

## On Foreign Emigration 1856

*The Views and Opinions On Foreign Immigration.  
Being a Collection of Statistics of Population, Pauperism, Crime, Etc. with an inquiry into  
the True Character of The United States Government, and its Policy on The Subject of  
Immigration, Naturalization of Aliens, Etc.*

John P. Sanderson.

1856

It would, perhaps, be deemed presumptuous in the writer of the following pages to solicit public attention to them without stating some of the reasons which induced him to undertake the task, or, at all events, explain the object at which he has aimed in its execution. Many reasons might be adduced by him for engaging in the preparation of this volume. Let it suffice, however, to say, that the object aimed at by him was, to give the opinions of others, not his own in a word, to present facts, historical and otherwise, showing the progress of immigration, the extent of the immigrant population, its tendencies and influences, and its general effects upon the country and its institutions ; and, also, to exhibit an outline of the true principles and the distinguishing characteristics of the United States Government, and the views and opinions of its founders, as well as the policy of the government on the subject of immigration, naturalization of aliens, etc.

With the hope that the facts thus presented to the American people may, in some degree, contribute to correct misapprehensions, prevailing to a considerable extent, in relation to the subjects discussed in this volume, it is now, with great diffidence, and a full conviction of its imperfections, submitted to the public by

The Author.

*Philadelphia, December 1, 1855.*

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### White and Free Colored Population.

THOUGH repeated efforts were made, by the Continental Congress, to obtain an enumeration of the inhabitants of the United Colonies, no accurate enumeration was had prior to the adoption of the Federal Constitution. It is the better received opinion now, however, that at the beginning of the Revolution the population of the Colonies did not exceed two millions, eight hundred thousand. Since the formation of the United States Government there have been seven enumerations of the inhabitants, the periods and aggregate results of which were as follows : Three millions, nine hundred and twenty-nine thousand, eight hundred and twenty-seven persons, in the year 1790 ; five millions, three hundred and five thousand, nine hundred and twenty-five persons, in the year 1800 ; seven millions, two hundred and thirty-nine thousand, eight hundred and fourteen persons, in the year 1810 ; nine millions, six hundred and thirty-eight thousand, one hundred and thirty-one persons, in the year 1820 ; twelve millions, eight hundred and sixty-six thousand, and twenty persons, in the year 1830 ; seventeen millions, sixty-nine thousand, four hundred and fifty-three persons, in the year 1840 ; and twenty-three millions, one hundred and ninety-one thousand, eight hundred and seventy-six persons, in the year 1850.

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It [] appears that the total white and free colored population of the United States, in 1850, amounted to 19,987,763 persons—19,553,268 of whom were white, 434,495 colored, 17,708,316 natives, 2,244,774 foreigners, and 34,673 whose birth-place was unknown. Of the natives, 17,279,929 were white, and 428,387 colored ; of the foreigners, 2,240,684 were white, and 4,090 colored ; and of unknown birth, 32,655 were white, and 2,018 colored.

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The proportion of foreign to white and free colored native, in different sections of the country, may be stated to have been as follows, in 1850 :

Eastern States,	12.65	per cent
Middle States,	19.84	" "
Southern States,	1.86	" "
Southwestern States,	5.34	" "
Northwestern and Territories,	12.75	" "

Of the native white population, 13,103,650 still resided in, and 4,116,225 resided out of the States in which they were born. Connecticut, South Carolina and Vermont, had more than half as many native born residing in other States, as remained at home ; Virginia, North Carolina, Kentucky and Tennessee, nearly one-half, and Massachusetts, New Jersey and Maryland, about one-third. No less than 726,450 persons were living in slave-holding States, who were natives of non-slave-holding States, and 232,112 persons living in non-slave-holding States, who were natives of slave-holding States. Whilst more than one-fourth of the free persons born in the Southern States had left those States for other parts of the Union, only one-sixth had left the Eastern and Middle States, about one-tenth the Southwestern, and one-fortieth the Northwestern and the Territories.

