“Cause of the Non-Commencement of the Rebellion in Ireland,” November 15, 1848

“Cause of the Non-Commencement of the Rebellion in Ireland,” November 15, 1848

The Iowa Capitol Reporter, pp. 1, 15

November 1848. Courtesy of Library of Congress
By the politeness of our townsman, Mr E. Cooper, we have Irish dates up to the 23d ult., less than one month old. The accounts of an increase of death and destitution are sad and heart sickening. In the address of the General Central Relief Committee it is said that the condition of the people of Ireland is worse than at any other period. The editor of the Dublin Press of May 23rd, in speaking on this subject says:

"Connaught is fast perishing. A deeper shade of gloom seems to have settled on the west. Mournful as were the tidings which the earlier part of the spring brought to us from that devoted region—in capable as the sad facts then narrated appeared of any addition to their fearful character—we are forced to confess that the wide-spread misery has increased, and that the intensity of the sufferings of the people of Connaught at the present moment has no parallel in the history of the human race. The desolating influences of famine and of pestilence are diminishing that "congestion of population" which formed the subject of discussion on a late occasion in the House of Commons. The most approved economic theory of the adaptation of space to living men is rapidly being complied with. The rude hand of death is fast settling the question of emigration from Ireland. The Irish people are emigrating to the grave—they are planting a vast colony in the land of death."

In the reports, which we have not space to copy, the population had dwindled, chiefly from death and starvation, down to a diminution of forty per cent. Sixty per cent of the population are on the out-door relief lists. The maximum rate of wages is but two pence per day. Those on the out-door relief lists receive but one pound of poor Indiab corn, for which in some cases they have to travel three miles and then break stone all day on the road. Fever and dysentery are prevalent, and the population have scarcely a particle of clothing to cover them. Numbers are huddled together without any covering to shield them from the inclemency of the weather. Twelve hundred persons had perished during the last four years in the Parish of Bally by destitution and disease. In Mr Anderson's Appeal to Lord John Russell, he states that a shipwrecked human body was cast ashore, and a starving man "extracted the heart and liver, and that was the maddening feast on which he regaled himself and perishing family." A poor forlorn girl, whose mother had died of the cholera, bore the corpse on her own back three miles, to the relief officer, to secure her mother a decent interment. Poor girl. She, herself, was taken with the disease, and died the next day. Shame on England, with all its wealth, to permit such desolation. Let America again lend a helping hand to starving Ireland. We have enough and to spare.
Curious Facts.
The following curious facts are taken from Blackwood's Magazine:
In England the average poor rates for ten years past has amounted to $30,000,000.
In Ireland $7,500,000 a year are expended to feed a starving population.
In 1826 the immigration from the British Isles was 26,000 persons. In 1849 the number was 300,000.
In 30 years, crime in Great Britain and Ireland has increased 500 per cent., while the population has only increased 30 per cent.
In 1822 there were 27,183 jail commitments in England, Scotland and Ireland; in 1850 there were 74,462.
13 per cent. of the population of Scotland are paupers.
In Ireland, it appears from a report to government, made in July, 1847, that 2,020,712 persons subsisted on public alms, about 40 per cent. of the population. The nominal rental in Ireland is $65,000,000. The sum expended for the relief of the poor, $8,370,595, one-ninth of the rental. There were 250,000 persons in the poor houses, and 45,000 in jail. [Ireland is not larger than Ohio.]
In Glasgow one fourth of the burials are at the public expense.
In London there are 20,000 journey-men tailors, of whom 12,000 earn a miserable existence by working 14 hours a day, including Sunday. There are also in the same city 32,000 sewing women, who, on an average, make only 4½d. or 9 cents a day by working 14 hours—not quite ½ of a cent per hour.
Chapter XIX.


The most affecting event, in the connexion of Ireland with America, is the conduct of the latter towards the victims of the Irish famine, which began in the winter of 1846 and 1847, and endured, in its worst forms, till the close of 1848.

