preparation was being made in fitting that ship for the comfort of the passengers.

On that occasion, some discussion took place as to the course to be taken with persons who, having first applied for free passages, and given the Committee considerable trouble in arranging for their passage and outfit, had then changed their mind, resolving to stay at home. It was ordered that any persons or families who had applied for free passages to Philadelphia, and, after having got their names on the list of emigrants, refuse to go with the ship on the day appointed for sailing—viz., Wednesday, the 27th of the month—should not in future receive any rations from the Relief Fund.

Several members of the country committees handed in lists of new names, stating that numbers of stout and energetic men had applied for free passages and failed to obtain them. One gentleman said that in his district he could find five times the number necessary to fill up any vacant places. At this stage of the proceedings, Mr. Carlile introduced a deputation from the Weavers' Society, who, he said, had an address to present. The secretary of the deputation (Archibald Pelan) said he had been requested to draw up an address to the Relief Committee. His brother work-people felt truly grateful for all that had been done for them, but especially for the plan of emigration about to be carried out. He would, therefore, beg leave to read the address :—

“TO THE RESPECTED GENTLEMEN OF THE LISBURN OPERATIVES’
RELIEF COMMITTEE.

“SIRS,—We beg to tender you, with feelings of the deepest gratitude, our hearty thanks for your kindness to us. We will always think with respect of our townsman, the Secretary of this Society, who raised the standard of emigration, and by his ability evoked the sympathy of distant parts of the world in our behalf. In this noble work he was ably supported by the benevolent Treasurer, who, as he has ever been, was very active in the carrying out of the plan of relief. Kindly consideration for the distressed has marked his career throughout life, but never before did he come out so opportunely as in the present instance. We beg to inform you, gentlemen, that your scheme of emigration has

gladdened our hearts, and to your Chairman, Mr. J. J. Richardson, J.P., together with every other gentleman around the table, we owe a deep debt of gratitude for his efforts to promote that movement. When we pleaded to be sent away to some place where our industry would give us bread, he said 'he felt proud of his townsmen, who preferred to labour for their own support in a foreign land, rather than subsist on alms at home.' With feelings of great respect, we have also to thank the reverend gentlemen of the Board for their zeal in our cause, as well as for their spiritual teaching, and, in many cases, their private charities, which were administered in every case of peculiar hardship. There are very few of us who have not been visited by our pastors, and we gratefully acknowledge the influence exercised over us by the wise and judicious advice at this most critical time. When in the land of hope we will never forget one single gentleman, whether lay or clerical, who had aided in obtaining for us the greatest boon that could be conferred on a self dependent and energetic body of men, who, had it not been for your benevolence, would have been pauperised. We are grateful for the wise and judicious selection made of the class of men now in the greatest distress, and also for the choice you have made of the place of our destination. In conclusion, we hope that by good conduct and honest perseverance in the land you have adopted for us, and which will be the scene of our future industry, that we shall reflect credit on those by whom we have been so kindly patronised. And now, trusting that the blessing of Almighty God may rest with you, one and all, we remain, gentlemen, your obliged and grateful servants,

“(Signed on behalf of the Cotton Weavers’ Committee)

“ARCHIBALD PELAN, Secretary.

“Bridge End, Lisburn, May 19, 1863.”

The Rev. W. BREAKEY had listened with very great pleasure to the address just read. He had often before heard of the literary ability said to be found in the ranks of the cotton weavers, but he certainly did not expect that even the ablest of them could have

drawn up a document such as that read by Mr. A. Pelan. In his opinion that address, in style of expression and terseness of thought, would not discredit any collegiate student. He was delighted to know that the people selected as emigrants were so well pleased with the prospects before them.

The CHAIRMAN then assured the deputation that no time would be lost in making preparations for embarking, and A. Pelan and the other operatives withdrew.

Ordered—That a copy of the weavers' address be placed on the minutes.

Mr. W. STANNUS inquired whether any special accommodation had been set apart for the unmarried female emigrants—a few of whom, he had understood, were to be sent out by the Committee.

Mr. DAVID CARLILE said he could fully reply to that question. Early in the previous week Mr. M'Call, Mr. Alfred Millar, and himself visited the emigration ship *Old Hickory*. They looked over all the berths, and in an after conversation with Captain Meade they pointed some changes necessary to have a separate range of sleeping places for the young women. Special attention to the suggestions was paid by the captain, who promised that all should be attended to, so as to meet the required privacy for the females. On a later occasion Mr. Alfred Millar had again gone to Belfast, and inspected the arrangements. He would read the report which his young friend had drawn up on the subject referred to by Mr. Stannus :—

“I am happy to state that the fittings-up of the ship *Old Hickory* are rapidly progressing, and when all the berthing has been completed she will be a comfortable transport. That part of the vessel most appropriate for the accommodation of the unmarried females should be the small room on the starboard quarter. This would accommodate from four to six persons, and the door communicating with the midship portion of the afterdeck cabin can be secured by a bolt, to fasten inside. Immediately opposite to this door are berths which might be occupied by some of the married

couples and their younger children. These married people would thereby have a proper supervision over the young girls during the voyage."

The suggestion contained in the report as to the arrangement of berths for unmarried females having been approved of, a vote of thanks to Mr. A. Millar was passed by the Committee. It was also ordered that that gentleman be requested to have the work done according to his own plans. During the discussion on the emigration question a letter was read from the Newtownards Relief Committee, inquiring whether the Lisburn Committee could accommodate in their ship a few families from that district, and in case that could be done the Newtownards Committee would pay at the rate of 70s. a-head for the passages of their people.

This proposal was discussed at some length, but after considerable attention had been paid to it, the Chairman inquired whether the list of free-passage emigrants from their own districts had been made up? It was then discovered that every available spot in the Old Hickory would have its occupant, and not only was that the case, but many applications had to be rejected, so great was the desire on the part of the distressed people to get away from the scene of their sorrows.

Under those circumstances it was ordered that a reply should be written and posted to the Newtownards Relief Society stating that, as the emigrant ship had already her full complement of passengers, their request could not be complied with.

A desultory conversation here ensued, in which those members of committee took part who were opposed to making any section of the United States a landing-place for the weavers. Several of the gentlemen present were arguing that the emigrants should be sent to Canada, as they had some fear that the young and stalwart men whom they were about to send to Philadelphia might be pressed for the army, seeing that the war was then carried on with the most determined energy on both sides, and that very high bounties were paid for recruits. In reply to these observations,

Mr. MILLAR said, "He was well aware that most erroneous impressions had gone abroad relative to the results of emigration to the Northern States of America. Some people entertained the idea that every man capable of bearing arms landing at the ports of New York or Philadelphia was liable to be forced into the army and to be sent off to the seat of war. Nothing could be more opposed to facts than such conceptions. The truth was that the rights of British subjects had hitherto been faithfully guarded by the American Government, and that, except natives of this country thought fit to volunteer as soldiers, their claims to remain as civilians were held especially sacred. There was another matter which should not be overlooked in relation to the United States—the citizens there had contributed upwards of fifteen hundred pounds to their funds, while the people of Canada—some of the wealthiest of whom had been brought up in the neighbourhood of Lisburn, and who were applied to for that purpose—had not given a single cent. towards the relief of distress. He would, therefore, say that if the accession of new blood into any country was of great advantage to it, the Northern States of America had special claims on the Lisburn Relief Committee in that respect—(hear, hear)—and he thought that it would be only showing their high appreciation of the philanthropy of those citizens to send them there. Irrespective, however, of these considerations, the demand for labour in Philadelphia was very active, and he believed that all the working men about to be sent out would obtain employment very soon after landing. It was, therefore, most important that the emigrants, whose means were so limited, should not have to travel into the interior in search of work."

After some further discussion on the matter, it was finally resolved that the destination of the good ship *Old Hickory* should be the City on the Delaware, as suggested by Mr. Millar, and by the next American mail letters were sent to the house of Messrs. Thomas Richardson & Co., as well as to Mr. Thomas O'Neill, announcing the fact, so that some preparations might be made for receiving the passengers.

The ship having been comfortably fitted-up for the emigrants, and all possible preparation made for their accommodation, it was arranged that the people would leave Lisburn by the early train on the morning of Wednesday, the 27th May. From the Belfast papers of next day we take the following report :—

Yesterday morning, two hundred and fifty-three persons, lately under the care of the Committee of the Lisburn Relief Fund, left Belfast, in the Old Hickory, Captain Meade, for Philadelphia, in search of that relief from want and destitution which, in consequence of the failure in hand-loom weaving, was denied them at home. It had been arranged that those intending to emigrate should assemble at the Lisburn station of the Ulster Railway at ten o'clock, and at that hour immense numbers had collected to see the emigrants off, and to bid them farewell. The scene was a very impressive and affecting one. Two hundred and fifty-three individuals—including many of the finest of the peasantry—were on the platform, bidding farewell to old friends and acquaintances, in a few hours to leave, perhaps for ever, the place in which they were born and the friends whom they loved. Among those on the platform of the Lisburn station were—John D. Barbour, Esq., M.P.; William Gregg, Esq., J.P.; Joseph Richardson, Esq.; Robert Barbour, Esq.; John Millar, Esq.; Hugh M'Call, Esq.; B. Megarry, Esq.; D. Carlile, Esq.; Alfred Millar, Esq.; Rev. Mr. Clarke, Rev. Mr. Hall, Rev. Mr. Breakey, Rev. Mr. Kelly, P.P., Rev. Mr. Pouden, Rev. Mr. Johnston, Rev. Mr. Franks, and Rev. Mr. Wright, Methodist ministers. While the employés of the Ulster line were engaged in preparing the special train which the manager of the railway company had been good enough to place at the disposal of the Relief Committee for the conveyance of the emigrants to Belfast, Mr. Archibald Pelan, secretary of the Weavers' Society, stood up at the end of the platform and delivered an admirable address to his brother emigrants. After alluding at some length to the low state of remuneration which for years before had been the rule in the weaving trade, and the terrible privations which had been endured by the male and female operatives during the early part of the

previous winter, and before the time when their never-to-be-forgotten friends had taken their cause in hands, he said that a noble work had been successfully carried out by the gentlemen of the Relief Committee—a work which he hoped would be remembered with gratitude not only by the weavers who were about to be sent over the seas to a land of plenty, but by the working men of all classes who had seen the exertions made on behalf of the cotton operatives. He also trusted that they would never forget the good Samaritans at home and at a distance, whose generous contributions had enabled the Committee to help them to tide over the past five months, and had also given them free passages to America, where their industry would be so much better rewarded than it was ever likely to be in their own land. A hearty cheer from the crowd followed this stirring address, after which

The Rev. Mr. Breakey gave a few words of cheering advice to the emigrants. A new world, he said, would be opened up for them when they landed at Philadelphia, and he felt sure that brighter days were in the distance. But much of their prosperity in the country for which they were bound would depend on their own energy, uprightness, and sobriety.

The Rev. D. J. Clarke offered a fervent prayer on behalf of the people, and invoked God's blessing and guardianship for their safe passage across the ocean.

When the carriages were brought to the platform, Mr. Rice, station-master, had the women and children comfortably seated in the first instance, and Mr. John Stevenson having provided an ample supply of cakes and currant buns and distributed them among the families, the men took their places, and several members of the Relief Committee having joined the company, the train was started amid loud cheers and waving of handkerchiefs by those on the platform and their friends in the carriages.

On arriving at the Belfast terminus, Mr. Robert Hamilton, of the firm of Messrs. Richardson Brothers; Mr. Barkley, and Mr. Craig, had a number of their carts in waiting, and on these the luggage, and also the women and children, were conveyed to the quay, at which the ship had lain from her arrival. There were in

all 123 adults, 103 young persons under twenty-one years of age, and 27 infants. The appearance of the people, taken altogether, was much better than could have been anticipated after the severe season through which they had passed. Most of the operatives were young and stout-looking, and their aspect seemed the reverse of sorrowful. There was much hopeful feeling evident in every countenance, telling how highly gratified they felt at the prospect of trying their fortunes in the new world of the West.

By half-past four the vessel was hauled out of the harbour, and was towed down the Lough by a steam-tug. A quantity of flannel for the children, and a large number of caps, shoes, and stockings, and a supply of soap, provided by a private subscription raised by Mr. Joseph Richardson, were distributed amongst the emigrants, and were received most thankfully, many of the recipients expressing their surprise and gratitude at the kindly and thoughtful feeling that gentleman had shown them. Mr. R. Hamilton brought a great many Bibles on board, and each family was presented with a large and small copy. Mr. Alfred Millar, who had taken much interest in the arrangements for the people's comfort during the voyage, was busy all forenoon in the interior of the ship getting the berths regulated, and showing each batch of emigrants the separate rooms that had been prepared for them.

Before the good ship arrived at Carrickfergus Roads, the people had been inspected by the medical officer, and the roll of the Government agent was called over and found correct.

The Treasurer of the Relief Fund placed in the captain's hands an envelope containing cash orders of ten shillings each for every head of a family among the emigrants. The orders were drawn on Messrs. T. Richardson & Co., of Philadelphia, to be paid on the ship's arrival at that port.

When the vessel was opposite Cultra, the members of the Relief Committee, who had conveyed them so far on the voyage, left on their return to Belfast, and as the little steam-tug started on its way, the emigrants gave them three hearty cheers, while the others bade them God-speed.

In addition to the interest taken by Mr. Barbour, M.P., respecting the proposed scheme of colonial emigration, Sir Emerson Tennent, to whom letters had been written on the subject, had made a run through the different offices in London and failed to obtain even the slightest promise as to the Government granting free passages to the cotton weavers of Down and Antrim. The following communication will shew what were that statesman's opinions on the subject :—

“ Warwick Square, London,
June 1st, 1863.

“ MY DEAR SIR,—I find by the Belfast papers that the Lisburn Cotton Operatives' Relief Committee have sent out by emigrant ship, bound for Philadelphia, a number of the suffering families of your neighbourhood, and for whose support during the past Spring your Committees have made such successful exertions. With the opinions of Sir James M. Higginson and Mr. Millar as to the desirability of making America the place of their destination, I fully agree. The voyage thither will be comparatively short, and there is no doubt that employment will be had for the men almost as soon as the vessel reaches the port. As I have already written you, the emigration agents here would only take over to Australia a certain number of adults on the part payment system. That is, each emigrant to hand in five pounds ; and as I understand that your Committee have been able to send out the people to Philadelphia at even less than that sum, the arrangement promises to be much more favourable than anything to be anticipated from the Australian proposal.

“ Believe me, my dear Sir,

“ Very truly yours,

“ J. E. TENNENT.

“ Hugh M'Call, Esq.”





CHAPTER VII.



ALTHOUGH some of the people sent out by the Old Hickory had never received relief from the Fund, the emigration of many others whose names were on the relief lists took away much of the pressure, and a large decrease of outlay followed the sailing of that ship. The demand for agricultural labour had increased very much. In all the rural districts there were fewer weavers idle, and yet the poverty of the people was still such as to demand a considerable degree of relief.

At the committee meeting held on Saturday, the 30th of May—the Rev. D. J. Clarke in the chair—all outstanding accounts connected with the fitting-out of emigrants by the Old Hickory were examined and passed.

The Secretary reported that he had written an official communication to Mr. O'Neill, of Philadelphia, requesting that gentleman to apprise Mr. James, of Messrs. Thos. Richardson & Co., Dr. S. Mackenzie, and other friends, that the good ship had sailed from Belfast for their port, and hoping that arrangements would be made for getting the emigrants into employment as soon as possible after landing at Philadelphia.

On Tuesday, the 2nd of June, a full meeting of the General Committee was held in the News-room—Sir James M. Higginson, C.B., in the chair.

The ordinary affairs for the day having been settled, and payment of accounts ordered,

Mr. JOHN SLOAN inquired whether any exertions had been made to reduce the outlay; he considered that one-half might be taken off in his district.

Mr. CARLILE said there was more demand for work at the loom, and he agreed with Mr. Sloan that the Committee might commence to make a change in the distribution, so as to lower the amount of rations.

Mr. GEORGE PELAN, in alluding to the emigration, said that several gentlemen had been inquiring of him how it was that the operatives were sent to the United States; but as he had not attended the meetings when the arrangements were made, he could not give a definite answer to the question. Many friends of the weavers, with whom he had conversed on the subject, were of the opinion that it might have been better to have sent the emigrants to Canada, as, in the event of their landing in the United States, the men might be forced to join the army.

Mr. MILLAR replied by stating that, at the outset, the Secretary had carried on a correspondence of considerable extent with emigration agents, for the purpose of finding out the cost and other incidentals connected with sending people to the Canadian colonies. But after much attention had been directed to the subject, the idea was given up. He could assure his friend Mr. Pelan, and others who had expressed opinions on the subject, that no efforts had been wanting to do the best for all interests. As to any fear of the men being taken for soldiers on their reaching Philadelphia, he had before stated and would again repeat, that so long as the emigrants remained in their position as British subjects, the American Government would always recognise their national rights. In that case, therefore, they would just be as safe from conscription in that city as if they were located in the town of Belfast. And as to employment, when they reached their destination, he could tell the Committee that the merchants of Philadelphia would be no less anxious to find work for them than they had been to get up funds for the relief of those people when at home. He would

just say, before he sat down, that he understood that all charges and port dues for which the Old Hickory was liable to the Belfast Harbour Board, had been remitted, through the representations made to that body by the firm of Messrs. Richardson Brothers.

The drain on the funds continued to be heavy, for although considerable improvement had taken place in the general state of the weavers and labourers, there was yet to be aided a large number of people. About the middle of June, the funds were reduced to something under four hundred pounds. Up to that date the total sums subscribed had amounted to £3,231 16s., and the outlay, including the passenger money and other expenses connected with the emigration account, was £2,720 10s. 8d. Under such circumstances, the only course left was that of lessening the expenditure, and the Committee ordered that the rations distributed in all districts should be reduced one-half.

But a message of mercy was on its way to Lisburn. The letter sent the Rothschild of Broadway had been read with interest by that marvellously successful merchant, and, inspired by the princely benevolence which marked his conduct in many other instances, he purchased a ship-load of breadstuffs and provisions and sent it over the ocean, in aid of his poor countrymen. Before the close of the week in which the order had been issued to reduce the rations, the following letter came to hand :—

“ New York, May 29, 1863.

“ Hugh M'Call, Esq., Lisburn, Ireland.

“ DEAR SIR,—I have taken the liberty of naming you as one of a committee to distribute jointly in Lisburn and its vicinity the breadstuffs and provisions which the barque Mary Edson is now conveying to Belfast.

“ I need not explain to you the necessity for limiting the distribution to those persons only for whose aid the funds are being collected. In a letter to my firm, a copy of which you will receive, this course has been fully defined, together with the basis on which the vessel may be used for conveying to the United States as many passengers as her capacity will allow.

“ To that letter, in both respects, I have to request that the Committee will conform. Thanking you, in advance, for performing this service, which, I doubt not, will be entirely agreeable to you.

“ I am, yours respectfully,

“ ALEX. T. STEWART.”

The utmost interest was created respecting the arrival of the good ship Mary Edson, and not long had the people to wait for a fresh supply of food. In course of the following week that vessel reached Carrickfergus Roads, and next day was towed up Channel and safely moored at Prince's Dock. Her cargo consisted of—

8,475 Bushels of Indian Corn,
 110 Barrels of Flour, and
 50 Tons of Bacon.

These contributions towards the Lisburn Relief Fund had been purchased in New York by competent merchants, and each article was of the best quality, Mr. Stewart's order to the buyers having been to select the finest corn and flour and the best bacon, irrespective of price. Very great was the curiosity that prevailed at the Prince's Dock to look on the American barque, Mary Edson, and, for the time being, she was the most admired of all the merchant fleet in the Harbour.

Mr. Stewart in the circular letter he sent to his firm, after alluding to the distress of the cotton weavers, and the great regret he felt that such a state of affairs should exist in his own land, added that he chartered the ship to convey to America on her return voyage a certain number of operatives and their families. These were to consist of the different sexes between the ages of 18 and 30, all of whom were to be in good health, of good character, and able to read and write. He appointed to carry out the arrangements for distribution of the food and the selection of the emigrants the following Trustees, each of whom received a letter to that effect ;—

Ruth Clibborn	...	Aberdelgie.
Joshua Lamb	...	Peartree Hill.
J. N. Richardson	...	Lissue.
Hugh M'Call	...	Lisburn.
George Fox	..	Manchester.

The announcement that such an immense addition had been made to the funds for the relief of distress was heard with the utmost gratification, and the story of the Broadway merchant's munificence became the subject of popular pride in Lisburn.

Those of the older inhabitants who had recollected him when, as a mere boy, he passed on his way to or from school, were oracles for the time being, and any scrap of information connected with the early days of the famous merchant was recounted over as proudly as if every man who recollected A. T. Stewart in other times felt that a portion of the great capitalist's glory had fallen on himself. The value of the Mary Edson's cargo was above five thousand pounds, and as we have seen, the generous donor, in addition to that gift, had chartered the ship for the purpose of conveying back to New York such a number of emigrants as could be accommodated in the vessel, abundant supplies of the best provisions having been ordered for the people during the passage out.

It was resolved that the accounts of the General Committee and those of the Stewart Fund should be kept separate, and at the first meeting of the Trustees of the Stewart Fund Mrs. Clibborn was elected President ; and when that matter had been arranged, Mr. James N. Richardson said it would, perhaps, be the best course for the Indian corn to be sold by public auction, the flour also might be disposed of, and the proceeds of sale used in the purchase of clothing and Indian meal. He would propose, in addition, that the firm of Richardson, Brothers be entrusted with the disposal of the corn and flour, as well as that of being bankers for the Trust.

All this was agreed to, Mrs. Clibborn stating, in reference to fitting out the emigrants for their voyage, that she should have full power to purchase whatever clothing they might require. Mr. Lamb said he had some doubts about the propriety of that mode of disposing of the funds ; but the other members of the committee quite concurred with the President when that lady stated that it would not be paying due respect to Mr. Stewart to send half-clad people over to New York. Arrangements were consequently made that a moderate sum be expended by that lady in procuring clothing, especially for the women and children that had been selected to go out by the Mary Edson.

Several meetings were held for the purpose of selecting from the great number of people that presented themselves for free passages such persons only as came within the range of Mr. Stewart's letter of advice.

The Stewart donation having been given for the exclusive aid of cotton operatives, the names of all the agricultural labourers who had been receiving relief from the original Committee were put off the lists ; and as there was then more demand for out-door work those persons were able to maintain themselves without further aid from the Relief Fund. Mr. Fox, of Manchester, one of Mr. Stewart's partners, had attended several meetings ; but finding it inconvenient to be present as often as he could have wished, he requested that Mr. Millar should be appointed in his stead, which proposal was duly attended to, and from that time Mr. Millar regularly met the other members at the Board. In the meantime, the cargo brought over by the Mary Edson had been discharged, the bacon was brought up to Lisburn, the Indian corn was ground into meal and also conveyed to the stores of the Relief Committee for distribution.

Then came the work of fitting up the ship for the people who had been selected to go out in her on the return voyage. Mr. Henry Murray, of Belfast, manager of the branch firm of A. T. Stewart & Co., in that town, paid daily visits to Prince's Dock, and in turn each of the Trustees went to Belfast for the purpose of examining the work, to see that the berths for women and children were all correct, and that ample provision was made for the comfort of the passengers. Mrs. Clibborn, President of Trustees, paid the utmost attention to clothing the emigrants, and, throughout the entire proceedings, was decidedly the most active member of the Board. Having inherited from Mother Eve a full share of that lady of Eden's self-will, as well as a love of exercising it, the President managed to carry out her own propositions, and as she possessed not only great energy, but much self-reliance, she led the way in many instances where her co-trustees of the sterner sex had failed to take the initiative. In the selection of emigrants she was most anxious that the people should be of the class specially alluded

to by Mr. Stewart, and when the candidates had got their names on the list, she was equally determined they should be comfortably clothed. Some dissent was expressed by other members of the trust ; but, like a true woman, she failed not to have her own way in the matter. "Mr. Stewart had given abundant means for that purpose, and," she said, "it would be paying a bad compliment to that gentleman to send out in the ship he had chartered any number of the people in a half-clad state."

As already noted, the notices that appeared in the Belfast papers, relative to the Mary Edson and her mission of benevolence, caused that ship to be regarded with great interest, as well by strangers as by the citizens. During the time she lay in Prince's Dock, crowds of the curious visited the wharf, and on Sunday evenings hundreds of people lined the quay. Captain Nickerson, her commander, was quite a lion, his first and second mates were also looked upon with special favour, and all the sailors shared in similar popularity.

