

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

Cause of the Non-Commencement of the Rebellion in Ireland.

To the Editors of the Spirit of the Times:
CONGRESS-HALL,
Thursday, Oct. 12, 1848, }

DEAR SIR: Several gentlemen of this city, who have long felt a deep interest in the affairs of Ireland, (of which number you have not been the least active,) desire that I should give some public explanation of the causes which led to the unexpected failure of the late revolutionary movement in that country.

I feel bound to *meet their wishes, as being theirs*, and for this other reason, that no honest statement of the matter can be made at present in Ireland, where the right of meeting and the liberty of the press have been both annihilated by the British authorities. Were it not my fortune to arrive in your city, I should have felt it my duty to have made the Executive Directory of New York the medium of this statement. But being detained here, and hearing so many anxious inquiries daily made, I have yielded to the general desire to make it public without delay. In doing so I fear I will try your patience much, but I am certain none of your readers will consider the final fate of seven millions of a generous and gifted race a subject of indifference to them, as men or as Americans.

In what I say I shall speak from my own knowledge, for, though I went on a mission into a neighboring country toward the end of July, I was back in Ireland the first week in August, and was engaged there till September.

There are three dates to be borne in mind in reference to this movement; the month of February, when the continental revolution began—the 24th of July, when the Habeas Corpus Act was suspended, and the Harvest time, which, in Ireland, does not come till September.

In February last, the Irish parties who sought a change of Government, were two—“the moral force Repealers,” and “Young Ireland.” These parties originated in July, 1846, when young Ireland seceded from the Repeal Association, on the subject of the lawfulness of shedding blood to achieve political rights. Before that event, Daniel O’Connell was as absolutely the ruler of Ireland, as Nicholas Romanoff is of Russia. The old honored him for his cautious tactics, the young, because England feared and hated him; many Protestants sincerely co-operated with him for his liberality; the Catholics revered him as the man who rebuilt their altars, and loosed the tongues and arms of their Priesthood. Two thousand Catholic Clergymen, quartered in every hamlet and at every cross-road, were his Captains and his magistracy. His word was the only law in the land, and children were baptized with his name, as with the name of a

and used every act to prevent the junction of the Catholic clergy with the Revolutionary leaders.

In this latter enterprise they were materially assisted by the opposition of Mr. John O’Connell to the formation of the “Irish League.” That League, devised and advocated by the best of clergymen and citizens, was intended to swallow up both the Repeal Association and the Confederation. Its actual result would have been to bring together Young Ireland and the Priesthood—the two vital elements of Irish politics at that period. Mr. John O’Connell opposed it by a succession of small artifices, unworthy of any man, and which were only tolerated because being his father’s son he was necessary to the Union of parties. He asked a delay of a fortnight—of a month—and of six weeks. Finally when the six weeks were expired, and for very shame, he could ask no more, he openly assailed it as illegal, and intended to be un-Catholic. The Catholic Clergy, with the exception of courageous and eloquent Bishop of Derry and his clergymen—abandoned the infant League, and so the Confederates were left alone face to face, and foot to foot with the government.

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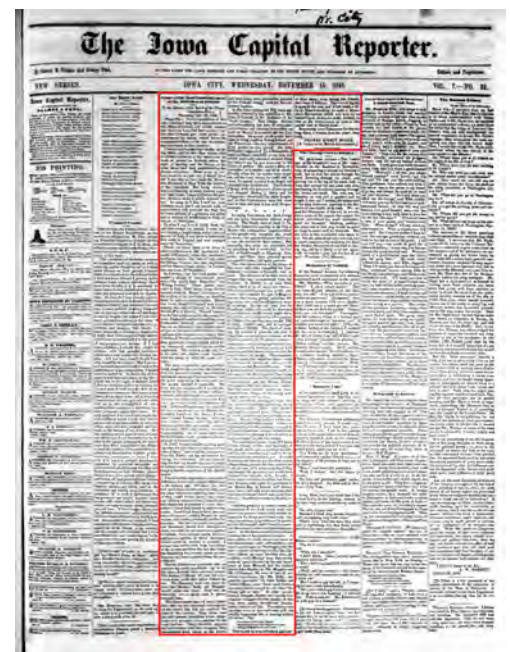
In taking that course, the Irish Clergy did not leave themselves without arguments. The bloody days of June in Paris—the lamentable anarchy in the City of Rome—the comparative unpreparedness of the people—the slaughter that would be made—the partial failure of the harvest—are all reasons for their course. But, assuredly, they made the revolution fail by preaching that it would fail. At Carrick, at Castlerreagh, in Tipperary, Limerick, and Clare, they preached against an appeal to arms, and made converts.