The famine is to be thus accounted for: The act of union, in 1800, deprived Ireland of a native legislature. Her aristocracy emigrated to London. Her tariff expired in 1826, and, of course, was not renewed. Her merchants and manufacturers withdrew their capital from trade and invested it in land.* The land! the land! was the object of universal, illimitable competition. In the first twenty years of the century, the farmers, if rack-rented, had still the war prices. After the peace, they had the monopoly of the English provision and produce markets. But in 1846, Sir Robert Peel successfully struck at the old laws, imposing duties on foreign corn, and let in Baltic wheat, and American provisions of every kind, to compete with and undersell the Irish rack-rented farmers.

High rents had produced hardness of heart in "the middleman," extravagance in the land-owner, and extreme poverty in the peasant. The poor law commission of 1839 reported that 2,300,000 of the agricultural laborers of Ireland were "paupers;" that those immediately above the lowest rank were "the worst clad, worst fed, and worst lodged" peasantry in Europe. True,

* Between 1820 and 1830, two thirds of all the manufactories in Ireland were closed, and abandoned, as ruinous investments.
Partial failures of this crop had taken place for a succession of seasons. So regularly did these failures occur, that William Cobbett and other skilful agriculturists had foretold their final destruction, years before. Still the crops of the summer of 1846 looked fair and sound to the eye. The dark green crispy leaves and yellow and purple blossoms of the potato fields were a cheerful feature in every landscape. By July, however, the terrible fact became but too certain. From every townland within the four seas tidings came to the capital that the people's food was blasted—utterly, hopelessly blasted. Incredulity gave way to panic, panic to demands on the imperial government to stop the export of grain, to establish public granaries, and to give the peasantry such reproductive employment as would enable them to purchase food enough to keep soul and body together. By a report of the ordnance captain, Larcom, it appeared there were grain crops more than sufficient to support the whole population—a cereal harvest estimated at four hundred millions of dollars, as prices were. But to all remonstrances, petitions, and proposals, the imperial economists had but one answer, "they could not interfere with the ordinary currents of trade." O'Connell's proposal, Lord George Bentinck's, O'Brien's, the proposals of the society called "The Irish Council," all received the same answer. Fortunes were made and lost in gambling over this sudden trade in human subsistence, and ships laden to the gunwales sailed out of Irish ports, while the charities of the world were coming in.

In August authentic cases of death by famine, with the verdict "starvation," were reported. The first authentic case thrilled the country, like an ill-wind. From twos and threes they rose to tens, and in September, repeated twenty times in the day. Then Ireland, the hos-by her imperial masters, lifted up her voice, and uttered

that cry of earth. The inhabitants of Paris conspired refusing ing in America, but the rest of the number of South Asians.

"I am not sure how to deal with the disease the British hospital are in whole so of the char the best Six.

at the this share of public relief was

Courte
Chapter XIX from "A History of the Irish Settlers in North America from the Earliest Period to the Census of 1850," 1852 (pg.3)

IRISH SETTLERS IN NORTH AMERICA. 137

...that cry of awful anguish, which shook the ends of the earth. The Czar, the Sultan, and the Pope, sent their rouches and their Pauls. The Pasha of Egypt, the Shah of Persia, the Emperor of China, the Rajahs of India, conspired to do for Ireland, what her so-styled rulers refused to do,—to keep her young and old people living in the land.

America did more in this work of mercy than all the rest of the world. On the 9th of November, 1846, a number of gentlemen assembled at the Globe Hotel, South Sixth street, Philadelphia, convened by the following circular, issued by the venerable Alderman Binns:

"In Ireland, the men, women and children at this time are, everywhere, from the north to the south, and from the east to the west, falling victims to hunger and the diseases consequent upon hunger. The heart sickens in the knowledge that thousands of people, among the most hospitable on the earth, are perishing from famine! We are in a land abounding with food of all sorts, good and wholesome, for man and every creature that lives.

"It is thought to be the duty of this city, which has so often been among the foremost in works of mercy and charity, to do something for the famine-stricken people of Ireland. What that something shall be, we do not undertake to say. To consider what is best to be done, and the best way of doing it, a meeting will be held in South Sixth street, between Chestnut and Walnut streets, at the Globe Hotel, on Thursday evening, at seven o'clock; at that time and place, you are requested to attend. As this meeting is intended to be select, and that business shall be entered upon at the hour proposed, you are requested to be punctual in your attendance."