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Of the foreign white population, numbering 2,240,535 persons, in the United States, in 1850, there were from Ireland 961,719, being over forty-two per cent. of the whole number ; from Germany, 583,774, being over one-fourth of the whole number ; and from England, 278,675, being near one-eighth of the whole number. The Irish, German, and English, it will be thus seen, constituted considerably over two-thirds of the entire foreign population. Of the remainder, 147,711 were from British America ; 70,550 from Scotland ; 54,069 from France ; 29,868 from Wales ; 13,358 from Switzerland ; 13,317 from Mexico ; 12,678 from Norway ; 9,848 from Holland ; 5,772 from the West India Islands ; 3,645 from Italy ; 3,559 from Sweden ; 3,113 from Spain ; 1,838 from Denmark ; 1,543 from South America ; 1,414 from Russia ; 1,313 from Belgium ; 1,274 from Portugal ; 946 from Austria ; 758 from China ; 588 from the Sandwich Islands ; 141 from Central America ; 106 from Turkey ; 86 from Greece ; 34 from Sardinia ; and the balance from other countries. and unknown. Of the immigrants who arrived in 1851 and '52, there were 278,793 Irish ; 188,009 German ; 59,828 English ; 14,942 Scotch ; 14,842 French ; 10,954 Swiss ; 4,720 Welsh ; 4,001 Norwegian ; 3,012 Hollanders ; 2,938 Swedes ; 976 Italians ; 840 West Indian ; 557 Belgians ; 728 Spaniards ; 341 South American ; 328 Poles ; and the remainder in small numbers from other countries. During the first six months of 1855, there arrived at New York 69,476 immigrants, 22,801 of whom were Irish, and 26,824 German.

But few of the Irish appear to be engaged in agricultural pursuits ; they are chiefly in the commercial and manufacturing States. Of the 961,719 in the country in 1850, there then were 857,345 residents in the free States and Territories, being about 88 per cent, of the whole number ; and of those there were 196,609 in the manufacturing States of New England, being 23 per cent, of the number in the free States. In the commercial and manufacturing States of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, there were 525,926, being within a fraction over 61 per cent, of the number in the free States, and leaving but 134,810 scattered over the agricultural States and Territories of the West and Northwest, being only about 16 per cent, of the number in the free States and Territories, and the greater portion of those were probably engaged as laborers on canals and railroads. Of those in the slave States, numbering 104,374, there were 70,200 in the States of Louisiana, Maryland, Missouri and Virginia, being 69 per cent, of those in the slave States.

So with the English ; they, too, were mainly in the Eastern, Middle and Northwestern States. Only 25,575 of the whole number were in the slave States, 19,211 of whom were in the States of Virginia, Maryland, Louisiana, Missouri, Kentucky and Texas. Those in the free States numbered 253,100, of which number 31,240 were in the New England States, being 12 per cent, of the number in the free States ; 134,245 in the Middle States of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, being 53 per cent. ; 87,615 in the Western and Northwestern States, being only 35 per cent., of which number 25,660 were alone in Ohio.

The Germans were found in greater numbers in the agricultural States, and but comparatively few of them in New England. Of the number in the country, 456,439 were in the non-slave-holding States, and only 127,335 in the slave States. Of those in the free States, only about 7,000 were in the six New England States, being but one out of every sixty-six of their number in the free States. In the Middle States of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, there were 210,360, being over 46 per cent, of the number in the free States ; in New York alone, there were 120,609, being near one-fourth ; and in the Western and Northwestern States and Territories about 240,000, being over 50 per cent., of which 112,022 were in Ohio. Of the 127,335 in the slave States, of whom 58,854 were in the States of Missouri and Kentucky, being nearly one-half of those in the slave States.

The Hollanders, Norwegians, Swiss and Swedes, were principally in the agricultural States and Territories in the West and Northwest. Two-thirds of the Norwegians were in Wisconsin, and one-fifth in Illinois ; one-third of the Swedes were in Illinois ; one-fourth of the Swiss in Ohio, and one-third in Illinois and Wisconsin ; and about two-thirds of the Hollanders were in Iowa, Michigan, Wisconsin and New York. The French were principally in New York, Pennsylvania, Louisiana and Ohio. One-half of the Mexicans were in California, one-third in Texas, and one-tenth in New Mexico. Of 30,000 Welsh, 25,000 were in New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Wisconsin. One-third of the Scotch were in New York, one-tenth in Pennsylvania, and about one-seventh in the New England States.