Now the concentration of the troops in the towns and cities compelled the Confederates to choose a Guerrilla war or none. The situation of an Irish town, in August last may be understood from this instance. In Dublin as in most Irish towns, there is an old and a new town.—The Government people live in the new town, and command its open and angular streets from strong public buildings, filling every vista, and dwellinghouse, nearly as strong. In the old town live the hereditary rebels who could be destroyed by a shower of shells which might be so directed as not to injure the other quarter. In Dublin, the garrison was, on the 27th of July, 15,000 men, and it averaged throughout 10,000. The object of making the warfare a guerrilla one, was to drag these concentrations to pieces, as the Spanish patriots did Napoleon’s armies of occupation, and by bringing them into districts where only infantry could act with ease, to put them more on a level with the raw levies of the people. The remainder

er than many, even among her friends, dare hope, I believe. The vice of loyalty is gone at the root, and it but needs a little of Time’s teaching to make a Democratic Revolution, which will wait for no leadership to strike, to make Ireland as free as the freest—even as free as this parent land of liberty itself.

Requesting your indulgence for this too long letter, I remain, dear sir, yours, very truly,

THOMAS D’ARCY MCGEE,
(A traitor to the British Government.)



[illegible]

...Lies with my regiment.³
...my regiment?⁴
...Sirs, [the regiment of] *Fantasio*
*Imperial Guard!*⁵
...O, where is the danger?
...in a future valiant attack—
...valour, my Emperor?⁶
...The value was that of the valiant mar-
...rier; and the valour was that of the
...valour, in the which if this in-
...terview—A beautiful incident, like
...the seal of *Herodian* says, is
...by Mr *Scott*. As the *Novels*
...of *Thomas* and *the* *Novels*
...and the people have no study
...of procuring such a prize, the in-
...crease procured to them that they should
...of the *Scriptures* profits in a general
...of *Thomas*, consisting in the
...promising to each one who should
...of the *New Testament*—
...of the *Scriptures* profits in a general
...of the task; many more before
...of retired life, in secure the to-

[illegible][illegible]

Variations are Accidents.—The
 letter of the 10th of Feb. to
 one of the ladies in Mr. Fitch's
 house were Miss Elizabeth Stetson,
 Miss Fitch, Mr. Ball, son of the latter,
 and Miss Fitch's daughter. Miss
 all others, were friendly and in-
 terested Republicans.

Personal Dull in Society.—A Wal-
 sh letter to the N. Y. Herald, re-
 ferring to Mr. Hamilton, and
 alluding to Mr. Wallace, in ap-
 peal of the letter of the latter gentleman
 stating Mr. Hamilton's appointment
 as President, "let me be as-
 sured," says, "that there in the
 wall, is a sad, cruel, senseless
 denial of the teaching of his commission."
 The letter of Mr. Hamilton, and
 Mr. Wallace's, whether Mr. Wal-
 lace's reply to him, has been handed
 over to me by Mr. Ashton, the
 editor of the Herald, in the office of
 the reply I have not seen.

The letter that the printer of the paper
 concerned had received \$6000

ing the steamer *Amersbach*. "The *Amersbach* in preparation, he was told by a German, was to be fitted out to undertake a voyage of discovery to the Antarctic continent; he would sail full of 9000000," [Mr. Baylis].

philosophical rate being asked what was most horrible? replied "it would be a frost of ten, a blizzard."

language men has three leading: Italian, French, and English. Italian is best by comparison, and little regarded.

words of the Bible are pictures of ability drawn from the words of Kautsky from the class of late.

the energy of the birds, and all the of the philosophers, they feel they are not of the same force.

