

## Observations in Ireland 1819

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; member of The Lit. And Phil. Society of New Yourk, & c.*

1823

10th. At Bambridge, a thriving town, two and a half miles from where I slept, I joined the coach this morning for Dublin. The town of Newry, at which we soon arrived, is built of stone, and has rather a dull and uninteresting appearance. The church is a neat edifice. My only companion from this place in the inside of the coach, proved to be a very intelligent and affable gentleman, and as I after wards learned, an eminent surgeon of Dublin. He had been to Belfast on a professional visit, and is an intimate friend of Dr. M'D—— of that place, whose politeness I have reason to acknowledge.

At Drogheda, an old and uncomfortable looking town, we were surrounded with the most numerous and sturdy swarm of beggars, that I have ever encountered. Women in tatters, with children in their arms, men on crutches, old and young, jostled each other to approach the sides of the coach, each striving to be heard in the recital of his tale of distress, and in various and ludicrous attitudes, saluting each of us, as our looks were turned to them, with “ God bless your honour ; a happy journey to your honour, and a long life to you ; and will your honour’s honour plase to bestow a little charity upon a poor cratur, who has not tasted a bit to-day.” It is distressing to witness scenes of this kind ; but begging, when thus permitted, becomes in reality, so much of a *trade*, that one does not know how much of such apparent wretchedness, is to be ascribed to an affectation of misery ; and hence it seems impossible to bestow indiscriminate charity, without encouraging dissimulation and dishonesty.

The country on this road is rather hilly. On approaching the metropolis we passed a mount, which, as my surgical companion informed me, is the resort of those who resolve to settle their personal quarrels, by the humane and equitable decision of powder and ball ! He told me, that he was once called upon as a surgeon, to attend in an affair of that kind. One of the antagonists was shot through the head, and fell ; and the rest all ran away and left him. Rencounters of this kind, he informed me, are not unfrequent.

Surely among every enlightened, Christian people, we may pronounce that temper and disposition to be truly ferocious, which cannot be satisfied without attempting to revenge a private, and, perhaps, an insignificant quarrel, by seeking the blood of a fellow creature, and with a murderous hand exposing its own life, and in all probability, the future happiness of an innocent family. How long will this practice, worthy of a Vandal age, continue to be the opprobrium of Christendom?

It was dark when we entered the city, and at Gresham’s hotel in Sackville-street, I found accommodations and attendance which might satisfy the most fastidious traveller.

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*Dublin, 4th month, (April) 17, 1819.*

My dear— ,

A LETTER delivered last evening, introduced me to the family of —. —, with whom I have spent most of this day, (the 11th,) which is the first of the week. There is but one meeting of Friends in this city, which I have twice attended, the first beginning at ten, and the second at two o'clock. Dinner is not taken till after the second meeting. About 120 families comprise the whole of the society of Friends in Dublin. Their dress, manners, and general appearance remind me forcibly of Philadelphia. In intelligence, and various marks of good taste, there appears to be a near equality in the society of the two cities.

12th. Every stranger must be impressed at his first arrival in Dublin, with the elegance of its principal streets and squares, and the magnificence of its public buildings. In respect to the latter, there are few towns in Europe that vie with it. It is not in the religious edifices, that the skill of the architect, and the funds of the nation, have been so liberally bestowed, but in those buildings which belong more immediately to the government. The post office, the parliament house, (now converted into the bank of Ireland,) and above all, the custom house, have not, I should presume to say, been surpassed in any city of Europe, in buildings of a similar kind.

Sackville-street is really the most spacious in point of width ; and as it regards the buildings, hotels, shops, &c. which line it on each side, it is one of the noblest, in the British dominions. It contains the post office, a new edifice, and probably the most elegant and costly in the world, of those which have been erected for the same purpose. It is of beautiful granite, three stories high. The front is decorated with six Corinthian pillars, supporting a grand portico, under which is the front entrance to the different departments. From the court yard, there are arched passages into other streets, whence the mail coaches enter to receive their different bags. The cost of this building was £80,000 sterling. In Dublin, as well as in London and Paris, boxes are placed in different parts of the city, for receiving letters ; producing a great convenience and saving of time, to those who live remote from the general office. The small additional expense which this occasions, is doubtless, more than compensated by the facilities it affords to correspondence.

Nearly opposite the post office, in the middle of the street, is a pillar erected in honour of Lord Nelson. It is 144 feet high. A flight of 169 steps conducts to the top, whence the eye has a fine view of the city and bay. On the top is a gallery, and a statue of Nelson thirteen feet in height, leaning on the capstan of a ship. The pillar is surrounded by iron pallsades and lamps. But I am mistaken, if men of judgment do not, hereafter, pronounce that it was at least a bad taste which placed such a huge pile of materials in such a position, as to obstruct the view of one of the finest streets in the kingdom.

The linen hall in which the staple of Ireland is exhibited in all its varieties, is, as might be supposed, a very extensive building, comprehending numerous apartments appropriated to different divisions of this important trade.

The house of industry, or principal alms-house of Dublin is a very large establishment, and contains at present about 2500 paupers. Many of them are kept at work. The children are separated from the adults, and are regularly instructed in work and the elements of learning. The schools are conducted upon a plan composed of the systems of Bell and Lancaster. The sexes are taught in separate apartments. Each bed in the dormitory, the cleanliness of which is truly

praiseworthy, is covered by a quilt made by the scholars. The children, though healthy, and in good condition, had a remarkable cast of countenance ; far less animated and intelligent than those in common domestic society. They live much on potatoes, about five tons of which are consumed per diem in the whole house. The different buildings of this extensive charity bear the names of Richmond, Wentworth, &c. who were lords lieutenant of Ireland at the time they were respectively erected.

