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QUESTIONS OF THE DAY.—REFORM AGITATION IN BRITAIN.

The Reform agitation in Britain continues, and does not seem to have lost any of its vitality. Demonstrations have been frequent, in all the principal cities of the United Kingdom. Those in London have been unusually imposing, and have shown an amount of system, arrangement and concerted action, that give them a much greater degree of significance than the gathering together of any number of men in a disorderly and promiscuous mass could do. The Trade Societies' demonstration of the 3d December last, was one of the most remarkable that has ever been witnessed in Britain; not so much for the number collected together, as for the good order maintained throughout the entire proceedings. During the time the procession was passing from Charing Cross, where the various Trades assembled and formed in procession, to Beaufort Grounds, where the stands were erected from which the addresses were delivered, there prevailed the utmost order, good feeling, and unanimity of purpose to give those who object to the working men obtaining the suffrage no chance for asserting their incapability to govern themselves as well as the already privileged class can do. That demonstration was not got up by the Reform League, but by the Trade Societies of London, under the direction of Mr. George Potter; and the Reform League assisted at it.

Demonstrations have been numerous, and great public meetings, in the principal towns and cities, have been brought together and stirred up almost to the point of enthusiasm by John Bright and other leaders of the Reform movement.

The dispatches inform us that an immense gathering of people again joined in a Reform procession in London, on Monday the 11th inst., and that there was not the slightest disturbance on the occasion; while a deputation, headed by Mr. Bright, waited on Mr. Gladstone, Ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer, and were favorably received.

The question of to-day does not seem to be, Will the desired reform be granted? but, When will it be granted? The indications are that the outside pressure will compel concessions on the part of the Government and Parliament, at an early date, to the popular will; though it is very improbable that those concessions will reach the demands made by the Reform League and the public. Men and measures move comparatively slow in Britain; and few things prove this more clearly than the limited advance made by this very Reform question during the past thirty or forty years. Still, there is such an amount of popular feeling now being manifested on the subject, which Ministers and Parliament have already recognized by the introduction of several Reform bills, that it seems likely another step forward will be taken, before a great while.

The demands of the people now are

not so numerous as were those of the Chartists some years ago; but the opinion is reasonable that they shrewdly think if those demands are complied with, the entire measures of Reform sought by the Chartists will be within their dictation. The five points of Chartism; we believe, were: Manhood suffrage, vote by ballot, equal electoral districts, annual Parliaments and payment of members; the measures of Reform now sought for are, manhood suffrage and vote by ballot.

Equal electoral districts is really a measure of grave importance, as it would tend to remove, for one thing, that disgrace to British electoral representation,—"pocket boroughs," by which one person, the owner of the borough, can nominate and give a seat in Parliament to any man he may choose, no matter how repugnant he might be to the inhabitants of the borough he is said to represent. Equal electoral districts would not place some insignificant, petty borough, owned, controlled and held in the "pocket," figuratively, of one of the aristocracy, on a semi-equality with such a place as Liverpool with its vast commerce and half-a-million of inhabitants. As it now is, one of these "pocket boroughs," scarcely known outside the shire in which it is located, with its one member in the House of Commons, can exercise just half the influence in a vote that the great town of Liverpool with its two members can do.

The seekers of suffrage, who are now excluded from it, believe that if they can obtain manhood suffrage and vote by ballot, they will be able to send men to represent them who will pass measures that will meet their entire demands. Vote by ballot, they consider, would protect them, individually, from their employers and landlords; and manhood suffrage would give such an overwhelming majority to the Reform party that the Government would be virtually in their hands. This, it is deemed, would take the power from the hands of a few and give it to the many. And for the accomplishment of this the friends of Reform and the members of the Reform League are unsparing in their efforts to have Parliament receive and pass such an advanced bill as will meet their wishes. If they would be satisfied with a very moderate advance upon the present limited extent of the franchise privilege, there is little doubt but they could obtain it in a short time; but they think, and reasonably, judging from the past, that by accepting such a moderate concession they would be compelled in a short time to again organize, agitate, and get up other Reform demonstrations and meetings; or, in other words, recommence, and do over again the work which they have already done.

Meanwhile, agitation on the subject progresses; the people are being stirred up by eloquent and by inflammatory speakers; and it is not improbable if their repeated and urgent appeals are unheeded, when they become accustomed to look with a satisfied eye upon their numerical strength, that they may demand imperatively as a right that which they have petitioned for and have been refused.

This is a revolutionary age; and few revolutions would be more important in ultimate results, than that which would practically give the government of Britain into the hands of her now unenfranchised classes.

EFFECTS OF A SPARK.—Mr. Lewis has found by a series of experiments and observations with the microscope that the electric spark, however produced, makes pentagon perforations. He has experimented with mechanically prepared paper, the leaves of plants, mica, thin glass, film of egg, &c., and invariably finds a five-sided hole.

IMPORTING MACHINERY.—TO CAPITALISTS AND OTHERS.