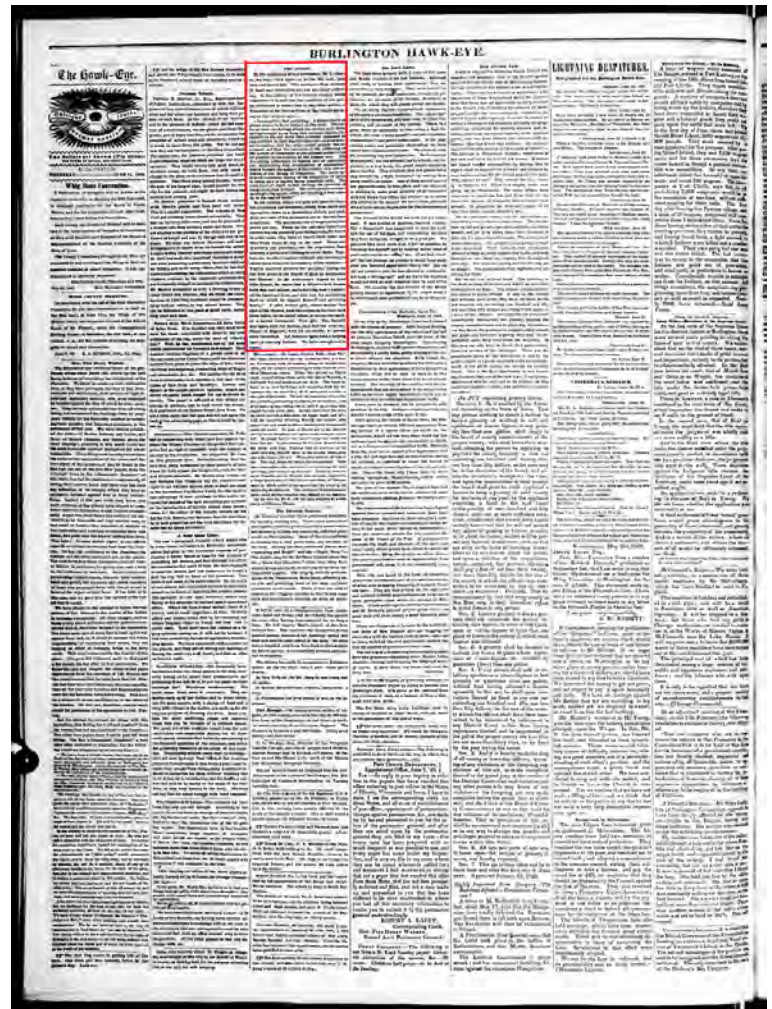
"Poor Ireland," June 21, 1849

Poor Ireland.

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 23d, 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 Indian 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 Balla 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," May 9, 1851

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.

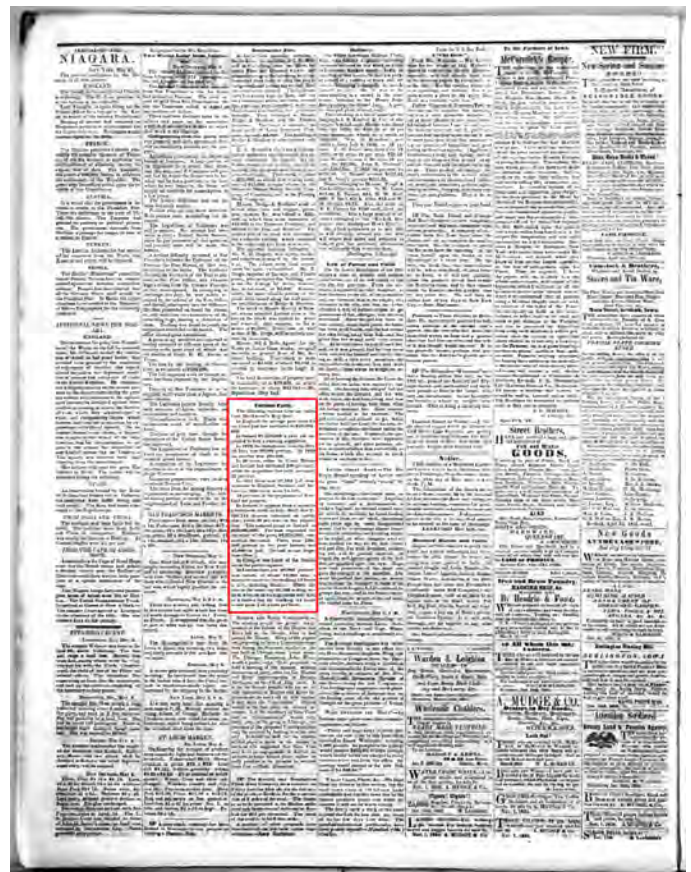
In 1822 there were 27,183 jail commitments in England, Scotland and Ireland; in 1850 there were 74,162.

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, \$6,370,595, 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 ⅔ of a cent per hour.



Chapter XIX from "A History of the Irish Settlers in North America from the Earliest Period to the Census of 1850," 1852 (pg.1)

CHAPTER XIX.

THE IRISH FAMINES OF 1846-7 AND 1848 — AMERICAN SYMPATHY — MEETINGS IN PHILADELPHIA, BOSTON AND NEW YORK — NATIONAL MEETING IN WASHINGTON — THE MACEDONIAN AND JAMESTOWN — REFLECTIONS.