"This is believed to have been the first meeting of a public character, held in America, on the subject of Irish relief."* An important public meeting followed, which was addressed by the most distinguished citizens includ-


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ing Mayor Swift and Hon. Horace Binney, in favor of a general contribution throughout Pennsylvania.

Alderman Bixas concluded a few apposite remarks with the following preamble and resolution, which were adopted unanimously:

"In 1775, before these United States had existence, — before her stars had lighted her to glory, or her stripes had been felt by her foes, — before the voice of independence had been heard on her mountains, or the shouts of victory had echoed through her valleys, — her statesmen and patriots assembled at their seat of government, in their future Hall of Independence, and, by a public address, made known to the world her grateful and affectionate sympathy and respect for the Parliament and people of Ireland, kindly inviting her people to come and inhabit the fertile regions of America." Many thousands accepted the invitation, and by their toil and their sufferings, their sweat and their blood, assisted to make "Great, Glorious, and Free," the country which had adopted them.

"Since that invitation, threescore and ten years have passed, and the United States have become a great nation; her stars and stripes float freely over every sea; she is a sure refuge, yea, a tower of strength for the oppressed of every clime, and her voice is respected among the mightiest powers of the earth; but dark, deep, and general distress, with the gloom of night, overshadow unhappy Ireland; her people perish under the pangs of hunger, and are swept by pestilence; they exist in shelterless cabins, with scant garments to cover them, and fall by thousands into unwept, too often uncovered, graves. A knowledge of their miseries has crossed the Atlantic, and touched the hearts of the statesmen and patriots of the United States, and again they have assembled at their seat of government, and invited their fellow-citizens to meet in their cities, towns, and villages, to consider, compassionate, and relieve the hearts-broken, the famishing, the dying men, women, and children of Ireland; therefore be it, and it hereby is,

"Resolved, That the statesmen and patriots of the low and humble America have, in examples to the thanks of the heart-won people of the nation...

An influential member of the Society of Friends in May, 1847, and $20,000 were raised by three banks, which saved the greater part of the city. The following letter was sent to the legislature:

"While the city of New York is not..."
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Irish settlers in North America. 130

Low and humble and of the high and mighty states of America have, in the conduct stated, given illustrious examples to those of all nations of the earth, deserved the thanks of the people whom they have faithfully represented, and insures to them and to their country the heart-warm gratitude and renewed attachment of the people of Ireland.”

An influential city committee was organized. By May, 1847, they had received above $48,000 in cash, and $20,000 in articles suited for shipping. They loaded three barks and four brigs, for various Irish ports, all which safely arrived. Munster and Connaught received the greater part. In their closing report, at the end of 1847, the committee, among other resolutions, passed the following:

“While we gratefully acknowledge the services cordially rendered to us and to the cause of humanity, by individuals in various parts of Pennsylvania and Ohio in particular, we feel ourselves called upon in an especial manner to make known our high sense of the very important assistance given to us by our esteemed friend and fellow-citizen, Allen Cuthbert. Not only have we had the free use of his warehouses for the deposit of bread-stuffs, but the benefit of his constant and anxious services and experience in receiving them from every quarter, and in shipping them to Ireland. Conduct such as this confers honor not only on himself, but on the community of which he is a worthy member.”

New York and Boston were not behind Philadelphia, nor the Grimells, Lawrences, and Everetts, behind the Cuthberts and Binneys.* In the spring of 1847, a national

*In his address on the subject, in Boston, Mr. Everett recalled a reminiscence of Colonial times, which must have told powerfully on his audience.

In the prosecution of the Narraganset war, with King Philip, the Cape towns, in which were already some Irish families, contracted a heavy debt. The city of Dublin, being made aware of the condition of the settlers, remitted £124 10s. “for the relief of such as were impoverished, distressed, and in necessity, from the war.” — Pratt's Hist. of Eastham, Wellfleet, and Orleans, Yarmouth, 1844.

