

the cost of the displacement of the poor, the English census commissioners of 1851 declare with great gusto: "We feel it will be gratifying to your Excellency to find that, although the population has been diminished in so remarkable a manner by famine, disease, and emigration, and has been since decreasing, the result of the Irish census are on the whole satisfactory." Satisfactory, indeed!

It is gratifying to turn from exhibitions of such heartlessness to a consideration of the efforts put forth in this century for the betterment of social conditions in Ireland. The last hundred years has witnessed the passage of several acts meting out somewhat of justice to the Irish people. True it has too often been but tardy justice granted in a manner that did not favorably impress the recipients, Catholic emancipation, the disestablishment of the Irish church, and the various land acts of the last twenty-five years, constitute a series of legislative measures that have in some degree undone the wrong of previous acts. But the fact, nevertheless, remains that an indelible wrong was done Ireland at a time when the great manufacturing industries of modern times were in their infancy, and that no amount of remedial legislation at this late age can wholly right the wrongs of former periods, and remove from England's escutcheon a blot dyed deep in the blood of Irish martyrs.

CURRENT COMMENT.

There is perhaps no sight dearer to a patriotic American than the sight of the stars and stripes waving at full mast from the dome of some public building. What would a person think if he should see printed across the stripes or the stars some such emblems as these: "Buy Your Hardware of Jones" or "Chew Lorillard's Climax" or anything gotten up as an advertisement? This would immediately be considered as an insult to the American flag and the people would not submit to it for they are of one mind in regard to their flag. They wish to keep it for future generations untrammelled, untainted and as pure as when in 1776 it became the model, wholly our own, of thirteen white stars upon a blue background and alternating red and white stripes. In order to do this a bill has been introduced into Congress making it an offence to use the United States flag for advertising purposes. No doubt this will become a law. It has already passed the House but in the Senate an objection to the bill was raised and it was consequently held over until next session. The reason for this, as given by the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* is that the republican committee had just had printed hundreds of thousands of campaign hand books, the cover of which represents the American flag. Across the flag is printed the words, "The grand old party, it is true to the flag." It is plain to be seen that "the grand old party" is "warping" the truth considerably in this statement or it would have printed its motto in some other place.

The following article is clipped from the *Evening Post* New York, bearing date of October 9, 1890:

"A few nights ago prior to the departure of the Strauss orchestra from this city, a remarkable musical and vocal entertainment which has not so far been noticed in the press, was given in this city to an audience of 800 people assembled at the Grand Union Hotel in Saratoga. By means of a long distance telephone circuit the performances of the Strauss orchestra stationed in the telephone building in Cortlandt street were transmitted to Saratoga and there heard by means of a set of hand telephones. The applause of the audience at

Madison Square was distinctly audible in this way, while some of the songs and solos, and a recitation of the "Charge of the Light Brigade" were heard all over the room at Saratoga by means of a single loud-speaking receiver provided with a large funnel shaped resonator which magnified the sound. While all this was going on, a loop was thrown in connecting the residence at Morristown, N. J., of Mr. A. S. Hibbard, one of the managers of the long distance system. The distance is thirty miles, and the strains of the orchestra were heard so plainly in the house at Morristown that dancing was carried on with perfect ease and comfort by the guests there assembled. This is the first time on record that a room full of dancers have been able to enjoy themselves with music from a distance."

It is almost impossible to believe that there has been such great progress in electrical science within the past thirty years, but such is the case. This particular branch of science has been almost entirely developed since 1858. The telegraph was in operation then and was about the only thing in which electricity formed the important factor. During that year was witnessed the accomplishment of the first great step towards the establishment of electrical communication between Europe and America. Since that time the advance has been marvelous, until today we are far ahead of England in both electric lighting and in electric railways. Perhaps a few statistics on this would be interesting. There are in America today 1,500 central stations, about 250,000 arc and three or four million incandescent lights. At the beginning of the year the United States had no fewer than 200 electric roads with 1,641 miles of track and 2,346 cars.

The time is at hand that to be well educated one must have a certain amount of knowledge concerning electricity and its appliances. The uses to which electricity may be applied are so many and varied and they are increasing so rapidly that to keep abreast with the times one must know something of the workings of this giant power. It may be utilized in almost every branch of industry.

It would seem from the clipping above referred to that, contrary to expectation, part of Bellamy's "Looking Backward" is about to become a reality. If the music discoursed by the Strauss orchestra is heard at a distance of thirty miles by means of electricity, why is it not possible for arrangements to be made so that anyone, by simply turning a thumb screw or some such ingenious device may flood a room with choice music. Or after the Strauss orchestra returns to Vienna may not the music that it plays there be brought to this country by means of electricity?

In the *Evening Post* of October 13 there is a very lengthy discussion of the iniquities of the new tariff. This is the speech Senator Carlisle made in the United States Senate, September 30.

The subject is very ably discussed by Senator Carlisle, and any one who is studying this most important issue in our politics may add to his knowledge somewhat by giving this speech his most careful study. The senator first presents the effects that the bill will produce on taxation, and in the conclusion of this article says: "Mr. President, let it be understood that I am not contending that the revenues of the government will be actually increased to the extent stated. Because many of these duties are absolutely prohibitory, and according to the statement submitted by the committee on finance from which I have read, this is confessedly a bill to reduce the revenues by increasing taxation. While, therefore, it will not increase the revenues to this extent, it will increase taxation upon the people many times this amount by