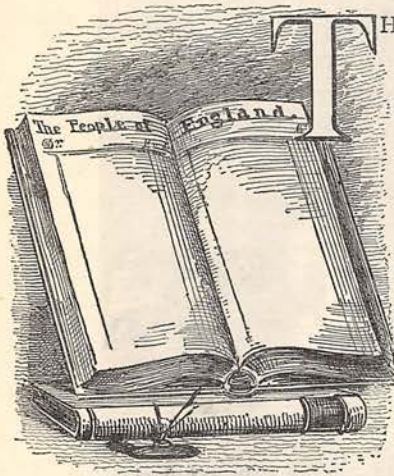


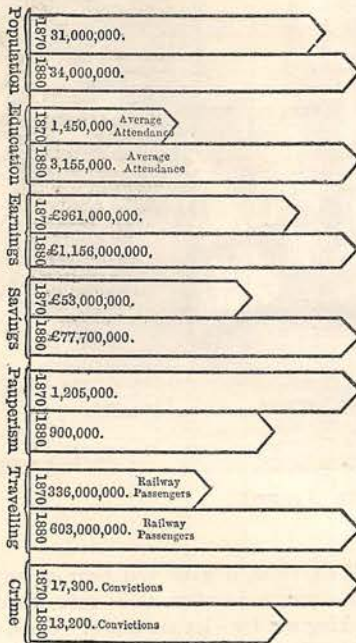
ENGLAND'S BALANCE-SHEET.



THE gentleman who is reported to have thrown "Paradise Lost" aside in disgust because, as he said, "it *proved* nothing," would scarcely have made that complaint of Mr. M. G. Mulhall's "Balance-Sheet of the World." It is a book of "proofs" of the most convincing kind — a

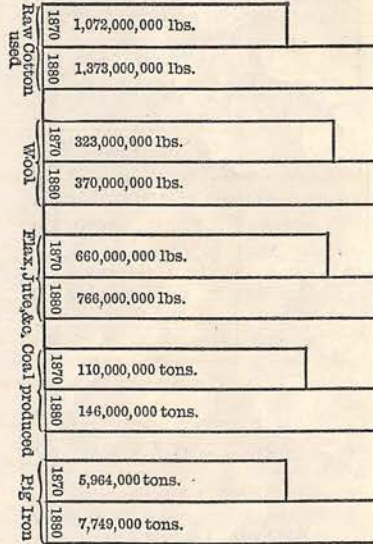
marvellous array of facts and figures summoned from every quarter of the globe, to show that the world is "moving onward to its brighter day." Those who wish to learn how astonishing has been the progress of all nations in the various branches of industry and finances, during the last ten years, will find all the information they require in this

Mulhall has made the task easy, and—we will add—as pleasant as it is easy. We shall attempt, however, at present only the still easier task of studying the "balance-sheet" of our own country, availing ourselves of the invaluable guidance of Mr. Mulhall, with the further help of sundry "Blue-Books" recently issued.



SOCIAL PROGRESS.

singularly interesting work. The author tells us that "the task is, in a manner, easy, since it reduces itself to a careful comparison of the statistics relative to commerce, agriculture, manufacture, revenue, and public debt." We gratefully acknowledge that Mr.



INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS.

Most people, we suppose, imagine that the Budget annually presented by the Chancellor of the Exchequer is the national balance-sheet, but this is not the case. More things go to make up the condition of a nation than can be set forth in a "financial statement" which deals only with the income and the expenditure of the Executive Government. What we want to know is, whether the whole nation is prosperous and progressing; and to ascertain this, we must take various items into the account, which would be quite out of place in a Budget.

To begin with, *population* is the most important item of all in the national balance-sheet. These "little isles" forty or fifty years ago were often described as over-crowded, and emigration schemes were started to take off the so-called "surplus" population. But the increase still goes on, and during the years 1870-80 it was greater than ever, the number of inhabitants having risen from 31,000,000 to 34,000,000. It is a popular delusion that while England is continually losing by emigration, she gains nothing by immigration; for against the 1,815,000 persons who have left the country, we must set the 850,000 foreigners who have settled amongst us during the last ten years. The balance is against us, but we are still 3,000,000 more than we were.

The item of *education* is of primary importance,

and is one of the most gratifying features in the ten years' account. The number of primary schools has nearly doubled in Great Britain, being 10,949 in 1870, and 20,670 in 1880; while the average attendance of children has more than doubled; it was 1,450,000 ten years ago, it is 3,155,000 now. As might have been expected, as education has advanced, crime has decreased; 13,200 convictions in 1880 having to be set against 17,300 convictions in 1870. *Pauperism* too, though still a big blot in the otherwise fair page of our national ledger, is not quite so black as it was; we had 1,205,000 paupers in Great Britain in 1870, but the number was only 900,000 in 1880. In the *thrift* of the people there is an amazing advance. In 1870 the Post Office Savings Bank of the United

last year for which a return is given) it was 1,020,000 tons. These figures show that the industrial power of the country is developing even more rapidly than its population. The actual increase of population was 10 per cent. in the ten years, but the consumption of cotton, wool, and jute, increased 23 per cent.; the increased production of coal equalled 33 per cent.; that of iron 42 per cent., and that of steel 400 per cent. With these figures before us we will not yet despair of England's fortunes as a nation of workmen.