At the meetings of the Lisburn Relief Committee, many discussions were held, and much interest was shown respecting the best mode of marking the munificence of Mr. Stewart. When the usual business of the meeting, held June 30, had been concluded :

Sir J. M. HIGGINSON rose and said the occasion was no ordinary one. The Committee had been enabled, through the liberality of the benovent at home and abroad, to save from something like direct starvation many hundreds of poor families. It had been well said that the distress which had fallen on those people did not arise from any fault of their own ; still, that fact did not lessen their sufferings. His brother members of Committee were aware that just when the funds in their Treasurer's hands were very much reduced, Mr. Stewart's ship-load of food had arrived in Belfast. He would, therefore, propose that they should show their high appreciation of that noble merchant's liberality by getting up an address expressive of their grateful feelings on the subject, and with that view he would propose that Mr. Millar, Mr. J. N. Richardson, and Mr. M'Call draw up an address and lay it for approval before the Committee at their meeting. (Hear, hear.) He would also

add that, as a further evidence of their sense of Mr. Stewart's broad-minded benevolence, they should show some mark of respect to Captain Nickerson, commander of the *Mary Edson*—say that a gold watch with suitable inscription should be had and presented to that gentleman. (Hear, hear.)

Both propositions having been agreed to, a subscription was entered into, and in a few minutes the members had affixed their names to a list, the amount of their subscriptions being fully equal to meet the cost of the proposed testimonial, and also to meet the expense of illuminating the address to Mr. Stewart in the finest style of Messrs. Marcus Ward & Co. On the following board day Mr. Millar laid before the Committee his draft of the proposed address to Mr. Stewart. After a slight change having been made in it, the draft was agreed to. A gold watch having been purchased for presentation to the captain of the *Mary Edson*, it was suggested by some gentlemen in Belfast that Captain Nickerson and the officers and crew of his ship should be entertained before leaving Belfast. That suggestion was made on the day before that on which the vessel was expected to sail, and as there was no time to organize office-bearers for the occasion, an impromptu committee, consisting of Mr. David Dunlop, proprietor of the *Banner of Ulster*, and the Secretary of the Relief Committee, started off through Belfast to collect funds for defraying the cost of the banquet. Two of the gentlemen on whom they first called—Mr. William Ewart, sen., and Mr. Benjamin Dickson, of the firm of William Spotten & Co.—handed them such handsome subscriptions as paid half the entire expense of the banquet. Each of the local banking concerns also contributed to the fund, and a few other merchants made up the amount.

Circulars were written in course of the afternoon inviting such friends as were likely to take interest in the affair, and arrangements were made with Mr. Thompson, of Donegall Place, to provide the material for the entertainment.

In order to give effect to the meeting, it was considered that the Mayor of Belfast, Mr. John Lytle, should be requested to

preside on the occasion ; and, on this gentleman having been called upon, he kindly consented to take the chair, and this, too, when he had only had a few hours' notice of the affair.

The following report of the proceedings that took place on that occasion contains many points of interest :—

“ On Saturday last, at two o'clock, Captain Nickerson and the officers and men of the ship *Mary Edson*, which brought over the princely gift of A. T. Stewart, Esq., New York, for the relief of the distressed operatives of Lisburn and neighbourhood, were entertained at lunch in the Green Room of the Harbour Office. Mr. Thompson, of Donegall Place, prepared the lunch, and, we need scarcely say, it was served up in first-rate style.

“ The room had been tastefully fitted up for the occasion. On the centre of the table there was placed, under a glass shade, an exceedingly handsome group of artificial flowers, designed and worked by Mrs. David Dunlop, and which that lady had sent forward, to be conveyed by the Captain of the *Old Hickory*, as a present to Mrs. A. T. Stewart.

“ John Lytle, Esq., Mayor of Belfast, occupied the chair, and John Millar, Esq., Lisburn, the vice-chair. Among others present were—John Thompson, Esq., J.P. ; James Kennedy, Esq., J.P. ; Edward Orme, Esq., R.M. ; David Taylor, Esq., J.P. ; Dr. Young, American Consul ; J. Shelly, Collector of Customs ; John Barbour, Jonathan Cordukes, H. M'Call, John Moore, Esqrs. ; Dr. Musgrave, A. M'Lean, George Pelan, David Carlisle, William Mullan, Benjamin Dickson, P. Ewing, Robert A. M'Call, Henry Murray, David Dunlop, John Hamill, J. W. Carroll, James D. Burnside, H. Garrett, and George Fox, Esqrs. ; Captain Nickerson, Mr. Powell, first mate ; Mr. Nasan, second mate ; and the crew of the *Mary Edson*.

“ After the usual loyal toasts had been duly honoured,

“ The CHAIRMAN gave ‘ The health of the President of the United States.’ (Applause.)

“ Dr. YOUNG, American Consul, returned thanks. He was not aware that he would have been called on on that occasion.

As Americans, those present belonging to that country could cordially unite in wishing the health and happiness of the Royal Family of England, for in no place in the world was Queen Victoria and her family more respected than in the United States of America. The American and the English nation were the same family, and whatever tended to promote the prosperity of one nation should tend to promote the prosperity of the other. Although born in this country, he had been for twenty years a citizen of the United States. With regard to the troubles that now afflict America, he believed they could not have been well avoided. Very earnest men had long ago written and spoken of the storm that was coming. That there was a God of right on high he did not doubt, and that good would come out of the rebellion he had not the least fear. He rejoiced to be present to declare his appreciation of an act of great kindness by a man like himself born in this country, but now a citizen of the United States. He had amassed wealth in that country, and, when he heard that in his native land the people were starving, he considered it one of the highest privileges to be able to dispense his wealth for their good. There was a subject on which he wished to say a word or two. Some strange impression had taken hold of the people of this country that the Consuls of the American Government were sending the people of this country to the war. He himself got a dozen or twenty letters a-week on this subject, and he might take that opportunity of saying that, as agents of the American Government, they could send nobody to the war. He had no doubt the American people could settle the war themselves without assistance. After a few remarks in which Dr. Young shewed the advantage of emigration to the North-Western States—especially Minnesota—in preference to other States, he thanked the meeting for the honour of connecting his name with the toast of ‘The President of the United States.’

“The CHAIRMAN, in proposing the next toast, referred to the responsible duties connected with the command of the ship, Captain Nickerson, on his present visit to Belfast, had brought great relief to the poor of a neighbouring town from a gentleman

who was himself at one time an inhabitant of that neighbourhood. Mr. Stewart would be delighted to learn that under the command of Captain Nickerson, the enterprise had been successful. He believed it was the intention of a few friends to present to Captain Nickerson a small token of their respect and esteem, and he felt very much gratified in announcing the fact.

“ Mr. MILLAR here rose, and on behalf of the Lisburn Relief Committee, stated that the offering alluded to by their worthy Chairman consisted of a gold watch, which had been purchased at the establishment of Messrs. Gilbert & Son, High Street, Belfast. In presenting the gift to the captain of the good ship, Mr. Millar said that he felt honoured in having been deputed to pay that mark of respect to the gallant seaman who had conveyed across the ocean the ample supplies of food sent the Lisburn Committee by Mr. Stewart. The captain was again about to be engaged in the further carrying out of the princely liberality of the great merchant, of Broadway, in conveying a number of operatives to New York, free passages for whom that gentleman had provided. In relation to some statements that had been made about the impressment of civilians on the part of the New York or other authorities, he would say that when the emigrants landed there they would find their personal rights as fully respected as if they had still been under British laws, and the American Consul had just corroborated his statement. The speaker then handed over the watch and chain to their future owner ; immediately after which,

“ The CHAIRMAN gave ‘ The health of the Captain and Crew of the Mary Edson.’

“ A long and hearty round of applause followed the announcement of this toast, and when the cheering had ceased,

“ Captain NICKERSON rose and said—In the first place, he had to return thanks to the gentlemen of the Lisburn Relief Committee for the very handsome present, which Mr. Millar had just handed to him. That watch, he trusted, would be looked upon by himself and his family as a cherished memorial of his voyage to Belfast. He would next allude to the kind and unexpected honor that had been paid himself and his officers in being entertained by

gentlemen of the high standing which was enjoyed by those around him. That in itself was sufficient to cause him to feel much more than he could express. Seamen were not usually famed as speakers, and he (Captain Nickerson) had never been good at talking; but he trusted his friends would give him full credit for grateful feelings. (Cheers.) Since he had arrived in Belfast he had been treated with far more attention than he could have anticipated; and he took that opportunity of thanking Mr. Henry Murray and other citizens of their great town for their genuine hospitality. He had had much pleasure in doing his duty, so far as he could, by carrying out the wishes of Mr. Stewart; and that gentleman, he was sure, would feel more than rewarded when he learned with what great appreciation his generous gift had been received. He would just add, before he sat down, how much pleased he was to see Ireland looking so well; indeed, he had been agreeably disappointed, as he had always heard that the country was in a very backward condition—(laughter)—and that the natives ran about half naked. (Loud laughter.)

“Mr. POWELL (first mate of the *Mary Edson*) having briefly expressed his thanks, not only for the kindness with which he had been treated on that occasion, but for the real Irish heartiness that had marked all the other attentions paid to him and his brother seamen during their stay in Belfast,

“Mr. NASAN said a few words to the same effect, and sat down amid much applause.

“The CHAIRMAN said the next toast was the name of a gentleman who deserved the highest respect that could be paid him—a gentleman who had displayed nobility of mind and sympathy for his poor fellow-creatures, and particularly for those in distress in his native town. Mr. Stewart had now for a number of years been a citizen of the United States, and might be considered to have little, if any, connexion with the people here, but he had not forgotten his native town in its distress. He had been extremely successful in the management of his business, and had accumulated considerable wealth, but it was not every one who did so that knew how to dispose of it. He had chartered a ship,

loaded that vessel with bacon, flour, and Indian corn, and sent the whole cargo to the poor weavers of Lisburn. Surely the man who had the large heart to do so deserved their best thanks. He might mention that the same gentleman who had presented that noble gift to the poor of Lisburn had given no less than two thousand pounds to the suffering poor of Lancashire. (Applause.) He would, therefore, give 'The health and long life of A. T. Stewart, Esq.'

"JOHN THOMSON, J.P., senior director of the Belfast Bank, having been called upon to respond to the toast, said he felt himself highly honoured in being requested to say a few words on such an interesting occasion. He was very happy to see among them Mr. George Fox, one of the partners in the firm of Messrs. A. T. Stewart & Co. Their Mayor had stated that Mr. Stewart had sent over a very munificent present to the suffering operatives of his native town. He has not stated to you the amount that Mr. Stewart has thus magnanimously sent, but he had heard that it had amounted to a sum of between four and five thousand pounds. (Applause.) Mr. Stewart had not only been so kind as to send that noble gift to his suffering fellow-countrymen, but he has arranged to give free passages to New York to upwards of one hundred emigrants. He was sure that every gentleman present felt gratified to do honour to such a great man as Mr. A. T. Stewart. It was a proud thought to them all that during the existence of the cotton famine merchants and manufacturers in different parts of the world, but more particularly in America and the United Kingdom, had been so generous in their gifts to the suffering people. Never within the recollection of living man had there been a calamity so terrible in its effects on the industrious classes as that which was then existing in the cotton manufacture, and he (Mr. Thomson) was of opinion that numbers of mill-owners, those whose capital was locked up in buildings and machinery, and whose concerns were closed up, had to bear with difficulties of which few outside the trade could form any just conception. And yet those same mill and factory owners, even in the midst of their own struggles, had been doing their uttermost to

to assist their workpeople. He had heard of instances in which during the past winter, certain firms had supported from their own funds all the operatives connected with their works, even while the entire machinery remained idle. A noble example of liberality had recently been shown in the princely donation of Mr. Peabody for the erection of model lodging-houses in London, and other merchants in different parts of England had exhibited a similar spirit of benevolence. Every man who delighted to hear of kindly acts and the exercise of a charitable disposition must feel pleasure at these doings in other parts of the kingdom, but it was still more gratifying to know that at their own doors such practical sympathy as that displayed by Mr. Stewart had been exhibited with a suffering class of their fellow-countrymen. Such a merchant was an honour to the place of his birth, and reflected the greatest credit on the land of his adoption. (Loud cheers.)

“The CHAIRMAN said that as they had done honour to the name of Mr. Stewart, the principal of the house, he had no doubt the meeting would as cheerfully respond when called upon to drink the health of his partner, Mr. Fox, who was present. (Applause.)

“Mr. Fox, who on rising was received with great applause, said they must excuse him if he only made a short address. He would just set out by stating that he disclaimed the right of any honour in connection with the Stewart Gift. It was his lucky fortune to be connected with a gentleman of such a heart and magnanimous mind ; but in the offering to which so much allusion had been made he had no right to be included ; all he had done was that of carrying out, so far as in him lay, the views of his respected partner. He regretted that any necessity existed to send aid to their suffering poor. (Hear, hear.) The United States were then passing through an ordeal such as most countries have had to undergo one time or other. Of all calamities a civil war was the most trying, but he hoped that, like gold out of the refiner's crucible, America would emerge from the struggle purified from the dross and demoralisation of slavery—(hear)—and that ere long the Stars and Stripes would float gloriously over a land of

freedom—a land which, he believed, was loved and respected by all the nations of the world. (Hear, hear.) He felt exceedingly gratified at what he had heard and seen at that meeting, and it would give him great pleasure to convey to Mr. Stewart some idea of their proceedings—he felt sure it would be highly appreciated by that gentleman. (Applause.) Mr. Fox concluded by proposing ‘The Lisburn Relief Committee, coupled with the names of Mr. M‘Call and Mr. Millar.’ He had not the pleasure of knowing all the gentlemen on that Committee, but he had the good fortune to know Mr. M‘Call. He believed the Lisburn Relief Committee was deserving of all thanks, for they had, in the most praiseworthy manner, given a great deal of their time and attention towards the relief of the poor in their neighbourhood. (Applause.)

“ Mr. M‘CALL said he had great pleasure in responding to the toast proposed by Mr. Fox. He could hardly express the high estimate in which he held his brother members of committee ; they had, indeed, been most assiduous in their attention and indefatigable in their exertions during the whole course of their proceedings. As Secretary of that Committee, he had had the best opportunities of seeing the working of the system of relief, and nothing could exceed the heartiness with which each member of it took his share in the labour. He was quite delighted to sit at a table where so many of the leading citizens of Belfast had assembled with their Lisburn friends to do honour to Mr. A. T. Stewart and the Captain and crew of the handsome barque *Mary Edson*. One of the proudest things of which Lisburn could boast was, that a generous and noble-minded gentleman from her neighbourhood had made a great name for himself in New York, that he had accumulated vast wealth in that city, and, better still, that his heart was as wide as his property was ample. (Cheers.) They were nearly all well aware how nobly the citizens of the Northern States of America had come out in contributing to the Lisburn Relief Fund, and also how well the merchant prince of Broadway had responded to the call for his aid. He (the speaker) owed much to the merchants of Belfast who had so liberally sub-

scribed for the getting up of that entertainment, and he had pleasure in acknowledging the kindness of the worthy Mayor, who, at little more than an hour's notice, had so promptly attended to his request that he would take the chair on that occasion ; in fact, most of the gentlemen he saw around him had been good enough to accept the *impromptu* invitation at almost equally short notice. America had, indeed, done wonders in her efforts to alleviate the distress of the cotton worker, and he trusted that the citizens of the United States would look on that meeting, held, as it was, in the commercial capital of Ulster, as a proof that the people of that part of Ireland would never forget the princely benevolence which had been shown the cotton operatives by American citizens, and that they should feel that, under all circumstances, it was the special wish of the right-minded men on this side the Atlantic that the broadest principles of fraternal amity should ever exist between the United Kingdom and the Western Republic. (Cheers.)

“ Mr. MILLAR, after referring at some length to the difficult duties which had devolved on the Relief Committee and the success that had attended the working of that institution, alluded to the great exertions made by the family of the Richardsons—mainly through whose instrumentality they had been enabled to raise large sums in different parts of the world. He would not go into details, nor did he wish to make the slightest political allusion about the two parties now at war in America ; but, in justice, it should be stated that, independently of Mr. Stewart's gift, the Northern States had sent their Committee £1,600 odds, and the Southern States contributed £1. The Lisburn Committee had prepared an address which, it was intended, should be illuminated in the highest style of art by Marcus Ward & Co., and then presented to Mr. A. T. Stewart. He (Mr. Millar) had been requested to draw up that address, a copy of which he would read to the gentlemen present :—

“Lisburn, July 7, 1863.

“A. T. STEWART, ESQ., NEW YORK.

“SIR,—I am requested to convey to you the warmest thanks of the Lisburn Relief Committee for the very munificent gift which you have been so kind as to send over for the relief of the distressed cotton operatives of this neighbourhood.

“Early in the present year, when the dearth of cotton had nearly put a stop to the manufacture that employed so many hands in this part of the country, it became evident that exertions should at once be made to prevent starvation amongst the weavers, and a meeting was called to devise measures for their assistance.

“A subscription was entered into, and a committee appointed to arrange and manage the mode of relief.

“In the meantime, Mr. M'Call, Secretary for the Committee, made the distress widely known, by means of the public Press, and the Messrs. Richardson, through their extensive connections in different parts of the world, were no less energetic in giving publicity to the destitute state of the operatives.

“The result was, that liberal subscriptions poured in, not only from the United Kingdom, but from the Continent and America. The Committee has thus, for several months, been enabled to give nearly one thousand families, comprising three thousand individuals, a regular weekly assistance. Besides this, the Committee sent out to Philadelphia—from which place liberal subscriptions had been received—about sixty families, comprising two hundred and fifty-three persons.

“As inhabitants of Lisburn and its immediate vicinity, we feel highly gratified in referring to the noble part you have taken in this good work. Born and brought up as you were in this neighbourhood, you did not forget, in the eminence you have attained in the land of your adoption, the poor weavers of your native country who had been reduced to the utmost distress by causes over which they had no control; but, in a spirit of the highest generosity and benevolence, you loaded a ship with provisions, sent it here entirely at your own expense, and also chartered the same vessel to

convey to the land of plenty a number of your industrious countrymen, who, under the altered circumstances of the times, could scarcely obtain by their labour in this country the means of subsistence.

“Trusting that you may live long to enjoy, in all their amplitude, those blessings which Providence has so abundantly supplied to you, and that as years increase the noble spirit that dictated the princely gift you bestowed on your suffering countrymen may have full play in every action of your life,

“We remain, Sir, most respectfully,

“Your grateful friends,

“(Signed on behalf of the Committee),

“J. J. RICHARDSON, Chairman.”

“The reading of the Address was frequently interrupted by applause, and at its conclusion,

“Mr. MILLAR said that a very pleasing duty remained for him to perform. It was always a pleasure to him to meet the worthy Mayor of their great town, and on that occasion he felt especially gratified to see his good friend, Mr. John Lytle, in the chair. (Cheers.) Since that gentleman had occupied the high position to which he had been raised by the united voices of the municipal representatives of Belfast, he had upheld the dignity of the chair with no ordinary ability—(applause)—and it was an exceedingly grand testimony to his character as Chief Magistrate that he had never made any overstretch of power, while he firmly administered the principles of even-handed justice. (Loud cheers.) He would, therefore, give ‘The health of the Mayor of Belfast.’

“After the applause had subsided,

“The CHAIRMAN said—When Mr. M’Call requested him to preside at the entertainment to the captain and crew of the *Mary Edson*, he at once agreed to do so, as he considered it an honour and a very great pleasure. (Hear, hear.) It was true he attended at some inconvenience, but he could not see his way to avoid coming. He was not always in that comfortable position in which

the Chief Magistrate of Belfast might be supposed to be—(laughter)—but, however unpleasant his office might be in some respects, he considered the mayoralty to be one of the greatest honours that a citizen of Ulster's capital could enjoy, and he occupied the position under that impression, whether it was convenient or inconvenient ; and he had endeavoured to discharge his duties in such a manner that, at all events he believed was satisfactory to the vast majority of his fellow-citizens. (Cheers.) The occasion on which they were met was certainly one of great interest. They were met, not to honour themselves, but to pay respect to a gentleman who was a credit to his native town, and to do honour to the captain and crew of the good ship they had successfully piloted across the ocean with its valuable cargo. He perceived they were favoured with the honour and presence of five magistrates, with one of the principal bankers of Belfast, and many of the leading merchants of the town ; and Mr. Fox could very properly convey to his partner the feeling which was entertained towards him. The Chairman concluded by proposing 'The Press,' coupled with the name of Mr. Dunlop, of the *Banner of Ulster*. (Applause.)

"Mr. DUNLOP begged, on behalf of the Press, to express his very cordial thanks for the kind manner in which the toast had been received. He was happy to say that in every case where a work of public benevolence or private enterprise was to be carried onward, the Press never failed to render its best influence to the cause. In the instance which they had met to commemorate, the Belfast journals had aided materially in telling the world how much the aid of charity was required, and how terribly the loss of employment had fallen on the Cotton Weavers. With the permission of the chairman he would propose a toast, and that was 'The town and trade of Belfast.' (Hear, hear, and applause.) He was glad to find so many of the local merchants coming forward to pay honour to the captain and crew of the noble ship that brought over the sea Mr. Stewart's princely gift ; and he could not be wrong in associating with the toast two of his esteemed friends whom he saw before him—Mr. James Kennedy and Alderman Mullan. (Applause.)

“Mr. JAMES KENNEDY, J.P., responded. No man, he said, should be proud of himself, but the people of Belfast and the North of Ireland had, in many instances, reason to be proud of their provincial countrymen. (Applause.) In Belfast, bankruptcies were the exception, and not the rule. There the people generally pay their debts. For twenty years he had employed from 2,000 to 3,000 people, and, from whatever cause it arose—a high principle of morality or anything else—he believed he had not in all that time lost twenty shillings. That he looked upon as a great fact. The foundation of prosperity was integrity. (Applause.) Belfast was not yet as wealthy as some other towns, but he could appeal to Mr. Thomson, if necessary, whether in times of commercial difficulty the merchants of Belfast were as much affected as elsewhere. So, whatever might be their faults, they deserved every credit for integrity and honesty, and he believed that the time was not far distant when the sun of prosperity would shine still more on that town, and that it would be a credit to Ireland or any other country in the world.

“Mr. WM. MULLAN also responded to the toast in an able and eloquent speech, in which he paid a high compliment to Mr. Fox. After referring at some length to the noble generosity of Mr. Stewart, he said he felt delighted to see that a graceful compliment had been paid to that princely merchant’s lady by Mrs. Dunlop, whose classic taste had produced the beautiful array of artificial flowers that stood on the table before them, and which was about to be sent as a present to Mrs. Stewart. That very interesting recognition of the generous conduct of him whom they all delighted to know, not only as a brother merchant, but as a countryman of their own, would, he was sure, be looked upon with deeper feeling by Mr. and Mrs. Stewart than if every leaf in the picturesque group had been loaded with pearls. There were few modes of expressing regard for those who had themselves never felt the pinchings of poverty, but who had displayed great generosity in the alleviation of distress, more touching than that adopted by Mrs. Dunlop. Simple as was the form of presentation, it would show the kind-hearted citizen across the Atlantic how

much the people in this country appreciate Mrs. Stewart's bounty to the suffering operatives connected with the cotton trade. He would just sit down, but before doing so he begged permission of the Mayor to give 'The Health of the Ladies.' (Loud applause.)

"Mr. JOHN HAMILL, Trench House, having been called upon by the Chairman, said "It had always been a pleasure to him to say a word or two for that part of the creation which was ever the brightest and best of the blessings bestowed on man. No matter what may be the good work going on in the world, whether that of philanthropy or other movement for the benefit of our fellow beings, it would always be found that woman contributed her full share to the carrying out of the great ends in view. (Hear, hear.) He had understood that in the distribution of the general funds collected for the relief of the cotton weavers the ladies of Lisburn rendered the best services to the Committee; and in the case of the very large gift of Mr. Stewart they had been equally energetic. It was quite true that sometimes the ladies wished to sit in the box-seat and take the reins in their own hands—(loud laughter)—but if a woman married a man who had not the ability to drive a donkey cart the best thing she could do was to lift the ribbons and drive the coach herself." (Cheers and laughter.)

"Mr. JOHN MOORE proposed 'The Belfast Harbour Commissioners.'

