

*Irish emigration to the United States: what it has been, and what it is.
Facts and reflections especially addressed to Irish people intending to emigrate from their
native land ; and to those living in the large cities of Great Britain and of the United States*

The Reverend Stephen Byrne O.S.D.

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IN preparing this work for the perusal of Irish emigrants and their children, there is not the least intention of encouraging more emigration, especially from Ireland, than has already taken place. But inasmuch as it still goes on, and is likely to continue for years to come, the information and suggestions contained herein may be useful to many—hurtful to none. I must acknowledge, in fact, that the real motive of putting these pages into print is the following : A large number of emigrants from Ireland, in leaving their homes either from choice or necessity, have made, I think, a very fatal mistake in crowding into the large cities of England, Scotland, and America. By all who have given the subject any consideration, as well as by those who have made it a study, the conclusion has been reached that it would have been far better for the majority of them to have sought employment and homes on the vacant or semi-vacant lands of the United States. It is highly probable that many among them are prepared to rectify the mistake, if they only know where to go. The object, therefore, of this publication is to supply that information as far as it can be done in a brief space.

The work is in two parts : the *first* contains information and directions of a general character respecting the prospects, duties, dangers, and mistakes of emigrants ; the *second part* contains as exact a statement, probably, as can be found of the population, area, and general resources of each State and Territory, based upon the United States Census Report for 1870. Appended to the account of each State and Territory, in the material point of view, is an account of the condition of the Catholic Church in each, based upon the statistics given in the *Catholic Almanac* of 1873, or taken from letters actually received from the Most Rev. and Right Rev. Archbishops and Bishops of the country, nearly all of whom were applied to for information.

In preparing the work, I wrote also to about thirty Governors of States and Territories for special information regarding their respective localities. Answers and pamphlets have been received from nearly all of them, which are made use of extensively in the *second part* of the work.

At first it was intended to have published a larger work ; but reflection on the subject dictated the greater utility of a short treatise which would not be too dear to be bought, or too diffuse to be read, by those for whom it is intended. It may not be amiss to say that the work, such as it is, is the result of more than twenty years' actual observation of immigrant life in most of the States and in many of the large cities of the Union. If only one thousand persons are benefited by the perusal of these pages, or if any are rescued from the evil influences and wretched poverty of immigrant life in large cities, the writer will have received his reward.

AUGUST 4, 1873.

Irish Emigration To The United States

General View of The Subject.

FROM the statistics of immigration into the United States, it appears evident that the influx from Ireland is by no means exhausted. Thus we see that in the year 1872, the emigration from that island reached the important figure of 68,745 souls. During the fifty-two years beginning with the year 1820, when exact statistics of the numbers and nationality of immigrants began to be kept, it is proved beyond question that the total number of the natives of Ireland who have sought homes in the United States may be set down as four millions of souls. And it is highly probable that the number coming directly from Ireland, and those Irish people who emigrate from British cities, will, in the next ten years, make up another million. Much of the unprecedented development and prosperity of the United States is due to the hardy energy and remarkable perseverance of our race. But it may be well to put ourselves the question : Have we as a people paid sufficient attention to the proper establishing of ourselves in a state, not merely of prosperity, but of simple competency or independence in this great country ? Let the crowded tenement-houses of Eastern cities, where the very atmosphere is poisoned by the occupancy in one house of from twenty to forty families, and where morality itself is greatly endangered on account of associations that cannot be avoided, answer. Let the unnamed and unnumbered graves along the canals and railroads of the United States, answer. Let the forlorn and forgotten creatures who, having neither homes nor friends, lie down and die in the common hospitals of the country, answer. The response comes home to us in a hundred forms that, *as a people*, we have, whilst doing more than any other to build up this great Republic, been rather negligent, not to say reckless, in regard to our individual interests. I have not time to develop in detail the causes of this indifference ; but whoever reads carefully the history of our island from 1692 to 1829—the period pre-eminently of the penal laws—will at once conclude that a people so crushed, so bewildered, so robbed, not only of their lands, but also of nearly every species of human industry, excepting agriculture, will honestly conclude that, if many of the immigrants from Ireland to America of the last fifty years were wanting in some of the qualities that make nations and individuals prosperous, it is not wonderful. I will glance at another cause. The love we bear to our native land is, next after our faith, a love of peculiar intensity. We all dream of a free, a happy, and a prosperous Ireland. No true man of any race or nation will condemn this sentiment. The retrospective view of Ireland, of her wrongs and sufferings, sometimes interferes, however, with the present and prospective view of our opportunities and duties in the land of our adoption. The direct object of these pages is to awaken thought as to the best means of remedying this evil.

