THE WEAKNESS OF ENGLAND.

An Exposure by Froude-Precarlous Condition of Affairs-Privilege vs. Hight.

An earnest and searching review of the causes of the decay of England has appeared in late numbers of Fraser's Magazine. It is from the pen of Mr. James Anthony Froude, the historian, who is now the editor of Fraser's, and whose powers of research have been exerted to very useful purpose in the task he has undertaken. He aims to show why England is decrepit; through what causes she has lost much of the moral and physical force which once made her formidable; whom she has to thank for her present condition; and what is likely to be the final result. Mr. Froude handles his subject with a vigorous pen, and reveals some facts which are of peculiar interest at a moment when the scale is equally balanced between peace and war.

The concluding part of this able paper appeared in the September number of the magazine, and was written while England remained safely outside the lines of conflict on the continent-before the Russian cloud had become visible. But the temporary escape of England from entanglement in the quarrel between France and Prussia did not convince Mr. Froude that the English nation would remain secure in its insular solitude. He therefore gave expression to a solemn warning, which, in view of subsequent events, has a striking significance. "At this moment," he says, "if we were taken by surprise as Prussia has been, surprise as Prussia has been, and a hostile power could by any means obtain twenty-fours' command of the Channel, London would inevitably be taken. In other words, the British army is inefficient while the suggested possibility of a hostile naval force obtaining possession of the Channel is virtually an admission that the British navy is not so well handled as it should be. These conclusions coincide with actual revelations of a damaging character which have recently come to light through the London press-such as the weakening of the resources of the great arsenals, the inhuman treatment of the soldiers of the regular army, and the blunders of the naval management, all of which are serious and dispiriting

Putting aside these questions, however, Mr. Froude proceeds to a discussion of another point, namely, whether or not the heart of England is sound enough to stimulate the nation to a successful resistance of foreign aggression; to repel attack, for example, as it resisted Spain in the day of the Armada, or the First Napoleon in the time of threatened invasion. Mr. Froude's answer is a melancholy "No!" He writes:-"Thirty thousand favorites of fortune alone possess that original hold on English soil which entitles England in return to depend upon them in the day of trial; and thus it is that to persons who think seriously there appears something precarious in England's greatness, as if with all her wealth and all her power a single disaster might end it.

Pursuing this train of thought, he further

No nation ever suffered a more tremendous humiliation than France in the second occupation of Paris, yet France rallied rapidly, and is now stronger than ever. Her population remained rooted in the soil to which they are passionately attached, and their permanent depression is impossible. If she be defeated in the present struggle, it will be ultimately the same. Forty millions of people can neither be destroyed nor removed; and where the people are, and where the land their recovery is matter of but a few years at most. They may lose men and money, and possibly a doubtful outlying province, but that is all the injury which an external power can inflict on them. With England it is difficult to feel the same confidence. If the spell of our insular security be once broken; if it be once proved that the Channel is no longer an impassable barrier, and that we are now on a level with the Continent, the circumstances would be altered which have given us hitherto our exceptional advantages; and those of us who can choose a home elsewhere, who have been deprived of everything which should specially attach us to English soil-that is to say, ninety-nine families out of every hundred-will have lost all inducement to remain in so unprofitable a neighborhood.

This is plain language-and, unfortunately for England in the existing condition of affairs, it is likewise true. What follows is still sharper, for it hits.

THE PRIVILEGED CLASSES. The noble lords-I speak of some, not yet, happily, of all-are grown wise in their generation, and acknowledge the excellence of what they once despised. The growth of mapufactures has doubled, quintupled, multiplied in some instances a hundredfold the value of their land. Their rents maintain them in splendor undreamt of in earlier generations, which has now become a necessity of existence. They have their half-dozen parks and palaces; their houses in London, their moors in Scotland, their yachts at Cowes. Their sons have their hunters at Melton, their racing stables, their battues. In the dead season of sport they fall back to recruit their manliness with pigeon shooting at Hurlingham. These things have become a second nature to them, in which they live and move and have their being. Their grandfathers cared for the English commonwealth. It is hard to say what some of these high persons

cared for except idle luxury. Another class of Englishmen, to whom Mr. Froude attaches part of the responsibility for the poverty of the workingmen and for the emigration of skilled artificers and intelligent laborers, consists of the great employers of labor. We quote:-

THE GREAT MANUFACTURERS.