We need not here concern ourselves as to whether a nation's imports or its exports should be regarded as the index of commercial prosperity, but as these two items taken together constitute our gigantic foreign trade, they must occupy a most important

ARTICLES IMPORTED.			ARTICLES EXPORTED.		
Bacon and Hams ...	1870.	567,000 cwts.	Cotton Piece Goods ...	1870.	3,266,000,000 vds.
	1880.	5,344,000 "		1880.	4,495,000,000 "
Eggs ...	1870.	430,000,000 No.	Jute manufactures ...	1870.	51,000,000 "
	1880.	747,000,000 "		1880.	183,000,000 "
Cocoa ...	1870.	14,000,000 lbs.	Silk Piece Goods ...	1870.	3,854,000 "
	1880.	23,000,000 "		1880.	6,218,000 "
Clocks ...	1870.	256,000 No.	Woollen Cloth ...	1870.	32,000,000 "
	1880.	870,000 "		1880.	50,000,000 "
Gloves (leather) ...	1870.	10,000,000 pair.	Iron and Steel ...	1870.	2,825,000 tons.
	1880.	17,000,000 "		1880.	3,792,000 "
Oranges ...	1870.	1,933,000 bushels	Coal ...	1870.	11,000,000 "
	1880.	3,658,000 "		1880.	18,000,000 "
Rice ...	1870.	4,077,000 cwts.	Hats ...	1870.	338,000 doz.
	1880.	7,889,000 "		1880.	922,000 "
Tea ...	1870.	141,020,000 lbs.	Paper ...	1870.	177,000 cwts.
	1880.	206,971,000 "		1880.	472,000 "
			Sheep & Lamb's Wool ...	1870.	9,000,000 lbs.
				1880.	17,000,000 "

COMMERCIAL PROGRESS.

Kingdom held deposits to the amount of £15,000,000, but in 1880 the deposits had risen to £33,700,000. Other Savings Banks held nearly £38,000,000 in 1870, and just under £44,000,000 in 1880. To complete the account under this head we may fairly add the aggregate Funds of all the Friendly, Provident, and Building Societies in the country, which, according to the last return, amounted to £46,000,000 sterling.

Now let us turn to another part of our balance-sheet, that which shows the amount of business we are doing. And first as to the value of our manufactures.

In 1870 we produced £642,000,000 worth of "Textiles, Hardwares, and Sundries;" and in 1880 we produced £758,000,000 worth. The total money value of all the varied industrial products of the country in 1870 was £1,687,000,000, while in 1880 it had reached the stupendous sum of £2,024,000,000. We have not space for details, but a few particulars cannot but be interesting.

Industries.	1870.	1880.
Raw Cotton used ...	1,072,000,000 lbs.	1,373,000,000 lbs.
Wool ...	323,000,000 "	370,000,000 "
Flax, Jute, &c. ...	660,000,000 "	766,000,000 "
Coal produced ...	110,000,000 tons	146,000,000 tons.
Pig Iron ...	5,964,000 "	7,749,000 "

Our production of steel shows a most marvellous increase; it was 245,000 tons in 1870, and in 1878 (the

position in the balance-sheet we are supposed to be studying. Let us look first at the figures which show the *value* of all articles imported and exported by this country.

	1870.	1880.
Value of Imports ...	£303,000,000	£411,000,000
Value of Exports ...	200,000,000	223,000,000
Total Foreign Trade ...	£503,000,000	£634,000,000

Every one knows, however, that the prices of a great many articles of commerce have fallen since 1870. When, therefore, we note that our foreign trade has increased in amount by no less than £131,000,000 sterling in ten years, we must bear in mind the fact that these figures do not represent the actual growth of our commercial exchanges with other nations. We must look at *quantities*, as well as values, if we wish to learn how the trade of the country is progressing. Take the following simply by way of example, selected almost at random from the "Statistical Abstract" for 1881.

Articles Imported.	1870.	1880.
Bacon and Hams ...	567,000 cwt.	5,334,000 cwt.
Eggs ...	430,000,000 No.	747,000,000 No.
Cocoa ...	14,000,000 lbs.	23,000,000 lbs.
Clocks ...	256,000 No.	870,000 No.
Gloves (leather) ...	10,000,000 pairs	17,000,000 pairs.
Oranges ...	1,933,000 bushels	3,658,000 bushels.
Rice ...	4,077,000 cwt.	7,889,000 cwt.
Tea ...	141,020,000 lbs.	206,971,000 lbs.