In the *first place*, it is well to reflect that, in the providence of the great God, we inhabit here a vast continent. It is the great domain that he offers to the oppressed and industrious poor of all nations under heaven. The immigrants of the past and of the present are made partakers of its freedom, its hospitality ; of the opportunities it affords to all who will enjoy them of making for themselves and children independent homes. To-day we number about forty millions in the United States. In the year 1800, the population was only five millions and one half, and in 1820, only ten millions. The year 1900 will, in all human probability, open upon one hundred millions of human beings inhabiting what is now known as the United States of North America. Taking the whole country into account, therefore, and its grand future, the immigrants of the last twenty-five years and of the present time, it may be truly said, are first in this vast field of human enterprise. Being first in the field, it would be foolish not to turn our advantages to account.

Secondly. The dream of a free and a happy Ireland is most excusable, not to say commendable. But however free and happy Ireland may be, very few of her millions of children now living in America, and fewer still of *their* children, will make of it the home of their old age. Therefore, even if we regard our separation from our native land as a species of exile, still we must look upon it as a settled fact, and, as men of common sense, make the best of it.

Thirdly. To all who can have no hope of obtaining independent homes in large cities, I would say, reflect deeply upon this important subject. In a country so young, a country where land is so cheap, all of its inhabitants ought to have their own homes. The great West invites the people of the world to its broad prairies and grand forests ; the South also is now open to the enterprise of *white labor*, and the leading men of that section are fully alive to the importance of immigration, and are leaving nothing undone by which they can hope to promote the settlement of Europeans in that part of the country.

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Irish Emigration In The Past—Its Value To United States.

BEFORE the year 1820, no official statistics of immigration into the United States were kept. There are no certain means, therefore, by which we may come to anything like an exact calculation of the numbers arriving before that time. But there are means in abundance by which to judge the special locations of the different nationalities before the Revolution and since. Thus we find that, while Maryland and Pennsylvania were the principal receptacles of Irish immigration before the year 1800, great numbers also found their way into New Hampshire, Virginia (especially into the valley of the Shenandoah), and into North and South Carolina.

The War of Independence commenced with the battle of Lexington, near Boston, on the 19th of April, 1775, and ended with the treaty of peace in February, 1783. Through these eight eventful years, we find a very large proportion of Celtic names on the military, naval, and civil lists of each of the thirteen United Colonies. They are especially prominent in Pennsylvania, where we find five Irish colonels at the head of as many regiments, principally made up of soldiers of the same nationality. This was the celebrated Pennsylvania line, so well known in Revolutionary history. We also find them in large numbers in the Maryland line, and among the volunteers generally. John Barry, who is called the father of the American navy, and a large number of the other naval officers of that period, were Irish by birth or immediate descent. The grand charter of American liberty—the Declaration of Independence—was signed on the 4th of July, 1776, by fifty-six delegates, representing the thirteen original States ; of this number, nine were of the Irish race. They filled many civil positions of great trust and responsibility in those early days of the American Republic. This is not mentioned in any spirit of boastfulness, but merely to show that there was a respectable number of the race in America before the Revolution. Thus it is that the Hon. Edward Young, Chief of the Bureau of Statistics in Washington, in his very able Report on the Statistics of Immigration, published in connection with the census report of 1870, says : “ The population of the Colonies at the beginning of the Revolutionary War has generally been estimated at three millions ; and it is probable that as many as one-third of these were born on the other side of the Atlantic, while the parents of a large proportion of the remainder were among the early immigrants.” What proportion of these were Irish we may judge from the fact that, in the year 1729, of the total number of immigrant passengers (6,500) arriving at the port of Philadelphia alone, 5,600 were Irish.