Another writer adds: “The donation from Ireland, is a gratifying proof of the generous influence of Christian sympathies, and is supposed to have

meeting was held at Washington, at which Mr. Dallas, Vice-President of the United States, took the chair. Mr. Webster, Mr. Cass, and other eminent senators, spoke. The government placed two vessels of war, “The Macedonian” and “The Jamestown,” at the disposal of the committee sitting in Boston and New York. Boston and New England, it is calculated, contributed nearly a quarter of a million of dollars, and New York city and state an equal amount. The Protestant as well as the Catholic pulpit resounded with appeals for “aid to Ireland.” Sect and party were forgotten, and all-embracing Charity ruled the New World, unopposed. America was even more blessed in the giving, than Ireland was in receiving, such assistance.

It was the noblest sight of the century, those ships of war, laden with life and manned by mercy, entering the Irish waters. England’s flag drooped above the spoil she was stealing away from the famishing, as the American frigates passed hers, inward bound, deep with charitable freights. Here were the ships of a state but seventy years old,—a state without a consolidated treasury,—a state, but the other day, a group of unconnected struggling colonies. And here, in the fulness of her heart and her harvest, she had come to feed the enslaved and enervated vassals of Victoria, in the very presence of her throne. If public shame or sensibility could localize itself on any individual of so vile and vast a despotism, what must not that individual have felt!

Those who know what it requires to feed an army, may imagine that, abundant as was America’s gift, it was not effectual to banish famine. Oh, no! tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands, perished miserably. But it preserved many thousands of precious lives, and gave an undying feeling of redemption to come, to all who lived at that day, in Ireland. The Central Relief Committees of Dublin and Cork accounted for the trusts committed to them. The “Irish Confederation” made national acknowledgment been procured through the exertions of the Rev. Nathaniel Mather, at that time a minister of the congregational denomination in Dublin.” — Ibid.
Ir. Dallas, the chair, the senator, of war, at the dis-
New York, contributed New York as well
not for "aid and all-opposed, than Ire-
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It is a source of sincere satisfaction to the present writer, that both
addresses were prepared by him, and adopted by a committee, of which Duffy,
O'Brien, Magher, and Mitchel, were members.
“Ireland,” November 27, 1851

Ireland.

A Dublin letter in the Limerick Chronicle supplies the following statistics in reference to the immigration from the former port:

“Talking of immigration, it is idle to ask ‘Where will it end?’ Why it is only beginning. In the Liffey this moment there are three vessels advertised to sail this week—the Coronet, (Roche, Brothers) an admirable ship, capable of accommodating comfortably 300 passengers; the Samuel, (James Miley,) also about 300; and another shy looking craft, rather the worse for wear, which has been christened the British Queen, belonging to a third house. Here, then, this very week 1000 people will leave this port alone direct for the ‘Model Republic.’—But this affords a very imperfect idea of the depopulating drain which is going on, and which is fast causing Ireland literally to sink into the bosom of the Atlantic. We have from this port alone, either direct to America or via Liverpool, an exodus of the Irish people to the tune of at least 7000 every week. A close observing friend who returned this morning from a tour in Tipperary, Limerick and Clare, assures me that if the current of migration proceeds in the present full and rapid flood, Ireland, if inhabited at all in five years hence, will not be peopled by Irishman—at least as far as the south and west are concerned.”
CHAPTER XXV.

SIX STATES OF THE NORTH-WEST — SENATORS CAIUS AND FITZGERALD, OF MICHIGAN, ALLEN, OF OHIO, AND HANNIBAL, OF MISSOURI — HON. MR. RYAN, OF ILLINOIS — HUGH O’NEIL, OF IOWA — THE DOWINGS — LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR SIEVE, OF WISCONSIN — IRISH PIONEERS IN IOWA — REFLECTIONS.