The “ Dublin Institution,” to which I have been introduced to-day, consists of a library and newsroom, in Sackville-street, both well supplied. In the latter I found several files of recent New-York papers ; which, at this distance of space and time from the place of my residence could not fail to afford an acceptable relish. The cup was not unmixed with bitter, from observing an account of the death of one or two intimate and valued friends.

13th. The Pauper Lunatic Asylum, which I have visited to-day, contains 230 patients, and such is the skill and judgment with which it is conducted, there is not one of this large family of mad people in close confinement. No irons are employed. The large leathern glove which confines the hands as in a close muff, but which is so made as to prevent the appearance of constraint, is the principal coercion employed ; moral government supplies the rest ; and this owes its perfection mainly to the personal qualifications of——Grace, the present manager. The patients are divided into three classes, incurables, ordinary, and convalescent ; each of which occupies distinct apartments. The building is a quadrangle, surrounding a large hollow square, which is divided by cross galleries into four courts, and on the outside are five yards, with a good garden in front. Scarcely any noise was to be heard in the house. The rooms occupied by the convalescent patients are rendered as cheerful as possible, by introducing whatever will supply the patient with safe and agreeable employment, or contribute to his amusement. The building is not of so convenient a structure as the more modern asylums of Glasgow and Wakefield, but its defect is very much compensated by excellent management; and it certainly holds up an example of this kind charity which is worthy of the Irish metropolis.

14th. At a breakfast this morning at the house of Dr. T——, a good mineralogist, I met Drs. O—— and S——, the latter of whom delivers lectures on natural history in Trinity College. Dr. T—— and his wife are natives of India, and the children of Hindoo mothers, their fathers being Europeans. Their complexions are of an agreeable ruddy brunette, with eyes dark and sparkling, but expressive of much good nature and intelligence.

Drs. O. and T. accompanied me to Sir Patrick Dunn’s hospital, a building recently erected on the borders of the city, and intended, in addition to the accommodation of 100 patients, or, if necessity requires, 130, as a supplement to the medical school of Trinity College. The building is rather an elegant structure, and cost £40,000. It contains, for the purpose of instruction, a lecture-room, and a medical library. The fever ward is remarkably well ventilated. I attended two lectures in succession on *Materia Medica* and *Physiology*, by Drs. Crampton and Boyton, both of whom confined themselves chiefly to the reading of their notes. At half past twelve we went to the anatomical museum of Trinity College, and heard a lecture from Dr. Macartney, to whom I was introduced. In the centre of the museum is suspended the skeleton of a grampus, fifteen or twenty feet in length. The preparations in this museum are numerous and valuable : among them are two rare and celebrated specimens. One of these is the skeleton of one Clark, a native of Cork, who it is said was a young man of surprising strength and agility ; but having once lain all night in a field, after indulging in great dissipation, the left parts of his body began to ossify, and the process continued, by slow degrees, until every part grew into a bony substance, excepting his skin, eyes, and entrails. His

joints became stiffened, so that he could neither bend his body, lie down, nor rise up, without assistance : when placed upright, like a statue, he could stand ; but could move no more than if dead. His teeth were joined ; and formed into one entire bone, so that it became necessary to break a hole through them to convey liquid substances, to preserve a miserable life. His tongue lost its use, and his sight left him sometime before he expired. This preparation shows the progress of this singular instance of disease, a parallel to which is not perhaps to be found in any other collection.

The other is the skeleton of a giant, who attained the height of seven feet in his sixteenth year. As the story goes, he was an orphan, that fell into the hands of Bishop Berkley, and who, with the view of making an experiment in physiology, trained the boy for the purpose of accelerating and extending his growth. His name was Magrath. He was carried through several parts of Europe, and exhibited as the Irish giant ; but he was so dizorganised, that he gradually sunk into imbecility of body and mind, and died of old age at twenty.

Dr. Macartney is a man of superior attainments in his profession. Most of the articles on Physiology, in Rees's Cyclopaedia, are from his pen.

Dr. Stokes conducted me through the museum of the college, a fine room 60 by 40 feet, and furnished with a good collection of natural curiosities, especially of Irish antiquities and fossils. Dr. S. has published a catalogue of the minerals in this museum, which occupies an octavo volume. Among the zoological articles is a cameleopard. Two Egyptian mummies, and a great variety of dresses, implements, &c. from China and the South Pacific, are also here collected.

The buildings of Trinity College make a plain and rather antiquated, but respectable appearance. They are almost all of brick, except the front which is of Portland stone. The general structure is that of a parallelogram 300 feet in front, and 600 deep, which is divided into two nearly equal squares. The south side of the inner square is entirely taken up by the library, the great room of which is 210 feet long, 40 wide, and 40 high. The galleries are ornamented with the busts of a number of ancient as well as modern philosophers, in white marble. The park attached to the college, contains about eight acres. The number of students resident in this university is generally about six or seven hundred ; and instruction is given to at least an equal number who board in the town. The medical classes appeared to contain about seventy. There are, in the whole, twelve or thirteen professors. Twenty-two fellowships are also provided for.