Immigration was in a great degree suspended during the War of Independence ; but at its close, the influx of foreign-born people set in with increased velocity. Mr. Young, in the absence of exact figures, estimates the number coming during the period beginning with 1790 and ending with 1820, at 225,000. A very large majority of these were Irish, as is acknowledged by all. They were driven away principally by the unsuccessful rising of 1798, and many other causes. Hence it is that we find them largely represented on land and sea in the war with Great Britain which began in June, 1812, and ended with the battle of New Orleans in February, 1815. The hero of that war, Andrew Jackson, was said to have been born in Ireland when he became a candidate for President of the United States. However that may be, his parentage and personal predilections were unmistakably Irish-born and racy of the Green Isle.

Between 1820 and 1872, the aggregate number of immigrants into the United States is reported at about 8,000,000. Of these, 3,000,000 are accredited to Ireland. But that this proportion is too small is evident from the fact that, until within a few years past, when the strong current of German immigration began to set in, the great majority of all immigrants were Irish. Of course, there are given to Great Britain, *not specified* (as to nationality), 544,000 ; and, inasmuch as almost the whole immigration from Great Britain for many years was from Ireland alone, we may set down most of these as natives of that island. The proportionate emigration from Ireland during the last fifty years is marked as follows : from 1820 to 1830, 27,106 ; 1831 (January 1) to 1840, 29,188 ; 1841 to 1850, 162,332 ; 1851 to 1860, 748,740 ; 1861 to 1870, 650,000.

Referring to the value of immigration to the United States, Mr. Young writes as follows :

“ Deducing the women and children, who pursue no occupation, about 46 per cent, of the whole immigration have been trained to various pursuits. Nearly half of these are skilled laborers and workmen who have acquired their trades under the rigorous system which prevails in the Old World, and come here to give us the benefit of their training and skill, without repayment of the cost of such education. Nor are the farm laborers and servants destitute of the necessary training to fit them for their several duties ; while those classed as common or unskilled laborers are well qualified to perform the labor required, especially in the construction of works of internal improvement. Nearly 10 per cent, consist of merchants and traders, who, doubtless, bring with them considerable capital as well as mercantile experience ; while the smaller number of professional men and artists, embracing architects, engineers, inventors, men of thorough training and high order of talent, contribute to our widely extended community not only material, but artistic, æsthetic, intellectual, and moral wealth.

“ With regard to the ages of these immigrants, only 25 per cent, are under fifteen years of age, and less than 15 per cent, over forty, leaving upward of 60 per cent, who are in the prime of life at the time of their arrival, ready to enter at once into their several industrial pursuits.

“ As to the proportion which subsists between the two sexes, it appears that, as might have been expected, the number of the males largely preponderates over the females. This proportion varies with the different nationalities, the females constituting, as has been stated, with the Chinese, only 7 per cent, while of the Irish it is over 45 per cent., and of the whole number about 40 per cent.”

He then goes into a friendly discussion with other writers on statistics as to what is the value in cash to the country of each immigrant. After very properly stating that it is hardly proper or commendable to estimate a human life on the basis of a *cash* valuation, he resumes by saying that, with all respect to those who claim that one thousand dollars may be taken as the average value to the country of each arriving immigrant, eight hundred dollars would be more correct. Even on this basis, he says that the aggregate addition to the wealth of the nation in the year 1871 alone would be \$285,000,000 ; while during the last half-century, it would be \$6,243,000,000.

From this estimate it may easily be judged what has been the value to the United States of the constant \ stream of Irish emigration during the last one hundred years.

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On The Resources of The United States—Present Opportunities for Immigrants Superior To Past.