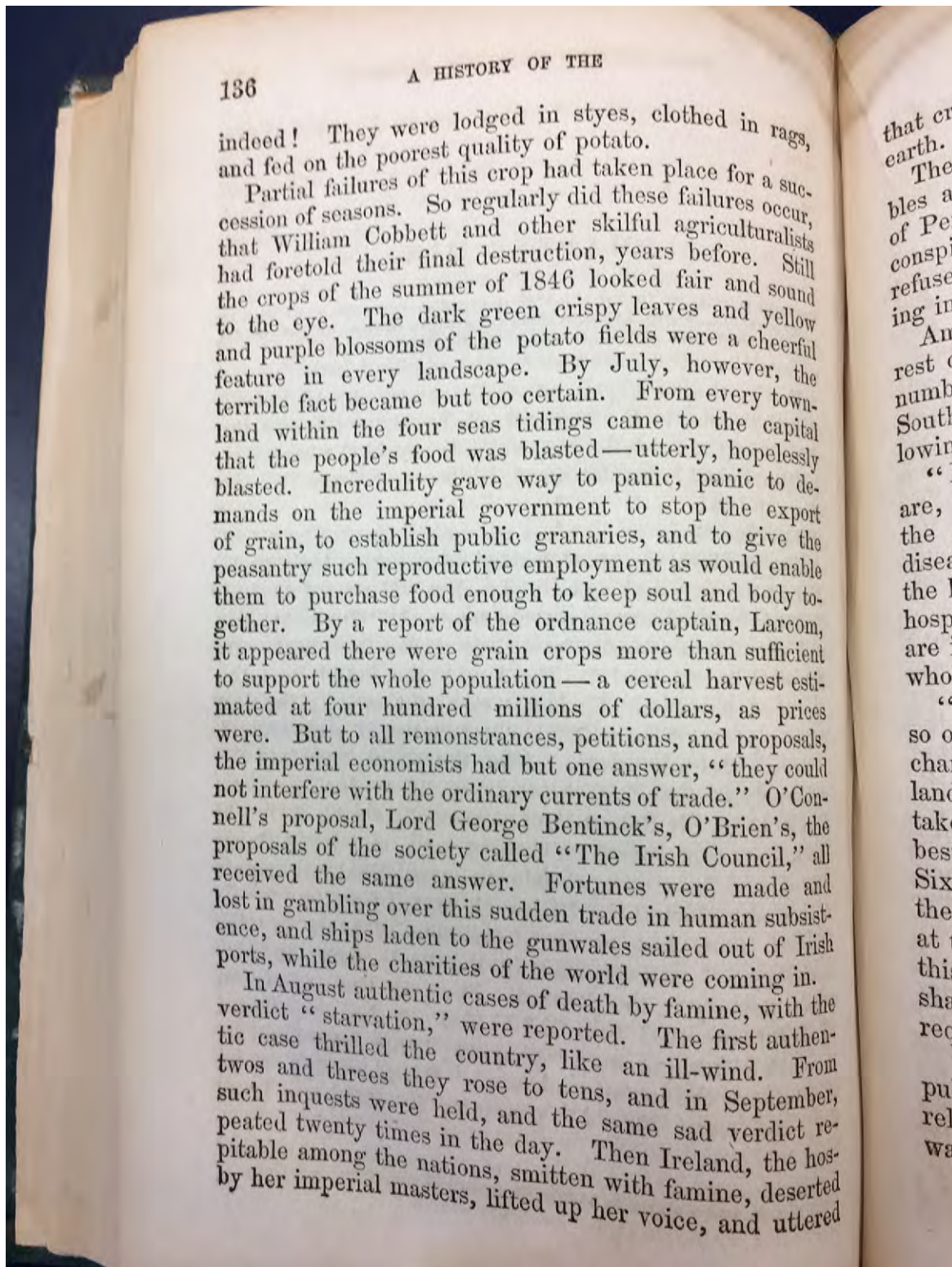
THE most affecting event, in the connexion of Ireland with America, is the conduct of the latter towards the victims of the Irish famine, which began in the winter of 1846 and 1847, and endured, in its worst forms, till the close of 1848.