"Mr. JONATHAN CORDUKES said the Board of which he had the honour of being a member had certainly done a great work for Belfast. He remembered a time, and that not very far distant, when in consequence of the circuitous line of the Lagan it was a matter of great difficulty to bring large ships from Garmoyle to what was then called the Clarendon Dock. From 1840 the Harbour Commissioners had contemplated making a direct channel which would admit most vessels at all times of the tide, and after encountering many difficulties they had the gratification of seeing the new cut opened some nine years afterwards. That remarkable Irishman, William Dargan, with his indomitable pluck and his engineering genius, had the honour of carrying out the great object of the Harbour Board; and while performing the

great work he had made them an Island which should have still borne his name. (Loud cheers.) Before he sat down he would just add that it gave him great pleasure to sit as one of the guests at an entertainment given to Captain Nickerson, the gallant seaman who, with his crew of hardy sailors, had brought from New York the valuable cargo presented by Mr. Stewart to the Lisburn Relief Committee. (Applause.)

“ Mr. GEORGE PELAN said—He wished to propose ‘ The health of the Messrs. Barbour, of Hilden,’ who had been the largest local contributors to the Cotton Workers’ Relief Fund. It would, in some degree, be out of place in a meeting such as that which he had the honour to address, to go into any lengthened details of the vast good which the house of Barbour & Sons had accomplished. The members of that house were directly employing vast numbers of people, and indirectly the very growth of flax required for consumption at their mills gave labour and profit to many hundreds of farmers and their assistants. He need not remind the bankers and merchants of Belfast, who, he was glad to see, had mustered so strong at the *impromptu* invitation given them to attend that banquet, what immense influence the success of mercantile men had on the world as it existed in each locality around them. It had been especially so in the case of the Messrs. Barbour, and thus amid all the sunshine that had attended their enterprise, they were enabled to share the blessings of prosperity with thousands of people. Probably the best evidence of the disposition which those gentlemen had shown for the comfort of the workers engaged at their mills, was to be seen in the handsome and commodious cottages they had erected around Hilden, making that ancient seat of the linen trade one scene of happy homes. He would, then, beg to propose ‘ The health of the Members of the House of Messrs. Barbour & Sons.’ (Loud applause.)

“ Mr. JOHN D. BARBOUR, J.P., said his good friend, Mr. Pelan, had taken him by surprise. He certainly had not the slightest idea the name of his firm would have been alluded to at that meeting. As to what he (himself) or other members of his family had done

in relation to the Lisburn Relief Fund, he thought they had only acted as they were bound to do in a case of great emergency, where so much suffering was at their very doors. Mr. Pelan had alluded to the dwelling-houses erected at Hilden as habitations for the workpeople. He felt very much pleased to hear that matter referred to, because it was a compliment paid to his respected father, the idea of erecting those buildings having been suggested by the senior member of his firm. He, however, did not intend to dwell on those affairs ; his great object in attending the meeting that day was to pay some mark of respect to Mr. A. T. Stewart and the gallant seamen who had the honour of being connected with the ship that brought over the splendid contribution to the funds of their Local Committee. Having, for a great many years past, had large commercial branches in different parts of America—in fact, being intimately connected with the leading merchants of the United States, he (himself) and every member of his firm rejoiced over the generosity which the citizens of that part of the world had shown towards the suffering people of the old country. But, in the case that came more immediately under their notice, there was more than ordinary cause of gratification, and he was glad to see the leading men of Belfast showing how fully they recognised true greatness. In that sumptuous entertainment which they—the Belfast merchants—had got up, they had at once displayed their hospitality and their respect for the generous man who had sent his poor countrymen a ship load of provisions. He repeated that it was worthy of Belfast to offer such a mark of grateful feeling to a great man—and Mr. Stewart had shown himself fully deserving all the honour that could be paid him. (Cheers.)

“Mr. MILLAR said he had heard with pleasure the merited encomium on the Messrs. Barbour for the very liberal aid given to the Relief Fund, and he would now propose, as a toast, the health of a family who had also been most liberal in the aid given to the poor weavers—he meant the Richardsons. Mr. J. J. Richardson, formerly member for the Borough, had at once consented to act as chairman of the Relief Committee, and he

could not forbear from particularising Mr. Joseph Richardson, a member of the well-known firm of Richardson Brothers & Co., and Mr. J. N. Richardson, formerly of Liverpool. These gentlemen had exerted themselves most successfully to procure subscriptions, and had given their personal aid in working out the relief system. Other members of the family had aided the fund by their subscriptions and influence. He had, therefore, great pleasure in proposing 'The Health of the Messrs. Richardson.'

"Mr. M'CALL responded, and in doing so bore testimony to the zeal and energy displayed by the Messrs. Richardson in collecting funds and otherwise furthering the objects of the Relief Committee.

"Mr. JAMES KENNEDY, J.P., having been called to the second chair, a vote of thanks was passed to the Mayor, and the proceedings terminated."

It had been arranged that the ship *Mary Edson* should clear out from the dock on her return voyage to New York on Monday, the 13th July, and in course of that morning the intending emigrants left their respective residences in and around Lisburn, and were received at the Ulster Railway Station, at that town, by J. J. Richardson, Esq., J.P.; John D. Barbour, Esq., J.P.; Thomas Barbour, Esq.; J. N. Richardson, Esq.; the Rev. D. J. Clarke; Hugh M'Call; David Carlile; Alfred Millar; Alexander Stevenson; Joshua Lamb, and several other gentlemen. The officers of distribution, Town-Constable Close, and Mr. D. Wilson assisted in getting the women and children safely into the carriages of the special train which, by the kindness of the Ulster Railway Directors, had been placed at the disposal of the Relief Committee. An immense number of the friends and relations of the emigrants, at least one hundred men, women, and children, had assembled at the Lisburn station to witness their departure, and many were the kind expressions used and hearty aspirations put forth respecting the future career of those who, probably, for the last time, were about to leave their early homes. The grown-up people seemed

more or less thoughtful, but the children were quite delighted, evidently at the idea of the new scenes about to open up before them, for they, too, had had their share in the suffering and privation during the terrible ordeal through which so many had passed, and with the elasticity of youth they appeared joyous in the anticipation of better days.

Just before the emigrants entered the railway carriages the Rev. Mr. Clarke called on the people and their friends to join him while he made a short appeal to God for His blessing on all around him, but especially on those about to leave for a distant land.

In a moment all the bustle of preparation and all the half expressed feelings of old friends and acquaintances, as they looked on each other possibly for the last time in their lives, were hushed into silence, and the reverend gentleman in fervent tones prayed "That He who held the ocean in the hollow of His hand, and Whose voice could still the tempest and call on the sea to be calm, would watch over the people leaving for a far off country, and in His great mercy bring them safe to their destined homes."

The scene was indeed an exciting one, a bright sun shone in the heavens, and as the last words of the young minister died away the silence that prevailed for a few minutes seemed to indicate that every heart within sound of his voice had sent up an inward response to the prayer for a prosperous voyage. When all arrangements had been made, the engine started off with its line of carriages, and, amid the hearty cheers of the people on the platform, the train swept along its way to Belfast. On arriving there, a number of carts, sent by Messrs. Richardson, Brothers, Mr. Barkley, and other merchants of that town, were ready to take the luggage to the Prince's Dock. By mid-day all arrived without accident, at the ship's side, and after taking leave of those friends who had convoyed them so far, they got into the steerage of the vessel and busied themselves in settling up their respective berths. Mr. Alfred Millar, who, with his usual kindly feeling, and as in the case of the Old Hickory, was busily engaged in seeing to the comfort of the people, getting the married pairs into the places prepared

for them, and the single women and girls settled in berths which were specially got up in immediate proximity to the matrons, added to that good work by making out a correct list of the passengers as they were received on board. There were 125 adults, 8 children under 12 years of age, and 4 infants—making in all 137 souls. The following report of the sailing of the ship appeared in the *Whig* of Tuesday, the 14th of July :—

“The mission of mercy on which Mr. Stewart, of New York, sent the *Mary Edson* to our shores, has been so far completed, and all arrangements made for the comfort of the living freight she is destined to carry over the Atlantic being fully perfected, it was pretty generally known that the vessel would leave the quay on her return voyage yesterday afternoon. In consequence of this intimation the ship was much thronged during the greater portion of the day, the friends of the emigrants paying their farewell visits, and numbers of strangers visiting the vessel to see her ere she sailed. Several of the members of the Lisburn Relief Committee were also on board, to see that nothing had been forgotten that would tend to promote their comfort during the voyage of the passengers. The preparations having been all completed, the *Mary Edson* left the quay at seven o'clock, in charge of a tug steamer, and amid the cheering of a large concourse of people who had assembled to witness her departure. While passing Queen's Island, the band there played some appropriate music, to which the emigrants responded by cheers. After getting clear of the river, Captain Nickerson, accompanied by a number of the Belfast merchants who have taken a lively interest in the philanthropic undertaking, and who were on board, adjourned to the cabin, where an excellent refreshment had been provided by the captain; after partaking of which the Collector of Customs, in a few appropriate remarks, proposed the health of Captain Nickerson, to which that gentleman suitably responded. Mr. Lawther proposed in a few complimentary remarks the health of the Collector of Customs, and also that of Mr. Henry Murray, the representative in this town of Messrs. A. T. Stewart & Co.—to both of which toasts appropriate replies were made. The *Mary Edson* was towed down to

Carrickfergus Bay, where she anchored for the night. Here the gentlemen who accompanied the vessel left and went on board the tug, which was to convey them home. On parting with the good ship all joined in three hearty cheers for Captain Nickerson and as many for Mr. Stewart; and, wishing the barque, with her worthy captain and her passengers, a safe and prosperous voyage, the tug steamed back to Belfast. The Mary Edson is expected to sail from Carrickfergus to-day, and we are sure that all will wish for her good weather and favourable winds, and heartily wish her passengers God-speed on their way to the land of their adoption."

Early next morning that floating messenger of benevolence sailed from the bay of "Carrick's old and fortress town," on her run across the Atlantic, and many and hearty were the prayers offered up for the success of that voyage.

Of all the worthy citizens of the Northern Athens, who took interest in the good ship Mary Edson during the few weeks which that vessel lay at the Clarence Dock, none seemed to look on the American barque with such reverence as did the amiable author of the "School of the Sabbath." On the morning the vessel was about to leave the harbour, Mr. M'Comb handed the Secretary the manuscript of the following poem:—

On Hearing of the Presentation to Captain Nickerson, of the Mary Edson.

Hail, Mary Edson! goodly ship, her captain and her store;
And hail the gentle breezes that brought her to our shore;
And hail the name of Stewart, one so worthy Irish soil,
Who sent relief in time of need to Ulster's sons of toil.

When civil war is laying waste the granaries of the West,
And reapers few to gather in the harvest's rich bequest,
Oh! what a noble sacrifice—of generous deeds the Chief—
Amidst their threatened poverty, to give us such relief!

America, the land of Hope!—our grateful thanks are due
To thee, and to thy goodly ship, her captain, and her crew;
We send you back a living freight—our children go with thee—
God save both passengers and ship from perils of the sea.

Land, where our pilgrim fathers found a refuge and a home,
When persecution drove them hence, far, far away to roam!
Thou wast to them a shield and stay, and they were still to thee
True husbandmen, who planted deep old Liberty's broad tree.

And may our sons and daughters dear who now to thee we send
 Find in thy land an heritage—in every man a friend—
 Bind in the brotherhood of life a strong and lasting tie,
 And link the Old World with the New in peace and amity!

Belfast, July 13, 1863.

The following letter was sent Mr. Stewart, to apprise him of the departure of the emigrant ship, and some details connected with that event :—

“Lisburn July 14, 1863.

“MY DEAR SIR,—The good ship Mary Edson sailed yesterday from Belfast for your city, and I hope will have a prosperous run. She takes out a number of passengers rather exceeding your limit, but your Trustees felt pretty sure you would not quarrel with this excess of your discretionary powers. One of the emigrants, Dan Gribben, is beyond the age noted in your letter. He has children in New York, and was anxious to get out to them; but it was only on condition that I would write you an explanation that Messrs. Lamb and Richardson would agree to his going out. I would also recommend to your notice a young lad named Rainey. Mrs. Clibborn took great interest in the choice of the people for free passages. I hope you will be pleased with them, and that they, in their turn, will prove to be worthy of your country and become good citizens of the Western world. You will see by the reports in the Belfast papers of yesterday, all of which I send you, that Captain Nickerson has been presented with a gold watch, and that he and his officers and crew were entertained at lunch. The members of the Relief Committee subscribed for the purchase of the watch, and several of the Belfast bankers and merchants contributed towards the cost of the entertainment got up in honour of the captain and his people who brought over your great gift for the cotton operatives. I will write you again by next mail. In the meantime,

“Believe me, respectfully yours,

“HUGH M'CALL.

“A. T. Stewart, Esq., New York.”

The second lot of people sent from the cotton districts caused a still further diminution of call on the central fund, and trade being a little improved gave employment to many of the idle hands. But such was the prostration of numbers of families, and so much had physical abilities been debilitated, that for some time the people were hardly able to perform such work as they had formerly done. Early in August letters came to hand announcing the safe arrival at Philadelphia of the Old Hickory. The vessel proved herself to be a safe but very slow boat, having been above forty days on the voyage out. The following extract from a long letter addressed to

the Secretary by Archie Pelan, the leader of the Lisburn Weavers, a man whose general intelligence caused him to be much looked up to by his brother operatives, gives a graphic sketch of the circumstances that followed the landing of the emigrants in the city on the Delaware:—

“We got up to the quay at half-past seven o’clock on the evening of Saturday, the 10th of July, after a passage of forty-five days. In the latter part of the voyage, many passengers suffered much from want of water—not because of lack of supply on board, but in consequence of the tin-cans in which each family kept its rations having been so badly made that they leaked out one-half, and often two-thirds, of the quantity meted out for the day’s use. As soon as the gangway was made fast, everyone who had a shilling to spare went ashore to buy bread and milk for the children. Next morning (Sunday) the ship was visited by a number of citizens, who gazed on us as if we had been Red Indians, and this curiosity was kept up all day, during which some thousands must have gazed on us. But the good people of Philadelphia did more than merely look at the Irish weavers—they were very kind, and in every case where they saw people ill-clad they supplied them with clothing. Nor did their kindness end there. Many heads of families got money, as well as clothes, from the Philadelphians. For myself, I can only say that the Sunday passed over dull enough. I would have been glad to go on shore, but had no means to pay for a lodging; and, as the straw beds had all been thrown overboard after the ship arrived in the river, our night’s rest was anything but comfortable. Early next morning, Mr. James, of the house of Messrs. Thomas Richardson & Co., came down, and on seeing the sad condition of the children, he handed one of the mothers of them a five-dollar note to purchase milk, bread, and other requirements for them. The older people on board the ship were also looked after. During the day, Mr. James and our old townsman, Mr. Thos. O’Neill, who is a much-respected merchant here, procured comfortable lodgings for all the passengers. Mr. O’Neill himself superintended the carting of the boxes and other luggage, and in the evening all had been safely conveyed from the

quay to the new quarters of the people. I should state that from the Saturday we left Lisburn till the evening we landed in Philadelphia, seven children died, nearly all these not exceeding two years of age. It would hardly be possible for me to tell you of all the kindness I received from the gentleman (Mr. O'Neill) to whom you wrote about me. He was down at the wharf by nine o'clock in the morning inquiring for me. I had some conversation with him, and he informed me that he wished to see my family. I brought my wife and children forward, and they presented a sorry appearance. He then directed me to go with him, and he took me to his own residence, and informed his lady—as to who I was. She at once made me welcome to stop with them until I could be fitted. I felt my heart swell with gratitude, but said I would rather stop in some other place, as we were just landed. They told me to bring my wife and family, until some arrangement could be effected. I did so; and the children got a bath, which did them a great deal of good. We had new potatoes at dinner, and, after being forty-five days at sea, they were a great treat. Then we had tea in the evening; and, as we had both a great deal of running to do through the day, we sat down to converse about the old folk at home. During this time, Mrs. O'Neill took my little son and dressed him in a full suit of clothes. After this, he brought me to a respectable boarding-house, and paid the carriage of all my little store of property from the wharf, and told me to keep myself easy as to employment, as he expected I would not be long idle. I need hardly say that we slept soundly that night, it being the first of anything like rest that we had enjoyed from we left Lisburn. On Wednesday, Mr. O'Neill came to me, in company with a gentleman who owns a steam-loom factory that is situated at some distance from the city of Philadelphia. The gentleman said he required some hands in his establishment, and, after a few words conversation on the subject, I engaged to go there. I was also fortunate in procuring situations for some others of my fellow-emigrants. We set off at the end of the week, and, I am happy to say, are now settled, and in the receipt of good wages. Nearly all the people who came over with us have got into em-

ployment. There is much talk about the war, but that is all I know of it. Provisions are dear—much more so than at home, and the people here tell us that trade keeps dull; but thanks to Providence that brought us safe over here, and to the gentlemen of the Lisburn Relief Fund, who were the means of sending us away from a land of pinching poverty to a country where honest industry will be sure to gain an independent subsistence.”

There is much in Archie Pelan's history of the events that followed the arrival of the emigrant ship at Philadelphia, to gratify the friends of the weavers at home, and also to teach those who make “the depravity of human nature” a general test for denunciation against “the world,” that in every condition of life much good may be found if we only try to bring it up to the surface.





CHAPTER VIII.

IN course of the week following that in which the emigrants landed, nearly all the men and boys had got into work at wages varying from a dollar to a dollar and a-half the day. Some hands were employed in factories at still higher wages, and all the unmarried women were placed in situations on terms far exceeding the highest they ever expected to obtain. It was, indeed, very gratifying to read the letters that arrived from those people during the autumn, each seeming to vie with the other in grateful acknowledgments of their change of position compared with that in which they had been placed in the old country.

Throughout the months of August and September, the amount of relief was much farther reduced, but there were still many families in need of assistance, and this especially in consequence of ill-health and bodily weakness. The terrible privations which had been endured in the early part of the year began to tell on the more delicately constituted operatives, and many of these people required the aid of the Committee as they had done some months before. In the country districts, much distress existed; for, although the demand for weaving was improved, the rate of wages had fallen so low that the best hands at the loom could not earn above eight shillings a-week. The supplies so amply sent by Mr. Stewart had, therefore, arrived in good time; and hundreds of households were rendered comparatively happy by the gifts of

provisions and grain food. Upwards of one thousand families received rations of the bacon ; and from the proceeds of the sale of a proportion of the Indian corn, flannel shirts, linen shirts, and sheets were purchased, and given to the people in town and country. Immense good was effected by this additional supply of clothing ; for, even with all that had been given away in Spring, there were vast numbers of people who would have suffered terribly during the severe winter, had it not been for that further distribution of under-clothing.

The Address for presentation to Mr. A. T. Stewart having been illuminated in the highest style of art by the Messrs. Ward & Co., the book in which it had been made up was examined in Committee, signed by the Chairman, and an order given the Secretary to have it carefully packed and sent off to its destination. It was further ordered that a letter be written Mr. Stewart, advising him that the box containing the Address had been forwarded to New York. The following is a copy of the communication sent that gentleman:—

“Cotton Operatives’ Relief Fund,

Lisburn, Sept. 18, 1863.

“MY DEAR SIR, --Our Committee has desired me to send you, by the steamer that leaves Liverpool on Saturday for New York, a small box, containing our Address of thanks, and acknowledgment for your princely contribution to the Relief Fund. The artistic decorations which have been so profusely introduced by the Messrs. Ward, of Belfast, in bringing out the work, were greatly admired by those who were permitted to glance over them, and I would hope will be regarded by you as favourable specimens of that beautiful art which those gentlemen have brought to such perfection. Apart, however, from its pictorial illustrations, the Address itself is only a small token of the high estimate at which our Committee, and, I may add, all ranks of people in this part of Ulster, regard the greatness of your benevolence. We feel assured, however, that you will look upon this little *souvenir* as an evidence that the tie which binds you to Ireland has never been broken. And we trust that, by their grateful recollection of what has been done for them, the poor people whom your generosity enabled us to send out to New York, will so conduct themselves in the Land of Hope, as still further to cement the bond of amity between the Old World and the New.

“I can assure you, Sir, that it is to me a pleasure of no ordinary description to be the medium by which this Address is sent to you. Moralists may

say as they will, but really the possession of this world's wealth is a great power for good, and especially when Fortune's gifts are enjoyed by one disposed to share those blessings with the people that most require them.

“ Very respectfully yours,

“ HUGH M'CALL.

“ A. T. Stewart, Esq.,
New York.”

Very interesting letters came to hand from the emigrants by the Old Hickory, during the month of September. Many of the people seemed to rejoice in their new homes as if they had, at length, found themselves in the “promised land.” Those of the emigrants that got engagements with farmers were quite delighted to be once again in the fields ; and although these were not so green as the meadows of their own Isle, the transition from poverty to plenty gave them new life, as if the days of boyhood had come back to them. Among a large class of political economists an idea prevails that men brought up in manufacturing industry are unfit for any work, save that of plying the shuttle, or attending to the spindles of a flax or cotton mill, but all such opinions are most erroneous. During the great scarcity of employment which followed the commercial disasters of 1826, a number of the weavers of Paisley got free passages to Canada, as well as Government grants of land there. Those men when at home hardly knew the difference between a stot and a dairy cow, but they soon learned lessons in agriculture, and ultimately became most successful farmers. It has been found that not one-tenth of the operatives sent out by the Lisburn Relief Committee were employed at the loom in their American homes. A great number of the more active and intelligent got employment in warehouses, some were engaged as light porters, and others found work in the service of livery stable keepers. One lad, who had never before ridden a horse, was hired at high wages as groom to a city merchant. Thus it happened that many were engaged in departments of industry of which they had little knowledge, but soon adapted themselves to the change, and did the duty satisfactorily.

The *Mary Edson* was a slow vessel, but, like the Dutch galliots, very safe. She arrived out in September, and landed her living freight at New York in good health, full of joyful anticipations respecting the future; and as not a single death had occurred during the voyage, that fact was looked upon as a happy omen by every passenger in the ship.

Mr. Stewart had made every preparation for the comfort of the passengers on their arrival in New York. Lodgings were engaged for some time previous to the vessel's reaching port, and until employment was had for the adults every emigrant was supported by Mr. Stewart. The following letter from that gentleman will be read with interest:—

“New York, Nov. 17, 1863.

“DEAR MR. M'CALL,—I laid past your note of the 18th September, that I might reply to it when every matter connected with the *Mary Edson* had been settled, and in order that, after a full survey of what had taken place, I might give you the result. Such is now the situation. All those who came out by the *Mary Edson* have been placed. They have now the opportunity in which this country affords beyond all others—notwithstanding that we are in war—of earning a livelihood, and ultimately reaching a position of comfort and independence. The passenger about whom you wrote me is in our establishment and doing well.

“Captain Nickerson, who received gratifying attention from you, closed up the affairs of the vessel in the same satisfactory manner in which he had performed every duty from the time of leaving to his return to this port. I feel greatly obliged to you for your civilities to him, and am pleased that he has, throughout, shown himself so well entitled to your kindness and my confidence.

“And now, with respect to the token of approbation and regard which you were deputed by the Lisburn Relief Committee to send me, allow me to say, I have been so long absent from the land of my nativity, and have so few acquaintances there, that I had supposed it scarcely possible I could be so much gratified with the honours I have received. But the kindness which has been so warmly and generally shown me by yourself and your friends since the *Mary Edson* started on her mission, the very pleasing demonstrations of regard which public bodies of Belfast and the Press have showered upon me for the humble act of relief to the sufferers around my early home, have more than rewarded me. And, above all, the beautiful tribute of esteem contained in the illuminated address, which I shall ever prize as the most precious possession, these accumulated evidences of approval and regard have aroused in me the earnest

feelings which belonged to my youth, and I most sincerely thank you all for giving me this new happiness.

“Expressing my sincere respect to you, and requesting you will present my kindest wishes to your associates of the Relief Committee,

“Believe me, dear Mr. M‘Call,

“Yours sincerely,

“ALEX. T. STEWART.

“Hugh M‘Call, Esq.”

The winter of 1863-64 turned out rather a severe one, and although employment was more general, many of the weavers and their families suffered much from want of warm clothing. A portion of the funds which still remained of the ample gift sent over by the Broadway merchant was consequently expended in the purchase of woollen shirts for the weavers and flannel petticoats for their wives. These were distributed very liberally in town and country; and many of the recipients afterwards stated that the use of the warm inner clothing they had received had proved of greater benefit to them than any other form of gift by which they might have been favoured. The situation of weavers' shops is frequently very low, damp, and ill-ventilated; hence it had usually been that where there was natural delicacy of constitution among that class of workpeople, consumption prevailed, but that winter passed off with less than ordinary mortality in their ranks. The demand on the Treasurer of Committee had continued pretty large during the early part of the inclement season, and at the commencement of the new year—1864—only a few hundred pounds remained in that gentleman's hands. Early in the month of January, however, the following letter, with its handsome enclosure, came to hand from Mr. Robert Hart, Collector of Customs at Hong Kong:—

“Shanghai, Oct. 18, 1863,

“MY DEAR SIR,—Having read your letters in the *Times* in reference to the cotton weavers and their great destitution, I take the liberty of handing you one hundred pounds as a subscription towards your fund. This sum to be applied in whatever way you see fit for the relief of the unemployed operatives in Lisburn and its vicinity.