An examination of the Census returns of 1850, will disclose these facts : That near 40 per cent, of the foreign population then in the State of New York, resided in the cities of New York and Albany ; that over one-fourth of those in Massachusetts were in Boston ; that there were 40 per cent, of those in Rhode Island, in Providence ; that about one-sixth of those in Connecticut, resided in the cities of Hartford and New Haven ; that the city of Newark alone had one-fifth of those in New Jersey ; and Philadelphia about 40 per cent, of those in Pennsylvania. So in the Southern States. Mobile had about 60 per cent, of the foreign population of Alabama ; New Orleans, over 70 per cent, of those in Louisiana ; Savannah, about 37 per cent, of those in Georgia ; Charleston, considerably over one-half of those in South Carolina ; Louisville, near 40 per cent, of those in Kentucky ; St. Louis, over one-half

of those in Missouri ; Nashville and Memphis, over 40 per cent, of those in Tennessee ; Baltimore, about 67 per cent, of those in Maryland ; and Wilmington, about one-third of those in Delaware. And the same may be said of the Western States. Of those in Ohio, over one-fourth were in Cincinnati ; of those in Illinois, over one-eighth in Chicago ; of those in Michigan, about one-sixth in Detroit ; and of those in Wisconsin, over one-ninth in Milwaukee.

A still further and more minute examination of the Census statistics of 1850, will disclose the fact, that of the 196,603 born in Ireland, residing in the New England States, there were over one-fourth of them in the cities of Boston, Portland, Providence, Portsmouth, Hartford, New Haven, and Manchester ; of the 525,926 residing in the States of New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, 224,685 of them were in the cities of New York, Philadelphia, Newark and Albany, being over 40 per cent. ; and of those in the other non-slave-holding States, numbering 134,810, there were 26,594 in the cities of Cincinnati, Chicago, Detroit, and Milwaukee. Of the 104,374 in the slave States, 50,062 were in the cities of New Orleans, Baltimore, Charleston, Louisville, Savannah, Nashville, Memphis, Richmond, St. Louis, Washington, and Wilmington.

Of those from Ireland, residing in Massachusetts, nearly one-third were in Boston ; of those in Maine, one-sixth were in Portland ; of those in Rhode Island, about one-half were in Providence ; of those in Connecticut, one-fifth were in Hartford and New Haven ; of those in New York, over 40 per cent, were in New York and Albany ; of those in New Jersey, over one-sixth were in Newark ; of those in Pennsylvania, nearly one-half were in Philadelphia ; of those in Ohio, over one-fourth were in Cincinnati ; of those in Illinois, near one-fourth were in Chicago ; of those in Missouri, over two-thirds were in St. Louis ; of those in Michigan, near one-fourth were in Detroit ; of those in Maryland, almost two-thirds were in Baltimore ; of those in Louisiana, over 80 per cent, were in New Orleans ; of those in South Carolina, over one-half were in Charleston ; of those in Alabama, two-thirds were in Mobile ; of those in Kentucky, one-third were in Louisville ; of those in Tennessee, nearly one-half in Nashville and Memphis ; and of those in Georgia, one-half in Savannah.

The *Germans* in the New England and Middle States were also principally in the cities and towns. Of the 7,000 in New England, about 2,500 were in the cities of Boston, Hartford, New Haven, Providence, Portland, and Portsmouth ; of the 210,360 in the Middle States of New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, 85,859 were in the cities of New York, Philadelphia, Albany, and Newark ; of those in the free States of the west, about one-fifth were in the cities of Cincinnati, Chicago, Detroit, and Milwaukee ; and of the 127,335 in the slave-holding States, over one-half were in the cities of Baltimore, Richmond, Washington, Wilmington, Charleston, Savannah, Mobile, New Orleans, St. Louis, Louisville, Memphis, and Nashville. Of those in Massachusetts, over 40 per cent, were in Boston ; of those in New York, about one-half were in New York city and Albany ; of those in New Jersey, about one-third were in Newark ; of those in Pennsylvania, about 30 per cent, were in Philadelphia ; of those in Ohio, about 30 per cent, were in Cincinnati ; of those in Illinois, about one-seventh were in Chicago ; of those in Missouri, about one-half were in St. Louis ; of those in Maryland, over two-thirds were in Baltimore ; and of those in Kentucky, over one-half were in Louisville ; of those in Louisiana, near two-thirds were in New Orleans.

The *English, Welsh* and *Scotch*, were chiefly in the cities and towns. One-twelfth of the whole number of English and Welsh, and one-tenth of the Scotch, were in New York city.

