

An American Returns

to Her Birthplace:

“Better Now Than Ever”

“I THINK England is better now than ever it was.”

That is the candid opinion of Mrs. Helena Brown, a native of Scapegoat Hill, and now an American citizen, who at present is staying at the home of her sister, Mrs. S. Eastwood, of 48, Manchester Road, Slaithwaite.

This is Mrs. Brown's second visit only to the country of her

birth during the past half-century. She and her husband, Mr. Arthur H. Brown, a native of Milnsbridge, emigrated to America fifty-two years ago next April.

A remarkable lady of seventy-eight, Mrs. Brown said that she was surprised to find how really well-off we were in this country after all the reports that they had had in America.

And Mrs. E. Dillinger, Mrs. Brown's neighbour for many years in the little town of Mount Joy, Pennsylvania, who is travelling with Mrs. Brown, confirmed this impression.

Both Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Dillinger told how in Mount Joy the cotton, linen, silk and shoe factories had been “laying off” workers, and how in the nearest town of Lancaster, twelve miles away, the unemployment situation was much more serious.

“You have the same kind of clothes and the same kind of shoes in this country,” went on Mrs. Brown, “and although some things are a bit dearer in America, wages are not much higher than they are here.” In her view we had as great a variety of food here as they had in America.

Mrs. Brown and her husband, who went to America to work as a scribbling engineer, celebrated their golden wedding before Mr. Brown died about two years ago.

Their nine children are all living in America, and Mrs. Brown spends a great deal of her time travelling from one place to another visiting them and her twenty grandchildren and nineteen great-grandchildren. Before her return to America next month she is hoping to visit more of her relatives in this country.