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,

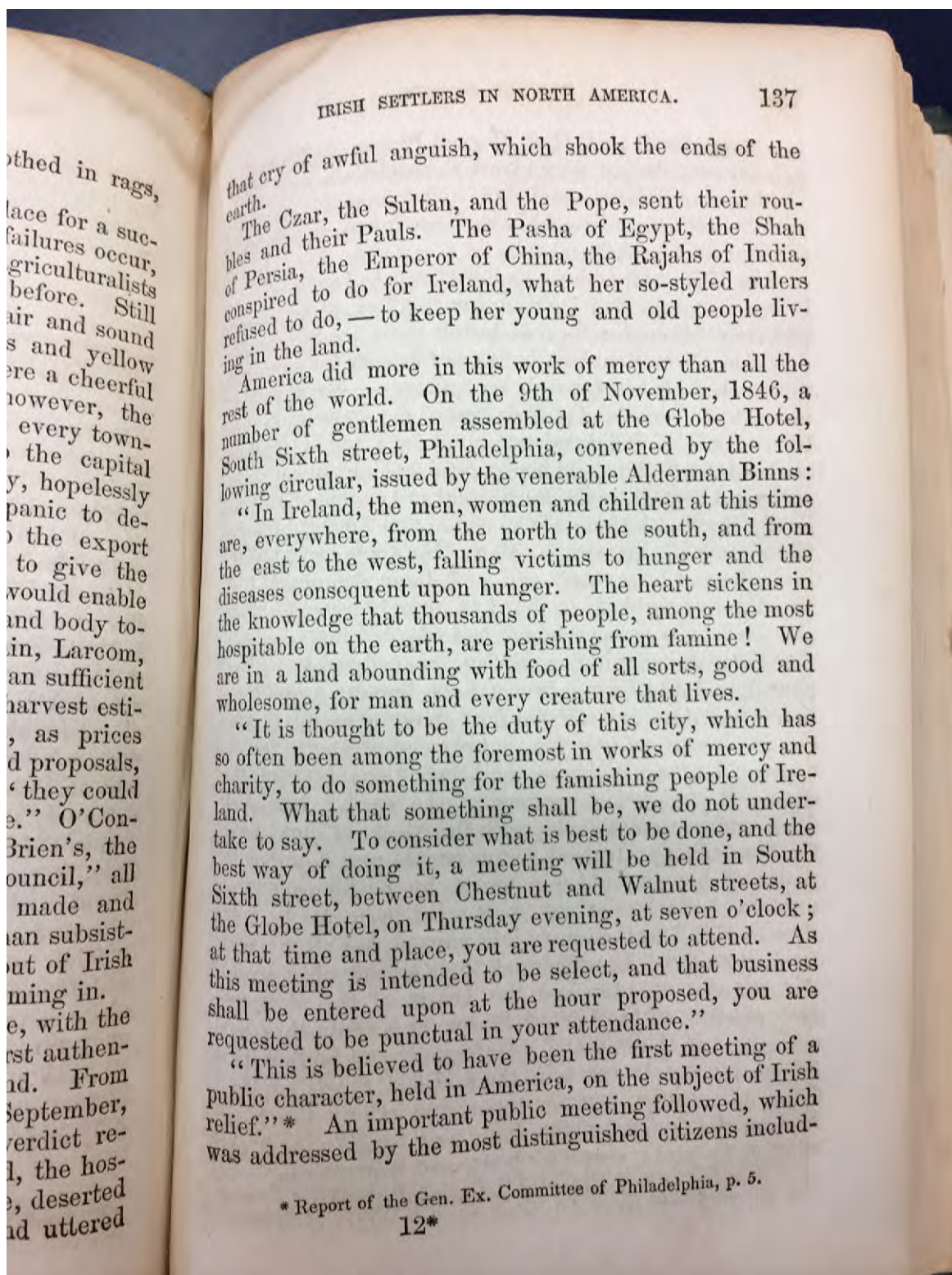
* Between 1820 and 1830, two thirds of all the manufactories in Ireland were closed, and abandoned, as ruinous investments.