“Yours faithfully,

“ROBERT HART.

“Hugh M‘Call, Esq.”

On the announcement of this handsome contribution, the Committee ordered a minute to be taken of Mr. R. Hart's letter, and also requested the Secretary to write that gentleman a note of thanks for his donation. The following is a copy of the letter posted to Mr. Hart :—

“Lisburn, Jan. 12, 1864.

“MY DEAR SIR,—Many thanks for your liberal donation of one hundred pounds in aid of the unemployed weavers. The Committee have still on hand a pretty large sum, which forms the balance of the Stewart fund, and when that amount shall have been distributed your gift will come in to keep up the good work for some further time. I would hope, however, that now the worst of the season of distress has passed, there will not be any necessity to give out the balance in hand. In common with many of my friends here, I have long felt proud of your success in the land of the Celestials, and still prouder of you as a countryman. There was more than ordinary kindness in this act of yours—this recollection of the poor people of the neighbourhood of your early home, even when you were so far away from the scene of poverty. And now, hoping you may long enjoy the honors you have so nobly won, and long continue to exercise the benevolent disposition which usually accompanies the possession of intellectual power,

“Believe me, very truly yours,

“HUGH M'CALL.

“Robert Hart, Esq.,
Comptroller of Customs,
Shanghai, China.”

Manufacturing industry had once again risen into activity in the summer of 1864. The linen trade rose at a bound, and the demand for cotton weaving became no less stirring. As there were then about three hundred pounds in the hands of the Treasurer, it was suggested that the balance might be expended in the erection of a memorial lodging-house, in which the wives of cotton operatives would get free residence, and which, at the same time, would tell future generations what had been done in the interests of benevolence during the distress arising from the cotton famine.

Many discussions were held on the subject, and at the desire of some members of Committee, the Secretary wrote Mr. A. T. Stewart and Mr. Robert Hart, requesting those gentlemen should say whether they would approve of such a mode of investing the

amount in hand. The balance, it should be stated, consisted of the final remnant of Mr. Stewart's gift, and the sum sent from China by Mr. R. Hart.

In due course, replies were received from those gentlemen, and each of them expressed himself pleased with the proposed plan. Some members of the Relief Committee took different views. It was feared that in case the houses were built much difficulty might arise in getting them managed, and that few persons could be had who would act as Trustees. Still, the practical value of the proposition found much favour in the eyes of others, and the subject was frequently brought forward.

About the close of March, 1865, news came to hand of the death of Mr. Thomas Richardson, of Philadelphia. Immediately afterwards a meeting of the Committee was held for the purpose of expressing their regret at the demise of a gentleman who had been so efficient in collecting funds in his city. The following report of the meeting appeared in the Belfast papers:—

“THE LATE THOMAS RICHARDSON, ESQ.

“An extraordinary meeting of the local members of the Central Committee was held in the Old News-Room, Lisburn, on Saturday morning last, at half-past eleven o'clock. Mr. J. J. RICHARDSON, J.P., President of the Committee, took the chair. The other members present were:—Captain Bolton, R.N.; Dr. Musgrave, Rev. Edward Kelly, P.P.; Dr. Campbell; Messrs. John Millar, Hugh M'Call, and David Carlisle.

“The SECRETARY said that immediately on the announcement respecting the death of Mr. Thomas Richardson, of Philadelphia, having been heard in Lisburn, he considered that a meeting of the local committee should be called for the purpose of expressing their feeling of sorrow at that mournful event; and also to place on their minutes some record that would describe the grateful sense they entertained of the exertions which the late respected gentleman had made in collecting funds for their institution. Acting on that feeling, he had summoned every member of the local committee.

“ Captain BOLTON said he understood that the Philadelphia house, of which the late Mr. Thomas Richardson was the head, had been remarkably energetic in enlisting the friendly sympathy of the leading merchants of that city in favour of the poor weavers, and that by the kindly interest thus taken in the alleviation of the distress in Lisburn and its neighbourhood, a large accession had been made to the funds of the Relief Society. He (Capt. Bolton) felt gratified to think that, so far as the Committee was concerned, the generous attentions of a gentleman who had shown such interest in the sufferings of a portion of the people of his native town were not likely to be forgotten.

“ The Rev. EDWARD KELLY, P.P., concurred in all that had been said relative to the late Mr. Richardson ; and in thus noticing the Christian kindness of that gentleman, the Committee, he was certain, would have the sympathy of all those other contributors who, in the time of suffering and distress, so liberally came forward to add their gifts to the general fund. In a distant land, some three thousand miles from the place of his birth, he had recollected the home of his boyhood ; and when he learned that aid was required to keep the helpless from want, he worked with a will among his fellow citizens of Philadelphia to collect money for the old land at home. He (Mr. Kelly) would, therefore, suggest that a letter of condolence should be sent to their late friend’s widow, and probably some gentleman present would draw up a resolution to that effect.

“ Mr. MILLAR, after some preliminary remarks, alluded to the part Mr. Thomas Richardson had taken in the case of the emigrants who had been sent to Philadelphia in the barque Old Hickory. He said it would be remembered by those present that in May, 1863, upwards of 250 persons, consisting of cotton operatives and their families, had been sent to America. Previous to the arrival out of that ship, arrangements had been made for the reception by Mr. Richardson and other gentlemen of Philadelphia when the emigrants landed. Lodgings were procured, food was prepared, and, for such of the people as required it, clothing was also made up for them. After the people had rested themselves

long enough to get over the effects of the voyage, situations were sought out for them, and those who wished to go further into the State were supplied with means to pay their way. In all that good work the late Mr. Richardson, Mr. James (another member of the house), and Mr. Thomas O'Neill (a respected merchant of the city and a native of Lisburn), were engaged for several days. He (Mr. Millar) then referred to the noble response which had been made to their appeal for aid, and the large sums which were transmitted to them from England and Scotland, as well as the still larger contributions from America. The late Mr. T. Richardson, he said, had been one of their most active auxiliaries; indeed, every member of his family had been very zealous in co-operating with them; and another local firm—that of Messrs. Barbour & Sons—was no less munificent in its contributions. In looking back at the wonderful extent of liberality shown towards the sufferers of that trying period, he could only say that the total sum raised was remarkably large; and he hoped that the open-handed benevolence of those who so generously supplied them with funds would never cease to be remembered.

“Dr. CAMPBELL said he had listened with great pleasure to what was said on the subject by those who preceded him. The late Mr. Thomas Richardson was born and brought up in Lisburn; and in their case, as well as in many others where his assistance had been sought, he carried with him to a distant land the true feelings of a Christian patriot. Immediately after having been apprised of the calamity that had fallen on the cotton weavers, he had joined in collecting funds with other Lisburn gentlemen then engaged in business in Philadelphia, and, through his own personal exertions, had added largely to their means of aiding distress. He (Dr. Campbell) would, therefore, read to those present a resolution he had prepared, and which he hoped would meet their approval:—‘That the Relief Committee of Lisburn and its neighbourhood having heard of the death of Thomas Richardson, Esq., of Philadelphia—a gentleman who, by his liberal contributions, as well as by his influence and energy in collecting funds from others, had so effectually aided their exertions to alleviate the distress of

the cotton weavers—do now place on record their great regret at his decease, and they also beg to express their sincere sympathy with his widow and family in their great bereavement.’

“Dr. MUSGRAVE, on rising to second the resolution proposed by his friend Dr. Campbell, could only say that he coincided very fully with the opinions that had been expressed as to the regret they all felt at hearing of the death of a gentleman whom, as a former townsman, they held in great respect, and to whose very able assistance they owed grateful acknowledgment.

“Captain BOLTON, R.N., then proposed, and Mr. MILLAR seconded, the following resolution, which was passed *nem. con.*:— ‘That a letter be written by the Secretary, in accordance with the motion just passed, and enclosing a copy of it, which letter and resolution, after having been signed by the Chairman, should be forwarded to Mrs. Richardson.’”

Under the arrangements made at that meeting, the Secretary wrote to Mrs. Richardson by the next American mail, giving that lady a condensed account of the proceedings that took place, and the sentiments that had been expressed by the different speakers. The Secretary also sent Mrs. Richardson copies of the Belfast papers in which had appeared reports of the meeting.

In the early months of 1865, some recurrence of partial distress was said to exist, but nothing beyond that which had been experienced in other seasons. Some members of the Relief Committee were, however, especially ready to listen to the first cry of real or artificial poverty, and when the clamorous and the improvident—always the first to call for aid—appealed to them, a raid was at once made on the balance of money (about £470) which still remained of the General and the Stewart Funds. We hear often of men who, to prevent cash from burning holes in their pockets, guarded against such a casualty by spending it freely; but in the case to which we refer it seemed as though the amount remaining in the Treasurer’s hands was burning holes in the pockets of certain Committee-men. It had been stated that some degree of poverty prevailed in the Spring of 1865, and on the 25th of March the

Secretary received a requisition, signed by J. N. Richardson, Joshua Lamb, Joseph Richardson, and John Bradbury, requesting him to call a meeting of Committee for the purpose of considering a proposal "to grant a further portion of the balance of funds on hand for the relief of people in want."

A meeting was, therefore, called, and a pretty large number attended it. The Rev. W. D. POUNDEN occupied the chair.

Mr. J. N. RICHARDSON said that, as one of the persons who had signed the requisition for convening the meeting, he had to state that a good deal of distress existed in his neighbourhood, and several families were suffering privation. He had himself assisted as far as he could those who were in want; but much more should be done, and he regretted that the Committee had not taken the matter up sooner. It was not creditable that such distress should exist while a large sum remained in the hands of the Treasurer.

Mr. MILLAR, in reply to one portion of Mr. Richardson's remarks, begged to say that neither himself nor any other of his friends had heard of any special case of distress in town. He understood from Mr. D. Carlisle and Mr. J. Sloan that weavers had full work, and although wages were not large, those people did not require any outside assistance. He might add, too, that the funds collected were contributed for cotton operatives.

Mr. JOSEPH SHAW, Half-Town, said he was well acquainted with the people in his neighbourhood—indeed, there did not exist a cottage within a two-mile circle of his house the inmates of which he did not know; but he thought it would not be prudent again to commence giving out relief. Except where real want was found, his opinion quite opposed the system of indiscriminate charity.

Mr. JOHN BRADBURY was of the same opinion as that expressed by Mr. Shaw. Since he signed the requisition calling that meeting, he had made particular inquiries, and he could say that in the Maze district the weavers were pretty well off; and as to the farm labourers, he himself had difficulty in procuring hands for outdoor work. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. J. D. BARBOUR, J.P., said his firm found it no easy matter to find the number of people required at certain portions of their works. And, now that great demand had set in for men in the corn and potato lands, and that higher wages were being paid for farm work, he feared that mill-owners and manufacturers would find it still more difficult to get hands. He did not think it would be advisable to grant any relief at that time, and counselled the holding over their funds, as it might be that real distress would come when they least expected it.

The Rev. ROBERT LINDSAY stated that, in his idea, and so far as the condition of the poorer classes in town was concerned, he did not see any necessity for the relief that had been sought for.

Mr. MICHAEL ANDREWS, Glenone, said he had much knowledge of the condition of the working ranks in a wide district of country round Ballymacash, and he could testify that there was not a single case that required the aid of the Relief Committee.

The Rev. SAMUEL NICHOLSON disagreed with most of the speakers. If those who refused to believe in the existence of poverty would only search for it they would find plenty of it in town. It was not fair that the Treasurer should hold so much of the funds of the Society in his hands when so many poor people were badly off. He would propose that fifty or sixty pounds should be handed over for distribution. Many people had not seed potatoes for their gardens, and he thought that a sum should be expended in buying seed for them.

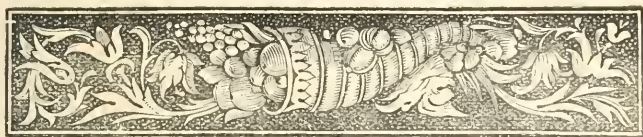
The SECRETARY protested against the attempts which were being made to fritter away the funds that had been collected with considerable trouble and anxiety. If those members who were so exceedingly prodigal of money which had been placed in their hands for a specific purpose could form any idea of the time and anxious labour that had been devoted to the work, they would pause before rushing to the Treasurer on every trifling occasion that turned up, and calling out for the squandering away of the funds every time a shower of snow fell around them.

Mr. MILLAR was utterly opposed to the arguments put forth by Mr. Nicholson. No doubt, many of the people to whom that

gentleman referred would be well pleased if the Committee undertook to plant potatoes and sow small seeds in their gardens ; but were such a work undertaken all the cash in hands would soon be squandered for very little purpose.

The Rev. MAURICE M'KAY, Broomhedge, did not see any reason for relief in his part of the country ; but as Mr. Richardson had stated that assistance was required in the district around Lissue, the native place of Mr. A. T. Stewart, to whose munificence they were so much indebted, he would move that ten pounds be given to that gentleman, and an equal sum to Mr. Lamb, for distribution. After much discussion, the proposition was carried, but many members dissented from it.





CHAPTER IX.

AS the Summer set in, a very exciting demand sprung up for hands at the loom, and such was the competition among manufacturers for getting goods woven that the scale of wages rose to the highest point reached for twenty years before, and canvassers were engaged by some agents for Glasgow houses to go through the country and solicit weavers to take out webs from them. Great activity prevailed in the making of muslins, and skilled workmen were able to earn good wages; even third-class hands shared largely in the results of stirring activity. From that time, and until the first half of 1866 had passed, the trade of hand-loom weaving continued prosperous, but the financial crisis caused by the failure of the famed banking house of Overend, Gurney & Co., unfavourably influenced every department of industry throughout the Kingdom. The Bank of England felt the pressure so powerfully that the Peel Restriction Act had once again to be broken; the rate of discount ran up to ten per cent., and even at such usurious exactions, there was much difficulty experienced by merchants in getting cash accommodation. Trade languished in consequence of the feeling of distrust that prevailed, and as usual, the cotton manufacture was the first to suffer. Considerable losses fell on the importers of raw material. During the year the landings in Great Britain from every source of supply had been 3,749,500 bales, but from the first of January to the middle of June, American cotton fell from 21d. to 12d., Egyptian went down from 24d. to 16d.,

and East Indian from 16d. to 9d. the pound. Many speculators were nearly ruined, and several went to the wall. As a consequence, the year 1867 came in with very lowering prospects. Severe weather put a stop to outdoor work—common labourers were left without employment, the hand-loom weavers in Lisburn and the surrounding districts found it difficult to procure webs, and numbers of looms were idle. Early in January, a meeting of the Relief Committee was held, and a sum of fifty pounds was handed over to be distributed among the people of the Maze; twenty-five pounds were allotted to Lissue, and a like amount to Lisburn.

The distribution of money, however, did little more than give temporary relief, and as distress increased among the common labourers as well as among the weavers, it was proposed that a public meeting of the inhabitants should be convened for the purpose of considering what should be done for the more effectual relief of the industrious householders.

On the 19th of January, 1867, a second meeting was convened in the Lisburn Assembly Room, on which occasion there were present—The Dean of Ross, Mr. W. T. Stannus, J.P.; Mr. J. J. Richardson, J.P.; Mr. J. D. Barbour, J.P.; Rev. Robert Lindsay, Rev. W. Breakey, Rev. Edward Kelly, P.P.; Rev. W. Pouden, Rev. David J. Clarke, Rev. Mr. Powell, Mr. Jonathan Richardson, J.P., Glenmore; Mr. Henry J. Manley, Northern Bank; Mr. J. E. Morton, Ulster Bank; Messrs. D. Beatty, John Millar, Hugh M'Call, G. Thompson, Redmond Jefferson, John Finlay, T. R. Pelan, D. Carlile, John S. Ward, and several other gentlemen.

On the motion of Mr. RICHARDSON, of Glenmore, the Dean of Ross was called to take the chair.

After briefly alluding to the necessity for immediate action, and referring to the sums which had recently been given towards relief of the people by the Cotton Operatives' Committee, the CHAIRMAN said he was ready to hear what any gentleman had to propose.

The Rev. Mr. POUNDEN detailed at some length the state of the labouring poor, who were suffering nearly as much from lack of fuel as from want of food. He strongly urged the necessity of carrying out a larger measure of relief for the sufferers.

The Rev. ROBERT LINDSAY said he had never known greater distress than that he had seen in the dwellings of some of the poorer class of labourers. He would say that no time should be lost in giving relief to those people.

The Rev. EDWARD KELLY, P.P., agreed with the gentlemen who had just spoken as to the want that existed. In course of his own parochial duties, he had that morning witnessed the extreme of poverty in a great many houses, and he regretted to add in not a few cases where, a short time before, the inhabitants had been in comparative comfort.

The Rev. Mr. BREAKEY said that he, too, had been among the poor, and he had seen much actual starvation. Many cases that required prompt relief had come under his notice; but as the management of all charities required more astute knowledge of human nature than most other affairs of life, he begged to urge on the meeting the prudence of passing over the names of the clergy in making out the list of distributors. In his experience as a minister, he had ever found that where destitution prevailed, much more was looked for at the hands of the clergy than from the laity; and the former were much more likely to be imposed on by pretended suffering. In course of their arrangements, therefore, he hoped they would not appoint any clergyman as a distributor of relief.

The Rev. Mr. POWELL added his opinion to that of the other ministers present on the imperative necessity of aiding the poor as liberally as they could, and as promptly too.

Mr. RICHARDSON inquired if it were intended to confine the proposed system of relief to town; and, if not, then how far would it extend over the rural districts?

The Rev. D. J. CLARKE explained that, in course of the previous week, £75 of the balance in hand had been voted for the Maze and Lissue; and at a meeting held half-an-hour before, the Relief Committee had allocated a further sum for the same districts in like proportion. He would, therefore, suggest that the distribution then proposed should not go outside the municipal boundary.

Mr. BEATTY thought that the meeting had forgotten one material point. Before they went farther into the details of the mode

of distribution, they should get the funds to work upon. The Cotton Operatives' Committee had been very prompt and very liberal in allocating a portion of the small balance then in hand for the purpose of warding off the existing distress. No direct claim had been made on the inhabitants of Lisburn on any similar exigency for several years past, and he would be glad to see every man putting his hand into his own pocket to supplement what had been already done. If a general subscription were raised, he was sure the Marquis of Hertford would head the list. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. WALTER T. STANNUS did not agree with Mr. Beatty's concluding remark. The Lisburn people expected too much off Lord Hertford. That nobleman's income out of the town consisted solely of ground rents, which were merely nominal. In fact, the owners of small houses had a far better right than that nobleman to subscribe to the fund. In many cases, those people had built up such dwellings on every foot of ground in their yards and bye-places, contrary to the terms of leases. True, there was no penalty attached to those breaches of covenant in any of the old leases, and, consequently, no power to stop buildings of that class ; but in all new leases there were clauses to prevent the erection of small tenements in the rears of front buildings. The mills and factories had also been the means of bringing numbers of poor people into town as tenants for such small houses ; and as Lord Hertford was not benefitted by those buildings, he (Mr. Stannus) would not subscribe to the proposed fund until he had seen what the owners of small houses would do. He would move that a committee be appointed to call on those people, and get their subscriptions in the first instance.

No one supported the proposition, and after a short silence,

Mr. BEATTY rose and said he could hardly think that Mr. Stannus really meant what he had just stated, and if such a proposal were carried it would certainly not reflect any credit on the Hertford administration.

Mr. JOHN D. BARBOUR regretted very much to hear Lord Hertford's agent, a gentleman who should entertain correct ideas on public questions stating that the mills and factories in and

around Lisburn had been the means of increasing the numbers of poor people. The very opposite was the fact. (Hear, hear.) Any of the inhabitants who recollected Lisburn in former times, would be able to see that the extension of public works there had done immense good by adding largely to the industrious and peace-loving population and giving considerable extension to local commerce; and as to pauperism, the number of people then supported at the Union Workhouse was not so large as it had been five and twenty years before. If Mr. Stannus would only look back to the time of the cotton famine he would find that the people working at the mills were in a condition of comparative independence, and, to their credit be it said, they contributed of their earnings a very liberal sum for the relief of their brother and sister operatives connected with the Cotton trade. Having glanced at other matters alluded to by Mr. Stannus, and which he said should not have been introduced at a meeting held for purely benevolent purposes, Mr. Barbour urged that prompt measures should be taken for the assistance of the people who required immediate attention. The state of the weather appeared rather to increase in severity than otherwise (a storm of snow was then dashing against the windows of the Assembly Rooms), and if any postponement of relief took place, serious results might ensue. He would therefore request them to go direct to business and open a list of subscriptions to which he would attach his name for twenty pounds.

The REV. D. J. CLARKE said that while he trusted immediate action would be taken in the matter before the meeting, he would beg leave to add that it was with great regret he had listened to the remarks of Mr. Stannus respecting the claims which Lisburn's poor had on Lord Hertford. His idea was, that in all cases where human suffering existed, and where want called for relief, it was the duty of those who had means to render such assistance as they felt it their duty to do, and that course should be pursued without the slightest feeling relative to whether the persons appealed to for contributions had or had not been advantaged by those seeking aid, but that relief should be given on the

broad principles of Christian benevolence. During the days of the cotton famine as alluded to by Mr. Barbour, the Messrs. Richardson, Sons, & Owden, had contributed largely to the Relief Fund, yet the weavers had no special claim on them. The firm of Messrs. Barbour & Sons had also subscribed with a liberal hand. Messrs. Richardson & Co., of Lambeg, the firm of Messrs. Richardson Bros., Mr. J. N. Richardson, their good friend Mr. J. J. Richardson, of the Island Mill, and Captain Ward, of the damask factory, had all come out in the spirit of generosity. No one of the gentlemen to whom he alluded could be said to have special duties incumbent on him in favour of the poor of Lisburn, nor did any of the vast numbers of people they employed require aid from the Relief Committee. As to the proprietors of cottages being called on to lead the way in heading the subscription list, he could only say that this idea was most absurd. He did not know any capitalists that accomplished more for the moral and physical well-being of the working ranks than those who erected comfortable small houses for them. What would the poor people do for habitations if some enterprising men did not provide dwellings of that class?

Mr. J. J. RICHARDSON, J.P., said he hoped that, as the Marquis of Hertford had not given any subscription towards the relief of the cotton weavers in 1863, his agent would then make good that neglect. The present meeting had been called not to assist one section of sufferers, but in aid of poor people engaged in different departments of labour, all of whom were residents and many were natives of his lordship's own town, the capital of his great estate. Mr. Stannus had alluded to the owners of freehold property in town having built small houses on every foot of ground they could spare in their yards and back gardens, but that was because they could not get building leases from the landlord of the estate. That however, was a matter quite beside the question before the meeting, and the broad fact remained that the weavers who had suffered by the cotton famine had strong claims on Lord Hertford's sympathy. In times gone by, and before the linen trade attained that great extension which made it the leading in-

dustry of Ulster, large sums, in the shape of wages to cotton weavers, were distributed throughout the Hertford estate. The effect was to create vastly increased demand for farm produce, and to put thousands of pounds into the pockets of the respective owners of the property. Manufacturing industry had done more for the lords of the soil on which they stood than any of those noblemen had had the grace to acknowledge.

Mr. W. T. STANNUS could not agree with the last speaker's remarks, nor did they prove that the sufferers by the cotton famine had any particular claim on Lord Hertford's sympathy. It might as well be said that the people of Lisburn had peculiar claims on Mr. J. J. Richardson, because he had made his fortune at the Island Mill.

Mr. MILLAR here came forward with a sheet of paper, prepared to receive the names of subscribers. He hoped that, whatever difference of opinion might exist on the matter to which the several speakers had alluded, there would not be any respecting the alleviation of the wants of the poor, many of whom had neither food nor fire in their homes that day.

The subscription list having been laid on the table, Mr. W. T. Stannus placed Lord Hertford's name at the head for £25: Mr. Richardson, of Glenmore, subscribed £20, Mr. J. D. Barbour, £20; Mr. J. J. Richardson, £20; the Dean of Ross, £10; and a number of smaller sums having been added by those present, the total amount subscribed on the spot exceeded two hundred pounds. A committee was then appointed to collect from such of the inhabitants as had not attended the meeting. On the motion of Mr. J. E. Morton, Mr. Manley, manager of the Northern Bank, was appointed Treasurer, and Mr. Beatty Secretary of the Fund about being raised.