The jaunting car of a worthy friend, S. B——, conveyed me to his residence, to dinner, several miles from the city, where I found a hospitable and truly intelligent family, in whose society I enjoyed a most agreeable evening. Conversation seldom languishes on occasions like this, for in the absence of incidental or ordinary topics, the curiosity and interest so much cherished by people of enlightened minds in every part of Europe in relation to America,—the varying shades of our manners, laws, diction, &c. and particularly the progress of improvements in the recently settled states, furnish inexhaustible sources of inquiry and anecdotal remark.

15th. Rising early, I had a delightful morning ride with my friend B——, and two of his sons, to Dunleary, a promontory at the mouth of the Liffy. At this place the government is now constructing a pier of stone, designed to extend a great distance into the channel, for purposes similar to the breakwater of Plymouth, to protect vessels from the sweeping winds which drive across the Irish channel. It already extends 1500 feet from the shore, and is

rapidly advancing. The granite of which it is composed, is blasted in the neighbourhood, and brought in low trucks upon iron railways, to the spot where it is to be added to the general mass. These rail roads afford such facilities to the transportation, that a single horse, and a very poor one too, will draw nine or ten tons. The stones are lifted on the trucks by large cranes. The design of this work, and the style of its execution, are very interesting, and quite in character with the munificence and enterprise which are so conspicuous a feature in the public works of Dublin and its vicinity.

On returning to the city we stopped at the school and buildings of the Education Society, Kildare-street ; a laudable and important institution for extending the blessings of education amongst the poor of Ireland. My friend B—— is an active and devoted manager ; and with him, I believe, the concern originated. This society extends its patronage to schools in all parts of Ireland, without distinction of sect, except to such as refuse to conform to its prescribed regulations ; one of which is, that the sacred Scriptures, without note or comment, shall be read in the schools. It has printed a great number of books for the use of schools, which it disposes of at a very cheap rate. The school supported by the society is justly styled a model school : it now contains 420 boys, and 190 girls, all of whom pay one penny per week. The principal school-room is 86 by 56 feet, with a ceiling of 20 feet, supported by two rows of cast iron pillars, all neatly painted. The floor is level, with a large platform at one end, four steps high, with ample book cases. Each school-room is furnished with a clock. It is conducted principally on the system of Lancaster, but with some useful modifications. The neatness and convenience of the buildings, and the good order and management which prevail in this school, render it altogether, in my estimation, the first of the kind in Europe. The society is supported by a government grant of £6000 a year, [1] and by donations and subscriptions.

The buildings cost £12000, and the amount of business which the society is engaged in, requires the regular employment of three clerks. About 300,000 cheap books, comprising twenty different kinds, have been disposed of in different parts of the island.

In its labours to diffuse learning, it has to encounter a host of prejudice from the Catholic priests ; but it has the satisfaction to find that these are gradually yielding to the progress of light and knowledge. The Irish language still prevails to such an extent, I am informed, that there are a million and a half of people in the kingdom that cannot hold a conversation in English.

From this interesting and well-conducted institution [2] I went to the house of the Dublin Society. This is the simple but emphatic name of a company associated expressly for promoting scientific and liberal knowledge among its members, and with a consequent view of exciting a more refined and philosophic spirit throughout the capital and nation. The plan of the society is so well approved, that it receives £10,000 a year from government. It has recently purchased, at a cost of £20,000, the superb mansion of the Duke of Leinster, in Kildare-street. A lofty hall, which is first entered, contains several statues and busts, among which is a fine statue of Belvidere, and a bust of the Prince Regent. A double flight of stairs leads to the several apartments of the museum, which includes a valuable collection in the several branches of natural history. In mineralogy it is uncommonly rich. One collection, the Leskean, was purchased by the society for £1250, and is arranged according to the Wernerian system. But the most interesting part of the mineralogical cabinet is a collection brought from Greenland by Charles Giesecke, a German, I believe, who spent about seven years in Greenland for the purpose of obtaining a knowledge of the minerals, natural history, and curiosities, of that frozen region. Giesecke is now professor of mineralogy in this institution. He has

placed in one of the apartments, the Greenland hut in which he lodged, with his bed, made of the skin of a white bear, and the various utensils and articles of apparel that served him during his long residence in the arctic regions. A model of a sledge drawn by three dogs, and of a male and female Greenlander in full dress, render this exhibition of arctic manners still more complete. This enterprising traveller and naturalist is now absent in Germany, with the view of adding to the cabinets of this society. The library occupies a spacious and elegant room, which was formerly the picture gallery of the Duke of Leinster.

The lecture room is sufficiently large to accommodate 300 persons. I attended a lecture on optics by Professor Lynch. Among the apparatus, I had the pleasure of seeing the famous lens made by Parker of London, and which came into the hands of Richard Kirwan. Professor Griffith, who superintends the geological department, conducted me over the house. He has in hand, an immense geological map of Ireland, with a drawing of the causeway and adjacent strata. The Dublin Society comprehends about 500 members. The spirit and liberality with which its concerns appear to be managed, the elegance of its apartments, and the richness of its collections, are worthy of all praise. The society give premiums for improvements in agriculture, manufactures, chemistry, mechanics, and the fine arts, and on appointed days in each week, the museum may be seen without charge.