TWENTY years ago, it almost cost even healthy persons their lives to cross the Atlantic. It was the actual death of immense numbers. The poor emigrant was simply an article of trade ; and the prince-merchants and ship-owners of those times reaped a rich harvest of gain from the violent disruption of Irish society consequent upon the famine of 1846 and 1847. It was the terrible wrenching of a poor and ill-provided people from their native homes, and casting them upon the world unprovided almost in everything, except in badly managed emigrant-ships, in which cruelty to the *mere Irish* ceased to be a sin. There were many exceptions to this, of course ; but, as a rule, the truth of the statement defies contradiction. An English philanthropist, Vere Foster, deserves the universal gratitude of his fellow-men, and of none more than of Irishmen, for his noble efforts in preventing the emigrant-ships of twenty years ago from being mere charnel-houses to those who were necessitated to take passage in them. The more effectually to attain his object, he once took a steerage passage in one of those vessels ; and his experience on board, having fully justified his previous views upon the subject, enabled him to inaugurate measures of relief for the poor emigrant, which have been acted upon with the best results.

It is no longer either so dangerous or so toilsome a task to cross the Atlantic as it once was. The legislatures both of England and of America have taken important steps to abolish the most flagrant abuses of the emigration system ; and the very competition now existing between rival lines of steamers turns to the advantage of the emigrant.

But it is not merely the facilities of crossing the Atlantic that have increased ; but, what is more important still, the facilities of making a home, on this side of it. The whole country is now checkered with railroads ; and one of them actually spans the continent making a link of iron between the shores of the Atlantic and those of the Pacific. The advantages thus accruing to the American people in general, and to the immigrant portion of them in particular, are incalculable. [1] Forty years ago, it was a more sad and dismal fate than we can at present realize for a poor immigrant to transport himself and those depending upon him to the vast and unbroken forests of the West. There was little to cheer him on the way, and scarcely a ground of hope for a return. Besides, the want of such civilizing influences as churches and schools made it difficult to retain for any long time the rudest elements of civilized life. All this is changed in our day ; and, not to speak of the older States, it is quite true to say that even the remote Territories are fairly supplied with the essential appliances of civilized life.

The blank and dreary horror of never again returning among the scenes and friends of early youth is also greatly diminished. From Chicago and St. Louis to New York, it now takes less than two days in time and not more than twenty-five dollars in money ; and from San Francisco, the trip is made in six or seven days, at a *total* expense of about one hundred and fifty dollars. The inference is plain that the emigrant of to-day has many advantages over his predecessor of some years back.

But the advantages here alluded to are trifling when compared with the increased facilities of obtaining good and cheap land in every State and Territory of the Union. The proper development of this subject is a matter of the utmost importance, not only to those who have not yet come, but also to those who, having come, made the great mistake, owing, doubtless, to causes apparently beyond their control, of remaining in the large cities of the Eastern or Western States. To my mind, the all-important want with these people is the want of correct and reliable information regarding the price of land, its particular products, wages, etc. ; and that want should be supplied either by official documents of the different States and Territories, or by those whose residence in a particular place for a number of years, and whose character for intelligence and disinterestedness, entitle them to a hearing. It is probable that there is a sufficient number of foreign-born citizens in every State and Territory to obtain an official statement such as I have suggested ; and, in the matter of private information, I suppose the numerous Irish-American and Catholic newspapers will give every encouragement to co-respondents such as described, and will make their valuable information accessible to all their readers. It appears plain, at least, that all who are, or who aspire to be, leaders and directors of thought among Irish people ought to make of this subject a specialty.

I know there are many who do not admit present opportunities to be equal to past. But what has been already advanced contains a satisfactory answer. Besides, let us, in a brief way, consider the vast extent of the country. According to the official statistics of 1870, thirty-seven States and twelve organized Territories constitute what is known as the United States. The thirty-seven States have an area of one million nine hundred thousand square miles, or an extent of territory sixteen times as large as that of Great Britain and Ireland, which is one hundred and twenty thousand square miles. The same States contain, by the census of 1870, only thirty-eight millions of souls ; whereas, the population of Great Britain and Ireland amounts to thirty-one and a half millions. Even allowing that the land of the United States is no more than one-fourth as productive as that of Britain, still it would be capable of supporting four times the population of that nation. But in this calculation, nothing has been said about the twelve Territories, which will one day be sovereign States, and which cover an area of one million six hundred thousand square miles, with a population of only six hundred thousand souls.

