### STATUS OF AFFAIRS IN IRELAND TODAY

The Visitor Brings Away an Impression of Pathos.

POVERTY OF THE PEOPLE IS REAL

The Potato Famine Has Caused Great Distress, but the Greatest Cause of Trouble Is That There Is Not a Sufficient Margin of Industrial Opportunity on the Island to Keep the Young Men of the Island at Home.

London Letter in Washington Star.

The deepest impression of Ireland which the visitor brings away is that of pathos. A haze of melancholy broods over the remembrance of the country such as follows one from the funeral of a friend. The temperament of the Irish is so sunny, their condition so miserable; they are a people so brainy, so gifted with wit, with all the clements of happiness, and there is so little. inspire these elements in the life of Ireland today that the contrast kindles sympathy. The average Irishman rises head and shoulders above the average Englishman in the same sphere wherever one meets him, whether he be the country squire in scarlet jacket, who dismounts from his hunter to point the way to the ancient ruln which one is seeking, and goes a mile out of his way to put the traveler on the right track, where the Englishman would have pointed vaguely with his whip and galloped along; the carman who jostles you over the cobblestones of Dublin on his sidesaddle vehicle, reckless of life and limb, bolting around corners with your hair on end, while he discourses on local history and legends with the sparkle of a Miles O'Rellly through his talk, where the beer-sodden London cabman would have been plotting lies to bilk you out of an extra shilling, or the village priest, who, seeing a stranger, asks what service he can do you, while the English parson stiffly touches his hat and marches along.

Yet the poverty of Ireland is to the poverty of England as the poverty of England to that of the United States. Much sympathy is wasted over the hard times in America by the London newspapers, with half-starving Ireland on their one hand and wholly starving India on the other. These are considered prosperous days in England, yet were "Cleveland times" in the states half so typified by unemployed, by beggars, by ostentatious rags and news-paper chronicles of starving men and women on the streets, by homeless families sleeping on the wet grass under the glare of the lamps from the palaces overlooking St. James Park revolution would be in the air, the foot ing of the dwellings of plutocrats, which the Bryanites are credited by their op ponents with thirsting for, would be gin. Statesmen may brood over causes and remedies, the reporter has only to relate the sights which fall under his eye. It is enough strain on the sympathies and the purse to stroll about London streets, besieged by pleadings for pennies, offerings of matches, sheestrings, flowers, the din of street singers, barrel organs, sweepers and the swarms of vendors whose business but thinly disguised beggary, but Ire

#### land is many degrees worse. POVERTY EVIDENT.

Even in these sharp days many children are running barefooted and bareheaded in the streets of Dublin, while the few garments they wear between head and feet are beautifully land, and each country retaining posfor the sake of drawing out their unexpected retoris. But the needs of most of them are to plainly visible to be questioned. Raggedness and poverty find their homes in Dublin, though the puzzle is not why there should be such pervading want there as how, in the absence of almost any visible means of support, the people manage to live even as well as they do. For Ireland is a country with nothing but a past, as prosperous a past as might have been, but with even less prosperity in the future. Despondercy is the prevailing tone of all classes of poople who discuss her prospects. From Dublin Castle down to the beggars they all tell the same story, that the young men are leaving the country, that the old folks are living mainly on remittances from sons who have gone abroad to make their livings; that manufacturing cannot be made to pay. The people blame the government for the admitted bankruptcy of the country, while the government on its side blames the native politicians, but none differ about the facts. Farming lands are being deserted everywhere, and given over to pastur-age, and in the villages and cities most of the factories have their windows boarded up.

#### THE DRINK HYPOTHESIS.

Temperance people declare that overproduction of whisky is the complaint from which Ireland suffers. But an Irishman primed with whisky wherefrom bubbles a stream of bulls and repartee is preferable to the Briton who in his drink always exercises his inalienable right to beat his "woman" The drink hypothesis falls moreover to solve the question because the flow of alcohol keeps pace in England with Ireland, though the condition of English workingmen is constantly bettering, while that of the Irishmen is hard-

There are two sides to the stories of an Irish famine in the coming winter, many of the clergy and citizens at rows, hedged, terraced, banked, drained large, contend that the distress will and carefully weeded as a flower bed.

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whelmed the island during the crop failures in the seventies. That there will be much suffering all parties admit, though no one claims that it will approach the famine of '48. Each side has reasons for painting the picture as dark or as bright as possible. Government officials explain that It is for the interest of the agitators to magnity distress because such conditions bring distress upon the ruling powers, and they bint as well that the politicians crave the rake-off from relief funds which they expect America to ontribute. The politicians reteri that the government is trying to cover up the famine because it is largely due to official incapacity. Probably the truth lies between the two extremes, as the truth generally does. The govrument admits that there is suffering, but asserts that its officers are keeping watch upon every county, and will be fully able to cope with the needs of the people. The officials decline to furnish specifications of the distress or to explain how they will allay it, but that is to be done presumably by publie works.