I dined with Dr. O——, with an agreeable and very intelligent party, consisting of several medical and other gentlemen of the city. The conversation turned incidentally on craniology, materialism, and a future state ; and I had the satisfaction to find, that scepticism appeared to have no place in the minds of any individual of the company.

16th. In the possession of a young friend, J. P—— with whom I took breakfast this morning, I found a neat collection of philosophical apparatus, designed for his own instruction, and that of his intimate friends. As an instance of private taste, in one whose occupation does not necessarily lead to those objects, I cannot but think it worthy of commendatory notice. Such pursuits, while they give precision to the views in relation to the phenomena of nature, cannot but tend to strengthen the virtuous energies of character. The city of Dublin, until re-cently, has been noted for the disgusting numbers, and the hardy importunity of the beggars that infest its streets. The almost universal opinion of the necessity of applying some new remedy, to so wide spread and alarming an evil, led to the formation of a society, about eight-teen months ago, for the suppression of mendicity in the metropolis. It was a truly formidable undertaking ; but the evil had acquired such magnitude, that men were found who were willing to cope with the monster, and exert their utmost to accomplish his final over-throw. In the first report which the society published, for 1818, it is stated, that “ The city presented a spectacle, at once afflicting and disgusting to the feelings of its inhabitants ; the doors of carriages and shops, to the interruption of business, were beset by crowds of unfortunate and clamorous beggars, exhibiting misery and decrepitude in a variety of forms, and frequently carrying about in their persons and garments, the seeds of contagious disease : themselves the victims of idleness, their children were taught to look to begging, as affording the only means of subsistence ; every artifice was resorted to by the practised beggar to extort alms, and refusal was frequently followed by imprecations and threats. The benevolent were imposed upon—the modest shocked—the reflecting grieved—the timid alarmed. In short, so distressing was the whole scene, and so intolerable the nuisance, that its suppression became a matter of necessity.”

To attempt, however, to cut off so numerous a class of people from their principal resource, without providing an adequate substitute, would have been a gross violation of humanity. The city was therefore divided into sixty walks, and two persons appointed to each

walk, to collect subscriptions to a fund for furnishing employment for all who could work, and subsistence for those that could not support themselves, it was found, unfortunately, that no authority existed in the police for arresting the sturdy beggar, other than that of arraigning him as a vagrant, and subjecting him to the penalties of the law as a criminal ; and none were willing to adopt so harsh a remedy. It was feared too, by many, who were otherwise friendly to the measure of an universal suppression of mendicity, that any mode which could be devised to obtain voluntary contributions, must terminate in establishing a compulsory tax in the shape of poor rates, and thus prove the means of bringing upon the city the accumulating disadvantages and evils of the English system. Many supposed it would be impossible to clear the streets of beggars ; and others believed, that if means were systematically employed to furnish them with labour, it would tend to relax their dependence on their own foresight, and by interfering with the business of the industrious poor, eventually increase the number of dependents on public bounty. These objections and anticipations, greatly increased the difficulties which the society had to encounter, and at last they found themselves under the necessity of relinquishing the plan altogether, or of commencing their operations, with the very inadequate fund of £1600.

Trusting to the gradual removal of these difficulties, and a more bountiful supply from the public, they entered upon their duties, gave extensive publicity to their plan, and succeeded in *registering* 7500 beggars, of whom 2251 were sent to their friends in England, Scotland, and the country parts of Ireland, and about 2800 were deemed proper objects of relief. The plan has been successful in clearing the streets ; so far, that at present, one is less importuned here than in London or Manchester. But the committee of management continued to be so strait-ened for funds, that at one time they were obliged to resort to the measure of turning out the inmates of their workhouse, and moving them, in a quiet procession through the streets, to exhibit to the citizens the number and description of objects that were dependent on public charity. This excited a considerable sensation, produced some funds, and occasioned resolutions to be passed in various parishes, approving of the objects of the association. But in less than two months it became necessary to call a public meeting, and adopt more active measures of relief. These, together with public concerts, and some very liberal donations, have enabled the committee to struggle, with much difficulty, through a year's existence ; and, whether the scheme is destined to a much longer duration, appears, at present, extremely uncertain. It is at least to be earnestly hoped, that the city will not allow the plan to be wholly given up ; but, that at least the virtuous poor will continue to be so assisted, as to prevent the necessity of a resort to their former degrading and demoralizing habits of street mendicity. The employment which the association has found most advantageous is the spinning of coarse yarn.

They support a school of 280 children, in which the elements of learning are alternated with knitting, and such other manual exercises as are found most useful. A large apartment, formerly the lecture-room of the Dublin Society, is appropriated to the female spinners ; but a more miserable, turbulent, and uncouth assemblage of human beings I never saw, excepting, perhaps, in some of the lunatic hospitals of the continent. The society is obliged to employ collectors of the public charity, whom they send out as often as the state of their funds make it necessary ; and to whom they have to allow two and a half per cent, of the amount collected, as the price of their exertions. They call on every body that is able to pay any thing. Such are the difficulties which have here presented themselves in the way of preventing public mendicity, and affording an adequate relief to the really necessitous poor, without resorting to a government tax. And such, it is probable, to a greater or less extent, will be the difficulty in every large city ; excepting in those places where the poor can be brought within the province of religious superintendence, and their wants supplied by contributions, made under the authority of religious societies.