To the manufacturers abundance of labor means cheap labor, and cheap labor is the secret of their wealth, the condition of their prosperity, the means by which they undersell other nations and command a monopoly of the world's markets. Political economy, the employer's gospel, preaches a relation be-tween themselves and their workmen which means to them the largest opportunity of profit with the smallest recognition of obligation to those upon whose labor they grow rich. Slavery, beyond its moral enormity, was condemned economically as extravagant. The slave born on the plantation was maintained while he was too young to work at his master's expense. His master had charge of him when he was sick, and in his old age when he could do no more he was fed, clothed, and lodged for the remainder of his days. The daily wages system, besides having the advantage of being a free contract, leaves the master at the day's end discharged of

further responsibilities. He is bound to his his workman only so long as it is his interest to retain him. While trade flourishes and profits are large he gives him full employment. When a dead seas n supervenes he draws in his sails. He lies by till better times return, and discharges his hands to live upon their savings, or ultimately

assisting emigration interferes to rob him of his living. "Keep the people at home," said a noble Lord, "we shall want them when trade revives." Poor rates can be for those who are with, little more than paupers themselves share the burden of them. Even trades unions and strikes can be borne with so long as the men confine themselves to higgling over the wages rate. Hunger will bring them to terms in time. Anything but a large emigration, for with emigration wages will rise in earnest and profits lessen. The man by whose toil the master has prospered has gone where his toil is for hi uself, where he is taking root upon the land, a sturdy member of the commonwealth, and the home market is relieved of his competition. The nation is richer for the change so long as he remains an English subject, but the capitalist employer loses a percentage of his profits. By way of enforcing these arguments, Mr.

Froude cites incontrovertible facts, such as

INFINITE WRETCHEDNESS. The infinite wretchedness produced by the present state of things ought not to pass for nothing. It has become not uncommon in these days to hear of miserable fathers and mothers unable alike to support their families or see them starve, destroying their children and themselves, and making an end of their troubles thus. Again, if we please, we may call in Providence. The classes which suffer most are toughest-hearted. The poor eld Devonshire woman with eight hungry mouths about her and 9s. a week to feed them, looks with envy on the Lord's mercy to her neighbors, whose babies die in arms, and sighs "We never have no luck;" but this callousness itself is frightful, and is in itself one of the causes of the enormous mortality. KILLING INFANTS.

* * * Omitting for the present those who are starved and those who are murdered, and confining ourselves to the great bulk of infant mortality, let us ask whether any means exist by which it can be successfully encountered. Encountered, I presume it ought to be if possible; we have not yet wholly outgrown the idea that there is something in human life more sacred than in the lives of animals, and a murrain among the cattle is considered a sufficient subject for an act of Parliament. Men say impatiently that the parents are to blame; if the father spent the money which he wastes at the ginshop in providing better clothes and food for his family, this alone would save half those who die; but duty is a matter of conscience, and you cannot make people moral by statute.

HOLES FOR HOMES. * * The artisans in the great cities, the agricultural laborers driven out of the old-fashioned hamlets and huddled into villages, are heaped together in masses where wholesome life is impossible. Their wages may be nominally rising, sufficiently, perhaps, to keep pace with the rise of prices, but wages form only a small part of the matter. The laborer lodges now many miles from his work. He leaves his home in the early morning, he returns to it late at night. The ground in town has become so enormously valuable that the factory hand and the mechaniz can afford but a single room, at the best two. When his day's toil is over he has no temptation to return to the squalid nest which is all that society can allow him, and he finds the beer house and the gin palace a grateful exchange. The wife, obliged herself to work to supply the empty platters, must be absent also many ome: she has no leisure to at tend to her children, and they grow up as they can; to fall a prey to disease and accidents which lie in wait for them at every

A stranger travelling on a railway from end to end of England would think that there was no civilized country in the world where there was so much elbow room. He sees enormous extents of pasture land and undulating fallows cultivated to the highest point of productiveness, with only at intervals symptoms of human habitations. He sees the palaces of the noble and wealthy set in the midst of magnificent parks, studded with forest trees and sheets of ornamental water, or maintained for game preserves and artificial wildernesses. In Scotland he sees whole counties kept as deer forests and grouse moors that the great of the land may have their six weeks' enjoyment there in the autumn. Room enough and to spare he would naturally think there must be in a land where ground could be devoted so lavishly to mere amusement. If he is guest at one of these grand mansions he will be told, as Mr. Goschen says, that over-population is aidream. He gazes across the broad-reaching lawns or down the stately avenues. Miles distant he sees the belt of forest which bounds the domain and holds the outer world at bay. His host tells him with pride that from his own coal and iron are made the rails which shall link together the provinces of India, that there is no limit to English production, to English wealth, to English great-

WHAT MUST COME OF ALL THIS? If we allow our industrial system to extend in the same manner and at the same rate of increase as hitherto, every feature most fraught with danger must increase along with The boundary line between rich and poor will be more and more sharply defined. The number of those who can afford to hold land must diminish as by a law of nature. The wealthy will become more wealthy, the luxurious more luxurious, while there will be an ever enlarging multitude deeply tinetured with mere heathenism, left to shift for themselves, and resentful of the neglect, with the cost of living keeping pace with the advance of wages, and therefore in the presence of an enormous accumulation of espital, condemned, apparently for ever, to the same hopeless condition, and yet with political power in their hands if they care to use it.

The remedy suggested to amend the evils which are thus forcibly described is organized emigration - a subject which would bear much discussion, but for the significant circomstance that this emigration is actually going on, and that many thousands of strong laborers and of skilled artificers have already found better quarters elsewhere than they could hope to compass at home. They wanted to remain Englishmen; they are forced to become exiles. Through their banishment and the canses which led to it, Eagland has put herself into the condition which s so vividly described by Mr. Froude.