The six states carved out of the north-western Indian territories since the beginning of this century, have been the favorite goals of all recent emigration. The facilities of transit offered by the canals and railroads leading from the old Atlantic States westward, and the adaptability of the west for agriculture, attracted and made easy the progress of the Celtic multitude. If, in our own age, this young nation has been able to export its superfluous breadstuffs to the other side of the Atlantic, one of the chief causes is to be found in the constant supply of cheap Irish labor, which, for fifty years, has been poured along all the avenues of the west. If, moreover, Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin and Iowa, have done much to increase the wealth and glory of the Union, a large share of the historical honor is due to Irish fugitives from British oppression, and their more fortunate sons, born as freemen.

A glance at the growth of the general population, since the reclamation of the North-west, will enable us to estimate, in one way, its importance to the Union. In 1800, the "Union" counted 5,305,625 souls; in 1810, 7,239,814; in 1820, 9,654,596; in 1830, 12,868,020; in 1840, 17,069,453; in 1850, about 23,250,000. Not only has the increase been mainly in the North-west, but the abundant produce of that fertile region has fed and distended even the older states. For every emigrant who goes up the lakes in spring, an increase of produce, or its price, comes down in harvest. The army of labor makes an annual campaign, and gives a good account of
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itself in every engagement with the wilderness, and the desolation of ancient barrenness. The host that unfurled its standard at Bunker's Hill, and took the British colors down at Yorktown, is scarcely more entitled to be called the army of liberation, than this emigrant multitude, who, armed with the implements of labor, smite the forest from the morning until the evening, and plant, in advance of the ages to come, the starry banner of the nation against the frontier skies.

Who constitute this host? In every case it has been nearly half Irish. Until 1819, there was, unfortunately, no customs record of emigrant arrivals; until the Atlantic States, within ten years back, appointed local Commissioners of Emigration, we had no exact returns of the classes and origin of those who did arrive. But the names of men and places, the number of Catholic churches erected in, and the Irish feelings represented by, the public men of the west, enable us to estimate the share of that people in the population of the six new states of that quarter.*

In the United States Senate, Michigan has been represented by Generals Cass and Fitzgerald, both of Irish origin; Ohio was long represented by Mr. Allen, still in the vigor of his public life,—a man of real ability, and not only by blood, but by sympathy, allied to the fatherland of Burke and O'Connell. Indiana has sent to the same assembly from Berlin, Shields, largely represented the same night; they were forty.

Of the number in the national emigration to Illinois, some of whose services to the industry of the country in 1842, they were elected to La Salle, he renders

"The events had forecast dark means about six; she could not be means to aid available."

"Mr. age, was present; a man in his prime for the canal, its foreign capital in advance..."
same assembly Edward A. Hannegan, some time minister to Berlin; and Illinois is now represented by James Shields. The popular branch of Congress has also been largely recruited by men, of Irish parentage or birth, from the same region. In the thirty-second Congress there were forty such representatives.

Of the six states, Illinois has been distinguished for the number of its Irish public servants. Not only in the national councils, but in the not less important duties of organizing the finances and establishing the credit of Illinois, some of our emigrants have performed important services to their adopted state. Of these, one, for his industry and abilities, deserves particular mention. In 1842, the late Mr. Ryan, then a very young man, was elected to the State Senate, for the district including La Salle, Grundy, and Kendall counties. The services he rendered are related by an Illinois journal: —

"The election of Mr. Ryan, at this time, as subsequent events have shown, was a fortunate one for our state. At that dark period of its history the state was bankrupt in means and credit. Involved in debt to the amount of about sixteen millions of dollars, there was no hope that she could ever pay any part of that sum unless further means could be obtained to bring the canal, the most available part of her property, into use.

"Mr. Ryan, then, although but twenty-five years of age, was probably as well informed, in regard to the present and prospective resources of the state, as any man in it. Conceiving that it was necessary to complete the canal in order to save the state, and that the money for its completion must be obtained from eastern or foreign capitalists, he justly deemed that it was necessary, in advance of any legislation, to convince those parties that a further advance of money to the state of Illinois was a proper, a prudent measure, on their part. With this view, he, immediately after his election, in August, 1842, proceeded to New York, and so well did he succeed in effecting his object, that, aided by the advice and assistance of Mr. Arthur Bronson, now deceased, Mr.

