

such a demand as if it went by that name. Our forefathers were extremely generous with regard to this right of petitioning, which, though ridiculed by Mr. Hume, is a right, under the existence of which, if it be freely enjoyed, and steadily exercised, a tyranny never can exist for any length of time. The next thing is, then on what subjects the people ought to petition the House of Commons. Every man who reflects but little upon this matter, will perceive, that the main thing to be accomplished is, a Reduction of the Taxes. There are other things that want to be attended to. Divers very strong grievances; grievances such as our forefathers never dreamed of the possibility of; and these must all be redressed; or else, this reform of the Parliament will have failed of its object. But, the first thing of all is, a reduction of the taxes; because the burden of taxation is the real source of all the evils which the country has to endure. It is the cause of the bodily sufferings of the people; it is the cause of the increase of crime; it is the cause of the prodigality of expenditure, not only in public affairs, but in the private affairs of man; it is the cause of the new and severe laws that have been passed; and of the abridgment of our liberties of every description. Therefore, the first thing to do is, to obtain a reduction of these enormous taxes; and, being these taxes in the order, in which they are cruel and mischievous, they stand, in my opinion, in the following order:—1. The taxes on malt and hops.—2. The tax on soap.—3. The taxes on stamps.—4. The taxes on houses, windows, and other things, coming under the head of assessed taxes. These taxes immediately concerns us all; they are on the growth of our land, or on our transactions with one another, or on our dwelling-places, or on the things that we use. With regard to things which come from abroad, or things, the use of which is not common to us all, there will be time enough to speak hereafter. At present these are the taxes to be petitioned against; and no time should be lost in sending forward the petitions. The malt and hop taxes ought to stand at the head of every petition for relief. Until these be entirely taken off there can be no man in his senses propose any alteration in the Corn-bill. They are the cause of more and greater evils than are to be described in a volume. They have mainly assisted in breaking up that happiest of all communities that the world ever saw; namely, the agricultural community of England. The soap-tax is so excessively burdensome, and falling so much heavy on those who can least bear it; and, with regard to the stamps and the assessed taxes, independent of their pressure, their partiality is so crying, that it is impossible for any just man to look at them without feeling himself swell with indigna-

tion. The whole of the taxes ought to be repealed, and, that too, without loss of time; but still the malt and hop taxes demand a preference; and it is for a repeal of those taxes, which I most strongly recommend all my countrymen to petition without loss of time. For a bushel of malt and a pound of hops we are now paying about twelve shillings, instead of having them for about five, which we should have, were there no tax upon either; so that here are the millions of England and Wales paying pretty nearly two hundred per cent. on account of tax, upon their drink, coming from the produce of our own soil. Every one complains of the mischief of the beer-shops; every one complains of the groups of homeless and houseless young people in the country; every one complains of the increase of crime; every one perceives that these evils have proceeded from the banishment of the young people from the farm-houses; but no one seems to perceive the power which the malt-tax has had in producing that banishment. This malt-tax, therefore, is the first thing to be assailed; and the people should recollect, that their representatives have very little to do with regard to the expenditure of the public money; that their business is to prevent the money being taken improperly from the people. No exciseman can go into a malt-house without an act of Parliament to warrant him in so doing. Therefore, it is to their representatives in Parliament that the people are to apply, in order to be eased of this burden, and of all other burdens. It is the duty of the members to exert themselves to their utmost to accomplish this purpose; but it is also the duty of the people to second the efforts of those members; and the way for them to second them is, to draw up, to sign as numerous as possible, and to send forward, their petitions to their own members, if they be ready to receive, to present, and to support them; or else to some other members. \* \* \* I do beseech my readers well to think of these matters;

'A man of words and not of deeds.

Is like a garden full of weeds.'

is a saying of old, in all probability, as gardens themselves; and I do beg my readers to bethink them of it well now. Paper, pen, and ink, are all that are wanted, and a great deal less time and pens than are wasted by almost every man in every twenty-four hours of his life. Let this be borne in mind. \* \* \* Again, I beg my readers to bear in mind, that it is upon their conduct, in this crisis, that they have to depend for their happiness."

AGRICULTURAL AND COMMERCIAL RESOURCES OF IRELAND.—The resources, both agricultural and commercial, of Ireland, are immense. Her soil contains 12,000,000 arable acres, exclusive of 5,000,000 that

might be rendered arable. Now supposing that of this quantity 3,000,000 acres are annually devoted to potatoes, 3,000,000 to wheat, and 6,000,000 to grass, oats, or barley, we shall find, that from this arable portion alone there might be raised the following quantity of food. 3 millions acres, in wheat, at 2 quarters per acre, 6,000,000 quarters. 3 millions acres potatoes, at 50 bolls per acre, 150,000,000 bolls. Now six millions of quarters of wheat will maintain six millions of souls, and 150,000,000 bolls of potatoes will at the very least maintain 15,000,000 more; so that the wheat and potatoes growing on these six millions of acres alone, would maintain twenty-one millions of souls. This is supposing the waste lands in the island to yield nothing, and six millions of the arable acres to be devoted to the production of grass, oats, or barley, for the convenience and luxuries of life. It is evident, therefore, that there is ample room in the soil of Ireland to maintain at least three times its present population, in the highest state of affluence and comfort. The manufacturing and commercial advantages of Ireland also are immense. From the cheapness of labour, which, at an average, is little more than half that in Great Britain, the linen manufacturers of the North have of late years made the most rapid progress, and a considerable part of the commercial capital of Glasgow has already emigrated to that more favourable seat of manufacturing industry. The numerous natural harbours and deeply indented bays of the Irish coast, give facilities for the formation of seaports, and a coastways commerce, unknown to any other part of the empire. All along the west coast the shore is so precipitous, that almost every bay may be formed at a little expense into a harbour; and Valentia, the nearest point of Europe to America, is evidently destined to become the great emporium of British export to the countless millions of the New World, and render the West of Ireland the scene of as great commercial activity as the Severn or the Mersey. In her fisheries, too, Ireland enjoys a mine of wealth hitherto almost unexplored, the extent of which is incalculable. The rivers on its western coast all abound with salmon; its herring and deep-sea fisheries are equal in extent, and superior in quality, to those of the whole of Great Britain. Little expense is required to render every bay on the north and west coast a fishing station, which may rival the activity of Wick or Thurso;

The Mayor of Wexford, Mr. C. G. Walker, has refused to pay his tithe, and a warrant having been issued against him, there will be exhibited in his person the extraordinary instance of a Chief Magistrate committed to prison, and the maintenance of the laws one of the first infringers of them.