AN OFFICIAL OPINION. The under secretary for Ireland, Mr. J. B. Dougherty, who is considered one of the nest impartial and fair-minded mer of the government, gave his views

"There are several counties on the west coast where the people have a hard time to attain self-support under the best conditions, and it takes but a small push to send them over the border line into dependency," he sald. "With but a small falling off in the crep they are obliged to look for aid from outside. This will be the case in parts of the western coast this winter undoubtedly, but people who predlet another '4s are talking the merest rubbish. There are two factors which would prevent the recurrence of famine in Ireland under any circumstances-first, the increase of railroad facilities, which make it possible to reach all the people in case of need; cond, the fact that the people no longer depend entirely on the potato

Will there be any need for relief funds from abroad?" was asked. "Ireland is a very poor country," was the ceply, "and I would not want to discourage any people who are dis-posed to help her. The fact is, that a art of the country is not sufficiently productive to support its inhabitants. it is in open quesion whether manufacturing should not be taken to them or they taken to manufactures in Eng-land, the United States or elsewhere, If electricity should be largely applied manufacturing Ireland would have a great future as a manufacturing country, but so long as she is obliged to innort coal for power she cannot compete with England and the more favored countries. As it is, she must detected upon farming and hand weav ing for support, and those are not suffi-

#### JAVA AND CUBA.

They Are the Two Finest Tropical Islands in the World -- A Comparison and a Contrast.

From the Philadelphia Inquirer.

The two great tropical islands of the verld are Java and Cuba. The story of Cuba is well known. A continent apable of surporting millions, with a soil one of the most fertile in the world, it has been ruled by the Spanards into ruin. Of Java, less is known by Americans then of Cuba. Java is owned and ruled by the Dutch, coming into possession of Holland as a resolt of the seventeenth century wars between Holland and England, the terms of ponce being dictated by Holwell ventilated. In begg withey quite session of the territory which it had surpass the English, but their pleas conquered. By these terms the Engare so much more skillful and so advoit lish came into possession of the little that even where one doubts their need | valued colony of New York, which she it is worth while to encourage them was to bee a century later, and Hol- 1810, was sent out from Holland with hand retained possession of the more valuable Java and neighboring islands, which have been a source of untold

wealth to the Emteh. The difference between incapable, short sighted Spanish rule, as illustrated in Cuso, and the intelligent, farsighted rule of the Spaniards' old antagonists, the Dutch, as shown in the wealth of Java, written by Eliza Ruhamah Scidmore, which has just been published by a New York house. The writer of this book has no leanings towards the Dutch. On the contrary the appears to be a good deal of a provincial, as people of unmixed English blood or those speaking only the Finglish language are apt to be. She repeats all of Washington Irving's caricatures of the Dutch, in regard to the slowness of their minds and the of their waists, oblivious to the truth that few American wemen, unless they be actually scrawny, can tuy in Holland a ready-made waist carment large enough for them, any more than they can do the same thing in Paris. She cannot speak Dutch or read it, apparently, and her chief tribntes to the Dutch rule in Java she has been forced to take from English writers, a not very frie bily source, and one which would not see merit if it did not exist.

JAVA'S SIZE

Java is hearly the same size as the state of New York. It has an area of 49.197 square miles. It supports a populations of 24,000,000, a population of 450 to the square mile, Belgium, the most densely populated country of Europe, has 540 persons to the square All Java, says the author of "Java, the Garden of the East," who has lately visited the Island, is in a way finished as Holland is finished. the whole island cultivated from edge to edge, like a tulip garden, and connect ed throughout its length with post roads, smooth and perfect as park The government asserts that there is drives, all arched with tamarind, teak nothing more to the talk than a poli- or other trees. All the valleys, plains ticians' famine. The politicians, with and hillsides are planted in formal be nearly equal to that which over- ! Education for the natives is provided

Sunday School Lesson for December 19.

## Message About Sin and Salvation.

1 John 1, to 5; to 11, 6.

BY J. E. GILBERT, D. D., LL. D., Secretary of American Society of Religious Education.

ple had been widely scattered. As a result the city ceased to be the headquar-ters of Christianity. The movement of the Gospel had been westward according to that strange law that regulates the mi-gration of the people. Ephesus, where Paul labored so fathfully, had become the new center of influence, destined to be outranked by Rome. In the year 37 John was there, then an old man, nearly the close of his career, the only survivor of the "twelve," devoting the evening of life to complete the canons of the w Testament. Today we shall learn what he thought about sin and salvation.