The *French, Spanish* and *Italians*, were also chiefly in the cities and towns. Considerably over one-fourth of the French were in the cities of New York, Philadelphia, and New Orleans.

There were 1,150 *Spaniards* in New Orleans, 303 in New York, 291 in Philadelphia, 144 in Mobile : making an aggregate in these four cities of 1,888, and considerably over one-half of the whole number in the country. Of the *Italians*, 708 were in New York, 658 in New Orleans, 236 in Philadelphia, 152 in Cincinnati, 134 in Boston, 112 in Louisville, and 101 in St. Louis : making an aggregate in these seven cities of 2,160, and more than one-half of their number in the Union.

A late California authority, quoted by Professor De Bow, in his Census report to Congress, in 1854, estimates the population of that State to be as follows : 215,000 Americans, 25,000 Germans, 25,000 French, 20,000 Spaniards, 17,000 Chinese, 5,000 other foreigners, 20,000 Indians, and 2,500 Negroes : making an aggregate of over 320,000, about one-third of whom are not natives of the United States. Of late years the Chinese immigration has increased immensely, and the number of these pagans is already so great in California as to prove the source of much difficulty, and to be a cause of considerable alarm to its inhabitants. According to a late report of Captain Heurtier, the number of immigrants from Hong Kong to California, up to the 30th of June, 1854, amounted to 45,000 ; to Australia (wives and children included), to 15,000. From January 1st to June 30th, 1854, 10,496 immigrants left Hong Kong for California, and 4,341 for Australia.

A recent Census taken of Boston, shows the population of that city to be 162,629, being an increase since the year 1850, of 23,841 persons. Of this population, there are 86,336 foreigners, including their children under 21 years of age, being considerably over one-half of the entire population of the city proper, and an increase of the foreign population since the Census of 1850, of 22,810 persons. It thus appears that the foreigners outnumber the natives, and that within the last five years, the disproportion in favor of the former has been augmented. It is estimated, however, that a portion of the business population of the city, to the number of 50,000, reside in the vicinity and neighboring towns; and as it is probable that a large majority of them are native born, the native element of the population of Boston still preponderates considerably over the foreign. Of this foreign population, 69,239 are Irish, 4,586 are German, and 12,511 from other countries.

The returns of the Census taken in New Jersey, during the summer of the year 1855, show the population of Newark, the largest city in the State, to be 50,711 persons, of whom 28,902 are white natives, 20,584 are foreigners, and 1,230 colored. In Jersey City, there are 12,283 native whites, 9,135 foreigners, and 291 colored natives, and 6 colored foreigners : making an aggregate population of 21,715 persons. Trenton has a population of 13,819, of whom there are 7,395 native adults, and 3,368 foreign adults. Thus we find in these three cities in New Jersey, with an aggregate population of 86,245 persons, no less than 33,087 foreigners, being nearly 40 per cent, of the entire population. In the sixth, seventh and eighth wards, in Newark City, with an aggregate population of 13,939 persons, including 456 colored, there are 8,594 foreigners, being very near two-thirds of the whole population.

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### Foreign Immigration.

“ THE right of expatriation,” observes the report of the Society established in New York, for the purpose of giving useful information to immigrants, “ is a right acknowledged and practiced by all nations, from the earliest ages to the present time. It is a right indispensable to liberty and happiness, and ought never to be surrendered. The free States once established in Asia recognized it ; Greece adopted it ; the Romans avowed it, and vindicated the right in all its latitude, and the following declaration composed part of their code : ‘ Every man has a

right to choose the State to which he will belong. It is a law of nature that we go whither we list to promote our happiness.’ ” Without stopping here to inquire whether the right of expatriation is thus broadly and unqualifiedly recognized, even in the United States, it is entirely safe to adopt the opinion expressed by the Rev. D. R. Thomason, Secretary of the Philadelphia Immigrant’s Friend Society, in his published “ Hints to Immigrants,” and to say that “ no man ought to quit his native land without just and cogent reasons. It is the land which gave him birth, ‘ the home of his fathers,’ and the filial obligations which bind him to it are strong and sacred ; they cannot be needlessly broken, and obligations to a foreign government contracted, without exposing to censure, and incurring a large share of criminality. That there are, however, circumstances which abundantly justify such a step, is sufficiently obvious, and the individual who can refer to them as his own, and plead them as reasons for self-expatriation, may be pitied as unfortunate, but cannot justly be charged with dereliction of duty.”