Several gentlemen having volunteered to go through those lanes and alleys of the town for the purpose of distributing at the doors of poor people who were considered most in need of assistance, tickets were printed, and in course of the evening 500 families were supplied with a bag of coal each, and in many cases tickets for one shilling or eighteen-pence worth of meal were given in addition.

Collectors were also appointed to call on the gentry, merchants, and traders who had not attended the meeting, and the response to that call was very liberal. Frost and snow continued to the end of January, nearly all means of outdoor labour having been sealed up, but the sum subscribed fully met all demands, and many families were saved from going into the workhouse by the timely assistance rendered them. A favourable change of weather set in about the middle of February, employment became pretty general, and no more relief was required.

Early in the autumn of that year—1867—it was reported that Mr. A. T. Stewart had been on the Continent and was then in Paris, and that while on his way home he purposed spending some days in Belfast, and at the same time to visit Lissue, his birth-place, near Lisburn. Arrangements were then made to pay some special mark of attention to him, and the only course open was that of preparing an address of welcome.

Accordingly, a meeting of the Relief Committee was called for Tuesday, the 3rd of September, on which occasion the following members met in the News-Room :—John D. Barbour, J.P. ; Rev. D. J. Clarke, Dr. Musgrave, Hugh M'Call, and David Carlile.

Mr. BARBOUR, having been requested to take the chair, said he had great pleasure in presiding over any meeting that had for its object the paying of a mark of respect to one of the most distinguished Irishmen in the United States. They all felt proud of Mr. Stewart, and especially so because the great merchant of Broadway was a native of their own neighbourhood.

The SECRETARY then read the draft of an address which he had prepared for approval of the Committee, and after some changes had been suggested and made in it,

Dr. MUSGRAVE proposed that, as he understood Mr. Stewart had arrived in Belfast, Mr. M'Call should visit that gentleman at his hotel, and ascertain at what time it would be most convenient for him to receive a deputation appointed to present the address.

On Friday afterwards the Secretary called on Mr. Stewart at that gentleman's apartments in the Royal Hotel, Belfast, and having introduced the matter for which the meeting of committee

had been held in Lisburn, Mr. Stewart expressed his pleasure as well at the attention which had been paid him on other occasions as because of the continued feeling of gratitude shown towards him. He said it had been a great source of satisfaction many a time since 1863, to think of how well the donation he had sent over that year had been applied to the poor people. In reference to the proposed address, he would regret that the gentlemen appointed to present it should have the trouble of coming to Belfast for that purpose, and would, therefore, request that the little ceremonial should take place at Glenmore, the seat of Mr. Jonathan Richardson, and where he had been engaged to dine next evening (Saturday). It would add to other obligations if his friends should be good enough to meet him there at five o'clock.

Before the appointed hour on that afternoon, Mr. J. D. Barbour had his carriage ready at his house in Castle Street, Lisburn, and Mr. M'Call, the Rev. D. J. Clarke, and Mr. D. Carlile having joined him, the party was driven to Glenmore. On arriving there, Mr. Richardson met the gentlemen in the hall, and a servant having led the way to the library, the host introduced each member to Mr. A. T. Stewart, and also to the Honourable Judge Hilton and Mr. George Fox, of Manchester, one of the partners of the firm of A. T. Stewart & Co. The gentlemen present having resumed their seats, Mr. Barbour rose and said "he had rarely felt greater pleasure in taking part in any movement than he enjoyed on that occasion. As soon as it was known that Mr. A. T. Stewart was about to visit the neighbourhood of his birthplace, a meeting of the gentlemen who had taken active part in the relief of the cotton operatives was called, and he (Mr. Barbour) had the honour of being chairman of that meeting. Its object was to make arrangements for presenting an address to the renowned merchant who in 1863, and during the time of the cotton famine, had so largely supplemented their relief fund. In his private capacities and as a member of a house that for many years had been commercially connected with America, it was to him a source of no ordinary pleasure to have an opportunity of being present on that occasion, and of joining the deputation which had been appointed to pay

some slight mark of respect to the head of a firm which had attained the world-wide celebrity enjoyed by Messrs. A. T. Stewart & Co. It was to him a matter of regret that his friends Mr. J. J. Richardson, J.P., and Mr. John Millar were then travelling in England on their holiday trip, as he felt assured that both those gentlemen would have been much pleased to have been present. He would just conclude by requesting Mr. M'Call to read the address." The guests and other gentlemen present having risen to their feet, the Secretary read as follows:—

"TO A. T. STEWART, ESQ., NEW YORK.

"SIR,—The Committee of the Cotton Operatives' Relief Fund having heard of your arrival in this country, feel very much pleased at the opportunity thus given them of welcoming you to the place of your nativity. In former years, and long before the cotton famine had created such distress in this part of Ulster, we had heard of your fame as an American merchant, and exulted over your high standing as a citizen of that Republic. But the promptitude with which you responded to our appeal for assistance when semi-starvation reigned in the homes of hundreds of families connected with our cotton manufactures, has called forth a feeling of gratitude for your benevolence, and of respect for your kindly recollection of 'the old country,' which we feel assured will never be forgotten.

"We have also to state that in addition to the vast amount of good produced by the munificent gift of breadstuffs and provisions you sent over to us, and the extended aid we were thus enabled to bestow on the distressed operatives, the free passages and provisions for one hundred and thirty-seven persons led to the most favourable results. Many of those emigrants have since then remitted means to bring over to America certain members of their family that remained at home; others have written to say that they had found the world beyond the Atlantic to be a land of plenty, where their labour was well paid, and wherē industry rendered them independent. In every instance the correspondence of these people abounded with hopefulness, and in not a few cases they expressed in genuine eloquence their grateful sense of your

generous conduct in chartering a good ship to convey them across the ocean, and also providing them with ample provisions for the voyage. Thus, Sir, in your adopted country, as well as in your native land, you have many living monuments of that philanthropy which we trust will ever form the brightest attribute of your character.

(Signed)

“JOHN D. BARBOUR, Chairman.

“HUGH M'CALL, Secretary.

“Lisburn, Sept. 6, 1867.”

Mr. STEWART, whose feelings were much influenced during the reading of the address, delivered his reply as follows :—

“SIR, AND GENTLEMEN OF THE COMMITTEE,—Your address fills me with a deep sense of gratefulness for the kindly spirit in which you have conveyed to me the affectionate remembrance of the cotton operatives in Lisburn. It is a fact that neither time nor space can efface from the memory the place that gave us birth ; and no matter what period may intervene, the heart, ever true to its instincts, turns with faithful affection to the home of childhood.

“It was this instinct and this feeling of affection that, in time of suffering among the poor of my native land, caused me to see it my duty to lend a helping hand. I recollected that if no other or higher reason controlled, there was a debt owing from me to my countrymen to the extent, at least, of that patrimony which, many years ago, I took with me to that land of promise and of liberty, where ever since I have lived and prospered.

“If in the performance of this duty I have been the means of conferring a lasting benefit on any of my countrymen, my highest wishes and objects shall have been attained.

“For the pleasing manner in which you have conveyed to me the intelligence that this result has been accomplished accept my sincere thanks, and to those whom you represent please express my deep sense of their kindness and friendship.

(Signed)

“ALEX. T. STEWART.

“Sept. 7, 1867.”

The delivery of this reply had evidently called forth quite a host of old recollections, and scenes of former days seemed to have come up before the speaker, bright as visions of youth. So much indeed was Mr. Stewart affected that he had nearly broken down when alluding to "the home of his childhood."

At the conclusion of what may be considered the more ceremonious part of the proceedings, Mr. Richardson intimated to the deputation and other friends that some refreshments had been laid out in another apartment to which he requested those present to adjourn. In course of the dispensing of the host's hospitality a very interesting conversation took place, in which Judge Hilton and Mr. Fox took prominent part with the members of the deputation.

The former named gentleman said he understood that some members of the relief committee had proposed that the balance of money in hands should be devoted to the building of cottages as asylums for weavers widows, and he himself would be glad to see such memorials erected.

Mr. M'CALL was of opinion that some lasting evidence of the days of 1863 and the benevolence brought out during that time of distress, should be raised in Lisburn. There still remained in hand as balance of the Stewart Fund £150, and also a donation of £100 sent the Committee by Mr. Hart, of Shanghai, and if Mr. Stewart thought well of the project, the total could be invested in building memorial colleges.

Mr. Fox thought the matter worth consideration, but did not consider that Mr. Stewart would agree to the mixing up of any other donations with the balance of his own fund.

At this stage of the conversation Mr. Stewart, who had been absent for a few moments, joined the group, and having been informed of the subject under discussion, inquired whether, in case of arrangements being made to erect memorial buildings, a suitable site could be obtained.

The Rev. J. D. CLARKE replied to say that he understood that Dean Stannus had been applied to on the subject, and had stated his willingness on the part of Lord Hertford to give a rood of ground for that purpose.

Mr. CARLISLE was not much in favour of the erection of cottages, as it would incur much trouble to whoever might be appointed trustees, still as some memorial of the cotton famine he would not oppose the erection of a neat building.

Mr. Stewart expressed his willingness to supplement the balance in hands as soon as the committee had finally resolved on building. Apart from that question however, he could not avoid using the opportunity he then had of expressing his very warm thanks to his friends, the trustees, for the great trouble they took in the right distribution of the bequest. Mr. M'Call had written him about the efficient service which Mrs. Clibborn had rendered in the case, and to that lady and her co-Trustees he felt under special obligations.

The Rev. Mr. CLARKE alluded in terms of grateful eulogy to the large hearted men of America who had so abundantly contributed to their funds. Judge Hilton said he had listened with the utmost pleasure to the story told by the rev. gentleman. "It was to him quite an enjoyment to hear of the gratitude with which the gentlemen present spoke of the kindness and sympathy which had been shown towards the people of that part of Ireland, and that they cherished grateful remembrances of American citizens, not only in the case of the cotton famine, but on many other occasions." Mr. Stewart himself listened with much interest to this conversation, and was evidently delighted by the great satisfaction with which the honourable Judge heard the expression of grateful acknowledgment which had been made regarding the liberality of his countrymen.

This meeting and its details formed in reality the wind-up of the annals of the cotton famine, but not those of after proceedings. It may be considered by many readers that the reports include much that might have been left out of print. They refer, however, to a very remarkable period in the history of the cotton manufacture as it existed on both sides the channel. They also give some notice of the exertions made to save the suffering from utter destitution, and thus it may happen that, in after years, when the writer, and all others whose names figure in its pages, shall

have passed away, the descendants of some of those who contributed towards the funds, or who assisted in the management and distribution of them, will read over with the utmost interest every line that had been written on the subject.

There was still on hands about two hundred and fifty pounds, the balance of Mr. Stewart's gift and Mr. Hart's donation, and wonderful was the anxiety of some members of the Committee to have the whole sum distributed. In this world of ours one phase of Charity rises even to the Sublime, when professors of benevolence can exercise it at other people's expense. There had been the usual degree of poverty in many parts of the country around Lisburn in the early weeks of 1868, and a requisition to that effect having been handed to the Secretary, a meeting of the Relief Committee was held on Thursday, the 14th of February, in that year—

JOHN D. BARBOUR, Esq., J.P., in the chair. On taking his seat, the President said "he had attended the meeting as a matter of duty, and in accordance with the notice sent to him; but he really did not see there was any special occasion for further call on the balance of cash in hand. He himself would always be ready to assist the struggling poor where aid became direct necessity; but he was quite opposed to indiscriminate charity. (Hear, hear.) In consequence of the great demand for hands at the spinning mills, he knew of cases in which families the heads of which and their elder children were in full work, and earned three pounds a week, yet did not save one penny of an income exceeding that of ministers who had to support the position of gentlemen."

The Rev. D. J. CLARKE said he had visited in the course of the week several of the bye streets and lanes of the town, and he did not find any extra exhibition of poverty. Still, if cases could be brought forward which required relief he would readily join in moving a resolution calling attention to them.

The SECRETARY read a letter he had received from Mr. Richardson, of Lissue, in which that gentleman stated that weavers

and labourers in his district were badly off, and he (Mr. R.) thought it hard that such should be the case when a large balance still remained in the hands of the Treasurer.

Mr. CARLISLE gave some account of the state of the weavers in the Maze and Half Town, many of whom were idle.

The Rev. S. NICHOLSON said he had privately collected seven pounds, and given it to poor people about Broomhedge ; but there was much destitution still there.

A general discussion followed, in the course of which,

The Rev. ROBERT LINDSAY said that, so far as the poor people of the town were concerned, he had not obtained any evidence of such distress as required outside aid ; but in case money should be allocated for that purpose, he would hope that, as their friend Mr. Breakey had advised some years before, the clergy should be exempted as distributors. His own experience was that the laity, who had full experience of such affairs, were much less likely to be imposed upon by pretended poverty than the ministers of any Church.

Ultimately, it was agreed that thirty-five pounds be handed over for distribution in Lissue, the Maze, Broomhedge, and the Half Town, and ten pounds for Lisburn.

During the succeeding two years no further demands were made on the balance of funds in hand ; but at the commencement of March, 1870, a meeting was called to consider some cases of destitution in the country districts. On that occasion J. N. RICHARDSON, Esq., was called to the chair, and, after referring to the cause of the meeting, he requested that the Treasurer would give in his report of the state of the funds.

Mr. MILLAR said that the balance in hands, with interest due to date, of what had been kept distinct as the Stewart fund, was £107, in addition to which there was £100—Mr. Hart's donation—which the Secretary had held over in the hope that, with the other balance, it should be expended in the erection of memorial cottages for the free occupation of weavers' widows. Mr. M'Call had been offered a site for the buildings by Dean Stannus, but without any lease.

“ The case of Captain Bolton’s school-house in Hillhall, which was held at will under Lord Hertford, having been wrested from that gentleman’s trustees, and the bequest of Captain Bolton’s cottages in Piper Hill having also been taken by Lord Hertford’s agent, the idea of erecting memorial cottages on ground held at will, was finally abandoned. Mr. A. T. Stewart and Mr. Hart had given full liberty for such appropriation of the money ; but except a site in fee simple could have been obtained it would not have been prudent to so invest the money.”

On the CHAIRMAN inquiring of the members present as to the state of the weaving ranks,

Mr. CARLILE said the hands were pretty well employed, and the scale of wages was quite as high as it had been for many years past. The average, however, did not exceed 7s. a-week. One old man, eighty years of age, was busy at work, but did not earn above 2s. 6d. a-week.

The Rev. Mr. CLARKE said that at the last distribution Lisburn only received £10, while the country had £35 allotted to it.

Mr. JAMES MEGARRY did not know of great distress in his part of the country ; but after much difference of opinion had been expressed on the subject, £46 was voted for the country and £10 for Lisburn.

This meeting concluded all proceedings connected with the Relief Fund.

Belfast and Lisburn, though so widely different in commercial status, have many characteristics in common, and in the annals of philanthropy each has long held a prominent place. In the reign of Charles the First, even before Belfast had obtained special maritime privileges from Carrickfergus, its inhabitants formed a society for assisting the suffering poor, and when the terrible typhus raged, not many years afterwards, a local tax—self imposed—was cheerfully paid to provide medicine and food for the poorer classes, and for the interment of the dead. During the succeeding century, the same feelings that had actuated their fathers was fully developed in the men of the different ages. The Old Poor House,

erected in 1772, and endowed by the lord of the soil with lands that have since proved so valuable, that they produce a large revenue—was built at the expense of the local gentry and merchants. Twenty years afterwards, and when the Rev. William Bristow, Vicar of St. Ann's Church, was sovereign of Belfast, the germ of that admirable institution—the General Hospital—was brought into existence chiefly through the exertions of that respected clergyman and his friends, Doctors M'Donnell, Halliday, and Campbell. The example of benevolence never fails to keep alive the very spirit of that virtue, and hence we find in the records of Belfast instances of rare liberality. In the autumn of 1820, the funds of the Poor House had fallen very low, and at the solicitation of the committee, charity sermons were preached in the different places of worship. The collections, in all these cases, were large, and, in one instance, especially so. After the service in Dr. Hanna's church, it was discovered that two of the bank notes that had been placed on the plate of one collector were for £500 each. Much curiosity was raised at the magnificence of the gift. For a time, however, conjecture failed to light on the name of the donor; but after the death of John Gregg of Ballymacarrett, it was found that that worthy and highly-valued merchant had been the contributor of the handsome donation.

Lisburn—the great centre of that calamity which fell on the cotton weavers in 1863—has also her records of benevolence, and these refer to former, as well as to latter days. When the marauding troops of Queen Elizabeth destroyed the household furniture and even the growing crops of local farmers, the leading men of Lis-Na-Garvagh collected funds to support the desolated people; and, in November, 1641, when nearly all the houses were burned down by the retreating rebels, leaving many families destitute and homeless, the generosity of local philanthropy was actively exerted. Lord Conway who fought at the head of his own troops during the terrible scenes of that insurrection returned home in the December of that year. Ralph Briggs, his favoured henchman had erected tents for the burned out poor, and his

lordship had workmen collected from different parts of the county to aid local builders in raising houses on the sites of the former ones. Food was provided for the poor, and means were subscribed for erecting temporary habitations to shelter the houseless until more suitable buildings could be finished. In later times the same feeling has never failed to show itself, and, under all circumstances, the cry of the distressed has never been heard in vain.

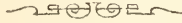
But Lisburn has other claims to stand among renowned localities. When the naval and military history of the country be written by one able to do justice to all connected with it, the sons of the ancient borough will take a prominent place in those annals. Lieutenant Dobbs, who commanded a man-of-war in 1778, and fought against the celebrated Paul Jones, was a native of Lisburn. Some of the finest soldiers of past ages first saw the light there.

The late Major Flack, a Lisburn man, who had risen from the ranks, and had served in some of the hardest-fought battles, said that wherever the danger was greatest, and the difficulties most formidable, he had ever felt proud of the pluck and prowess of his countrymen, but especially so did he regard those of his own town. Many of the ablest men connected with the civil administration of India, and not a few of the warriors to whom England owes, in a great measure, her reign in the land beyond the Ganges were from Lisburn. Among the highest of India's military chiefs, there stands the name of Brigadier-General Nicholson, one of the greatest heroes in the Indian army, and whose deeds of daring throughout the whole period of the Sepoy Mutiny have given him immortal fame. It is, however, because of Lisburn having been the early seat of textile manufacture in Ulster, and where the cotton trade was planted in the last half of the past century, that the author of this book has been so diffuse in these details of the cotton famine and its effects on the work-people in that neighbourhood. No doubt events of far greater moment have often passed over without a single record of their existence being left for the guidance of historians ; but let that be that as it may, we would fondly hope that the peculiar incidents of 1863, with all

their realities of patience, sorrow, and suffering on the part of the cotton operatives, the exertions which the Relief Committee made for the alleviation of distress, and the generous sympathy of the contributors to the funds, will never cease to hold a prominent place in the annals of old Lis-na-Garvagh.



A P P E N D I X.



SKETCH OF THE LATE MR. A. T. STEWART.



PART FIRST.



WITHIN the recollection of many living men it was one of the pastimes of the pulpit to denounce in pretty broad language novels and romances, and to warn the readers of those "pernicious books" not only of the waste of time but the dread consequences that would assuredly follow such depraved taste in literature. That course of occasional sermonising was not confined to any section of the Reformed Church, but might have been heard alike in the Episcopalian, the Presbyterian, and Methodist places of worship. Those times have passed away, and, with a very few exceptions, ministers of all denominations have left off condemning romance reading, and very rarely do we hear high class works of imagination made the subject of evangelical abuse. Thanks to the march of education in its wider principles, the clergy and laity have been taught lessons of practical Christianity and kindly toleration which leave far in the distance all the dogmatisms of Puritanic absurdity. Sixty years ago, Byron's famous aphorism, "Truth is strange, stranger than fiction," stirred up in the more thoughtful sections of society a comparatively new mode of looking on the world as it existed around them, and, as they did so, they found in many phases of daily life the very spirit of romance. In the pages of Burke's "Vicissitudes of Families" we find tales of the wild and wonderful which exceed in their realities any fiction written by Anne Radcliffe or M. E. Braddon.

An old inhabitant of Belfast, who, in his eighteenth year, was present at the first muster of volunteers in 1778, and when the

troop, only two months after its enrolment, marched through the streets in full uniform, recollected seeing Luke White selling his second-hand books off a stall set up at the corner of Bridge Street in that town. The most renowned of Irish booksellers resided chiefly in Dublin, but occasionally made a tour of the provinces. He ultimately became a dealer in stocks, and in the times of great excitement that followed the commencement of the revolutionary wars he was so wonderfully fortunate that many people thought he must have found the philosopher's stone. At his death, which took place in April, 1824, Luke White left behind him, in landed estate and Government securities, property said to exceed in value two millions sterling. His eldest son, raised to the peerage some years ago as Lord Annaly, owns an estate of forty-one thousand acres in extent; and his two younger sons are also possessed of large property in land.

A few other evidences of the romance of real life might be given from Irish history; but if still more astonishing marvels are sought for we must look across the Atlantic. Of these, the two most remarkable are William B. Astor and A. T. Stewart, both of whom died in the City of New York in the Spring of 1876.

The founder of the Astor family—son of a German butcher—landed in the city on the Hudson some years after the Stars and Stripes had asserted their independence. He was then nineteen years of age, possessed of about one hundred dollars, a stout heart, and energetic disposition. Having got into the employment of one of the principal furriers of New York, he soon proved himself worthy of promotion, and, at the death of his employer, entered into business for himself, the traffic in furs being then a comparatively new branch of commerce. John Jacob Astor travelled for years through those regions of States famed for the countless multitudes of wild animals that roamed through prairie and over mountain. He purchased skins in large quantities, and sold them at enormous profits. In the course of a few years his business had become extended, not only throughout the chief cities of America, but the principal ports of Europe; and at the close of the past century the German merchant found himself worth one million

dollars. Then it was that success gave increased impulse to his enterprize. He had got married, and lived happily in his domestic relations ; but to accumulate property seemed the sole object of his life, and although the great project for having to himself the entire fur trade of a vast region of Oregon, which he called Astoria, had not succeeded as he anticipated, he pushed on business with the usual energy, and at his death, in 1848, left property in landed and household estate valued at twenty millions of dollars.

A short time after the old gentleman's demise, a memorial was erected to his memory in Trinity Church, Wall Street, by his two sons, and which is thus graphically described in D. Appleton & Co.'s very handsomely got-up publication entitled "New York Illustrated":—"This classic memorial consists of an altar and reredos, the latter occupying nearly the whole width of the chancel, and is carried up some twenty feet from the floor. The altar is eleven feet long, and is constructed of pure white marble, with shafts of the same material, coloured, supporting capitals carved in natural foliage dividing the front sides into panels. In the central panel, which is carved with passion flowers, there appears a Maltese Cross in Mosaic, and set with cameos ; a head of Christ, and symbols of the Evangelists. Two kneeling angels flank it. The super-altar is of red Lisbon marble, with the words 'Holy, Holy, Holy,' in Mosaics on its face, and the shelf is continued on each side the whole length of the reredos, for the reception of flowers at festivals. In the lower portion, and on each side the altar, are three panels filled with coloured Mosaics in geometrical patterns ; and above the base of the super-altar there are seven panels of white marble, sculptured in *alto-relievo*, representing incidents in the life of Christ just preceding the Last Supper. The reredos is divided by buttresses into three bays, each having various religious representations, including statuettes of the twelve apostles.

"Both altar and reredos are exceedingly beautiful, and, while adding much to the interest of grand Old Trinity, form a special attraction to artistic visitors."

John Jacob's eldest son, W. B. Astor, who became sole heir of all the accumulated wealth, did not inherit in the slightest degree

the commercial genius of his father, the wonderful German. Had he been thrown on the world of New York with a few dollars as his sole capital, it is more than probable that he would never have arisen beyond the position of a hewer of wood or a drawer of water. But if he lacked the art of making money, in which his father was such an adept, he possessed the next valuable characteristic—the power of accumulation, and in this he had no superior. Never did an ambitious farmer cultivate with greater assiduity the lands of his predecessor than young Astor worked up to the uttermost point of value the long streets and extensive blocks of houses which came into his hands on the demise of the pushing fur-dealer. Commerce in any form the heir-at-law did not attempt, and as to the mysteries of Wall Street, he never once sought to pry into them. His father had founded the Astor Library at a cost of four hundred thousand dollars, and when it appeared that a further sum was required to complete the institution, the young gentleman added a further donation equal to one-half the original gift. On many other occasions W. B. Astor was very liberal in his contributions for public purposes, whether of education or benevolence; but his sole passion seemed to be that of adding house to house, and purchasing lots of building ground that lay in districts where population was extending its borders. These accumulations he looked upon as the heroes of old did on their conquests; and so well did he succeed in what was his cherished passion that, some time before his death, the value of his house property was set down at fifty million dollars. So extensive, in fact, was his real estate, that in one year he paid four hundred thousand dollars of municipal taxes.