The plan of maintenance and superintendence suggested by Dr. Chalmers, is probably the least exceptionable, and the most effectual that ever has been devised ; but it evidently requires the agency of a moral and religious community ; and can only be practised in situations, not only where the common feelings of the people are in its favour, but where a sufficient number of individuals can be found, who, from philanthropic and religious motives, will be willing to volunteer their services in this arduous duty. But where, excepting in Scotland, can these be obtained? Notwithstanding the urgent necessity of such a reform as that undertaken in Dublin, there are not, I am informed, more than twenty persons who take an active interest in the concern. Under all circumstances of the case, it appears to me to be an important and unsolved problem in political economy, whether a poor tax, divested, as far as possible, of all liability of abuse, and unaccompanied by statutes which give the poor a legal and positive claim upon it, may not prove, upon the whole, the most equitable, moral, and efficient mode of relief. Its numerous and vast abuses in England, or, in other words, the very injudicious administration of the law, may have been the means of bringing it under undeserved censure and reproach. This is a question which it is highly important for the United States to reflect and decide upon, with the utmost circumspection. [3]

Dr. O—— accompanied me to the Bank of Ireland, an elegant edifice, on one corner of the College green, and opposite to Trinity College. The Irish notes are executed in a superior style, and are all finished within the Bank, by an apparatus of singular ingenuity. A remarkably neat steam-engine, of eight horse power, is employed in printing the notes, and grinding the materials for the ink or paint. The printing press is a beautiful piece of mechanism. The notes are all numbered by machinery, and with a precision and rapidity that could not well be attained by mere manual dexterity. It is effected by boys. The numbers are all on the outside or circumference of wheels, contained in a box. There are two sets of them on the same axis, in order to impress two notes at the same time. The wheels project upwards through a cavity in the plates, which cover the box. The note is pressed down by a short lever, governed by the hand ; and by the raising of the lever a ratchet is moved, which turns the wheels so as to bring the next number before the opening in the plate. In this manner, without unlocking the box, or touching the wheels, numbers, from one to ten thousand, are brought to bear with unerring regularity on the notes be dispensed with—This mode of numbering notes is the invention, I was told, of ——Bramah, but modified and improved by ——Oldham, the engineer of this bank. The border round the Irish notes is also executed by machinery. This bank, with its courtyards, covers more than an acre and a half of ground. It is built of Portland stone, and is a more elegant edifice than the Bank of England. It has a grand portico on College Green of 147 feet, with columns of the Ionic order. The cash-office is larger than that of the bank in London. The doors, desks, and offices, are of mahogany throughout the bank, and very neatly executed. The building is supplied with reservoirs of water, and with several fire-engines, one of which requires thirty men. Near the hall, on one side, is an armoury with a large stand of arms, and the officers and clerks form a corps of yeomanry, ready to repel any invasion upon this grand depository of Irish wealth. Whether such a precaution as this is deemed necessary in similar institutions, in other parts of Europe, I have not learned ; but I question whether our half score of banks in New-York, with their twelve millions of capital, could muster two muskets a piece in the way of protection.

The apartment of the late house of lords, now used as a court of proprietors, remains as it was left at the time of the union. A beautiful marble statue of the present king, clothed in his parliamentary robes, has been since erected here. It was executed by Bacon, junior, and cost £2000. There is also a fine bust of the Duke of Wellington.

The Custom-House of Dublin is another and still more extraordinary evidence of the taste and magnificence of the government. It was finished in 1791, after being ten years in building. Its length is 375 feet, and depth 209, with four distinct fronts, and a majestic dome in the centre, 125 feet high, on which is a female statue of commerce, sixteen feet in height. The south front is entirely of Portland stone, and the other three of white mountain granite. The two chief commissioners of the revenue, and the two secretaries, have their dwellings within the walls. A great variety of emblematic figures, statues, &c. ornament the fronts and other parts of this building. The long room is 70 feet by 65, and 30 feet in height. The whole cost of this stately edifice has been named to me at £500,000, but this is, perhaps, too high an estimate. But if it cost half of this sum, and it certainly did not fall short of it, such an instance of public liberality is rarely to be found, even in the most commercial cities.

Close to the eastern front is a broad wharf, and a wet dock, capable of containing forty sail of shipping. The Royal Exchange, though built many years antecedent to the Custom-House, is also a noble and costly building, with a lofty dome, Corinthian columns, pilasters, and other architectural ornaments. Opposite one of the fronts is a brass statue of George III. on a white marble pedestal. Beside these, another edifice has been erected near the College green, called the Commercial Buildings, by a company of merchants for transacting some particular branches of business. It is spacious and neat, with an extensive coffee-room, broker's offices, stock exchange, &c. fitted up in good style. This edifice alone, must have cost more than all the public buildings in the most commercial city of the United States, exclusively appropriated to commercial objects.

The castle of Dublin, the residence of the lord lieutenant, is situated in a central part of the city. It is an ancient edifice, but is superior in beauty to the palace of St. James. It is divided into two courts or squares, an upper and lower. The castle is entirely surrounded by a wall. The lord lieutenant enjoys, by Act of Parliament, a salary of £30,000 ; more than five times the sum which the constitution of the United States allows to the President.

The seat of public justice in Dublin is a large pile of buildings, called the Four Courts, on the margin of the Liffey, which is here only a wide canal. In the middle is a circular hall 64 feet in diameter, the crowded resort of lawyers, loungers, and occasionally of light-fingered gentry, notwithstanding the imposing terrors of judge and jury immediately within their notice. The whole length of the four courts is 433 feet. I had not an opportunity to attend to any of the pleadings.