Various reasons may be urged to exculpate self-expatriation, prominent among which is the want of honorable and remunerative employment, as a means of procuring an independent and adequate support. “ When the parent is unable to make suitable provision for the offspring, it is time,” says Mr. Thomason, “ that the needy children should quit the parental roof and seek elsewhere their daily bread ;” and he well adds, “ that this, at the present moment, is precisely the situation of the mother country, is undeniable.” The most obvious and most fruitful cause of this calamity is, no doubt, as he observes, a disproportion between the population and the resources of maintenance. In Europe, there are more hands to labor than profitable labor to be performed, and a remedy for the evil can only be found in a diminution of population by immigration. This is a simple and efficient remedy not dependent on the plans of politicians and enactments of rulers, but to a great extent on individual will and action. It is within the reach of all who have the requisite courage and enterprise, and the small amount of pecuniary means necessary to transport them across the Atlantic. “ It is not, therefore, matter of surprise that the stream of immigration should flow fast from the overcharged basin of European population, in whatever direction a suitable outlet can be found that thousands should be leaving their native land, and thousands be preparing to follow, to seek in other climes at once a sphere for their talents and industry, and the means of competent maintenance for themselves and families, content to endure temporary inconvenience and privation to secure the substantial and permanent advantages of independence and competence for themselves, and to perpetuate the same blessings to their offspring.

According to a table in *De Bow’s Compendium U. S. Census of 1850*, the progress of immigration since 1790, has been as follows :

YEARS.	ARRIVALS.
From 1790 to 1800,.....	50,000
" 1800 to 1810,.....	70,000
" 1810 to 1820,.....	114,000
" 1820 to 1830,.....	135,986
" 1830 to 1840,.....	579,370
" 1840 to 1844,.....	334,377
" 1844 to 1855,.....	2,523,758

According to this statement, collated from the reports of the Collectors of the Ports of Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and other seaports, the number of immigrants arrived, during the last eleven years past, exceeds two millions and a half of persons. Enormous as has been the increase, the number actually arrived is no doubt much greater.

By a published statement of the New York Commissioners of Immigration, it appears that, during the first six months of the year 1855, there arrived at that port but 69,416, being a decrease, as compared with the same period of the year previous, of 65,275.

It appears from these statistics that the immigration, previous to the year 1840, was comparatively small, and that there was no material increase until 1846, when the Irish exodus commenced. It then rose to 300,000 per annum, and now, with the aid of similar, exoduses from Germany, China and other countries, it has swelled to a half million a year.

Professor De Bow, in his Compendium of the Census of 1850, expresses the opinion that Mr. Kennedy's estimate is too high, and gives it as his own that the immigrants and descendants of immigrants did not exceed, in 1853, the number of 3,000,000. Dr. Chickering, a celebrated statistician, and who is generally regarded as good authority, has, however, made an estimate, which exceeds that of Mr. Kennedy, in number.

What the number of the foreign population was at the time Independence was declared, we have no exact data. It has been variously estimated. A recent writer in the *New York Evangelist* has made a careful analysis of the original elements of our population, and shown conclusively, as had been stated before in the *Encyclopædia Americana*, that of the thirteen colonies, at the time of the Declaration of Independence, twelve were settled with colonists, who, with a few trifling exceptions, were Englishmen, and he proceeds to estimate the relative proportions of which our composite population consists. Of the increase of population from the year 1790 to 1850, the date of the last Census, estimated on the most careful grounds, not less than 15,000,000 are, he thinks, of the Anglo-Saxon race. If to these we add the 3,594,762 colored persons, whose increase of course is easily ascertainable, it will leave 4,668,736, of our own aggregate population of 23,263,498, to be divided among Irish, German, French, and other descent a result which accords with the estimate of Bancroft, and with the common sense view of the subject. An analysis of this foreign population is then made with candor and skill, the process of which we cannot present.