It is manifest that in every State, even the oldest and most thickly inhabited, there is still much room for agricultural pursuits and a certainty of liberal remuneration. For instance, New York State, containing forty-seven thousand square miles, almost as many as England, has a population of only four million four hundred thousand. We also see that, out of an area of twenty-one millions of acres in New York, seven millions still remain unimproved. But if this be true of New York, it applies with *greater* force to nearly all of the other States, and to all the Territories.

Thus far, nothing has been said in regard to what is known as the “ Public lands of the United States.” This means such portions of States and Territories as have never yet been “ entered” or purchased from the Government. These lands are to be found in almost every

State, but more especially in the Western States, and in all the Territories. From the beginning of the country to the present time, public lands have been held at the rate of one dollar and twenty-five cents an acre. This entitles the purchaser to a clear title for all time to the land that he pays for. But, on the 1st of January, 1863, an act was passed in the Congress of the United States, by which any citizen of the country, or any person who had declared his intention to become a citizen, might "enter," at a cost of *ten dollars*, one hundred and sixty acres of public land, and obtain for himself and his heirs for ever a valid title to such land, on the condition of *actually* living upon it for five years after making the entry. This law is called the "Homestead Law," and reflects infinite credit upon the legislators of America. It more than realizes the highest dreams of the most *ultra* communists of this or any other age. But the condition of actual residence on the land saves the law from the imputation of wild theory, because it means that a man must *work* if he wishes to have a home. An important remark is in place here ; it is drawn from the perusal of all the pamphlets on immigration written in this country, and from the most experienced observers of immigrant life. It is that, when it is possible, several families, who are acquainted with one another, ought to emigrate together, and settle in the same place. The advantages of even two or three such families or individuals settling together are known to be very great.

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On The Kind of Persons who Ought To Emigrate.

MECHANICS, laborers, farmers, or men of business, who are in a prosperous condition where they are, ought not to think of emigrating. Speaking of the first two classes, I mean, of course, those only who have a prospect of making independent homes ; those who cannot acquire *homes of their own* in one part of the United States by honest industry, frugality, and sobriety, ought to go where they can. The difficulty of doing it in all large cities is increased ten-fold, when the high rents and high prices of the common necessaries of life are considered. Thus, for instance, in the city of New York, no laborer or mechanic can get a decent room or two in a *tenement-house* under twelve or fifteen dollars a month. Such persons, beginning life without any capital, as we may suppose, in most cases, can hardly be expected ever to rise to independence. It is clear and undeniable that men of the same class have gone either to the smaller towns of the West and South, or to the country parts, and have acquired their own homes in every case in which steadiness in work and sobriety justified the hope of their doing so.

Speaking of emigration from the old countries of Europe, it is well to remark that young people, from the ages of fifteen to twenty-five, are entirely more calculated to succeed than persons of a more advanced age. The customs and manners of all countries and of every people are different ; and old people, or even those of the middle state of life, are seldom so easily brought into the customs of strangers as young people. Besides, it is natural to suppose that the affections of persons somewhat advanced in years for their native place are much stronger than those of young people ; and the rupture of the ties which bind them to home is consequently attended with more pain. I have known many an aged father and mother, who, although having the kindest and the best children in the world to greet their landing in America, rarely, if ever, became reconciled to their lot. The familiar scenes and associations of from fifty to seventy years are lost ; and no amount of novelty in the change of circumstances can fill up the blank caused thereby in the affections of the heart. If it were not for the deep religious sentiment which seems to be inherent in our race, much more discontent and despondence would prevail among old people who emigrate than we now meet with. It is well, to remark, however, that the unfitness for emigration mentioned herein does not

generally prevail to any great extent among Americans, or among people who have lived in America for any number of years.

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The Voyage and The Landing—Castle Garden and Ward's Island, New York.

YOUNG persons, then, having made up their minds to emigrate, ought to begin by a religious preparation. If they are Catholics—and to these I principally address myself, because they are entirely the most numerous among English-speaking emigrants—they ought to receive worthily the sacraments of the church before leaving home. All Catholics know that this is a duty incumbent upon them in all undertakings involving danger, and also in entering upon a new condition of life. An unburdened conscience gives a man the freedom of heaven, and establishes him in peace with God and his fellow-men.