-A lady named Luella Gross, who had attained her one hundred and seventh year, died recently at Griat d, Me. Dr. Chase, of Orland, made a post-mortem examination of the remains shortly after death. He states that he found the bones chalky and crumbly from age, and the arteries of the limbs turned to bone.

-It is said that Nathan Matthews has offered expend \$60,000 in the building of a new hall for students in the college yard at Cam-bridge, on condition that half the net income of the same shall be used for scholarships, to to be supported by the poor rate till he needs which young men who are preparing for the their services again. The State, therefore, in Episcopal Church shall have the first claim,

WAR EPISODES.

The Deserted Villages of France. A piquant sketch of the described villages of France is given by a correspondent of the London Daily News. Life in these villages, he says, when the soldiers make themselves comfortable in the absence of the inhabitants, is a sort of military picnic. Everything is hunted out which can supply the wants of the moment, and no attention is paid to the conventionalities which hamper common-place housekeeping. If there be window curtains in one dwelling, and a lack of blankets in another, the curtains change their function for the benefit of all concerned—for the benefit of all save the original

Your true deserted village is deserted because of four true deserted village is deserted because of siege operations. It is in the great belt of ruin round Paris, and its inhabitants have fied to escape the dangers of shot and shell. The owner of the curtains above named would have gladly compounded to lose every article of furniture if only he could save his house. As it is, he may chance to lose furniture and house together. Yet the soldiers will keep this last fit for habitation if they can. The military picnic requires doors and windows on these cold nights to make it complete. There may be need to break up some of the furniture if the owner has been careless about firewood, and has left little or none in store. But even then the share and share alike principle of the hour helps

owner, who is far away and forgotten. The writer

out one supply with another, so that firewood enough is usually found. So is wine in some cases, by the wonderful quickness of the men about uncarthing it. A Prassian Jaeger has been pointed out to me who has the reputation of smelling good wine through any death of earth. His instinct for tracing the slightest sign of concealment, and for judging the likeliest spots in the garden to contain a hidden wine-bin, is of inmense value to his comrades. They think the wine of deserted houses a fair prey, and are content with the moderation which leaves the bottles uninjured

to be filled again at some future time. That strong argument, "If we do not the next detachment will," covers much that is done in a deserted viliage. Why leave anything but "fixtures" to the unknown successors of those who pienic today? There are chairs to be shifted from house to house, according to the actual distribution of the guests. Plates must go where plates are needed even at the risk of confusing different people's din-ner services, and useless lumber must be flung into the back yard that it may not crowd the sliting-rooms. I often think amid all this sad waste of pro-perty, this scourging of the land by war, that the scene in such a village offers a wild suggestion of what would happen if we were to "play at being in a desert island," as children would say, but to play it with the strength of grown-up people.

A MEDICAL VIEW. The correspondent of the London Lancet, inside Paris, forwards by bailoon post the following communication, showing that, among other things, the military surgeons are practicing conservative surgery on an extensive scale, and apparently with re successful results than have been attained in

The siege of Paris presents very many points of The siege of Paris presents very many points of prefessional interest. The aimost daily skirmishes, attacks, and larger actions supply the hospitals with wounded, presenting injuries of all degrees of gravity, and illustrating in the measures taken in their management from all that is ingenious, scientific, and admirable, down to that which is inconcivable bed borrible and disposing. Conservative ceivably bad, horrible, and disgusting. Conservative ceivably bad, horrible, and disgusting. Conservative surgery is having, in some instances at least, a fair trial, and is doing wonders; in fact, limbs shattered by bullets are being saved in cases where, some years ago, anything but instant amputation would not have been thought of. A considerable amount of dysentery, rheumatism, fevers, and chest affections have arisen from exposure of the troops in bivouacs and in the tentes d'abri. There is very little disease, however, when we consider the great fatigne our troops have had to undergo, and the fatigue our troops have had to undergo, and the wet, inclement weather we have had during the greater part of October. Meat is now decidedly scarce; butter and milk are luxuries for the very wealthy, and eggs difficult to be had and dear. The weathy, and eggs difficult to be had and dear. The daily ration of beef or mutton now allowed to each adult inhabitant's reduced to 35 grammes, that is, about an ounce and a half, including bone, and in consequence of imperfect arrangements there are many who have been unable to obtain that little scrap. The sick and wounded troops, except in the purely military hespitals, are insufficiently supplied with meat, except perhaps in the American subpliance and one cept, perhaps, in the American ambulance and one or two others, where private energy supplies what official routine fails to furnish. This state of affairs is injurious to the wounded themselves, and calcu-lated to give rise to ill feeling among their effective comrades. It is, therefore, to be hoped that it will soon be rectified. Great abuse had crept into the system of taking the wounded off the field. It has been asserted that some persons, who have esta-blished private hospitals in their houses, for selfish purposes, have actually paid money to infirmiters for carrying wounded to their carriages near the field of battle. This has now, it is hoped, been put

a stop to.		
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