PRETENSION.-It appears that fellowship or communion with God was then understood to be the very substance of the Christian religion. (John xiv, 25, But seme pretended to experience this fellow-ship, when they were strangers to if and John exposes their hypocrisy. (Verses 5 and 6). He declares that "God is the light." being of such glory that the effulgene his character illuminates all intelli-nces a ligure of speech highly expresborrowed from classic Greek, Gohn ). He also affirms that this view of the dhead was part of the original message or testimony delivered by Jesus (John xvii, 26), and heard in the church from the beginning. (I John III, 11). From his he makes the proper inference that, f a man walk in darkness-that is, lives unholy life-and professes fellowship with God, he is a liar. This apparently evere utterance is deserved against all apparents. How can an unholy man be harmony with a Holy God? (Amos

natheness of the religious life. (Verse
If men walk in the light, if they live
oler the scatchings of Divine truth Psalm exxxix, E), and in harmony with he Divine will, obedient to their best nowledge of what is purposed for them, on they have fellowship one with anher-an interchange takes place be tween that man and God, as friend with friend. Games it. 23. As sin separates between the creature and the Creator (bs. lix, 2., the abandonment of sin is cential to the recovery of broken relaions. And yet this restoration is not ef-ceted solely by the man. The blood of Christ cleanses him from sin. Paradox+ ical as it may be, the man puts away sin and the atenement removes it. (Psalm cill, 12). In other words there is a double process in freeling one from sin—one, the resolve has to do with the mind of man; he other, the death of Christ with the mind of God.

in 201 primary schools, which are attended by 39,707 Javanese pupils. The Dutch colonial officials are specially trained for their work at Haarlem, and are compelled to be perfected to the Javanese tongue and in the local laws. On the land, sugar, coffee, spices indigo, quinine are raised, and the native labor is happy and comfortable, the native villages being kept as clean under Dutch inspection as the towns of Holland themselves.

JAVA'S PROSPERITY. The prosperity of Java is due to the Dutch culture system introduced under Governor Van den Bosch, who, ir power to grant cash credits and advance the colonists sufficient to en able them to erect sugar mills and ecome self-sustaining. The plan, we are told, was denounced by all the theoretical economists, but it produced wonderful results. The population increased ten times in fifty years. The crown of Holland drew \$5,000,000 each year from its sugar sales. The native workers were paid more wages than the whole native population paid in taxes, and the value of the products of Java, although it is far smaller in area and in population, is not far below the value of the products of all British

India. Such results demonstrated that the Dutch have understood the country and the natives and have wisely adapted their rule to existing conditions. Contrasted with such a policy and a success so brilliant, a success, to be sure greater than that of any other rule in the East, how pitiful, what a shame ful waste of opportunity and of possesons, appears the Spanish rule is Juba, under which that magnificant island remained a wilderness, with its prople poor and so oppressed with taxes and other wrongs that rebellion was the only remedy. What has been done by the Dutch for Java can be done under wise government for Cuba

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Those interested in temperance movements and others will be glad to learn that in Switz-rland the manufacture of non-alcoholic fruit and grape fruit beverages is conducted on quite a large scale. These beverages not only afford a pleasant drink, but contain considerable nourishment as well. According to a report issued by the Swise agricultural experimental station, fruit and grape juices entirely free from al-cohol, and of durable and keeping qualities are manufactured in that country by a number of firms.

It is well known that fermentation is caused by the action of certain micrebes which exist already in the fruit before crushing, and which rapidly increase thereafter. It is also well known that by fermentation the sugar is decomposed, one of the products of de-composition being alcohol. If, therefore, the microbes are killed in time the sugar will not be decomposed and no alcohol will be produced. The sterilization required for this purpose is obtained by killing the ndcrobes by subjecting the juices to a heat of 60 degrees Centigrade for fifteen minutes. and afterward carefully excluding all air, which likewise contains fermen-tive organisms. The non-fermented wares contain a considerable quantity of nourishment, not only in the form of albumen, but also a considerable

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Madge-"I remember a few years ago e was seeking a hero." Marjorie-"She's got brayely over that. She's now on the lookout for a fool with plenty of money."--Life,