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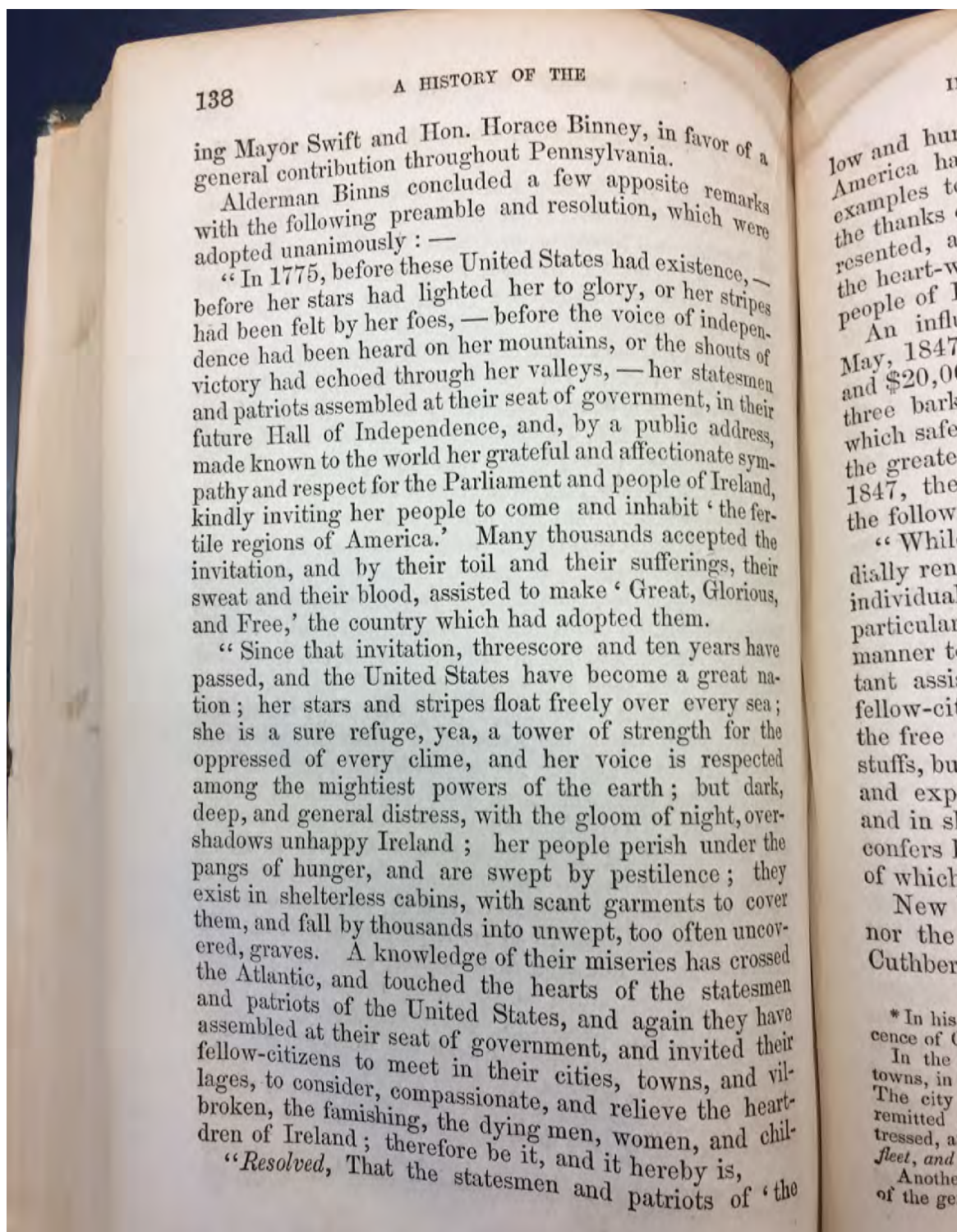