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Justin Butterfield, now Commissioner of the General Land Office, and others, he matured the plan of the canal law of 1843, for raising the sum of sixteen hundred thousand dollars for completing the canal. On his entrance into the Senate, in December, 1842, he introduced the bill, which was, during that session, passed into a law. Strange as it may now seem, the bill was violently assailed, and it required all the information, talents, and zeal of Mr. Ryan to secure its passage.

"Upon its becoming a law, Mr. Ryan, who had been thus instrumental in devising the plan upon which it was founded, and in carrying it thus far into execution, was deemed, by common consent, the most proper person to procure the loan proposed to be raised by the law. Accordingly he was appointed to this honorable and responsible agency, by the late Governor Ford, in the spring of 1843, with Mr. Charles Oakley, who was appointed his colleague. He proceeded immediately to England, where, after overcoming many serious obstacles, they were at length successful in effecting the loan of $1,600,000, which secured the completion of the canal.

"The mass of information with which Mr. Ryan had stored his mind, in relation to the resources of Illinois, together with his powers of argument, contributed largely to their success. After having secured the attention of the foreign capitalists to his facts and arguments, he was desired to submit to them a written statement of the facts which had been the subject of their discussion, and was assured, if Mr. Ryan and Mr. Oakley could verify those facts to such agents as these parties might send to Illinois, the amount asked for should be furnished.

"In compliance with this arrangement, Governor John Davis, of Mass., and Captain Swift, one of the present Canal Trustees, came to Illinois, and, after six weeks' patient investigation, found themselves able to endorse, substantially, all the representations that had been made by Mr. Ryan and Mr. Oakley.

"Soon afterwards, in the latter part of the year 1845, Mr. Ryan, having thus devoted himself for three years to
the service of the state, with a zeal and vigor that could not be surpassed, and a judgment and discretion that resulted in complete success, felt that some attention to his own business was necessary.

The supposed mineral riches of the shores of Lake Superior at that time attracted much attention; Mr. Ryan devoted himself to mining, and was engaged in that pursuit, in Pennsylvania, at the time of his death.

He had just succeeded in his pursuits to such an extent as to be able to turn his eyes towards the prairies of his own beautiful state, with the hope of soon again making them his home, when the inexorable fate which awaits us all interposed her fiat, and terminated his career.

"Thus has Illinois lost, in the prime and vigor of his manhood, one of her most gifted and devoted sons,—rich in every endowment that gives value and dignity to humanity. In intellect, among the first; in goodness of heart, surpassed by none. Elegant and accomplished in his manners, wherever he has been, and in whatever position he has been placed, he has always commanded the respect and admiration of those who knew him. There was a charm in his manners that seemed to possess a mysterious influence over all who approached him. But by those to whom he was best known was he the best beloved. Those only who knew him well could know the full worth of his character."

In Indiana, the families of Gorman, or O’Gorman, the Browns,—two of whose cadets are now in Congress,—were among the pioneers. The family of O’Neils, originally settled in Carolina, and still represented there by the Hon. John Belton O’Neil, a jurist and scholar of high attainments, early branched off into Indiana. Hugh O’Neil, of this stock, was educated in the University of that State, at Bloomington, and studied law at Indianapolis. He is now (1852), in his fortieth year, United States District Attorney for Indiana.

Thomas and John Dowling, of the same state, have long been known, in its local politics, as editors and
Chapter XXV from “A History of the Irish Settlers in North America from the Earliest Period to the Census of 1850,” 1852 (pg.6)

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legislators. Thomas is now one of the three trustees of the state debt; John holds an important office in the Department for Indian Affairs, at Washington, in which bureau he was preceded by his countryman, James Shields, now general and senator.*

Wisconsin, admitted in 1848, has, at this present writing, a numerous and influential Irish population. Many of its new towns are almost exclusively occupied and governed by that class of citizens. The town of Benton is of this number, being founded, in 1844, by Mr. Dennis Murphy, a native of Wexford, who afterwards represented the county in the State Senate. In Milwaukee, the Irish citizens are very numerous, and several of them, as Dr. James Johnson, are large proprietors of city property.