INTRODUCTION.—Thirty years after fellowship with God, the apostle guards against a very serious error into which last week. John, the beloved (John xill, some might fall. It would be possible for hast week. John, the beloved (John xiii, 20), penned his first epistle. During that hong interval great changes had occurred in the church. All the other apostles had possed away, most of them having had down their lives as marryrs to the faith. (Matt. xxiv. 9). Jerusalem had been destroyed by the Roman army, and its people had been widely accurately a mark. of self-deception, and he is in a pitiable plight who convinces himself that all is well, when everything is wrong. (isa v, 20). Second, it would show immentable ig-norance of the truth of God (Psulm xix.) 7), that mirror in which men see their faults (Heb. iv. 12), that sword that cuts to the quick and lays bare the secrets of the heart. Third (verse 10), it would make God a Har, who all through His word has approached man as a sinner, giving an account of the original trans-gression (Gen. iii. 6), and sending minisers to proclaim His displeasure and offer His pardon. (Prov. i. 20. A self-deceived, ignorant blasphemer is he who declares that he has no sin.

CONFESSION.-It is plain that the rear who denies his sinfulness will never find God and enjoy His favor. The first step. therefore, to a removal of sin, as a requisite to fellowship, is an open and complete acknowledgment. Humbling though REALITY.—Having thus in a few words stripped the protender, the apostle proceeds to apply the same test in a recent tendences of the religious life. (Versel), if men walk in religious life, (Versel), if walk in r

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PROPITIATION.-What kind of plea does Jesus make for sinners? What is its form and basis? John answers. (Verse ly His word, but His person, He is a propitiation for sin, a ground for elem-ency. Paul amplifies this thought by say-ing that the death of Christ made it condstept with Divine righterosmess to for-give the believer. (Rom. iii, Z). This is only another mode of stating the atonement which no mortal can fully explain (II Cor. v. 18). As long as Christ is the mediator the day of pardon will not cease. Moreover, that pardon is offered to the race-pot to posterity of Abraham alone, or to any other class of persons to the exclusion of others, but to all. As in Adam all men became sinful, so in and through Jesus Christ all men may return and find peace. (I Cor. xv. 28). Jesus is not was, the propintation or propintator for the sins of the whole world. (John t. 29).

ASSURANCE.-If there is any subject upon which absolute certainty is desired, it is the subject of one's reintion to Ged. The remainder of our lesson (verses 2 to furnishes the ground of such cer plete acknowledgment. Hambling though it is, confession is essential, a mark of tepentance and faith, (Psaim xxxii, 5). Moreover it is all that the sinner can do—he has no power to change a fact, no power to blot out the record of that faci. One is written in his own constitution, the other in the Book of God. Rev. xx. do we know. There may be and doubtless the pround of such personal acquaintance? There is one infallible proof—the keeping of his commandments. Hereby in this way only, do we know. There may be and doubtless the pround of such certainty. "We know that we know that the sainty. "We know that we know that we know that we know that the sainty." There is one assured of such personal acquaintance? There is one infallible proof—the keeping of his 12). But what man cannot do, God will be some measure of repentance, faith hope do, when confession is made. He will and love in most men, however far they forgive (verse 9), that is, remove the recare from God, but these must become regulating forces producing obedience (James H. 18), to render a man acceptable. This ord from His book, and at the same time. He will cleanse or wash the sinner, removing the stains and the guilt made by is genuine salvation. (Matt. i. 21). The sin. (Psaim II. 2). This does not mean outward conduct measures and attests that the atonement is unimportant. Its the inward state. (Matt. vii. 16). It will necessity having been stated in verse seven used not be repeated in verse nine, but it may be assumed as the understood the beginning of the lesson. And it is worthy of special note that he is in full accord with Christ on this subject. (John

CONCLUSION -By the foregoing it ap pears that at the close of the first Christ ADVOCATE.—Now comes a question that has annoyed and caused no little controversy in the church. Suppose a man has confessed, been forgiven and received into favor and fellowship with his gressive portion of Christendom: All men Heavenly Father, is he then utterly faultless? (Job ix, 20) Is he free from all liability to sin? The apostle answers:
Such an one most determine so far as in him the not to sin (verse b), for in that in him lies not to sin (verse b), for in that case he comes again under condemnation. (Rom. vi. 2). But, if through weakness or ignorance, he is overtaken in a fault (Gal. vi. 1), let him not despair. For all Christians who have more or less of sinfulness remaining, there is an Advocate, who represents them and intercedes for them (Heb. vii. 25), a mediator between God and man. (I Tim. ii. 5). Jeans Christ, who by His righteousness is well qualified for this high effice. It is this perpetual service for men, the precise nature of which cannot be defined, that cuasistitutes a good ground of confidence, a stitutes a good ground of confidence, a DENIAL.—Having shown that the removal of sin is a condition and proof of reason for renewing the struggle against [HT]. In the single having the shown that the removal of sin is a condition and proof of reason for renewing the struggle against [HT].

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