In purchasing tickets, care should be taken that the agent applied to is authorized to sell them ; and if the ticket is what is called a *through ticket*—that is, one that gives the holder a passage to some city or railway station in the interior of the country—he should make enquiry only of some authorized person as to the best means of reaching his place of destination. If the landing is made at New York, there can be no difficulty in this particular, because the officers of the Board of Emigration at Castle Garden will furnish all such information gratis.

On the voyage, it is very injurious to enter into sharp disputes on subjects relating to religion or politics. Generally, these matters of dispute are solved according to the feelings, prejudices, and education of each individual ; and the greatest amount of wrangling cannot change the conviction of any one. Conversation must be had on board, of course, but let it be in a friendly, quiet manner ; and if one man can get information from another that will be of use to him in the country to which he is travelling, it matters little what is the religion or political opinion of the friend who imparts it.

No unnecessary delay should be made at the place of landing ; it involves a loss of time and of money, and begets disgust and embarrassment. If the emigrant is to go to the West or South, or to the country parts in the neighborhood of New York, the sooner he gets there, the better.

A word respecting Castle Garden and Ward's Island is in place here. They are distinct departments of the same institution, both being controlled by the COMMISSIONERS OF IMMIGRATION OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK. This Commission entered upon its career of usefulness in the year 1848, with Gulian C. Verplanck, a true friend of the immigrant, as its first President. It is not now what it was at first, circumstances and experience requiring or suggesting some new regulation or improvement every year. It is essentially an institution of protection to the immigrant. It is as truly a work of mercy as a hospital or an orphan asylum. Not that the funds for its support come from the State or from private charity ; on the contrary, they are contributed by the immigrant himself, by a tax of one dollar and fifty cents on every one that arrives, which is paid out of his passage-money ; but the application of this money for the guidance and protection of the immigrant is a real benefit to him and to the country.

All immigrants are obliged to land at Castle Garden, where they are provided with temporary accommodations suitable to their requirements. Those who have tickets for the interior, or money to take them to any point outside of New York, are immediately put upon one or

other of the great railroad lines diverging from that city to all parts of the country, without any trouble or risk to the immigrant. The principal railroads have offices in Castle Garden, where the tickets may be procured without the necessity of going to seek them in the city. Any immigrants having gold, silver, or uncurrent money of any kind can have it changed into the current money of the United States, also, at Castle Garden. The rate of exchange is exactly the rate allowed at the best banking-houses.

Ward's Island is the place to which are sent all immigrants who, having neither money nor friends, are sent there until they are provided with suitable employment. All immigrants sick on landing are cared for in the kindest manner at the hospital on Ward's Island ; and even such as get sick before they have become citizens of the United States are received on their own or their friends' application.

Most of those brought to Ward's Island leave it in a few days, having been put in communication with their friends or provided with situations. Through the kindness of Mr. Bernard Casserly, the indefatigable Superintendent of Immigration, I have before me the Reports of the Commissioners for the years 1871 and 1872, from which it appears that 31,384 persons were provided with employment during the year 1871, and 32,592 in 1872. Taken all in all, it must be admitted by every unprejudiced mind that the work of the Commission during the quarter of a century of its existence reflects the greatest credit upon the individuals composing it and upon the country, the genius of whose institutions inspired a work of such practical utility.

Lately there are rumors afloat to the effect that the United States Government is making efforts to assume control of this institution. Many, especially those in the shipping interests, seem to advocate the policy. Some even speak disparagingly of the efforts of the Commissioners to secure the protection and comfort of the immigrant. Whilst acknowledging everything human to be susceptible of improvement, it seems clear to any honest mind that the Commission of Immigration of the State of New York is the best institution of the kind in the world, and has adhered as faithfully to its professed purposes as any reasonable man can expect. The threat, therefore, of its abolition forebodes a real calamity. If, for instance, we allow ourselves to imagine that no such institution existed during the last twenty-five years, what untold misery, degradation, and general demoralization, not only of immigrants, but also of those who would have lived by cheating and deceiving them, meet our view ! Those who wish to know the cruel treatment of immigrants from the beginning of American colonization to a period reaching back only a few years are referred to *Kapp on Immigration* for facts and statistics startling and shocking in the last degree. I know that the General Government has made many laudable efforts for the benefit and protection of the immigrant, but nothing so practically beneficial has yet appeared as the institution consisting of Castle Garden and Ward's Island, New York.