And, *per contra*, let us see what a substantial addition has been made in ten years to the quantity of goods we have sent abroad.

Articles Exported.	1870.	1880.
Cotton Piece Goods ...	3,266,000,000 yds. ...	4,495,000,000 yds. ...
Jute Manufactures ...	51,000,000 " ...	183,000,000 " ...
Silk Piece Goods ...	3,854,000 " ...	6,218,000 " ...
Woollen Cloth... ..	32,000,000 " ...	50,000,000 " ...
Iron and Steel ...	2,825,000 tons ...	3,792,000 tons. ...
Coal	11,000,000 " ...	18,000,000 " ...
Hats	338,000 doz. ...	922,000 doz. ...
Paper	177,000 cwt. ...	472,000 cwt. ...
Sheep and Lamb's Wool	9,000,000 lbs. ...	17,000,000 lbs. ...

This list might be extended, but it is long enough to justify the assertion that "the amount of minerals and manufactures we export will almost seem incredible to the future historian. No country of ancient or modern times has surpassed us; none but ourselves can be our parallel."

The item of shipping comes naturally after that of foreign trade. Great Britain commands more than half the carrying-power of the whole world, and in ten years our shipowners increased their tonnage from 11,345,000 to 19,010,000. The quantity of merchandise actually carried by British ships in 1870 was 30,000,000 tons, and in 1880 it was 52,000,000 tons, the "freight-age" for the latter year being estimated to have realised about £51,920,000.

The progress of our wonderful railway system has been much greater than appears from a simple comparison of the "length of lines" open in 1870 (15,537 miles) with the length open in 1880 (17,945 miles). It is when we learn that the number of passengers carried in 1870 was 336,000,000, as against 603,000,000 in 1880, that we begin to see how rapidly the facilities for travelling have developed. The amount of capital invested in British railways is only

£50,000,000 less than the National Debt; it is now £728,000,000, being an increase of £200,000,000 over the capital of 1870, and the total earnings of all the railways rose from £43,417,000 in 1870 to £61,958,000 in 1880.

The total earnings of the people have increased from £961,000,000 in 1870 to £1,156,000,000 in 1880: an increase of nearly 200,000,000, which equals nearly £6 per head of the entire population. And since the annual expenditure of the people is rather less than £1,100,000,000, it follows that there is a surplus of £60,000,000 per annum to add to the accumulated wealth of the nation. What this "accumulated wealth" now amounts to, must seem absolutely fabulous to those who have never studied the subject. It was £8,310,000,000 in 1870; it had grown to £8,960,000,000 in 1880, being an increase of £650,000,000 sterling in the short space of ten years. And yet, strange as it may appear, it is the fact that while our wealth has thus accumulated, our use of gold and silver in the transaction of all this business has steadily declined. Sir John Lubbock showed some time ago that the British people now manage to transact £100 worth of business while actually employing no more than a single half-sovereign in the coin of the realm!

Lastly, we may find some comfort even in that part of our balance-sheet in which stand the appalling figures of our National Debt. It was £797,943,000 in 1870, it was £768,703,000 in 1880, a decrease of £29,000,000. Such a decrease may not be much to boast of, but it is something to be thankful for, especially when we consider that during the last ten years the sister-nations of Europe have increased their debts by £1,500,000,000.

J. T. GALE, F.S.S.

HOW WOMEN ARE EMPLOYED IN BELGIUM.

FROM A LADY CORRESPONDENT.



HOUGH much has been written of late on the subject of employment for women, yet the following remarks written from personal observation as to how that question is treated in several countries abroad may not be found uninteresting. It cannot be denied that in England much suffering and anxiety are often undergone by the daughters of a family, simply from a great want of forethought on the part of the parents or guardians. When we see the daughters of a middle-class family brought up in comfort, if not luxury, the enjoyment of which depends upon the father's life, may we not truly say there is at least a kind of thoughtless cruelty in leaving them exposed to what may turn up? No doubt a suitable marriage may often occur, or the prolonged life and prosperity of the parents may secure their children's comfort in advancing years, but how often the early death of the head of the family leaves

the daughters without either a home or resources! The negligence of parents in this matter is surprising, for even the most thoughtful stop at giving their daughters what they think a good education, forgetting that, as education is now so common, as a means of living it is really of little value. Those who advertise for governesses are often saddened by having hundreds of applicants, many of them willing to engage themselves on any terms; and it not seldom happens that the best qualified accept the lowest salaries. Again, how few of these governesses have been thoroughly trained for their work, and how many of them have no liking for it! A step has been taken in the right direction in the raising of teachers' salaries in the Government schools; it is to be hoped it will have a favourable influence on public opinion, so far as the salaries of governesses in private schools and families are concerned. At present the miserable pittance received by many a governess will scarcely keep her