Whatever the causes which have of late years produced this immense immigration into this country, it is certainly an undeniable fact, that “ the palpable and admitted growing influence of the foreign born population of the United States has, for several years past, been a source of anxiety and dissatisfaction to a considerable number of our native citizens.” This is so apparent that a writer on the subject of immigration, styling himself a foreigner, frankly admits it, and says : “ The Kensington riots, the Southwark disturbances, and the present position of civil, political, and religious feeling, confirm the fact, and render it an important and interesting subject, worthy of the attention and candid consideration of us all.” Another fact there is, to which he also refers, and which is probably as incontrovertible as the former, and that is, that “ at least ninety out of every hundred of all the immigrants who come to the United States and the Canadas, have been driven to immigration by monarchical oppression, the laws of primogeniture and entail, special and partial legislation, unjust wars, and extravagant government expenditures, patronage and malfeasance—causes, concerning which they have a very imperfect knowledge, and over which they had little or no control.”

So far as Ireland is concerned, we have abundant evidence of the causes which have produced so large an immigration from that country. Kohl, the accomplished German traveller, who has visited and described most of the countries of Europe, and is now making a tour through the United States, admits in his book of *Travels in Ireland*, that he had nowhere found the poverty and wretchedness that prevailed among the people of Ireland. He says :—

“ I remember, when I saw the poor Lettes in Lavonia, I used to pity them for having to live in huts built of the unhewn logs of trees, the crevices being stopped up with rnoos. I pitied them on account of their low doors, and their diminutive windows ; and gladly would I have arranged their chimneys for them in a more suitable manner. Well, Heaven pardon my ignorance ! I knew not that I should ever see a people on whom Almighty God had imposed yet heavier privations. Now that I have seen Ireland, it seems to me that the Lettes, the Esthonians, and the Finlanders, lead a life of comparative comfort, and poor Paddy would feel like a king with their houses, their habiliments, and their daily fare.

“ A wooden house, with moss to stop up its crevices, would be a palace in the wild regions of Ireland. Paddy’s cabin is built of earth, one shovelful over the other, with a few stones mingled here and there, till the wall is high enough. But perhaps you will say, the roof is thatched or covered with bark. Ay, indeed ! A few sods of grass, cut from a neighboring bog, are his only thatch. Well, but a window or two at least, if it be only a pane of glass fixed in the wall, or the bladder of some animal, or a piece of talc, as may often be seen in a Wallachian hut ? What idle luxury were this ! There are thousands of cabins in which not a trace of a window is to be seen ; nothing but a little square hole in front, which doubles the duty of door, window, and chimney ; light, smoke, pigs, and children, all must pass in and out of the same aperture !

“ A French author, Beaumont, who had seen the Irish peasant in his cabin, and the North American Indian in his wigwam, has assured us that the savage is better provided for than the poor man in Ireland. Indeed, the question may be raised, whether in the whole world a nation is to be found that is subjected to such physical privations as the peasantry in some parts of Ireland. This fact cannot be placed in too strong a light ; for if it can once be shown that the wretchedness of the Irish population is without a parallel example on the globe, surely every friend of humanity will feel himself called on to reflect whether means may not be found for remedying an evil of so astounding a magnitude !

“ A Russian peasant, no doubt, is the slave of a harder master, but still he is fed and housed to his content, and no trace of mendicancy is to be seen in him. The Hungarians are certainly not among the best used people in the world ; still, what fine wheaten bread, and what wine, has even the humblest among them for his daily fare ! The Hungarian would scarcely believe it, if he were to be told there was a country in which the inhabitants must content themselves with potatoes every alternate day in the year.

“ Servia and Bosnia are reckoned among the most wretched countries of Europe, and certainly the appearance of one of their villages has little that is attractive about it ; but at least the people, if badly housed, are well clad. We look not for much luxury or comfort among the Tartars of the Crimea ; we call them poor and barbarous, but, good heavens ! they look at least like human creatures. They have a national costume, their houses are habitable, their orchards are carefully tended, and their gaily-harnessed ponies are mostly in good condition. An Irishman has nothing national about him but his rags,—his habitation is without a plan, his domestic economy without rule or law. We have beggars and paupers among us, but they form at least an exception : whereas, in Ireland, beggary or abject poverty is the prevailing rule. The nation is one of beggars, and they who are above beggary seem to form the exception.

“ The African negroes go naked, but then they have a tropical sun to warm them. The Irish are a little removed from a state of nakedness ; and their climate, though not cold, is cool, and extremely humid.