Courtesy of State Historical Society of Iowa, McGee, Thomas D'Arcy, "A History of the Irish Settlers in North America from the Earliest Period to the Census of 1850," 1852

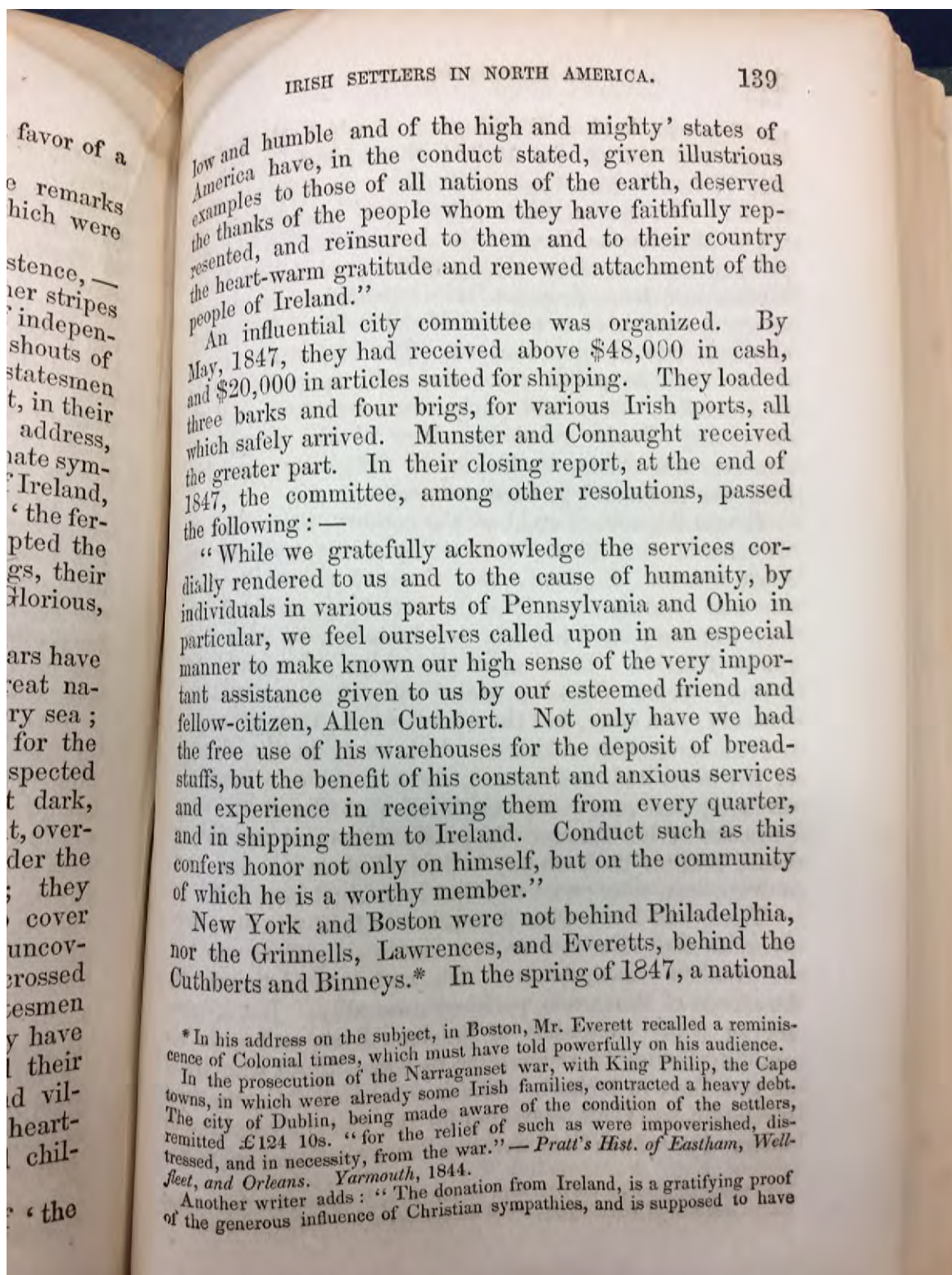
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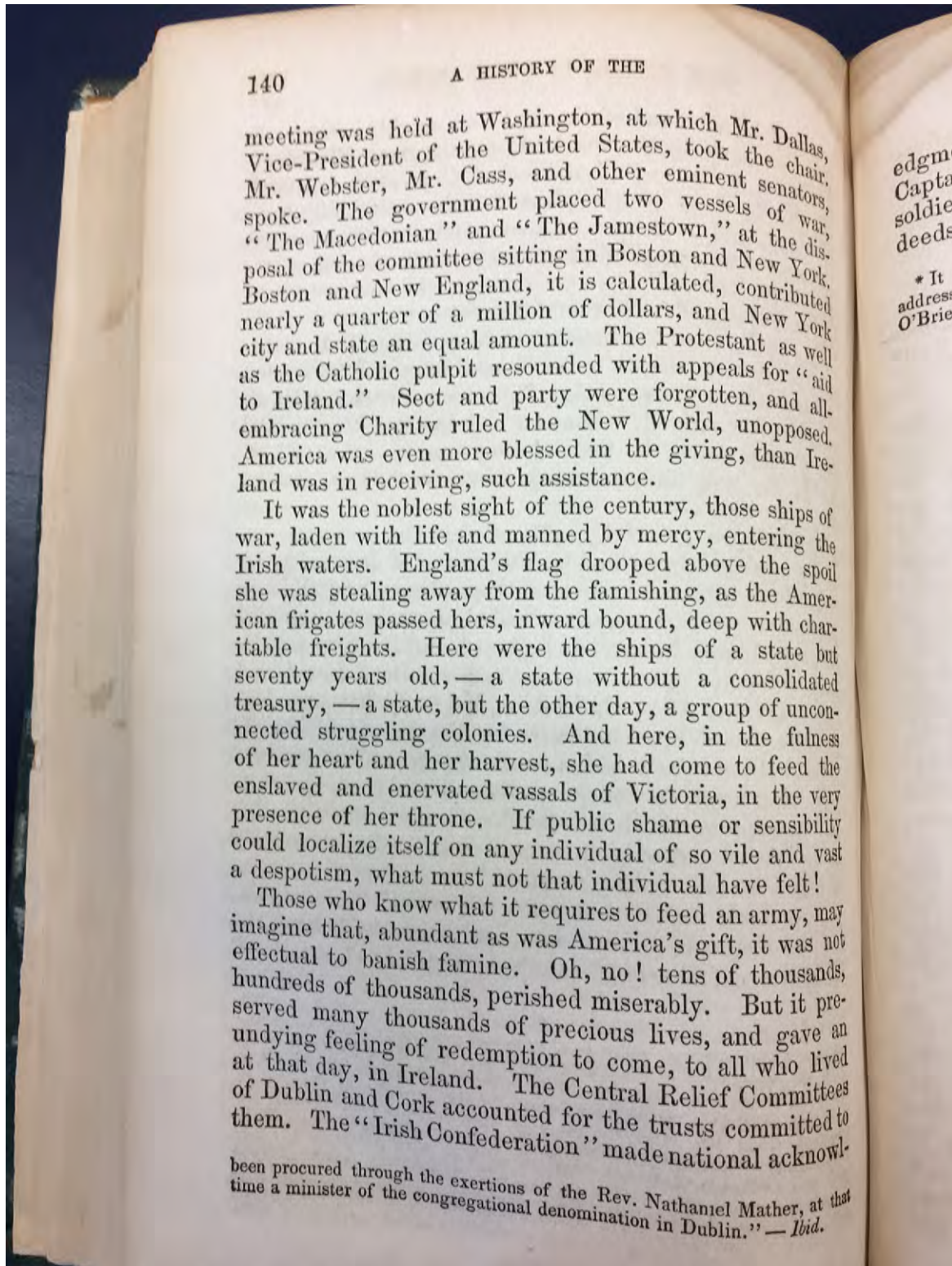
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Chapter XIX from "A History of the Irish Settlers in North America from the Earliest Period to the Census of 1850," 1852 (pg.5)

