

To the Editor All Ireland Review

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evening classes, between seven and ten p.m. Moreover, in the arrangement of classes, it was recognised that people who had been at work all day could not be expected to sacrifice more than three evenings of their leisure in attending classes for their improvement in commercial education. The school session, which would run for the eight months from September to June, would be suspended during the summer. It was obvious that these conditions impose great restrictions on the work that the school could attempt to do. The Chamber of Commerce at Belfast had recently appointed a committee of its members to consider the evidence that would be given on behalf of the Chamber before the Royal Commission on University Education in Ireland. What was the Dublin Chamber of Commerce going to do in this matter? If the Council of the Dublin Chamber had really decided to take no action in support of the Belfast Chamber's action the decision should be made public. There would then still be time for the merchants of Dublin to take action independently of the Chamber. The time when University institutions in Ireland were being overhauled and reconstructed was the proper time for Irishmen to make a move to obtain in their own country those opportunities for systematised commercial education that had enabled other nations to loosen the hold of English commerce upon the markets of the world.

TO THE EDITOR ALL IRELAND REVIEW.

30 Melville street,
Perth, Scotland.

January 28.

DEAR MR. O'GRADY,—Never have I read such rubbish as R.'s reply to my letter. You will observe that I adopt his phrase, though I do not applaud its tone. The rascal *argumentum ad hominem*, however, is in vogue just now, noticeably at Birmingham and Belfast, and possibly your anonymous correspondent hails from the latter.

Your correspondent mistakes or misconstrues the sense of my letter. I intended a reference to Gaelic literature, not to letters all the world over. But to descend to his own ground, pray where is his pretended Protestant foundation in the writings of such men as he refers to—Shelly, who was a pure mystic, Keats, Byron, Goethe, Heine, etc., etc. Protestantism must surely have reached a pass even more perplexing and contemptible than some of its own friends would appear to allow it to have come to if the writings of such men as these may be adduced in its favour. As well might he argue that Dr. Johnson's Dictionary, or Jessa's Treatise on Dogs were inspired by the 39 Articles.

What on earth can the man have been thinking of?—Yours very sincerely,

S. F. ERSKINE.

OUR INDUSTRIES.

JAM MANUFACTURING.

The Irish Jam Trade, if it but received the support it is so justly entitled to, not only on account of its superior quality as compared to a very large proportion of those imported, but chiefly in consideration of the large amount of employment given by its manufacturers, would form no inconsiderable help to the welfare of this country and the material prosperity of a large number of its inhabitants. Some idea of the magnitude of this industry may be gathered from the estimate we have received which calculates the amount of Jam consumed in this country annually at about 12,000 tons. This information we have from a reliable source, and to the ordinary consumer may seem a very exaggerated quantity, but it is not so; and if anybody would only take the trouble to make the calculation based on the fact that no grocer or Purveyor's shop is complete without their shelves and windows being packed with the different sorts of Jams and Marmalade, we are satisfied they will be convinced of the accuracy of the above figures. We believe that £30 per ton a reasonable calculation. This gives a total yearly consumption of Jam, in terms of money of £360,000. Now all this reads remarkably well; but, judging from the number and variety of English and Scotch labels we see displayed everywhere we turn, the conviction is forced upon us that a very large proportion of this is imported. This is more forcibly brought home to us when we have counted for ourselves about 25 different English and Scotch manufacturers fighting for the Irish trade in Jam. A still more deplorable feature of this matter is the fact that many of these importations are able to command fully one penny per pot and sometimes more than the home-made article. This is rather an extraordinary thing as the freshness of the fruit has largely to do with the quality of the Jam, and a great deal of fruit grown in Ireland, and exported from here to England for manufacture, as a matter of fact must be much longer in reaching its destination, so that in this particular the home manufacturer has a decided advantage. Ireland being admirably adapted for fruit culture the fostering of this industry would lead to another and most profitable one—viz., fruit growing on a much larger scale than at present, as we are informed farmers could make a much better profit out of fruit than they do out of other crops, and particularly now when they are so hard pressed with foreign competition. If the fruit were wanted the farmers would very soon get ready to meet the demand. An instance of this has been brought under our notice in the County Armagh, where a regular fruit growing colony lives and flourishes mainly through the encouragement given by Irish manufacturers. A still much older industry in fruit growing has existed in the neighbourhood of Gormanstown, convenient to

Dublin. The quality of the fruit grown there cannot be surpassed, and the number of farmers (small and large) more or less engaged in this particular line runs into several hundreds. Another important fruit raising centre is Barley Hill, County Meath. The greater portion of the fruit grown there is sent to England. The number of people interested in its culture is very considerable.

We are pained to note the want of patriotism flagrantly displayed by the classes on the subject of home industries, and how very indifferent they are about the prosperity of their own country. Many of them go out of their way to get imported Jam, without giving their own countrymen a chance of even showing what they can do. Everything Irish, according to their way of thinking, must be inferior, and instead of giving a wide berth to those establishments which will not keep Irish made Jams, but stock all foreign goods and palm them off, without a word of protest from the buyer, continue to deal with such firms, are practically and voluntarily turning themselves into emigration agents, and are in truth the bitterest foes of their own land. One may say, "Oh, what does it matter about the small amount of Jam I use; it will neither make nor break anybody." But this way of looking at the matter is absurd. Every individual has a certain amount of responsibility. It should be the desire of us all to see our country prosperous, and if we all give whatever trade we have to give (be it large or small) to the building up of our home trade, the money will be kept and made to circulate in our midst, and the individual, as well as the country at large, will profit thereby. If every one who reads this article would make up their mind when next in want of Jam to insist upon getting what is made at home, and, if satisfactory, continue to order same, will be doing a highly patriotic duty, and will be assisting in the upbuilding of a most important Irish industry.

VIDETTE.

CHESTNUTS.

I can't understand why people object to chestnuts. To me an old joke is often as welcome as an old friend or an old coat.

IN THE STILLY NIGHT.

"No, Eliza, it isn't the bite or the sup that I begrudge to them, 'tis the perpetual tramping that they keep up."

SHOCKING IMPOLITENESS.

"Well, girls, I did not expect you back so early."

"Maam—The lady of the house did not treat us politely at all. She comes to us and says, 'Well, girls, I hope your programmes are full; and if you saw the little, maam, that we ate and drank——.'"

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