“ The Indians in America live wretchedly enough at times, but they have no knowledge of a better condition, and, as they are hunters, they have every now and then a productive chase, and are able to make a number of feast days in the year. Many Irishmen have but one day on which they eat flesh, namely, on Christmas-day. Every other day they feed on potatoes, and nothing but potatoes. Now this is inhuman ; for the appetite and stomach of man claim variety in food, and nowhere else do we find human beings gnawing from year’s end to year’s end, at the same root, berry, or weed. There are animals that do so, but human beings nowhere, except in Ireland.

“ There are nations of slaves, but they have, by long custom, been made unconscious of the yoke of slavery. This is not the case with the Irish, who have a strong feeling of liberty within them, and are fully sensible of the weight of the yoke they have to bear. They are intelligent enough to know the injustice done them by the distorted laws of their country ; and while they are themselves enduring the extreme of poverty, they have frequently before them, in the manner of life of their English landlords, a spectacle of the most refined luxury that human ingenuity ever invented.

“ What awakens the most painful feelings in travelling through one of these rocky, boggy districts, rich in nothing but ruins, is this :—Whether you look back into the past, or forward to the future, no prospect more cheering presents itself. There is not the least trace left to show that the country has ever been better cultivated, or that a happier race ever dwelt in it. It seems as if wretchedness had prevailed therefrom time immemorial—as if rags had succeeded rags, bog had formed over bog, ruins had given birth to ruins, and beggars had begotten beggars, for a long series of centuries. Nor does the future present a more cheering view. Even for the poor Greeks under Turkish domination, there was more hope than for the Irish under the English.”

Sad and dreary as is the picture drawn of the condition of poor Ireland by this eminent German traveller, he had seen it before the ravages of famine and pestilence had been experienced. What then must be the condition of its people now ? An English traveller who passed through the south and west of the Island in 1842, four years before the exhaustion of the soil had produced disease among the potatoes, gave the following description :

“ The traveller is haunted by the face of the *popular starvation*. It is not the exception—it is *the condition* of the people. In this fairest and richest of countries, men are suffering and *starving by millions*. There are thousands of them, at this minute, stretched in the sunshine at their cabin doors with *no work*, scarcely any food, no hope seemingly. Strong countrymen are lying in bed, ‘ *for the hunger* ’—because a man lying on his back does not need so much food as a person a-foot. Many of them have torn up the unripe potatoes from their little gardens, and to exist now must look to winter, when they shall have to suffer starvation and cold too.”

Frightful as must have been the condition at that time, the cup of misery became full to overflowing, when an almost total failure of the potato crop took place, the consequences of which may be seen in the fact that the population numbered in 1850, 1,659,000 *less than it did in 1840*. Mr. Duffy, in a more recent article in the *Dublin Nation*, thus confirms all that has been said by the German and English travellers already quoted :

“ No words printed in a newspaper or elsewhere will give any man who has not seen it \$ conception of the fallen condition of the West and the South. The famine and the landlords have actually created a *new race* in Ireland. I have seen on the streets of Galway, crowds of creatures more debased than the Yahoos of Swift—creatures having only a distant and hideous resemblance to human beings. Greyhaired old men, whose faces had hardened into a

settled leer of mendicancy, simious and semi-human ; and women filthier and more frightful than the harpies, who at the jingle of a coin on the pavement, swarmed in myriads from unseen places, struggling, screaming, shrieking for their prey, like some monstrous unclean animals. In Westport, the sight of a priest on the street gathered an entire pauper population, thick as a village market, swarming around him for relief. Beggar children, beggar adults, beggars in white hair ; girls with faces gray and shrivelled, the grave stamped upon them in a decree which could not be recalled ; women with the more touching and tragical aspect of lingering shame and self-respect not yet affected ; and among these terrible realities, imposture shaking in pretended fits, to add the last touch of horrible grotesqueness to the picture ! I have seen these accursed sights, and they are burned into my memory forever. Away from the town, other scenes of unimaginable horror disclose themselves. The traveller meets groups, and even troops, of wild, idle, lunatic-looking paupers wandering over the country, each with some tale of extermination to tell. If he penetrate into a cabin, and can distinguish objects among filth and darkness, of which an ordinary pig-sty affords but a faint image, he will probably discover from a dozen to twenty inmates in the hut the ejected cottiers—clustering together, and breeding a pestilence. What kind of creatures men and women become, living in this dung-heap, what kind of children are reared here to go up into a generation, I have no words to paint.”