I went to see, in one of the public buildings, (the Rotunda) an exhibition of flowers under the direction of the Horticultural society. The gifts of Flora, prepared by the emulous skill of gardeners and gentlemen in the city and neighbourhood, are arranged on this occasion with singular taste and effect. Prizes are adjudged to the finest specimens. Such a procedure excites competition, and doubtless tends to the progress of horticultural improvement.

Dr. Cleghorn, the state physician, to whom I was introduced by a friend in Edinburgh, accompanied me, this morning, to such of the hospitals as my limited time would permit me to look into. The first we visited was Swift's Hospital, founded by the celebrated dean, and for the support of which he bequeathed £11,000. The trustees purchased an estate of £400 a year, and the funds have since been considerably increased by legacies. It is chiefly an asylum for lunatics and idiots. It contains 50 patients, who pay a guinea a week, and 100 paupers. The maniacs' rooms are ranged along the galleries, and kept in a cleanly and becoming condition. A mild system of treatment is adopted : chains are not admitted as means of coercion. The women and men are in separate divisions of the building, and there are gardens

in which the patients take recreation. The sums received from the pay patients nearly supports the hospital.

We went from this place to the Foundling Hospital, an institution of more than a hundred years standing. It is appropriated to the same purpose as the *Enfants trouvés* of Paris and other cities of the continent, and is, I presume, the only hospital in Great Britain devoted to this object. It is a large and well supported establishment, although its tendency, in relation to public morals, is considered, I believe, by most people, as of no dubious character. The sum of at least £10,000, is collected annually from the citizens of Dublin, for the support of this hospital. A cradle was formerly kept at the gate, as at Milan, into which children were placed from without, and received into the house without any questions. But this has been wisely abandoned, and strict inquiry is now made into the parentage of the children and their claims to the charity. They are taken in sometimes, from the distance of 100 miles. During the twenty-one years ending the eighth of July, 1818, as Dr. C. ascertained by the books, there have been admitted 43,254 children, of which 11,613 have died in the house. Of these, 524 were the innocent victims of a disease, dishonourably transmitted to them by their parents. When an infant is brought in, it is stripped, washed, and one of its arms is tattooed, or marked with its name, &c. by pricking into the skin, an ink composed of a mixture of India ink, indigo, and a little gunpowder. It is kept at wet nurse in the house, until a suitable nurse is provided from the country; and of these there is generally a redundancy of applications. They remain with their country nurses eleven years, for which the hospital pays £4 a year. They are then brought back and supported in the house, until a suitable place is provided for them, as apprentices or servants. In the hospital they are kept alternately at school and at work. There are now in the house about 1100. We went into the schools and workshops, and candour obliges me to confess, that I consider the institution, in general, as under very enlightened and judicious management. In the girls' school were 400 pupils, and in the boys' 300. They are taught principally on Bell's system. We heard some of the classes read in the Scriptures, and answer questions on what they had read, dictated by the monitors. Both the questions and answers afforded evidence of superior mental training. The employments consist chiefly of carding, spinning, weaving, tayloring, and shoemaking. The clothes and shoes used in the hospital, are all made in the shops of the establishment. Some of the boys, about twelve years old, were weaving broadcloth. To encourage them in habits of industry, they are allowed to possess one-sixth of their earnings, and some of them by this means have on hand more than £6. The chapel of the institution may be called elegant. The refectory is large, convenient, and clean. When assembled at their meals, a boy mounts into a pulpit, and says grace, after which about twenty of them sing a short hymn. The kitchen is kept in very clean order, and the peas soup destined for dinner, was of an excellent quality. The girls were mostly employed in spinning stocking yarn. The nursery is very clean. The cradles are made with a double head, to accommodate each two infants. A clock is kept in the nursery, on which is inscribed these words.

“For the benefit of infants protected by this hospital, lady Arabella Denny presents this clock, to mark, that, as children who are fed by the spoon, must have but a small quantity of food at a time, it must be offered frequently- For which purpose this clock strikes every twenty minutes, at which notice all the infants that are not asleep must be directly fed.”

It was not until within about four years, that the governors of this hospital, were empowered by act of parliament to exclude the admission of infants at any season of the year, and to require that every admission should be accompanied by a certificate from the minister and churchwardens of the parish, stating that they had not been able to discover the parents, or either of them; or, that the parent or parents, were not in circumstances sufficient to maintain such child

They were induced to petition for this authority, in consequence of the very crowded state of the hospital, and the excessive mortality among the infants soon after their admission, arising from the great exposure of the little sufferers, brought at all seasons of the year, and in all kinds of weather, by hired carriers, and often from the distance of more than 100 miles. It is surprising, that notwithstanding the manifest humanity of the act, which authorised the governors to restrict such an indiscriminate admission, a petition was presented to the lord lieutenant the next year, by the mayor, sheriiffs, and citizens of Dublin, complaining of the restriction, and craving the interference of the viceroy, to induce the governors of the Foundling Hospital to relax in their regulations, and intimating that there was reason to believe that infanticide had been the consequence. The governors., however, are so thoroughly convinced of the superior humanity of commencing a system of restriction, which shall finally lead to the entire abolition of the institution, that they returned an energetic reply to the lord lieutenant, in which they state their unequivocal opinion, that the difficulty of conducting such institutions, and the evils resulting from them, prove that they are, on the whole, injurious to the morals, and consequently to the happiness of society ; and that their effects in saving life, are, upon the whole, under the best management, extremely doubtful.

