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FRIDAY, JUNE 25, 1897

### FEAST AND FAST.

The Telegram takes the Irish people to task for their counter-demonstration on the occasion of the queen's jubilee. Its criticisms are not just. Much as may be said of Queen Victoria and her reign, there is but little in it to cause Ireland's sons any exuberance of joyful demonstrations. Of England's advancement since Victoria was placed upon the throne, there can be no question. Her dominions have grown, her wealth multiplied over and over again. As has been truthfully said, "she owns a large part of the land and all the seas." England has prospered and grown as few, if any, nations have equaled in the same length of time. Englishmen have just cause to feel proud.

How is it with Ireland? When Queen Victoria ascended the throne Ireland is credited with having 9,000,000 people. How have they been affected in the sixty years of her reign? The census tells a suggestive story. Today Ireland has 3,500,000 Irish population. Sixty years of Victoria has driven 5,500,000 of Ireland's children out of their native home. It is an eloquent criticism of England's policy toward her sister isle. Nor was it deserved. While the iron heel of British rule was crushing the life out of Ireland's industries, Ireland's sons were carrying the English flag gallantly to new conquests. With Corcoran at Balaklava, with Clive in India, in Asia's jungles or Africa's deserts, wherever English greed or English interests compelled war, Ireland's sons shed as gallant blood as ever glorified a battlefield. What was her reward and their's? Let the spirit of Robert Emmett answer. In 1847 and '48 English landlords mercilessly compelled the Irish tenant to sell his grain to pay rent, and there being a failure of the potato crop, 1,500,000 Irish people starved to death. England did nothing for them, and the people of the United States appalled by their suffering, by generous contributions prevented that number being perhaps doubled.

Ireland owes England nothing but that love which the Senegambian helot felt for the master who scourged him to his work with lash and blow. Queen Victoria's reign has been a great and glorious one for England; but Ireland has gained nothing but suffering and cruel treatment for it, and the past sixty years disclose nothing that would, or should, cause Ireland to rejoice over England's glory.

Victoria's policy towards Ireland was but a continuance of that of her predecessors; but that does not relieve it from the charge of cruelty. The Irish are a pathetically light-hearted people, brave, long-suffering, hopeful. If they were not, their race would be but a memory today.

It may not have been good taste to display mourning on so joyous an occasion. It may have been really wrong to hurt an Englishman's feelings at such a time. It may be that politeness, especially Irish politeness, would have dictated, there being a lady in the case, that Ireland should insist she enjoyed her treatment for the past sixty years. It may be that the memory of Irish blood vainly shed on Irish soil for Ireland's rights, should have been for the time forgotten. But all of these things would have been lies. Ireland sees Victoria's reign through Irish eyes, and if they see not with the same vision as

Englishmen, let the latter remember that those eyes have been too often blurred with tears from cruel, wicked and inhuman treatment.

England has cause to rejoice; but no fair-minded student of English history can truthfully assert that Ireland has not abundant cause to mourn.

The Condon Globe, noting the appointment of T. Lyons to the office of townsite commissioner at Juneau, Alaska, without intending it calls attention to one of the things that cause a deficit in the national treasury. It says: "This is a position that pays \$2000 a year salary, and will require only a small portion of his time. In addition to this he can perhaps make double as much out of his law practice." If it requires only little of his time, why so large a salary? Congress would do well to turn its attention to economizing, instead of trying to raise revenues to meet extravagant expenses.

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### Britain's Boundaries.

The British make the proud boast that on the queen's dominions the sun never sets, but recently compiled statistics go to show that on the central and most important part of those dominions it seldom rises. George W. Bell told the Royal Botanical society the other day that during last year England had had 1,214 hours of sun shine out of a possible 4,380, and that, he said, was better than for the last five years, of which the average was 1,037 hours. He related as a remarkable fact that one day recently the sun had shone in the society's gardens for eight and a half consecutive hours, an almost unprecedented thing at this season of the year.

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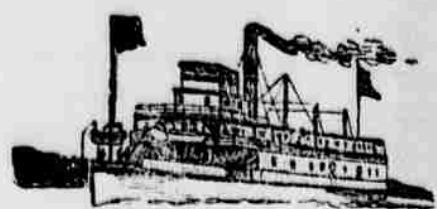
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