No two men could be more unlike each other in their peculiar features of character than Astor the younger and A. T. Stewart; and when a fitting biographer be found, one capable of giving to the world a well-written life of the great merchant of Broadway, there will appear in its pages many "situations" dramatic and exciting as any that ever delighted a theatrical audience. Even around the earliest days of A. T. Stewart the very spirit of romance appeared to have thrown her broadest mantle.

In the last quarter of the past century, John Turney, a very intelligent farmer, resided on the Hertford estate, at a part of Lissue near the Maze. It was usual at that time for men who had capital to spare to do a little in the manufacture of linen as well as to attend to the business of the field. As one of the descendants of the Huguenot exiles that settled in the town and about the neighbourhood of Lisburn one hundred years before, Mr. Turney inherited much of the spirit of industry and peaceful disposition of his forefathers, and, like them, had great taste for the beautiful, whether in nature or art; his garden was quite a model in floriculture, and, what was not usual in country houses, he had in his parlour two or three oil paintings of a style which was rare as the works were valuable.

One of his neighbours, Thomas Lamb, of Pear Tree Hill, greatly admired the pictures, but laughed heartily at the estimate their owner placed on them. Mr. Lamb a sturdy Quaker, and Elias Hughes, another member of the same sect, who resided in that locality, were also engaged in the making of coarse linens. Each of the three kept a number of people weaving during those seasons when out-door work did not require additional hands, and this labour at the loom consisted chiefly in the making of coarse linens known as "Hugs." When a certain number of such webs had been accumulated the manufacturers conveyed them to Lisburn, where they were disposed of at the public sales held there on successive market days,

John Turney's family consisted of his wife and a daughter named Margaret, and very happy was his household; but during the troublous times of Ninety-Eight the former, who was a delicate and rather nervous woman, had been much shocked by some local occurrence, and became very ill. A handsome widow, some relation of the sufferer, arrived at the farm-house during Mrs. Turney's illness and offered her services as attendant on the patient, but the latter would not permit any one to come into her bedroom save her daughter and the doctor. After lingering some weeks, she passed away into the Unseen Land.

The fair widow had a daughter married, though she herself was still in the prime of life. In a short time after Mrs. Turney's death she again visited at the farm-house, and during her stay became remarkably attentive to the chief of the establishment. Miss Margaret did not feel at ease under the circumstances, and looked on the widow's conduct as being greatly wanting in womanly delicacy, her idea on the subject being that an uninvited visitor to the house of a widower was rather a questionable guest, but the lady felt as anxious for a home as she did for a husband, and during the remainder of that year made occasional journeys to the farm-house, seemingly quite unconcerned what construction Miss Turney might put on her movements. In the meantime, the old man could not avoid feeling pleased with the court paid him by the buxom widow, and before the end of ten months after the death of his first wife he found himself led into a second marriage.

The deceased mistress of his household was a woman of great natural abilities, very fond of reading, and well able to take full advantage of every available means for improving her mind. She had anxiously watched over the education of her daughter, and at the time of her death Margaret was said to be one of the most intelligent young women of her class in that part of the country.

A marked change followed the advent of the second Mrs. Turney as lady of the farm-house. The new wife was then in her fortieth summer, and still retained much of early beauty, but fretfulness and a sort of chronic discontent marked her everyday life, and sadly did her fits of bad temper try the placid disposition of John Turney. It seemed her delight at other times to make the once happy home as uncomfortable as possible to her step-daughter, and, in a sort of jeering pleasantry—the most galling of all satire—she frequently taunted her with the suggestion that “it was quite time she had a house of her own.”

Margaret Turney was then eighteen years of age, and an exceedingly graceful and very handsome brunette. As the heiress of a man said to be worth one thousand pounds—quite a large sum in those times—she had many suitors, one of whom, a brother linen draper, had become a great favourite with her father. But, with

the usual waywardness of the sex, the Belle of Lissue did not look with any favour on the choice the old gentleman wished her to make.

There lived at that time near the Red Hill, and not far from Mr. Turney's place, Thomas Stewart and his wife Martha, a very industrious and very quiet people. Their family consisted of five sons and three daughters, viz. : John, Alexander, William, Thomas, and James ; Mary, Jane, and Anne. The head of the house had been brought up on a farm situate near the Rock Chapel, but several years before he had taken some land at Red Hill in Lissue. The eldest son had enlisted in the army, and the second one, a steady-going and very energetic young man, had commenced life as an agriculturist, on a twenty-acre farm which Mr. Wm. Smith, Lord Hertford's agent, had let him have on very reasonable terms, and the buildings, which were much dilapidated, were put into some repair. The Stewarts were rather more intelligent than the majority of their neighbours. John rose to the rank of sergeant-major when only twenty-four years of age, and Alexander had made such progress in improving his farm that he was much looked up to as an agriculturist by men three times his age.

In the list of Margaret Turney's admirers young Stewart had a high place, but the old gentleman could not think of his daughter giving her hand to a small farmer who had only commenced to make his way in the world. Many were the sage remonstrances which the worthy farmer—who had himself been taken into partnership by the handsome widow—laid before his daughter. He pointed out the superior prospects which she had before her in marrying a middle-aged linen draper, whose suit he urged with all his power of language, but it was of no avail. More than twelve months had gone by since the second marriage of her father had made the previous happy home a scene of unpleasant and divided feeling. The stepmother's temper did not improve, and as her father was often from home attending the linen markets, or looking after the purchase of yarn for his weavers, her life became very unhappy. At length she left her father's house and got privately married to Mr. Stewart, immediately after which the young husband took her home to his farm cottage at Red Hill, a picturesque part of the

Hertford estate, situate about two miles from Lisburn and nine from Belfast. The old linen draper waxed very wrath at that event, and vowed he would disinherit his truant daughter, but before many weeks passed he was himself again, and called over to see the young wife and his son-in-law. He saw that the house required many comforts, and purchased such additional furniture as was necessary ; besides which, he handed his daughter a sum of money for her own private use. The young couple lived very happily together. Stewart was a good-natured, industrious fellow, and worked hard at his farm. Among the saddest years of Ireland's eventful history was that of 1801, the time of dearth, disease, and privation ; the previous harvest was a failure, and every article of food had gone up to famine price. Extra exertion was necessary to keep farmers afloat, and in his anxiety to get finished some outdoor work the farmer over-heated himself, and eventually fell into consumption, which carried him off in some few months. Not many weeks had elapsed after the death of Alexander Stewart when the young wife, still in her teens, was confined of a son ; and in that cottage which still stands on the farm of Mr. James N. Richardson, of Lissue, the future merchant prince of Broadway first saw the light, and in due time received the baptismal name of Alexander Turney, in honour of his father and grandfather.

The death of the son-in-law was a sad overturn of all Mr. Turney's projects, and for a time his daughter seemed inconsolable, but the attention required by the fatherless child helped to soften her sorrow, and as soon as she was able to leave the cottage the old gentleman had her and the infant son removed to his own place. A purchaser soon turned up for the little farm, the stock and furniture were disposed of to good advantage, and the proceeds set apart for the young widow and her son.

John Turney, naturally one of the kindest of men, did all that a fond father could think of to make the young widow comfortable ; but as we have already stated, he had frequent business abroad, and as the stepmother's discontent and bad temper had increased with her years, the residence that might have been a happy one for all its people was the very opposite. Seeing how matters stood,

Mr. Turney fitted up a neat cottage that adjoined the farm-house, and had it well furnished for his daughter and her son, and took care that they did not want for anything necessary for their comfort.

Some time afterwards, David Bell, a farmer, began to pay court to the widow, and in April, 1803, got married to her. The father of the bride for a second time, was still more annoyed at that affair than he had been on the previous occasion. Bell sold his farm and stock and prepared to embark for America. He himself, as well as his wife, was anxious to take the child, then eighteen months old, along with them, but Mr. Turney would not permit that arrangement, and took it home.

Young Stewart got through the early days of childhood more pleasantly than could have been anticipated. Strange to say, the naturally bitter disposition of his step-grandmother had softened down towards the child, and she was really kind to him. Having received a good education himself, Mr. Turney determined that his grandson should enjoy the full advantages of modern acquirements, and at the proper time become a minister of the Church of England. There was then in the Causeway End a teacher of children famed for instructing them in the rudiments of spelling, reading, and writing ; and all that course was to be taught juveniles without the use of the rod. That model schoolmaster's name was William Christie, and if he lived in these days, when, in some schools, flogging is still a sort of pastime with the principals, he would deserve canonization. Many of the people of Causeway End—John Hodgen, George Briggs, John Anderson, and others—recollected the thoughtful-looking lad passing along the road that led from his grandfather's house to the village seminary, conning over his Manson's Spelling-Book as he went on his way. And in after years, when A. T. Stewart was rising to eminence as a New York merchant, those inhabitants of that neighbourhood recounted with pride their reminiscences of the great man's early days. In due time, the lad was sent to the Lisburn English and Mercantile Academy, then conducted by Mr. Benjamin Neely, one of the ablest of teachers, as well as one of the most efficient flagellators that ever flourished a ratan. Many of that gentleman's pupils rose

in after days to places of high distinction in the world. Thomas Spence, the famous writing-master, was one of his early scholars, James W. Hogg, afterwards known as Chairman of the East India Board, and member for Honiton, a great favourite of Sir Robert Peel, who conferred on him the honour of a baronetcy; Brigadier-General Nicholson, one of the leading heroes of the Punjaub; Serjeant Armstrong, celebrated as a chief of the Irish Bar; and several other men of mark, were also taught at the Lisburn Academy.

Young Stewart had been three years under the tuition of Mr. Neely, and by that time was considered an excellent English scholar, an expert writer, and well grounded in the principles of Gough's Arithmetic. In the meantime, the lad had been keeping up a correspondence with his mother, who, with her husband, were residing in the City of New York. Mrs. Bell had then two other children, and through the influence of her son, a complete reconciliation had been effected with her father.

The most popular classical seminary in the rural districts of that part of Antrim County was then presided over by the Rev. Skeffington Thompson, LL.D., of Magheragal, and on the first day of February, 1815, Alexander T. Stewart was entered there as a student. Early in the following month John Turney took ill, and it was evident his day of life was coming to a close. Thomas Lamb, his valued neighbour, visited him very frequently, and, with the never-failing attention to worldly affairs that forms the leading characteristic of Quakerism, advised his friend to settle his affairs, and in doing so not to forget his daughter, Margaret Bell, and her children. The advice of Mr. Lamb was attended to by the old farmer, and well it turned out that it had been, as, for some days before his death, John Turney remained quite unconscious of what was going on around him.

He died on the 15th of April, 1815, and immediately after the funeral, the executors requested all concerned in the affairs of the estate to meet together at the farm-house, when the will, of which the following is a copy, was read:—

“In the Name of God, Amen.

“I, John Turney, of Lissue, in the parish of Lisburn and County of Antrim, being of sound mind and memory, do make my last Will and Testament.

I allow, and it is my will, that the two fields next Shields' farm, together with the meadow purchased from Brackinriggs, and the house and garden my daughter Margaret Bell formerly occupied, be sold by my executors, the money arising therefrom to be put to interest, which interest is to be paid my beloved wife, Ann Turney, during her natural life. ITEM—I leave to my grandchildren, James Bell and Mary Bell, the money arising from the sale of the above lands to be paid by my trustees, when they arrive at the respective ages of 21 years, and to be divided share and share alike; but in case of the death of my wife, the interest to go to my said daughter for the purpose of educating my said grandchildren. I allow my dear grandson Alexander to have all the rest of my property—houses and lands, with all appurtenances belonging thereto, stock, crop, and chattels of every kind, all of which my executors may sell by auction or otherwise, as they think fit, the money arising from such sale to be put to interest, first paying my funeral expenses and a suit of mourning for my beloved wife. I allow the bed that stands in the closet, with hangings and clothes thereunto belonging, to my beloved wife, and any part of furniture my beloved grandson Alexander T. Stewart wishes to be kept for him. The money arising from the property willed to him is to be subject to the following conditions:—He is to pay his grandmother, Martha Stewart, the sum of three half guineas a-year for her life. All my just debts I allow to be paid as soon as possible; and I wish my said grandson, Alexander T. Stewart, to be kept to his learning, and be kept in decent apparel so far as the interest of the property I willed him will admit, but no farther, and his money my trustees will continue at interest until he be 21 years of age. If the aforesaid Alex. T. Stewart shall at any time disturb, or cause to be disturbed, by law or otherwise, Nathaniel Dickey in the full enjoyment of the land I sold him, then, in that case, I allow the expense or cost that the said Nathaniel Dickey may be put to shall be reimbursed to him out of the share I have willed my said grandson. And if he should die before arriving at the age of 21 years, the money I have left him is to be divided between my other grandchildren; and if said James and Mary Bell, or either of them, should die minors, then their shares are to be enjoyed by my daughter Margaret Bell. Lastly, I nominate Thomas Lamb and Nathaniel Dickey to carry this, my last will, into effect.

“Dated this Tenth Day of March, 1815.

“(Signed)

“JOHN TURNEY.

“*Witnesses present:—*

“Henry Branagh.

“Francis Andrews.

“Thomas Lamb.

“CODICIL.

“I, John Turney, of Lissue, publish the codicil to my last will. I leave my stepson-in-law, Andrew Campbell, ten pounds sterling out of the promissory

note I have from him, in case he, the said Andrew Campbell, builds a room at the end of his own house and puts a fireplace in it, which room is to be for the use of my dear wife during her life. The rest of the promissory note is to be put to interest for my stepson-in-law's child, which is named after me, John Turney Campbell; and if he should die before my dear wife, then I allow it to go to her. I wish Thomas Lamb to be my chief executor, and Nathaniel Dickey to assist in the same.

“Dated under my hand and seal, this Eighteenth Day of March, 1815.

“(Signed)

“JOHN TURNEY.

“*Witnesses present* :—

“Francis Andrews.

“Thomas Lamb.”

After the old man's death Mr. Lamb brought Alex. T. Stewart to reside in his house, where he became thoroughly at home, the two sons, John and Joshua, looking on the orphan boy as, if possible, something more than a brother. An old friend and former schoolfellow of mine, the late Benjamin Workman, M.D., of Toronto, Canada, was a fellow-student of young Stewart during the latter's attendance at the academy of Mr. Skeffington Thompson. Shortly after the death of the New York millionaire the doctor published some recollections of his early friend, in a Toronto paper. From that notice I take the following :—

“During young Stewart's pre-matriculate course of classics our intimacy was begun, which ripened into very warm feeling, and continued unbroken for three years; and until my friend left for America we sat side by side at our studies as class mates, and read Justin Cæsar's Commentaries, four books of the *Æneid*, and three books of Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. He had also made some progress in the Greek grammar and Testament, when we were separated by his determination to make his home with his mother in New York. For years after he went to America I often regretted that he had not continued his course of classics, as I felt convinced he would have arisen to a high point of collegiate fame; but as time rolled onwards I became convinced that such regrets were bootless. A far greater destiny awaited him than could have been attained through University honours—he became a prince among merchants and a king among capitalists.”

This was in February, 1818. He had quite given up any idea of going on for the clerical profession, and, in order to fit him for business, Mr. Lamb advised that, instead of emigrating to New York, as he purposed to do, he should go to Belfast and learn something of shopkeeping. The good old Quaker arranged with a grocer in that town that the well-educated lad should become his apprentice, and in course of a few weeks he commenced his duties there. But neither the place nor the business suited the taste of A. T. Stewart. During the short time he was at the grocery business he spent the time from each Saturday evening till Monday at the house of Mr. Matthew Morrow, whose daughters conducted a ladies' school in Chichester Street, and where he met with the utmost kindness. But before the end of April he told the grocer that he did not like the business; and, having begged his guardian's permission to carry out the project of going to America, Mr. Lamb did not stand in the way, and thus all was amicably arranged.

His guardian handed him fifty pounds out of the fortune then awaiting his coming of age. With that capital, in May, 1818, he left Belfast, in a ship bound for New York, and six weeks afterwards he found himself in the City on the Hudson.

After considerable difficulty he found his mother's residence. His half-brother, James Bell, had, some weeks before, run off from home and gone to sea, and the family then consisted of his half-sister Mary, his mother, and stepfather. Determined not to remain a burden on the family, he sought employment as an assistant-teacher, and was engaged at four hundred dollars a-year—a sum barely equal to pay his board and maintain him in respectable clothing. Having found himself fully equal to the duties of the school, several additions were made to his salary during the next two years, and in 1820 he found himself master of an annual income of six hundred dollars.

A course of communication was maintained between him and his guardian all that time, and in December, 1822, he received a long letter from the honest Quaker, stating that the property left him having been realized, the proceeds were lodged in a Belfast bank. Mr. Lamb also advised his ward that the money arising

from the sale of the meadow and two fields, together with small cottage and garden (£140) was lent at 5 per cent. interest to a linen draper, and the seven pounds arising from that investment were paid quarterly to Mrs. Turney, his step-grandmother.

Early in the following year A. T. Stewart left New York for Liverpool, and when he reached that port in May, lost no time in taking his passage in the next steamer for Belfast, where he arrived in due course, and from thence made his way to Lisburn. The first person he called on was Fanny Fox, a Quaker lady, then engaged in the haberdashery and millinery business. Miss Fox pressed him to remain all night, and next morning, on speaking to that lady respecting his business in Ireland, he requested her to introduce him to a lawyer, which she did by taking him to the office of Mr. Dillon. Having had some legal advice from that solicitor, the young man set off on foot—a distance of about four miles—for Pear Tree Hill, the residence of Mr. Thomas Lamb, his grandfather's executor, where he was received with the utmost attention, and in the course of the day all the accounts of Mr. Turney's estate, from April, 1815, were laid before him, with the several amounts received and the sums paid, and the vouchers in each case. Various estimates have been made respecting the sum paid over to A. T. Stewart; nothing definite, however, is known on the subject, but it must have amounted to several hundred, or perhaps one thousand, pounds. At all events, through the agency of Mr. Dillon, the affairs were amicably arranged, and the legatee expressed his gratitude for the many obligations he owed to his guardian, and not less for the attention which Mrs. Lamb and her family had paid to him during his schoolboy days, than for the scrupulous correctness with which the property left to him had been treasured up until he came of age. That legacy and the many cheerful associations connected with it was never forgotten by A. T. Stewart.

He delighted to dwell on the subject of that gift of his grandfather, not so much because of its actual amount, but rather in consequence of the circumstances under which it had been bequeathed

to him. "The money," he once said to a friend, "must have been honestly earned when its investment proved so very prosperous."

It has been stated that Mr. Stewart had received from his guardian the full amount of money arising from the proceeds of property left him by his grandfather; but on getting the cash into his hands he found some difficulty in arriving at any definite conclusion as to how it should be invested. The bustle and prosperity he had seen in the everyday commerce of New York had stirred in his mind a desire for business; he, therefore, consulted a Belfast friend on the subject, and in doing so frankly acknowledged his ignorance of mercantile affairs. That friend told him that with his educational attainments and aptitude for learning he would soon master the details of trade. "It was most erroneous," he added, "to suppose that because a young man was a classical scholar he would not succeed when engaged at the matter-of-fact details of life as they existed behind the counter."

Acting on that shrewd counsel, the student made his first purchase from a manufacturer in Rosemary Street in that town, comprising a large lot of fancy goods, high-class muslins, insertions, tambours, and some flouncings. These articles were all of a quality which the embryo merchant was assured had rarely before been seen in any American city. He had also bought from the eminent firm of James N. Richardson & Co., of Lisburn, a parcel of the finest linens and some specialities in French cambric. Having thus invested the greater part of his capital in first-class goods, he once again sailed for New York, and arrived safe in July, 1823. There was then to be let the store afterwards known as "283, Broadway," situate between Murray and Warren Streets. The locality was central, and although the store was a mere wooden structure, twenty feet square, and the rent 375 dollars a-year, he entered as tenant, made some improvements, and in that tiny spot, with his Belfast and Lisburn purchases, and a job lot of laces, silk gloves, and general hosiery, the man who in after years became the financial counsellor of Presidents and the wonder of Wall Street, commenced his marvellous career.

On the 2nd of September, 1823, the following announcement appeared in the *Daily Advertiser* of that city :—

“NEW YORK DRY GOODS STORE.

“**A.** T. STEWART informs his Friends and the Public that he has taken the Store, No. 283, Broadway, wherein he offers for Sale, Wholesale and Retail, a large assortment of Fresh and Seasonable Goods, consisting of Irish Linens, Lawns, and French Cambrics.

“All these Goods were bought for Cash, and will be Sold on Reasonable Terms.”





PART SECOND.

MOST men who have made special way in the world retain very vivid recollections of their first appearance behind the counter. The heiress whose "coming out" in the fashionable world forms a sort of landmark in her existence, and the dramatic *debutante* while leaving the green-room for the foot-lights have each their wild emotions of hopes and fears; but, though not so exciting in its action, the young trader has his own share of sensational dreamings about the future as he starts in the race for the commercial "blue ribbon." A. T. Stewart, in his after days, and when he stood at the head of the whole republic of shopkeepers, thus describes the dull, dreary-looking September morning which ushered him into the world of trade:—

"I rose early, as usual, but was disheartened by the weather. About seven o'clock I went to the store. There was no sign of life outside. The streets were deserted. I entered the building and retired at once to my private room. There I sat silent and alone until I heard one of my shopmen asking for me. I opened the door, and then he said the rain was ceasing. Soon after a gleam of sunshine broke out. This greatly cheered me. My hopes revived still more when the same young man announced that there were several persons at the door. It was now eight o'clock, and he asked me if he should let them in. 'Not until nine,' I said. The crowd began to increase rapidly. As the time drew near for throwing open the doors I felt more and more anxious. A few seconds before nine I quitted my room, and took up my position at the extreme end of the building, that I might watch the incoming

crowd. When the doors were opened there was a rush of people just like a Jenny Lind night at the opera. I was much affected at the sight. The unexpected brightening of the day, and the concourse of people in consequence, produced a reaction upon me, and I confess that I withdrew quietly to my room again, and I found relief in having a good cry."

One of the great powers in creating success in business is that of the head of any house, whether large or small, having the good fortune to obtain the assistance of efficient, upright, and well-conducted hands to aid him in carrying out his course of enterprise. From the day of his commencement A. T. Stewart was blessed with such co-workers. He paid first-class hands good salaries, and in return demanded the most efficient service.

When he started in mercantile life John Jacob Astor was said to be worth several millions of dollars, and the next richest citizen of New York was possessed of immense wealth in steamboat property. The situation of the new concern was not considered as happily chosen. Hudson Street had then the reputation of being the most important *locale* for the retail dry goods business, but not a vacant concern was to be had there. It fortunately happened, however, that 283, Broadway was just next door to a fashionable emporium owned by a foreigner named Bonafantie, and where the Upper Ten made their purchases of articles of *vertu*, which, in beauty of design and exquisite workmanship, had no equals in the city. The attractions of that bazaar of the arts drew crowds to the neighbourhood, and Stewart's unique display of the fanciful in textile products had its share of admirers and customers. Each article offered at the store was marked in plain figures; and the cabalistic words, "No Second Price"—painted in large letters over a little archway that spanned the lower section of the concern dividing the lace from that of the linen and muslin department—attracted the utmost attention.

The system was novel, for in those days the mode of sale in dry goods, and, indeed, all other wares, was for the storekeeper to ask so-much for his merchandise and the customer to higgler for getting it at less. Many worthy citizens were not a little astonished

at the hard and fast lines by which business was done in "No. 283, Broadway," and the inquiry, "Is A. T. Stewart a Quaker?" might frequently have been heard. It is a fact, however, that the embryo millionaire's residence in the house of Thomas Lamb, of Pear Tree Hill, and his boyhood companionship for several years with the sons of his guardian, John and Joshua, had the effect of giving to his general character much of the peculiar habits that mark the personal history of the disciples of George Fox.

Still the fair sex of New York, as well as the country belles of the same State, found little difficulty in arriving at the conclusion that the "No second price" mode of sale as carried out at the Broadway store was generally on terms under those charged in most other concerns, while the style of article was much superior. Rapid was the turn-over, and as the young merchant had entertained some prescience of the future, and placed several orders for forthcoming supplies from the Old Country, large imports followed, and the stock was fully kept up by an amplitude of fresh goods.