The whole number of infants admitted during the first four months of 1812, 1813, and 1814, and the proportion of them which died in the nursery, are as follows :

Infants admitted.	Died in nursery.
1812 .... 1011	437
1813 .... 850	428
1814 .... 818	406

This shows a mortality of nearly one half, arising, in a great measure, from the enfeebled and destitute condition of the little sufferers, from the disgraceful manner in which they are sent to the hospital ; and it appears to afford a most ample justification of the restriction adopted by the governors. Hence it would appear evident that notwithstanding the great attention that is paid to the health, and instruction, of the children received into this charity, its general influence on the community must be regarded as decidedly unfavourable to morals and humanity. The governors have not found, upon the strictest investigation, that the removal of the cradle, and the closing of their gates during the inclement months, and the requiring of a certificate as indispensable to admission, have given rise to any considerable number of authenticated cases of infanticide. But even if this did occur much more frequently than is alleged by the supporters of the institution, they fall very far short of the deaths that are occasioned by depriving the infants of the natural and congenial sympathies of the mother.

There are six or eight hospitals in this city, in addition to those I have mentioned, some of which were founded, and are still supported, by the munificence of individuals. A house of recovery for persons afflicted with fever was erected in 1802, which has proved to be of extensive benefit. The only conditions of admission are fever and poverty. The patients are removed from their own uncomfortable dwellings in a carriage hung on springs, supported by two men ; and, in the hospital, every attention is paid to cleanliness, ventilation, and fumigation.

A school for the deaf and dumb is about to be established in the neighbourhood of the city.  
[4]

Few cities are superior to Dublin in the elegance of its public squares. Two of them, St. Stephen's Green, and Merrion Square, may vie with any of the public squares of London, or

of any other city that I have seen. The former contains seventeen acres, and the houses around it are generally handsome. It is neatly enclosed, and improved by spacious gravel walks. In the centre is an equestrian statue, in bronze, of George II.

Having secured a passage in the Pelham packet for Holyhead, I left Dublin in a long coach for Howth, the place whence the packets for England depart, seven miles from the city. The packets are small, but their accommodations are pretty good. It was near night when we got on board, and I had but just time before retiring to the berth assigned me, to ascertain that there were several very gentlemanly and polite persons on board, among whom was Hans Hamilton, member of parliament for Dublin, and the Bishop of Drummore.

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*Kendal., Westmoreland, 4th month, (April) 23, 1819.*

My DEAR —,

No foreigner of liberal feelings, can pay even as short a visit to Ireland as I have done, without being charmed with the instances he will have met with, of generous friendship, of open-hearted hospitality, and of that noble-mindedness which has rendered this island the nursery of so many characters that have added lustre to the political history, the learning, science, and moral elevation of Great Britain. Nor can he leave such a country without a singular mixture of delight and sorrow ;—delight at the discovery of so much natural beauty in the scenery, such exuberant fertility in the soil, so much taste and elegance in the capital, and disinterested generosity in the character. But the sources of regret are also numerous. A people divided among themselves, and indulging in feelings of rancorous hostility to each other. Religious prejudices corroding the vitals of national prosperity, and impeding, as by a strenuous effort, the progress of national happiness. A peasantry ground to the dust by oppression, living in the most abject state of discomfort and privation, yet marrying and increasing as if their condition was one of the happiest. A populace so debased by ignorance, indolence, and prejudice, as to render the possession of freedom, without a previous extension of light and knowledge among them, a measure of questionable policy and humanity. A country containing the most productive land in Europe, yet almost entirely in the possession of wealthy holders, who, after collecting the fruits of their impoverished tenantry, spend their income in England, and too seldom animate those that labour for them by their presence and their kindness. A population of seven millions, six sevenths of whom are compelled to pay a tithe of their earnings to support a ministry and a religion which they detest.—Parishes, in some cases without churches ; and ministers without congregations, but still demanding to be supported ;—two national church establishments, a rich and a poor, and the poor supporting both.—Such are the evils which mar the happiness, and war against the prosperity of this nation.

In order to increase the amount of rents, and to give the landholders greater influence at elections, the land is divided into minute subdivisions ; and on these forty shilling tenements, just enough for a patch of potatoes, a couple of pigs, or possibly a cow, the poor cotter, with his numerous family, is content to live ; knowing, that as long as his children are secure in a large potato for a meal, there is no danger of their starving. His ambition to mend his condition is paralyzed by the difficulties that on all hands surround him ; and still more, by the habits of inactivity and submissive poverty which have been transmitted to him through successive generations. No one, it appears to me, who has studied the Irish character, can doubt that it contains the elements of true greatness ; and that, under a system of government

adapted to their wants, and administered so as to secure their affections, no people in Europe would prove themselves more loyal. In the United States there has been much opportunity for the unsophisticated character of this people to display itself. It is true, that among the numerous emigrants from the southern parts of the island, there has been a mass of vicious materials poured upon our shores, which, by its natural effervescence, especially in the large towns, has swelled the registers of our criminal courts, and augmented the sum of our poor rates. But in proportion to the assimilation of those imported habits, with the freedom of the country, and the facilities of subsistence—as the importance of acquiring a reputation and standing in the community has opened itself, there have been evidences of an elevation and dignity of character, which do honour to the Irish name.