Speaking of the exodus of the people from the province of Connaught, the *Western Star*, deprecating the idea of the total expulsion of the Celtic race, nevertheless makes the following confession, showing with what eagerness Irishmen make their escape from Ireland to enjoy peace and plenty in the United States :

“ There is no doubt that in a few years more, if some stop is not put to the present outpouring of the people to America, and latterly to Australia, there will not be a million of the present race of inhabitants to be found within the compass of the four provinces. From the west,” it is added, “ they are flying in hundreds.”

“ No thoughts of the land of their birth,” it continues, “ seem to enter their minds, although the Irish people have been proverbial for their attachment to their country. The prospect of an abundant harvest has not the slightest effect in giving pause to their outward movement. The predominant, and, in fact, the only feeling that seems to pervade them, is an indescribable anxiety to get out of the country at all hazards. If war, famine, and pestilence were known to be close at hand, there could not be greater avidity shown to fly from their houses than is every day exhibited by the hundreds who crowd our high roads and railways in their journey to the shipping ports.”

And this view of the subject is confirmed by a writer in the *Edinburgh Review* of July, 1854, in which he in a graphic manner describes the scenes attending their departure from the land of their nativity as follows :—

“ When a number are about to leave, the whole village the old (above sixty) against whose free immigration the passenger laws of some of the States interpose impediments ; the well-to-do, who have no need to depart ; the beggar, whose filthy shreds cannot be called a covering ; the youngest children even,—gather in a tumultuous group about the car holding the smiling faces whose happy lot it is to leave forever their native land. With the wildest signs of grief for the departing, as if for the dead, with waving of hands, beating of the air, unearthly howls, tears, sobs, and hysterics, they press confusedly around the carriage, each one struggling for the last shake of the hand, the last kiss, the last glance, the last adieu. The only calm persons in this strange scene are the subjects of it all, to whom this moment is the consummation of long hopes and many dreams, who have talked of it and sang of it (for the

songs of the peasantry now dwell upon it), till it has become a reality. Before going on board the ship at Liverpool they are subjected to a strict inspection by the medical authorities, and the same persons examine the medicine chests to see that the vessel is properly secured against maladies. They are then put on board the first vessel of the line sailing after their arrival ; and we have the authority of Mr. Hale for saying, that they sometimes cross and land without knowing her name. When on board they are assigned to certain berths, their chests are hauled into the little compartments opening on the deck, in which their berths are situated ; they are furnished with cooking places for the preparation of the stores which they take in addition to the ship's rations, the messes are made up for the voyage, the pilot takes the ship below the bar, search is made for *stowaways*, the pilot leaves, taking with him all secreted persons whom the search exposes, and the waters of the Irish Channel are breaking against the bows. There is even less sentiment in this parting than in the former ; little of the regret so natural in leaving for the land of nativity. That comes later, when, in full employment, with plenty of money, a clean, comfortable room, a tidy wife, children at school, and the old folk and brothers and sisters brought out, Pat tells the Yankees what a jewel of a land he has left behind, and wishes (the rogue) that he may just lay his old bones once more there before he dies. There is no such feeling when the ship sails not a wet eye, not a sigh, not a regret all is buoyant hope and happiness.”

Of the Germans, the same writer speaks thus :—

“ They take leave of their country with a little more sentiment than the Irish, but yet without sorrow. The legends of forests which yield them no bread, and of mountains from whose vineyards no wine is pressed for their lips, the memories of the grass-grown streets and decayed fountains of Augsburg, the departed greatness of Nuremberg—

‘ Quaint old town of toil and traffic,  
Quaint old town of art and song ;’

the dull magnificence of Berlin, the Anglified elegance of Dresden, the small-beer architecture of Munich, even the national waters of the ‘ wide and winding Rhine,’ and the old Germanic glories of Cologne, are little to them at the moment of leaving for the land of plenty. The same want of capital, and of an active, energetic middle class, to stimulate industry and make a division of labor, which has produced in Ireland the voluntary immigration of its best laborers, is causing the same results in the centre of Europe.”

Republican landmarks. The views and opinions of American statesmen on foreign immigration. Being a collection of statistics of population, pauperism, crime, etc. With an inquiry into the true character of the United States government, and its policy on the subject of immigration, naturalization of aliens, etc (1856)

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