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On Employment and Economy.

THE importance of this chapter to emigrants and their children can not be over-estimated. It contains the secret of success or failure. And *first*, as to employment. Young persons from the ages of 12 to 20 years can select in America almost any trade or profession for which they consider themselves fit. Older people ought to adhere to the trade or occupation to which they have been accustomed from early life. Thus, for instance, the majority of Irish people have been accustomed to agricultural labor ; and to abandon it in America is, in most cases, the

certain road to poverty and dependence. It is quite true to say that farming is not carried on in the same manner in America as it is in Ireland ; but an Irish or English farmer or farm-laborer is sure to learn the American system of farming much sooner than he can anything else ; and the system is so simple withal that diligence in it is the certain road to success. Small capitalists from Europe or the Eastern cities would do well, before investing their money in farms in the West or South, to hire for a year with persons already settled in those parts, and thus practically acquire the peculiar knowledge requisite in this pursuit. A thorough knowledge of farming in the Northern States may be acquired in this time easily. And I have known persons in the Southern States, who had lived in cities before the late Civil War, as grocers or men of business, to go out into the country, take up land, and successfully raise cotton and all other products congenial to that part of the country. I well remember the profound and practical truths uttered by these men when they said : “ What are our people doing with themselves ; when instead of coming here and taking up this land, where it is so cheap (from \$5 to \$20 an acre *for ever*), they rather cling to the great cities, and there expose their children to every species of immorality ; and where they live from hand to mouth, without the least hope of rising to independence ?” This particular point of men following the occupation to which they are most adapted cannot be dwelt upon too much. And hence, for the same reason that I would advise a man brought up to agriculture in Ireland to stick to it in America, I would also advise the mechanic to follow *his* trade ; and although the carpenter, mason, or blacksmith may find his business carried on a little differently in America from the manner of old countries, still, as a man of sense, he will conform his method to what he finds going on around him, and be successful in the end. The reason that so much stress is laid upon the subject of procuring land is very plainly laid down in the first and second chapters, where the advantages of the present time in this particular are so clearly pointed out.

Whether persons have been brought up to cultivate the land or not, it will do them no harm to get land, now that it is so cheap in most places outside the large cities. There is in it the foundation of independence. Of course, land, like all things else, should be purchased with judgment and common sense ; and no steps should be taken recklessly or without counsel.

The subject of economy or saving is so near akin to that of employment or earning that both should come under the same heading. In fact, it is not much use to speak of producing, if the genius of destroying or wasting be not excluded ; and it may truly be said that one of the saddest chapters in the history of Irish life in America is the chapter of reckless squandering. Everyone that thinks of it must remember in his lifetime numbers, even of laborers, who, if they had been *moderately* saving, might have been independent. Many a mechanic, to my knowledge, has been able to earn from three to six dollars a day, and at the end of the year had saved nothing. Reckless waste is the bane of the working-classes in America. Its correction, in one form or another, is the greatest benefit that can be conferred upon American society. Courageous and manly self-denial, which is one of the greatest of the Christian virtues, is the only remedy for this evil. This self-denial should begin with the head of the family ; his example to his wife and children is all-powerful. Let us suppose, for instance, that a mechanic in one of the cities or towns of America finds, on examining the subject, that he has unnecessarily spent, on an average, 50 cents every day in tobacco or drink. Fifty cents a day makes, in the year, one hundred and eighty-two dollars and fifty cents. Now, by actual calculation, this sum, put at interest at 6 per cent, per annum, which is a low rate of interest in the United States, doubles itself, if the interest is not drawn, in twelve years. In twenty-five years, it becomes the important sum of eight hundred and fifty-eight dollars. Let us again suppose a laboring man on the railroads or elsewhere, getting one dollar and a half or two dollars a day ; he can easily save of this amount twenty-seven and a half cents. This amounts to one hundred dollars in three hundred and sixty-five days ; and if placed at interest, as