One of the most honorable reputations made in Wisconsin, is that of the Hon. Timothy Byrne, a native of Dublin, born in 1819. His parents settled in New York, in 1820, from which Mr. Byrne removed, in 1836, to Wisconsin Territory. From 1846 to 1849, he was a member of the Legislature; in 1849 and 1850, he was one of the commissioners for the improvement of the Fox and Wisconsin rivers; and in 1851, though his party was defeated, he was elected lieutenant-governor by a majority of five thousand. Thus, at the age of thirty-three years, he fills the second office of his adopted state, without any of the factitious aids of party support.

Iowa, the most recent of the states (except California), excels them all in her Irish predilections. In 1851, she gave the names of Mathew, O’Brien, Mitchel, and Emmett, to four of her newly surveyed counties. Her State Legislature has always had Irish members, and her Irish citizens exercise a controlling influence. The venerable pioneer, Patrick Quigley, Judge Corkery (a native of Cork), and others of the first brigade of emigrants, were

* An obliging friend, long a resident of Indiana, in answer to our inquiries, writes:— "The truth is, Indiana is full of the descendants of Irishmen. I proudly boast of their Celtic origin. The first Constitution of the State was formed by a convention, in which were several natives of the 'old sod.'"
Chapter XXV from “A History of the Irish Settlers in North America from the Earliest Period to the Census of 1850,” 1852 (pg.7)

...three trustees of the Bank of the Irish Settlers in the United States, in which James McGee, the present writer, was one of the three...
a far other and far higher object: to make us sensible that we had predecessors in America whose example was instructive, to induce us to compare what they did and were with what we are and ought to do. If it serves not this purpose in a degree, better it never was written or read.

This torrent of emigration from Ireland to America must, in a few years, abate its force; it cannot go on as it has gone. Whatever we can do for ourselves, as a people, in North America, must be done before the close of this century, or the epitaph of our race will be written in the west with the single sentence —

"Too Late!"
“The Foreign Element,” February 8, 1855

Wanted.

COACHMAN WANTED—A Man who understands the care of horses and is willing to make himself generally useful, on a small place six miles from the city. A colored man preferred. No Irish need apply, at No. 72 South-st.
The Irish Problem.—At length, it seems, we have reached the point—foreseen by so many political economists long since—the depletion of Ireland. Our Irish immigration is falling off rapidly, and bids fair to decline to a mere nominal figure: many former emigrants are returning to their native land: and Ireland itself is said to be in the enjoyment of a prosperity to which it has been a stranger for years. Within the last ten years, it cannot have lost less than three to four millions of inhabitants by emigration, famine and disease: and in consequence, those who are left behind have plenty of elbow room, and find plenty of work at fair prices. The operation of the encumbered estates court has relieved the troubles of that large class of proprietors who were an incubus to the country, and whose inability to improve their land or pay their debts, induced the widespread distress of the laboring classes. Most of these estates have been taken up in small lots, and divided among a large number of holders, including many of the farmers. Hence, according to the best advices we receive, the Irish are for once well pleased with their native land and quite satisfied to remain there. The falling off in our Irish immigration will be sensibly felt here. We are not likely, however, to be short of laborers; for in proportion to the decline of our receipts from Ireland, those from Germany increase. These are likely to be stimulated still further by the effects of the war. Should that last, and Austria and Prussia become involved in it, Germany will not be a very desirable residence for men of moderate means and peaceful propensities: we may expect that the bulk of the small farmers and mechanics will exchange the fatherland with its taxes and bayonets for a free and cheap home in Wisconsin or Illinois. Thus we shall not lose, and Ireland at all events will gain by the events of the last few years.
“Which Color is to be Tabooed Next?” 1882

The New Declaration of “Independence.”

For twenty years no more Chinese laborers shall come to the United States; and no court shall admit Chinese to citizenship.

Which Color is to be Tabooed Next?

Fritz (to Pat), “If the Yankee Congress can keep the yellow man out, what is to hinder them from calling us green and keeping us out too?”