But the attractions of Stewart's store did not end with the beauty of the fabrics on sale or the system of fixed values. One of the proprietor's commercial principles was that of what might be called conventional republicanism. The servant maid, or "help," who went to the store for the purpose of buying a cotton dress, had an entire line of such fabrics laid before her, and was as deferentially looked after by the chief or his assistants as was the up-town lady when engaged in the purchase of the highest priced production of the looms of Lyons. In course of doing business, the young men connected with 283, Broadway, were expected to shew the goods on sale to the best advantage, but in no case did Mr. Stewart permit any exaggerated account to be given respecting the quality of the goods.

As all transactions were effected on the ready cash system, the capital employed did the work of three times its amount under a range of credit accounts. Manufacturers competed with each other for the custom of the rising merchant; and at the end of his second year, the space of the store became so inadequate that he was obliged to rent a large concern in one of the back streets, where

all the extra stock was kept until required to assort that on immediate sale. In the meantime, he kept himself and his wares prominently before the fashionable folks of the city, and the State of New York as well, by a regular system of advertising through the papers. Every large consignment of goods from Europe—the linens of Ulster, the printed cottons of Lancashire, the laces of Valenciennes, and the brocaded silks of Paris—had due announcement; and the crowds of purchasers that thronged to the store told how well the selection of goods suited the tastes of his fair customers.

In 1825, Mr. Stewart married Miss Cornelia Clinch, daughter of a very wealthy ship chandler of New York. The young lady had received a very good education, but in the course of that sowing of intellectual seed the duty of industry had not been forgotten, and immediately after having taken upon herself the responsibilities of a wife she set about aiding in the transactions of the store, as if on her own exertions much of the future success depended. It has been said that, on the delivery of the goods which her husband was in the habit of purchasing at the auction sales, she would re-finish parcels of gloves and also the lots of lace so perfectly, that they appeared as if just from the hands of the manufacturer.

The concern 283, as already stated, had ceased to accommodate the customers and contain the stock, and during the three years previous to the autumn of 1832 A. T. Stewart had made two removals, in each case to larger places of business. No. 257, Broadway, was an extensive store, situate between Murray and Warren Streets, and this had been fitted up with great care and taste, the young merchant's classical education having given him a love of the decoration that was seen even in his selection of fancy fabrics. Nine years' successful commerce had made him a person of civic celebrity and a wonder to the plodding speculators of Wall Street.

All this time, and amid the great excitement that could not fail to follow his unexampled success, he never forgot the more than ordinary affection he felt for his mother. The second husband of that lady had died, and once again, and for the third time, she had entered into what are called in the Episcopal Service "The

holy bonds of matrimony." Her son, James Bell, went to sea many years before, and, it was supposed, had gone down with the ship in which he sailed, and her daughter Mary was no more. At the time, therefore, to which I refer, she and her new husband were the sole occupants of a small house in a quiet part of the Hudson-washed city.

John Turney bequeathed the good-will or tenant-right of a fourteen-acre farm to his grandchildren, James and Mary Bell. The property was to be disposed of by his trustees and the proceeds placed at interest, which interest was to be paid his widow for her life, and then to go to the legatees when they came of age. Mrs. Turney died in May, 1825. The farm had sold at ten pounds the acre; but as Mr. Stewart had not heard anything of the purchaser, in whose hands the proceeds of sale remained, he wrote the following letter :—

“New York, October 7, 1832.

“Mr. William Dillon, Lisburn.

“DEAR SIR,—When I had last the pleasure of seeing you, I think you said you would assist me if necessary in obtaining certain moneys belonging to the estate of the late John Turney, of Lissue, who died in April, 1815. These moneys were left to James and Mary Bell, my half-brother and sister. The latter died without issue. James Bell left this city in May, 1818, for South America, and from thence he sailed in the brig *Union*, which vessel has never been heard of since. My mother is still living, and married again, to a gentleman named John Martin. The farm my grandfather left the two children was sold for £140 sterling to a man of the Maze, named N. Dickson. This person has since died; but before his death he wrote my mother, then Margaret Bell, to say that, provided she would give him security that he would not again be called upon, he would pay the amount to whoever she might appoint to receive it, or else he would place the money in the hands of the Lord Chancellor. You will perceive that the difficulty is to prove the death of James Bell. We can prove that he has never been heard of since 1818, but this proof naturally rests with us. Now, my dear Sir, my object in writing is to obtain from you whatever documents may be required in order to enable you to collect this money for my mother, and the bearer of this letter will take charge of them and have such papers forwarded direct to me, and I will return them, duly signed, through the firm of Bell & Malcomson, of Belfast.

“You will find the will of my grandfather, John Turney, registered in Lisburn about May, 1816, and this may assist you to prepare the documents.

"No doubt, my dear Sir, you will recollect that I was introduced to you by your townswoman, Fanny Fox, in the Spring of 1823, and you arranged some business between Mr. Lamb and myself. For your friendship on that occasion I have ever felt indebted, and I now call on you respecting this claim. No interest has been paid on the account since the death of my step-grandmother, more than seven years ago. Of course, I will gladly pay all costs of your legal assistance in getting the claim settled.

"Yours most respectfully,

"ALEX. T. STEWART."

The years 1833, '34, and '35 were periods of increased success at 257, Broadway. It was said by the wise men of Wall Street—cunning financiers, men who could have run a speculation with Shylock himself—that the great dry goods merchant was worth two million dollars. He had got on the very top of the wave of progress, and, having attained that position, he was not the man to forget taking full advantage of the flood-tide. Nor did he fail to cultivate his mental powers during the stirring times of mercantile advancement. The elementary lessons taught him at William Christie's village school in the Causeway End, his higher class education at Benjamin Neely's seminary in Lisburn, and the classical studies he attended to at the academy of Dr. Skeffington Thompson, of Magheragal, were each and all recollected by the rising merchant, and in after-business hours he delighted in bringing into play the respective teachings of each of the three schools.

A great season of business in New York, and, in fact, throughout all the stirring States of the American Union, was 1835. The great dry goods store, 257, Broadway, had been deepened some five-and-twenty feet, and a couple of stories were added to it—wider frontage was not to be had on any terms—still the volume of business kept so close in the wake of extension that it seemed as if space had no sooner been added than it was filled up. But as the fall of 1836 set in there were heard the distant mutterings of a coming storm in the world of commerce. The weird sages of Wall Street looked out on the atmospheric threatenings with a feeling of dread; bankers narrowed the range of discounts, and private bill brokers began to look on the ten per cent. tariff for three months' paper as rather moderate than otherwise. The

succeeding year commenced very ominously, and the financial tempest that swept over the home of the Stripes and Stars was felt in a greater or less degree in all seats of commerce throughout Europe. At that time the Broadway store was known as that of "A. T. Stewart & Co's." The next in command to that of the great chief was quite equal to the duties of the situation. While the latter moved about through the city picking up bargains which, owing to the extreme tightness of the cash market and the stagnation of sales, were to be had in almost any quantity from store-keepers who had purchased too extensively in the preceding Summer, Mr. Stewart bought immense lots of goods at his own price, and very glad the sellers were to find a ready money customer so willing as he was to clear out held-over stock. It has been stated that his profits on these purchases, as well as on large transactions with Manchester, Macclesfield, and Paris houses, amounted in that year to about two million dollars. The value of all varieties of merchandise had fallen in some cases forty per cent., and, as a matter of course, many of the weaker men in the trade toppled over. Bankers also felt the effects of the panic, and not a few of those arbiters of discount who had been supposed well able to meet all the difficulties incident to the time, were also forced to succumb to the storm.

In the midst of the commercial tempest the head of the Broadway store had advertisements in all the city papers, to the effect that although dry goods had fallen nearly one-half in value he had arranged to have a large proportion of the stock held by his firm marked at even lower figures. Those announcements created much curiosity in the large class of bargain-buyers which abounds in every great centre of humanity, and immense numbers of such worthy people were added to the ordinary customers of the house, and in a few months all that portion of goods was cleared out. Great was the loss in that instance, but with his large floating capital he replaced the stock, buying, in fact, on his own terms; and, as the better days came round, the later purchases went off at profits exceeding the highest he had ever realized.

During the later years noted, the sale of Parisian wares had so

largely increased that it was considered imperatively necessary to have more direct arrangements with the chief manufacturers of France. A. T. Stewart had by that time become a perfect judge of fancy textiles, whether those of Irish, British, or French make, thus proving the Belfast merchant's aphorism that, "with his high-class educational attainments and aptitude for learning, he would soon be able to master the details of trade." Mrs. Martin and her third husband were then residents of Catherine Street, where they had a furniture store, which was managed by the lady of the house with much of the commercial ability that had marked the career of her distinguished son. Regularly did the rapidly rising merchant visit his mother, and it was with the utmost gratification that he witnessed her success in the business she had so well conducted.

Early in November, 1838, Mr. Stewart left for Paris, where he intended to remain for several months purchasing goods and entering into contracts for future supplies. The money due his mother, and which consisted of the proceeds of the sale of a small farm at Lissue, alluded to in his grandfather's will, had not been paid, and while in the great metropolis of Gaul he wrote as follows to his solicitor in Belfast:—

" 24, Rue Therenot, Paris,
Feb. 18, 1839.

" William Dillon, Esq.

"DEAR SIR,—By last mail from my house in New York I received the form of affidavit, and, having signed it here before Her Majesty's Consul, herewith send the same to you. I hope this will suit your purposes, but if not, I will call on you in July next, on my way home; but as my visit to Paris has been so extended, my stay in Lisburn will be very short. If proof of my signature be required, you can obtain it from John G. Richardson or John Owden, of the firm of Richardson, Sons, & Owden; and from my correspondence with their house, my handwriting must be familiar to them. The persons who hold my mother's money have not treated her well, and I am not disposed to let them off. She has placed this matter in your hands, with full confidence that you will do the best you can for her, and with the result of your professional exertions she will be quite satisfied. When I was in Belfast, nearly four years ago, I left at your office there a statement, certified by Thomas Lamb, that

N. Dickson, who is since dead, had the money, and his executors should long since have paid the £140 sterling, with interest since 1825. With the best wishes for your health and happiness, I have the pleasure to be,

“Very truly yours,

“ALEX. T. STEWART.”

We give this letter as evidence of the business habits of the man who in his own day, and by his own remarkable abilities, succeeded in achieving a fortune which it required at least two generations of the far-famed Rothschild to accumulate. One of the old axioms of the “copies” which headed the writing-books of the village schools in his early days was, “Take care of the pence, and the pounds will take care of themselves,” and, in accordance with that counsel, he looked after his mother’s interests in say seven hundred and fifty dollars, as though the sum had been ten times that amount.

In the meantime, the ball of A. T. Stewart rolled onward, and as it did so there seemed still narrowing accommodation for the stock in store and the customers who patronized the house. The American Republic, in the interim, was making such way as to astonish the oldest States in Europe. Brother Jonathan had not only got too big for his boots, but for his nether garments also; and when we consider what wonders that grandiloquent personage was acquiring he can well be pardoned for his egotism. In the Spring of 1847, the premises of A. T. Stewart & Co. were found totally inadequate to meet the growing extension of their business. Washington Hall, a famous commercial hotel and its mercantile club, were then in the market, and at a cost of sixty thousand dollars, the site was purchased by Mr. Stewart. The area of that building ground comprised two acres, and after clearing away the buildings that stood over it, the erection of the world-renowned Marble Palace was commenced.

A. T. Stewart was a keen, sharp-witted business man—one of those chiefs of the commercial world whom “the unco guid and rigidly righteous” of the pharisaic section of evangelism would look upon as outside the pale of the elect. But amid all the bustle of his anxiety in designing the architecture of his new store, he had his old feeling of nationality towards the home of his birth,

Ireland, in 1847, was undergoing one of those periodical seasons of sadness which seem coincident with her history. Two millions of her people were in the very whirlpool of destitution, dearth, and disease, and towards the relief fund which had been got up, the Broadway merchant sent to the Irish Committee, then sitting in Dublin, a contribution of ten thousand dollars.

Stewart's dry goods palace, fronted with marble, was said to be the finest building not only in the model Republic, but in the oldest seats of commerce in Europe. It was six stories high, the altitude from the base of the stores to the top cornice being close on eighty feet, and, as already noted, each of the flats occupied a space of two acres in extent. The original cost of the building was three hundred thousand dollars, and A. T. Stewart designed the building, of course leaving the details to his architect.

It is a peculiar feature in the character of some of the greatest men that superstitious belief forms one of their most powerful motives of action. Sir Walter Scott had the utmost faith in the workings of supernatural agencies. Byron was still more influenced by similar feelings, and A. T. Stewart revelled in the belief of the unseen but powerful influences. In the early days of his commercial career an old Irishwoman kept an apple stall on the footway near the entrance to the old store, 283, Broadway. He had often chatted with her, and was delighted in listening to the ring of the brogue, bringing back, as it did, many recollections of the ancient land at home. When he removed to the great building, in 1848, his ideas of continued prosperity were so connected with the old Celt and her fruit stall that he induced her to bring over her little stall to a site near the Marble Palace, and establish herself there.

The opening of the new concern formed quite an era in the commercial life of its proprietor, and in that extended sphere of action he set to work with all the energy of a juvenile trader. By this time he had his buyers in all the chief seats of manufacturing industry in Europe, and his immense financial resources enabled him to purchase on the best terms the finest qualities of goods. His high-class education proved very valuable to him, and the sound lessons of mercantile probity he had learned in early life

from the good old linendraper, John Turney, as well as the love of truth which Thomas Lamb, his guardian, had instilled into his young mind, admirably fitted him for the inauguration of a mode of transacting retail trade which startled the older men of New York, and gave rise to many prophecies respecting the ultimate failure of "Stewart's mode of doing business."

How much the success of Transatlantic navigation has influenced the wonderful expansion of trade that in 1838 commenced between the Old World and the New could hardly be estimated by any array of figures. On the morning of the 23rd of May, in that year, the men on the look-out at Sandy Hook were fairly puzzled in their conjectures respecting the character of a strange steamer not far in the distance; and as she dashed onward, and passed up the Hudson, they heard the joyous news that the stranger was the *Sirius*, an English coaster, and had made the run from Cork in eighteen days. The *Sirius*, built by Menzies & Sons, of Leith, was only about two hundred feet in length; but as the pioneer of that magnificent fleet of floating palaces that now bridge the ocean, her name and those of her gallant navigators should not be forgotten in maritime history. Two of the three great men of New York took the utmost interest in the progress of ocean steaming; these were Cornelius Vanderbilt and A. T. Stewart. The famous Commodore looked on the new source of enterprise with the eye of a seaman, while the Broadway merchant considered it in the light of a vast principle of mercantile progress. When the steamer from Cork made fast her hawsers in New York harbour, crowds of citizens came to gaze with admiration on the handsome vessel, hundreds of Irishmen joined the throng, and the ring of brogue of the Celt commingled with the nasal twang of the Yankee made up a joyous chorus of welcome. During the afternoon of the same day an exultant cry from the throng of sightseers rose in the air, and the shout, "Here comes another ocean steamer," was heard in loud tones; and, as expectation increased, the Bristol ship *Great Western* came up, and was berthed near the *Sirius*. The last arrival was a vessel of two hundred and thirty-six feet in length. She had carried over a number of passengers, and made

the run in fourteen days and a-half. Among the thousands of American citizens and European settlers that had assembled on the quays to look at the two noble steamers none seemed to enjoy the sight with greater pleasure than A. T. Stewart. He was able to peer into the dim future, and to see by anticipation what a wide field of accelerated commerce had just then been opened to the Western Republic.

Ten years after these events, and when the marble palace of Broadway was commencing its day of unique attraction, the Cunard Line of ocean steamers was in the first stage of success. The *Canada*, launched in June, 1848, formed the largest of the fleet. She was two hundred and fifty feet long, eighteen hundred tons burthen, and six hundred horse-power; next to the Great Britain the largest ship afloat. Edward K. Collins, a native of Massachusetts, and founder of the Dramatic Line of sailing ships that ran for many years between New York and Liverpool, was one of the most energetic of men. His famous packet *Siddons* ran from Sandy Hook to the point of Cork in fourteen days; and very proud he felt of that great achievement; but he said he would build a steamer that would make the voyage from quay to quay between New York and Liverpool in ten days. The *Adriatic*, one of the finest specimens of naval architecture that ever crossed the ocean, frequently made the passage in nine days and a-half. It was not creditable to the Cabinet at Washington that about 1859, and in a fit of questionable economy, the mail contract was withdrawn from the Collins Line of ocean steamers, the result of that policy being to cause their owner to sell them off. The American Republic has many men to be proud of; but from the days of Robert Fulton, none more worthy of memorial regard than Edward K. Collins.

I have alluded to these incidents because, in the advancement of commerce and the progress of industry, facility of communication between the peoples of different climes and countries, breaks down national prejudices and accelerates the interchange of commodities between races that may have been antagonistic. The impetus given to American commerce by the successes of Trans-

atlantic steaming has been something that far exceeds all anticipation, and even in its earlier stages the effects were seen on both sides of the ocean. A. T. Stewart and his brother storeowners derived immense advantage from the regular import of dry goods, the product of every land in Europe. Distance seemed to have been so narrowed that orders sent to Belfast, Manchester, London, and Paris were attended to, and the goods were sent to hand with magical rapidity. The turn-over at the marble palace in Broadway left the highest average of 257 far in the distance. When an aggregate of twelve million dollars had been reached, it was considered quite up to the maximum point; but business developed until that average was much exceeded. A. T. Stewart had then been in the dry goods trade for more than one quarter of a century, and his power of arranging the daily duties of an entire army of rank and file assistants shewed how well the algebraic and mathematical lessons he had been taught by Mr. Benjamin Neely must have been acted upon in course of his commercial life. But all was not smooth sailing in the Broadway store. The more narrow-minded of his brother merchants looked upon him with the utmost jealousy, and did not hesitate to speak hardly of him, and especially in relation to his economic habits and the severity with which he came down on any of his assistants that shewed the least disposition to waste, even in the most trifling instance.

New York was rapidly advancing in the extent of its population, the wealth of its merchants, and the desire on the part of the fair sex to excel each other in the rich and expensive style of their dressing. The marble palace had become more than ever the resort of the fashionable and the gay of high life, when A. T. Stewart saw that it was time for him to make another move in the upward direction. He accordingly, in 1860, purchased the fee-simple of more than two acres of ground situate between Ninth and Tenth Streets and Fourth Avenue. There he commenced the erection which, when finished, stood, from the level of the street to the top cornice, eighty-eight feet in height, and was the largest store ever erected in any part of the world. It consisted of eight floors, six above and two below the ground, thus making an area of eighteen acres in all.

One thousand young ladies were employed there during the busy season, some cutting-out and others making-up dresses and under garments, and a third of the whole is engaged attending to the sales. These employés were in the receipt of various degrees of salary; skilled hands had from twelve to fifty dollars, while ordinary employés had from five to ten dollars a-week. Five hundred men were at work in the various floors of the concern, and customers were carried from flat to flat on handsomely fitted-up elevators worked by steam power, and which seemed to move up and down like things of life. Visitors to New York rarely forgot taking a run through Stewart's store, and, as no one was importuned to purchase, the sight of the wonderful concentration of order and busy commerce had long been considered as one of the city lions. Some years ago, and a short time before Mr. Stewart's death, an Indian chief was taken, accompanied by an interpreter, to see the wonders of the Broadway store. The prairie king was introduced into the departments in which the magnificent dresses and shawls for the Upper Ten were displayed in ample profusion. But, strange to say, he looked with stoical indifference on all the dazzling richness of those triumphs of the loom and the needle. At length his *chaperone* led him to the engine-room, and for the first time during his visit the red man's spirit seemed aroused to extreme excitement. He watched the five-hundred horse-power engine which raised without the least apparent effort vast piles of merchandise from one flat of the building to another, and kept in motion four hundred sewing machines. At length, in the very ecstasy of savage life, he cried out, "Wonderful! works herself, and does not kill anyone."

Most readers who have studied the military life of the great Duke will recollect the case of a subaltern whom the commander of the troops, then Lord Wellington, ordered to attend to a certain duty, but, forgetting the stern discipline of the army, took his own opinion as to carrying out the order. Wellington, when aroused, was in the habit of using expletives that would have shocked the saints of Exeter Hall, and in this instance he excelled himself. "How dare you disobey direct orders, sir?" roared the irate chief. "I thought, my lord——" meekly replied the other. "You thought,

sir! Who allowed you such a liberty? Your superior officers think for you, sir, and receive their pay for that. Don't presume to travel outside the law again." It is to be supposed the subaltern took pretty good care not to commit a similar blunder during his day of service.

In the administration of his vast commercial transactions, A. T. Stewart was in his own way quite as great a martinet as the Duke; he insisted on the most implicit obedience to his orders, and was heard to say that success could not be expected to follow, as it would otherwise do, in any mercantile enterprise in which the head of the house permitted employés to depart from his orders.

About the time of the commencement of the war between the Southern and Northern States of America, Mr. Stewart purchased immense quantities of military stores, and when demand for such goods rose with the requirements, sales were made at very large profits, and yet, as it was afterwards proved, the purchases made by Government at A. T. Stewart's were on much better terms than any that had been bought from other holders.

His firm had many large customers in the South, and much dissatisfaction was expressed by some of these citizens at the evident feeling which Mr. Stewart displayed in favour of the North. One merchant went still farther than any of the others to whom I have referred, by writing the Broadway capitalist to say that if he (A. T. S.) lent money to carry on the war, and continued to espouse the cause of the anti-slavery party, he would refuse to pay his accounts, and advise other Southerners to do likewise.

Here was a threat of carrying out the system which in 1880 was known in the South and West of Ireland as "Boycotting." But A. T. Stewart was not the man to be intimidated by such threats, and, in the true spirit of patriotism, replied as follows:—

"New York, April 21, 1861.

"DEAR SIR,—Your letter requesting to know whether or not I had offered one million of dollars to the Government for the purpose of aiding in the prosecution of the war, and at the same time informing me that neither yourself nor your friends would pay their debts to my firm, has been received. The intimation not to pay seems to be unusual in the South—aggravated in your case by the assurance that it does not arise from inability; but let me tell

you that whatever may be your determination, or that of others in the South, it will not cause me to change my course. All that I have, whether of wealth or position, I owe to the free institutions of the United States, under which, in common with others, in both North and South, protection to life, liberty, and property is enjoyed in the fullest manner. The Government, to which these blessings are dear, calls on her citizens to protect the capital of the Union from threatened assault ; and although the offer to which you refer has not yet been made by me, I yet dedicate all that I have of wealth, and if needs be my life itself, to the service of my country ; for to that country I am bound by the strongest ties of duty and affection. I had hoped that Tennessee would be loyal to the Constitution ; but however extended may be the secession, or how wide the circle of repudiators, as long as there are men ready to uphold the Sovereignty of the United States, I shall join with them in supporting the Flag.

“ I am, yours, &c.,

“ ALEX. T. STEWART.”





PART THIRD.

THE publication of Mr. Stewart's letter as given in the New York *Sun* and *Herald* caused considerable excitement in that city and raised the writer very much in public estimation. As has ever been the case where family quarrels stir up bad feeling between relations and create a great gulf in formerly peaceful households, so it was in the international war of the United States. For the time being, the term "united" appeared as if thrown aside, and the bitterest feeling existed in each section of the citizens. It was, therefore, a great source of pride and exultation among the Northerners to find a man of A. T. Stewart's world-wide influence taking his stand on the side of freedom and in opposition to the policy of the Slave States.

Of the immense gains which far-seeing citizens of New York and other American centres realized by their speculations in military stores just previous to the commencement of the war and during its continuance, no proximate idea has yet been given. About the close of 1860, and when Mr. Stewart was said to be worth twenty millions of dollars, he had the sagacity to see that an outbreak was not far distant, and, with his immense floating capital, he at once sent into the different markets and bought up munitions of war on such a scale of magnitude that for some time before the first ring of the rifle told that hostilities had commenced he was all but master of the situation. Bedding, blankets, soldiers' clothing, military boots, and flannel shirts he had stored by in large quantities ; in fact, he had become possessed of the great propor-

tion of the stocks held in New York, Boston, and Philadelphia ; and when the Government officials came to him, as purchasers he was able to command his own terms. Still, it has frequently been admitted by the Washington authorities that of all those merchants with whom they negotiated none were so liberal as A. T. Stewart. The ratio of taxation during that time of terrible pressure was very high, and when great efforts were made by the Minister of Finance to reduce national indebtedness, the sums levied off the people were enormous. For municipal purposes alone the tax laid on New York was twenty-two million dollars. That amount was paid by one hundred and fifty thousand property owners, whose aggregate estates were valued at six hundred million dollars, the rate being two dollars sixty-seven cents. on each hundred dollar valuation. W. B. Astor paid in one year four hundred thousand dollars ; A. T. Stewart's taxation for the same period was one quarter of a million dollars ; and C. Vanderbilt paid two hundred thousand dollars.