before stated, will amount in twelve years to two hundred dollars, and in twenty-five years to four hundred and twenty-nine dollars. [2] It has been accurately ascertained that a boy or girl, who at the age of fourteen, saves two and three-fourth cents every day, placing it at interest in the manner stated, will be worth two thousand nine hundred dollars at the age of sixty-four years. A saving of twenty-seven and a half cents a day amounts, in the same period of fifty years, to the sum of twenty-nine thousand dollars. One of the worst signs of the times in America in our days is a restless and insatiable desire to become rich in a short while. To this desire is sacrificed peace of mind, health of body, and even honor and honesty itself. And it often happens that riches suddenly acquired are as quickly lavished, either in gambling, drinking, or foolish speculation. According to the suggestions laid down in this chapter, it is evident that even a laborer, or a poor working-boy or girl in the factories, can save enough to keep them decently in old age, if they have a mind to do it. Eagerness to become suddenly rich is a sin ; and, generally, it cannot be done except at the expense of our own honesty and our neighbors' property. [3] Servant-girls in America get from eight to sixteen dollars a month—sometimes they get as high as twenty. Now, if they save half of that amount every year, and place it at interest, they will have acquired a considerable sum at the end of ten years. Many of them, to my certain knowledge, have, in the course of twenty or thirty years, by faithful industry and moderate economy, become owners of from three to five thousand dollars. Be it understood that the object of the writer is not to destroy or warp any of the grand and beautiful traits of character in our race for which they are distinguished all over the world. Filial devotion, love of friends, and readiness to relieve their wants, are characteristics of our race that deserve all honor. I do not think, however, that what is contained herein will interfere with, but rather foster, those noble virtues. Anyhow, the fact is undeniable that the want of a moderate economy in our people has caused much suffering among them, and has often resulted in the ruin of body and soul.

In regard to placing money in savings-banks, it is well to remark that inexperienced persons ought to consult a clergyman or some well-informed friend before depositing their money ; because it is unhappily but too well known that many such banks have failed in various places, leaving those who trusted in their solvency penniless. It may be well to state, moreover, that, in regard to saving, the most effectual and profitable way is to invest in a farm or in town lots. In America, there is always time given in which to pay for these ; and the necessity of meeting the deferred payments stimulates industry and produces economy.

I cannot close this chapter without saying a word on the subject of what are called “ strikes.” It means a combination of mechanics or laborers, in which they refuse to work, except the wages are increased or the hours of labor are reduced. In some cases it involves both, in others only one or another, of these conditions. It is the old contest between labor on the one side and capital on the other. The best-informed and most experienced mechanics and laborers that I have met have been unanimous in saying that, although societies having for their object the mutual protection of the members are good, and are a salutary stay upon the tyranny of capital, still, as a general thing, “ strikes” are injurious to the working-man. Thus, in a “ strike,” a man may be kept idle for a month or two by the rules of the society, and the increased wages that is looked for may not be sufficient to make up for the loss of that month's wages in a year. Besides, in many instances, “ strikes” have paralyzed and broken up prosperous business enterprises.

I do not wish to say more upon this subject ; but I know for certain that, outside of large cities, “ strikes” cannot take place with much effect ; and that, when we consider this as a free country, labor of all kinds will, in the long run, be free.

- [1] Since the year 1848, when there were but about 6,000 miles of completed railroad in the country, the railroad system of the United States had increased, on January 1, 1873, to 71,000 miles in actual operation, with 8,000 more in process of construction. The railroad statistics show that in 1858 there were 27,000 miles of roads built, in 1869, 35,000 miles, and that since the war the half of the whole has been constructed and put in operation. The average railroad growth for the last five years has been nearly 6,000 miles annually. At a rate of \$40,000 per mile, the cost of the completed roads would be perhaps \$3,000,000,000. while those in progress and not yet completed will reach \$320,000,000.
- [2] But if this is the result of one year's saving, what will it be in ten or twenty years ?
- [3] There are many cases, owing to the great progress of the country, in which men become wealthy in a short time without sacrificing principle. This is accidental, however.

Irish emigration to the United States : what it has been, and what it is. Facts and reflections especially addressed to Irish people intending to emigrate from their native land ; and to those living in the large cities of Great Britain and of the United States (1873)

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