While evil designing persons here, and ill-informed people elsewhere, are striving to make trouble for Utah, the development of our internal resources is a subject for thought and action much more important to us as a people, and one infinitely more noble. Home manufactures, producing the raw materials required for them, importing labor-saving machinery, and taking the necessary steps to create fresh industrial resources within our cities and settlements, are subjects which have been repeatedly urged and kept before the people for years, by our leaders, who have ever sought to increase a just appreciation of their importance and the beneficial results that would follow their more extended application.

Undoubtedly the great step in this direction, at present, is the bringing on of various kinds of labor-saving machinery by which, if imported to any extent, home manufactures would receive an immense impetus; and through the use of which articles manufactured here, from material produced by ourselves, could be placed in a more than successful competition with imported goods. We believe that in this matter our capitalists do not study their best interests, nor the interests of the community, at large, by importing goods to the extent they do, and not importing the machinery by which manufactures would be aided and expedited. True, hand labor may not be able at present to compete with the importer, either in the quality of the articles manufactured nor in prices, in most cases; but a judicious investment of means in the requisite machinery would soon change their relative positions; and instead of making us importers would make us exporters of manufactured articles of commerce, as well as of agricultural products, to the positive and speedy enriching of capitalists whose means were thus invested and of the community at large.

We have most excellent facilities for sheep raising; and with anything like proper encouragement to those engaged in raising them, there is no question but the breeds yielding superior wool would receive attention and be vastly improved. At present the inducements for keeping sheep are not sufficient for those owning them to pay that attention to them, nor keep as many, as the importance of the matter demands; it does not pay; and with rich fields for extended commerce widening around us, where our industrial products can find a ready sale, we are permitting this and kindred mines of wealth to individuals and the community to remain unworked. Instead of bringing in the wealth of our neighbors, who must send it in some direction for the purchase of indispensable necessities, we are permitting that which comes to us through the sale of our agricultural products to be drained away, impoverishing the Territory to enrich manufacturers elsewhere.

If any person will take the trouble to investigate the manner in which the woolen manufacture of England was encouraged and protected for something like eight hundred years, and note the vast wealth which accrued to that nation in consequence, they will see that the subject is one of greater importance than it is sometimes deemed. We have the heaviest kind of a protective tariff in favor of home manufactures, in the immense distance over which goods have to be freighted to this Territory. This tariff must be reduced as the Pacific Railroad is extended from the east and west in the direction of this city; and the manufacturer here, with only the same facilities of machinery which he

now has, will find it more difficult then to compete with the importer. It may be urged that the cost and trouble of freighting machinery will also be less; and that a variety of causes will have a tendency to reduce the price of labor, so that the competition will be more nearly equalized than it might seem at a glance. But a close investigation of the subject on the part of those interested will, we think, dissipate that idea. There is always difficulty attending the establishment of any industrial enterprise, especially when it is new to the country where the attempt is made, and that difficulty will not be lessened but increased by waiting until the existing protective tariff, which nature has established in favor of manufacturing here, has been removed, by bringing us into closer and more speedy communication with the great manufacturing centres.

If the advice and example of President Young, in this matter, had been followed years ago, there is no reason why our woolen and cotton manufactures, at least, might not to-day have been established on a permanent footing; and we be able to export woolen and cotton fabrics as we now export agricultural products, instead of importing. Our farmers, with difficulties to encounter which are seldom met in other parts of the nation, and with much more labor than agriculture demands in most other places, put their products in market at prices that make a vast contrast with eastern prices. On the 23d ult., wheat in the wholesale market in New York ranged from \$2 to \$3.30 per bushel. On the same date, beef, at wholesale, ranged from nine cents for the poorest quality to eighteen cents for extra. Other articles of agricultural and dairy produce brought prices proportionately high, as a general thing, while a few were somewhat lower than they can be obtained here. The assumption is very natural that if manufactures had been developed here, since the people and especially capitalists were urged to give their attention to them, with the same assiduity that agriculture has been, we would not now be paying exorbitant prices for many articles which are indispensable; they could have been furnished for something nearer like eastern rates, as the products of the farm are brought into market at even lower rates than those recently prevailing in New York. And this not only with a direct saving of an immense sum yearly to the Territory, but keeping the means within ourselves, for further and more extensive efforts in the same direction, which is now carried away to enrich other places. Take the item of stoves alone, and see what an amount of money would be saved to the Territory and kept within it, if iron foundries, moulding and casting shops, were at work here, and the iron which exists so abundantly within easy access was developed and turned to practical use.

Who of our capitalists will follow the example of President Young, and bring on machinery proportionate to the wealth which they have amassed here in a few years? Who will aid in bringing out and working the iron? Who will heed the advice given to plant flax, that fabrics of linen may be manufactured? Who will plant rye, and thereby furnish suitable straw for braiding purposes, for hats and bonnets? Who will give their attention to the silk worm, and give an impetus to the producing of silk, that we may ere many years rival California in its manufacture? Of cotton little need be said. All that is required to produce cotton fabrics of the best quality and at reasonable rates, is the importation of sufficient machinery to work it.