Of all the popular errors that live around us there is none greater than that which supposes the keen and energetic business man to be a mere zealous pursuer of wealth, caring nothing for the outside world beyond the power it gives him of making money. There may be found in the republic of trade a number of men so absorbed in their pursuits that they think of little else ; but on the other hand, how many thousands are there that plod on day after day in the regular routine of commerce, working much longer hours than the mill operatives in this Kingdom were wont to do in times before the factory laws had any existence ; yet these same men when called upon to contribute of their means to any public charity are quite as ready to open their purse-strings as they had ever been to add to their capital account. Some of A. T. Stewart's biographers have written of him as if he had been a man whose only enjoyment was the accumulation of riches. Nothing could be farther from broad fact than such statements. It is true that, to casual observers, he may have seemed cold and frigid, and that in the management of his great business he exacted scrupulous attention to details on the part of his army of assistants, but in connection with that stern love of discipline and a determination to have

the line of conduct he marked out strictly adhered to, he had a heart brimful of benevolence, and a disposition which ever prompted him to distribute with no sparing hand a portion of his wealth in doing good to his less fortunate brethren.

It will be recollected that, in 1862, the American war caused great depression in the trade as it existed throughout every great seat of manufactures in the United Kingdom. All forms of industry connected with manufactures suffered considerably, but none was so fairly prostrated as the cotton trade. The Southern States had been so much engaged in campaigning that the cotton plantations were partially forgotten, and production fell away so much that the value of that material rose enormously. Millowners in Lancashire could not procure full supplies for their spindles at any price. Many concerns had to be closed up in consequence of the dearth and scarcity of cotton, and tens of thousands of operatives were thrown idle. In the midst of that calamity the generous sympathy of the kind-hearted and benevolent people of all nations was quite equal to the demands made on it, and princely donations poured into the treasury created for the aid of the sufferers. A. T. Stewart contributed ten thousand dollars. In the midst of the terrible desolation of want and disease, the men whom thoughtless writers ridiculed as "cotton lords," had themselves to bear no light burdens. Their mills, with all the expensive machinery, were either solely or partially idle; the people who lived in the cottages which surrounded their concerns could not pay any rent, and their spindles and looms were left to rust, while sales of yarns and cloth could only be effected at immense discount from first cost. And yet, with all these difficulties to contend against, many of these "cotton lords" exhibited generosity that was in itself marvellous, and which it would have been well for some of their detractors to emulate in their own circles of life.

In another part of this volume there has been given a full detail of the munificent contribution which Mr. Stewart sent to the Lisburn Relief Committee, and also a notice of his having chartered the ship *Mary Edson* to take over on her return voyage a number of the cotton weavers to New York. When those emi-

grants reached that city the Broadway merchant had temporary homes prepared for them, and until they got into employment all were supported at his expense.

The great store was then in full play, and although the war had circumscribed business in every department of trade, there seemed no turn in Broadway save that of continued progress. About this time a Lurgan manufacturer who had been to New York on business and had taken up his quarters in Delmonico's palace hotel, had frequent opportunities of seeing A. T. Stewart, who generally dined there, and that manufacturer ever afterwards spoke of him in the highest terms. There was nothing about him of that assumption of wealth which so often follows great riches. He found the famous merchant quite a man of the world, well up in the history of his adopted country, and, through his long experience as a traveller in Europe, well able to note the peculiarities of English and Continental society.

An immense stock of fancy goods had been ordered for the Tenth Street store, the retail trade having been removed to that concern, leaving the Dicon Street building—famed as the Marble Palace—to be the great centre of the wholesale business. There was an immense development of commerce on both sides of the Atlantic in 1864, and although the war had still been fiercely carried on by each of the Powers, it became evident that the North would uphold its supremacy, and the feeling of confidence that spread abroad gave new life to the mercantile world. It was said that in the two years, '63 and '64, the turn-over in the wholesale and retail houses of A. T. Stewart & Co. footed up to one hundred and twenty million dollars, and that the net profits of each year averaged about four hundred thousand pounds of British money. The general outlay for management, or, as our American cousins have it, the annual cost of "running the concern," was estimated at one million dollars.

Mr. Stewart in after life had retrospective pleasure in referring to his exultation when, at the end of June, 1826, he found himself right in the groove of progress. He had then been only two years and nine months in business, and was carrying on his affairs at

262, Broadway. His spirit of self-reliance was strengthened by success in the new concern, and made more active by experience ; but his pride became still greater as he contemplated the enormous increase of business which, during the fall of 1864, was transacted in Tenth Street. With his large accumulation of capital, A. T. Stewart had commenced to invest pretty extensively in real estate. He owned some of the most luxuriously fitted-up hotels in the city, and was also proprietor of the Globe Theatre in Broadway. Strange to say, the plodding man of business and the matter-of-fact merchant was very fond of theatricals. He delighted in patronising superior talent on the stage, and that because he looked upon the well-conducted drama as one great power in adult education. He often regretted that the Church and the Stage did not unite in one grand effort to elevate the tone of society throughout every section of conventional life.

After what may be termed the excitement of business that followed the close of the war and continued for some years, there came the lull which frequently succeeds very stirring times. During the days of depression the store in Tenth Street continued its career of success. In reply to the question of whether his house had suffered by the adverse turn of trade, Mr. Stewart said :—

“Our business was never in a more satisfactory condition than it is at present. During the holiday season especially trade in the retail store exceeded anything the house had ever had previously. The number of people visiting the store was simply enormous. Beginning with Monday of last week, when the number of visiting customers was upwards of thirty-five thousand, there was a daily increase until Friday of that week, when the number amounted to over fifty thousand. On Monday last, our superintendent, Mr. Denning, estimated that not less than seventy-five thousand visited the store, and on that day I may say there were over six thousand charges to regular customers made on the books, apart from the cash sales. The receipts for that day and also for the holiday week have not at any time heretofore been exceeded by the house, while the quantities sold were far in excess of anything before known by us.”

Mr. Stewart's general health had continued very good throughout all the sensationalism that must have accompanied his unparalleled success in the world, but in course of the fall of 1873 he felt the first symptoms of a disease which ultimately led to his death. He was then seventy-two years of age, and had been half a century in business, and was owner of wealth which could have bought out the fee-simple of the real estate possessed by half a dozen members of the higher order of the British House of Lords.

His private residence in Fifth Avenue, the "Park Lane" of New York, was a palace very superior in architectural design to that of any of Queen Victoria's residences. It is said that the building and furnishing decorations of the house cost nearly two millions British. Several of the most valuable works of ancient and modern masters adorn the picture gallery. One of these works of art cost ten thousand dollars.

It has often been noted as a remarkable feature in the peculiar character of the Frenchman that he looks upon one class of the English, and the Americans too, as being all millionaires. We have referred to the great taste which A. T. Stewart had for the fine arts. In reference to the famous picture which he purchased from Meissonier, the Paris correspondent of a Philadelphia paper said:—

"You are probably aware that this production of the most celebrated French artist of the day, and which is known by no other name than the laconic appellation of "1807," is about to make its way across the Atlantic, there to be transferred into the hands of its fortunate purchaser, Mr. Stewart, of New York, for the trifling consideration of 300,000 francs! I suppose this is about the largest sum ever paid for the work of a modern painter during his lifetime. The picture was originally intended to have passed into the possession of Sir Richard Wallace for the sum of 200,000 francs, but whether that gentleman was not pleased with his bargain, or whether the artist thought he had let him off too cheap at the last-mentioned price, I am not prepared to say. Certain it is that the American man of millions has stepped in between the first-made bargain and its conclusion, and carried off a prize which will make him the envy of a thousand competitors. The transaction has

been noticed in all the leading journals of this continent almost as much as if it had been some important political event. Thus the *Independance Belge* tells us, *apropos* to it, that Mr. Stewart pays income-tax on a declared revenue of 25 million dollars per annum. The *Figaro*, of Paris, relates how Mr. Stewart, finding the Government of the North 50 million dollars in his debt at the close of the war, and fearing it might be inconvenient at that moment to repay him, said *tout simplement*: 'Only fifty million dollars! Don't mention it!' and so scratched out the debt with a stroke of his pen. The same journal warns its readers not to confound 'Stewart of New York' with 'that other Stewart' (of Philadelphia), who is the happy possessor of the finest collection of Fortuny's paintings extant (to the number, if I mistake not, of thirty nine), and who, says *Figaro*, to distinguish him from his above-mentioned namesake, is called 'Stewart the poor,' having only five millions a year. '*Pauvre homme!*' exclaimed *Figaro*."

A. T. Stewart was a rich man, but only an imaginative Gaul could have written the passage just quoted.

One of Mr. Stewart's pet projects was that of bringing into fertility a large landed estate he purchased from the authorities of Long Island, Hempstead, New York. Previous to that occasion he had owned a considerable tract on the same island, and when the lot of seven thousand acres was thrown on the market he bought the whole at fifty-five dollars the acre. Some erroneous statements having been made respecting his object in effecting the purchase, Mr. Stewart wrote to the local papers to say that his sole desire was to make it the site of handsome places of residence. "I propose," said he, "to erect at various points attractive buildings and healthy houses, so that what is now a barren waste may become a place of beauty, inhabited by a respectable population, desirable as neighbours. On this project I am prepared to expend several millions of dollars." This statement was made in July, 1869, and since then the wilderness has been transformed as if by magic into what has well been called the "Garden City," and which is connected by a line of railway that runs from thence to New York. On a piece of land which twenty years ago would not

have supported two dozen sheep, a splendid hotel and eighty handsome dwellings have been raised. Several of these houses are quite classic in their architectural adornments. The site of the Garden City is eighty feet above the sea level, and searchers of health from New York have been delighted with the purity of the atmosphere. As a mere speculation the outlay on the great plain at Hampstead has been highly successful ; but still more important is this fact, that the salubrity of the place has aided materially in restoring to health many a worn-out citizen and not a few grief-laden invalids.

The years that immediately preceded the death of A. T. Stewart, though not times of prosperity in the chief cities of America, were characterized by the usual course of progress in the business concerns of that gentleman. He delighted to gather around him the most distinguished men of the city, and on the third Sunday in March, 1876, had his usual dinner party. I have already referred to his peculiarly superstitious feeling—he never commenced any work on Friday, and he had his respect for omens. On the occasion alluded to the party was intended to consist of sixteen gentlemen, including the host himself, but three of the invited guests were unable to attend, and, to Mr. Stewart's momentary annoyance, thirteen sat down to table. A very pleasant evening was spent, however, for he was quite a different man in his own house from the plodding merchant of Broadway. Next day he felt very ill, and did not go to business. An internal disease which had first appeared three years before set in with increased severity. The family physician, Dr. Marcey, was in close attendance, and he rallied a little under that gentleman's care, but on Thursday, the 6th of April, he had caught fresh cold and become considerably worse. On the morning of the 10th he was quite unconscious, and before the close of that day the millionaire storekeeper whose name had been a household word in every place of note in the world of commerce had passed away to the Land of Spirits.

Except on that memorable night when President Lincoln was shot as he sat in his accustomed place in the theatre, nothing had taken place in New York for the previous half century which

caused such mingled feelings of astonishment and regret as did the report of A. T. Stewart's death. Very few of the citizens had heard he was ill, and even those who were in the secret did not apprehend any danger; but when it became known that he who had been the centre of attraction in the world of commerce for nearly two generations was no more, it seemed as if something akin to a family calamity had darkened the homes of thousands in the city. Telegrams announcing the sad news were sent to the different metropolises of the American States and to the chief seats of commerce in Europe. The funeral, which took place on Thursday, the 12th of April, was one of the largest ever seen in New York.

A few prominent features of A. T. Stewart's life and labours may be added here. For many years before his death he had a branch house established in each of the following centres of trade in Europe:—Belfast, Bradford, Berlin, Chemnitz, Glasgow, Lyons, Paris, Manchester, and Nottingham. In the United States there was a large place of business connected with the firm in Boston, and one in Philadelphia. The house of A. T. Stewart & Co. was at the same time largely engaged in the manufacture of clothing and carpet wares. The various concerns consisted of the Holyoke Mill, the Glenhan Carpet Factory, the Woodstock Mill, the Catskill Woollen Factory, the Waterville Factory, the Works at Washington, the New Jersey Mill, the Thread Mill at Catskill, and the great Manufactory in New York.

A. T. Stewart was in reality a professor of the higher art of commerce, and throughout his long day of enterprise his whole aim seemed to be that of raising trade to a distinct place in the world of science. But amid all the cares connected with the government of his mercantile republic he always found leisure to carry out plans for increasing the comfort and adding to the happiness of others. In 1872 he commenced to erect the splendid building in Fourth Avenue, New York, and which he had designed as a "Working Women's Home," for the residence of the female assistants engaged in the different business houses in that city. Many years before, Mr. Stewart had observed that well-conducted

and respectably brought up girls, whose relations did not live within easy distance of the dry goods stores in which they were engaged, had much difficulty in getting suitable lodgings where their food would be prepared at reasonable rates. Determined to provide with a pleasant home that interesting but neglected section of industrials, he sought the aid of a famous architect, and under that gentleman's superintendence the building was commenced, and which he hoped when finished would prove to be not only one of the handsomest, but the most comfortable erections in the city. The Home was two hundred feet square and six stories in height. An interior court of about half those dimensions was fitted up with ornamental fountains and otherwise made highly attractive, and as the purest air pervaded the whole, this court was designed as a sort of play-ground. According to the original plan, the rooms were to be heated by steam in cold weather, and the food cooked on the same principle. Every apartment was well lighted, the ceilings were twelve feet high, and the sleeping-rooms admirably ventilated. A dining-room ninety feet long and thirty feet wide formed a general *table d'hote*, where the young women were to have their meals at the lowest cost. Arrangements for amusement and instruction were not forgotten. There was a handsome concert room and a library, which Mr. Stewart intended should be well furnished with books, papers, and periodicals. It was the great object of the benevolent founder that he should provide for the working girls a home which would possess the comfort and convenience of a hotel as well as the protection of a private household. "This," he said, "would be the more efficient because of its not being wholly gratuitous." A small sum was to be paid by each boarder, so as to give some sort of independence to those availing themselves of its advantages. Under the superintendence of Judge Hilton, one of Mr. Stewart's tried and trusted friends, and his principal executor, the Home was finished at the sole cost of the testator's widow, and at a gross outlay of about two million dollars. According to the founder's special desire, each guest was to enjoy the comforts and conveniences of a first-class hotel at four to five dollars a week ;

and if that scale of charges did not meet expenses, the difference was to be made up by a claim on Mr. Stewart's real estate. In the early months of 1878 the Home was furnished, and made ready to receive guests; but whether it was because of the very strict and really conventual supervision enforced by the managers, a very short experience of the system proved the whole affair to be a failure. One of the rules was that no male friend of the guests would be permitted to visit them; and as the divine aphorism, that "It is not good for man to be alone," has another meaning as well, the halls of the Home were soon all but deserted, and for some years past the building has been let as a public hotel. It has been said that the charges were too high; but we believe the cause of want of success arose solely in the attempt to make the Home a mere nunnery. The object of Mr. Stewart was that of the purest benevolence, and equally so was that of his widow and Judge Hilton; it is therefore much to be regretted that from any cause or causes an institute so fraught with good for the very interesting classes of the gentler sex to whose comfort and enjoyment it was to be dedicated should have failed in its objects.

President Grant offered to appoint Mr. Stewart to the very important office of Secretary of the United States Treasury, but various obstacles intervened, and the matter fell through.

Mr. Stewart's various acts of benevolence could not be given in detail, and this because a great many of them were only known to the recipients, the donor himself, and the Great Being to whose grace His creatures are indebted for the means, and, still better, the disposition, to give.

When that aged warrior, the Emperor William of Germany, forgetting the nobility of true heroism, set his iron heel on the prostrate people of France, and as they suffered under the savage reign of their conqueror, A. T. Stewart contributed towards their relief forty thousand dollars. He also sent a large amount in aid of the burned-out citizens of Chicago.

It might have been supposed that a man who had been no less philanthropic than he was enterprising would have received from all his fellow-citizens a fair recognition of his kindly-disposed and

really munificent acts ; but the miserable spirit that taught the men of old to cry out, "Is Saul also among the prophets," was abroad in New York. On the Sunday after A. T. Stewart's death, Dr. Talmage, of the Brooklyn Tabernacle, preached a sermon on the subject, in which he gave the following passage :—

"My friends, what is the use of your struggling for that which you cannot keep? As long as you have clothes and food and shelter and education for yourselves and your children, and the means of Christian generosity, be satisfied. You worry and tug and sweat and wear yourselves out for that which will not give you one item of happiness. I hear hundreds of young men in this house this morning saying, 'If I only had a certain number of hundreds of thousands of dollars, I would be satisfied.' No. Was A. T. Stewart satisfied? Answer the salesmen and the book-keepers of his nine dry goods establishments in the nine kingdoms of the world—he was at business in the morning before some of you are ; and at night when the Brooklyn ferry-boats were crowded with shopkeepers coming home, often the light was seen in his private room of the commercial palace on Broadway. Apicius poisoned himself because he had only four millions of dollars left—poor man! There was one little thing that Stephen Girard and William B. Astor and A. T. Stewart wanted, and that was 'More!' And that is what is pestering the life out of some of you. You cannot sleep at nights you are so nervous."

Burns says ;—

"Oh, wad some power the giftie gie us
To see oursel as ithers see us."

Dr. Talmage paid a visit to the United Kingdom some two or three years ago, and delivered a series of lectures before different literary and religious associations during that tour. In the spirit of "Christian generosity" he exacted at first fifty pounds a night for his clerical performance ; but, like Sarah Bernhardt, when he found his popularity rising, he demanded and received one hundred pounds for each lecture. It was reported that on one occasion the Rector of a parish in England, whose income was not one-fifth of that which De Witt Talmage receives from his people

in Brooklyn, had engaged the reverend dramatist to lecture before the Young Men's Society in his district. As the sale of tickets did not amount to more than two-thirds the lecturer's demand, the latter was appealed to in the hope that under the circumstances he would accept the lesser sum; but, Shylock-like, he insisted on the full amount of his bond, and got it too.

Where, it might be inquired, was the "Christian generosity" he so eloquently advocated in his sermon on the death of A. T. Stewart, when he could screw from the pockets of a struggling Rector an extra fifteen or twenty pounds for the recitation of a farcical lecture?

In this plodding world of ours an opinion is frequently heard to the effect that superior education unfits the student for the everyday work connected with general commerce, but in the case of A. T. Stewart it will have been seen that the scholastic training of the boy led to the possession of great administrative powers in the man, while his classical attainments gave him a love of the beautiful, which in after life added immensely to his means of self-enjoyment.

The personal appearance of the Broadway capitalist was about the most unassuming that could well be conceived. He dressed plainly, and was rather fastidious about the fit of his garments, but never indulged in any display of jewellery, the petite gold watch, which was worn in the vest pocket, being the only appendage he seemed to care for. About two years before Mr. Stewart's death a lady called at the store to inquire about a lad from the North of Ireland, and meeting, as she thought, one of the clerks, begged of him that he would be good enough to show her the department in which the young man was engaged. The person whom she addressed was most attentive, and requested her to take a seat in one of the waiting-rooms, while he went in quest of her friend. In a few minutes he returned with the young man, and, bowing to the lady, left to attend his business elsewhere. After some chat with the lad, she expressed a wish to see the great merchant, of whose wealth she had heard so much. "Why," replied her young friend, "Mr. Stewart himself was the gentleman to whom you applied for information about me when you came into the store, and who has just left us."

We have already alluded to the easy and refined style of Mr. Stewart's address in social life. He enjoyed genuine humour with all the zest that forms the natural spirit of his countrymen, and, while rarely disposed to take a lead in political topics, he always entered heartily into the current gossip of the day. In the whole history of mercantile life there is nothing to be found at all approaching the success which followed the enterprize of this marvellous merchant. Other men there have been whose property was as valuable as that which he left behind him, but those millionaires had inherited from their fathers a great part of their wealth. A. T. Stewart was the sole architect of his own fortune, and by a course of prudence, integrity, and earnestness, he succeeded in raising to the very pinnacle of perfection the most extensive concerns ever known in the entire annals of commerce. A. T. Stewart was, indeed, the Napoleon of merchants. In the difficult position of controlling and directing a whole army of managers, clerks, milliners, and salespeople, he displayed power which in another department of life would have raised him to the highest military rank; and in the readiness with which he was able to master details relative to the state of foreign markets, the existing and prospective value of dry goods, and other questions connected with his vast business, he seemed quite a marvel of mercantile philosophy. And yet, as we have seen, amid all the hurry of everyday exertions, he found time to keep himself well up in literary subjects, and to cultivate his taste for the fine arts. In private life, and when he had left off the harness of commerce, A. T. Stewart was a perfect gentleman, easy in manner and polished in conversation; but, except in a few instances, he was not popular with his brother merchants. For many years before his death the most erroneous statements were occasionally made through the Press concerning his business and general habits, and since his death equally absurd gossip has been published on the same subject. Many and rather hostile were the criticisms of periodical writers, who discussed the merits and demerits of "Macaulay's History of England" when the first two volumes appeared. It was said that the brilliant reviewer had himself perverted facts, and given such

erroneous versions of incidents connected with former ages as to destroy all faith in him as a correct annalist. The famous historian was bound to chronicle, as best he could, events that occurred some centuries before the age in which he lived, and, of course, had to depend on the writers that preceded him for much of his material; but in the case of A. T. Stewart, the man who lived in our own day, we have heard statements made as to his early and later history as wildly absurd and as far from fact as anything to be found in realms of pure fiction. Among the many errors that have been published, one of Mr. Stewart's biographers tells us that "the merchant prince of Broadway came to New York a poor Irish pedlar."

Another had it that "when he started the Broadway store in September, 1823, he was his own shopman and servant." The truth is, however, that on the day he began business he had two experienced hands to assist him. A third writer of reminiscences says that "during his first few years' residence in that city he lived on the interest of his fortune, and only engaged as a teacher for mere amusement." We have already shown that A. T. Stewart had not only received a first-class education, but that throughout his whole life he cultivated with the zeal of a student the lessons taught him in early days, and that during his few years' residence in New York previous to his coming of age, when he returned to Ireland for the purpose of getting the property left him by his grandfather, he supported himself in New York by his educational abilities. Again, much has been written about the martinetism of Mr. Stewart towards his employés. It is true that, like the Iron Duke, he was absolute in his dictum, and when he issued commands as to certain details of business he did not permit any of his people to deviate from such orders. Implicit obedience he must have, but no great administrator ever delighted more than he did in recognising the faithful discharge of duty on the part of his assistants. He died childless.

It is a curious episode in the history of humanity that every great man has his special weakness. In looking over the list of names that have figured in history for the last five hundred years, we find some really interesting instances of the persons who stood

on the top rung of the ladder of fame exhibiting phases of character hardly known in the lower strata of society. One of A. T. Stewart's peculiarities was that of being religiously reticent on the subject of his boyhood. He occasionally referred to John Turney, his maternal grandfather; but of Thomas Stewart and Martha, his paternal grandfather and grandmother, or of his four uncles and three aunts, he was never heard to speak. A friend once wrote him in favour of one of his relatives, then in poor circumstances; but he never replied to that letter. More than thirty years ago Tom Stewart, then the only surviving son of his grandfather, had got past the age of labour, and was badly off in Lisburn. On having been appealed to on the subject by Mr. John Owden, of the firm of J. N. Richardson & Co., A. T. Stewart sent the applicant means to pay his uncle ten shillings a week, which sum was continued till the old man's death.

That disposition to ignore the existence of his relations in this country was evinced in his last will; and most remarkable is the fact that the world-renowned merchant, who is said to have died worth fifty millions of dollars, and whose benevolence towards the outside world was munificent, did not leave a solitary cent. to those blood relations who, seeing that he died without issue, had direct claims on his testamentary action.

Those descendants of old Tom Stewart were certainly not rich, but in their own position of life they were very respectable, very industrious, and well conducted people.

This neglect of his relations was one weak point in the character of one of the most wonderful of the world's commercialists. And yet he loved with national fervour the land of his birth, and in her times of need administered with liberal hand to Ireland's necessities. He has gone to his final resting-place, and, taking him for all in all, more than one generation will have passed before the world sees another A. T. Stewart.



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