The regeneration of Ireland is, therefore, on every principle of humanity, a thing ardently to be wished ; and, to the most eligible means of effecting it, one would suppose that the efforts of the British government, guided by the councils and the energies of all her philanthropists, would be earnestly directed. No sacrifice of immediate interest or of local power, one would think too great to heal the wounds, and to accomplish the reformation of six millions of people, inhabiting one of the finest portions of the globe ; and constituting, as it ever must do, such an important integral part of the British empire. The sacrifice, however costly, would be but temporary. The immense result of increased order, intellect, happiness, and consequently, of revenue, may, in some measure, be judged of, by adverting to the example of Scotland ; and contrasting the present state of that country with its condition at the period when the two crowns were united.

The British government is now in the enjoyment of a peace, which, we may reasonably indulge the hope, will not very soon be interrupted. To what object could the nation turn its vast resources, more worthy of its character and dignity, and more promising of the happiest effects, than the redemption of so many of its subjects from the miseries of a hopeless and debasing poverty—from the slavery of prejudices, which sink them, in point of happiness and virtue, below the natives of the forest, or the heathen of Asia, now so much the objects of Christian enterprise. Surely, to release such a people from their burdens, to rescue them from the mental darkness which enthrals them, to break in upon them with the light and warmth of true Christian charity, and to make them feel a due respect for themselves, and for the characters which they will transmit to their children, is a concern more deserving of British benevolence than the conversion of the pagans of the east. I mean no reflection upon those who deem it right to extend their Christian labours to the followers of Bramah, and to the islands of the South Sea ; but where, it may be asked, is there a field for beneficent exercise equal to that which lies at their own doors ? Where can hearts be found that will respond with a more lively gratitude, to the kindness that shall put an end to their oppression, and elevate them in the scale of moral worth ?

Education is the great lever by which the numerous obstacles to the happiness of Ireland must be finally removed ; and it is cheering to observe, that this powerful instrument of reformation has obtained an entrance. The government has manifested much liberality to institutions for the promotion of schools in Ireland. Some of these deserve the highest praise for the judicious manner in which they employ the funds entrusted to their care : others have been guilty of enormous abuses. But were these funds to be greatly increased, and placed in conscientious hands ; were premiums offered to teachers, upon every demonstration of liberal and enlightened exertion, especially among the Catholics ; and, above all, were the disabilities removed which place the Catholics at such a vast distance from those political, civil, and social attainments, which enter so naturally into the desires of every member of a Christian community, and a free government, I can conceive no reason for believing that a

new spirit and a new ambition would not be speedily infused into the great bulk of the nation ; and those deep-rooted prejudices and malignant feelings, which never will yield to political authority, resign themselves, almost unconsciously, to the power which works by love.

[1] Now, (1823) £10,000.

[2] This institution continues to be very flourishing. By the report of last year, (1822) it appears that the society had extended aid to 272 schools during the preceding year, and that there were in connection with the society, 513 schools, in which about 40,000 children were receiving instruction. The society awards gratuities to the masters and mistresses of such schools, in all parts of the island, as appear, upon the inspection of an agent, who visits them under the appointment of the society, to be conducted with skill and fidelity. This salutary measure has the effect of exciting emulation among the teachers, and thereby increasing their diligence and exertions.

In the publication and circulation of cheap books, of an improved character, for the use of the lower orders, the efforts of the society have been remarkably successful. They have nearly expelled from the trade of country shops and hawkers, the ribaldry and pernicious books which formerly constituted the greater portion of the reading of the lower orders. The price of their cheap books is £6 per thousand, in quires. They have published forty varieties of five sheet books, and eight varieties of two sheet books. The number of copies printed and published, in 1821, was about 200,000.

[3] By the interesting report of the Dublin association for the suppression of mendicity, for 1821, it appears, that the institution has been able to surmount the difficulties which threatened its existence, and is advancing prosperously in the important objects it had undertaken. The report states, that the striking features in the system are, 1st. That the management of the establishment is gratuitous. 2dly. That the poor, seeking relief, must purchase it by their labour, *in every case* where their health and strength will permit their being employed. The committee express it as their opinion, that should the public cease to feel a lively interest in the conduct of the institution—should it at any time receive pecuniary assistance from the government of the country—or, on the other hand, should it ever become a comfortable and alluring retreat for the distressed—or should *labour, in fit* cases, then, instead of being *what it is now*, a great public benefit, it would degenerate into a great public nuisance.

It appears also, by the report, that the number of the poor on the books of the Society in Jan. 1822, was less by 219 than in Jan. 1821 ; and that in 1821 the lowest number was 274 less than it was in 1820. The expenditure also in 1821 was more than £1000 less than in 1820. It is thus evident, that the effect of furnishing employment to the poor that can work, and affording assistance to those that are incapable of it, is to diminish, gradually, the number of those who depend upon the charity of others ; and. at the same time, to free the streets from the nuisance of mendicity. in succession.

[4] This Institution contains, at present, forty-five pupils.

A year in Europe. Comprising a journal of observations in England, Scotland, Ireland, France, Switzerland, the north of Italy, and Holland. In 1818 and 1819 (1823)

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