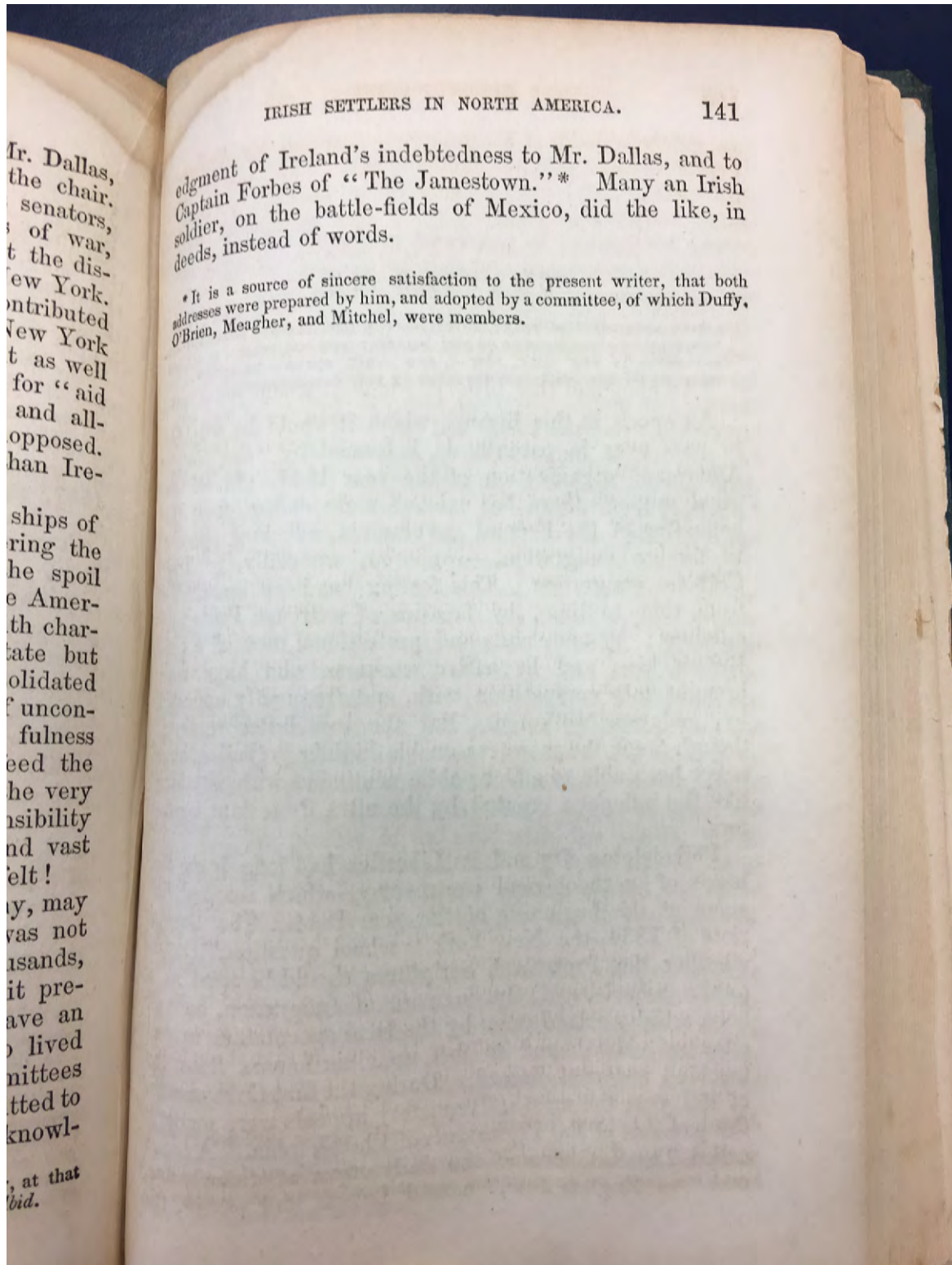


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Courtesy of State Historical Society of Iowa, McGee, Thomas D'Arcy, "A History of the Irish Settlers in North America from the Earliest Period to the Census of 1850," 1852

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Courtesy of State Historical Society of Iowa, McGee, Thomas D'Arcy, "A History of the Irish Settlers in North America from the Earliest Period to the Census of 1850," 1852

“Emigrants leaving Queenstown [Ireland] for New York,” 1874



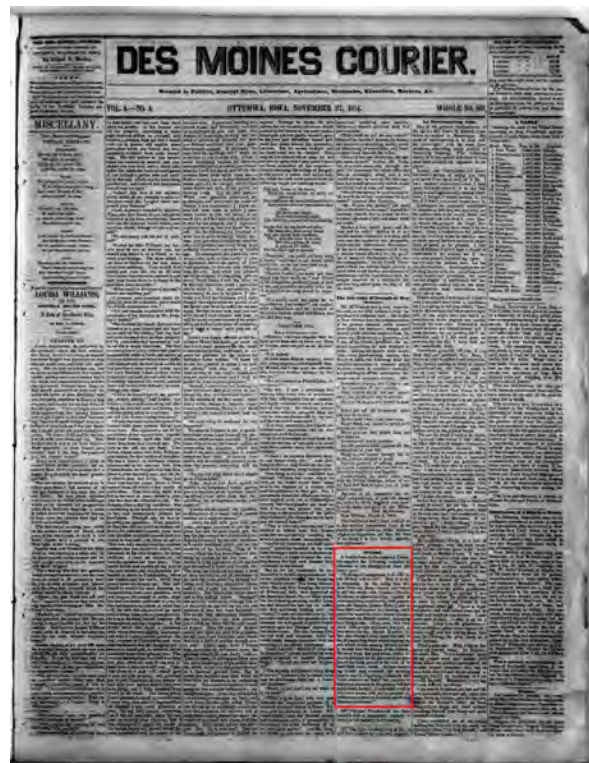
“Emigrants leaving Queenstown [Ireland] for New York,” 1874. Courtesy of Library of Congress

"Ireland," November 27, 1851

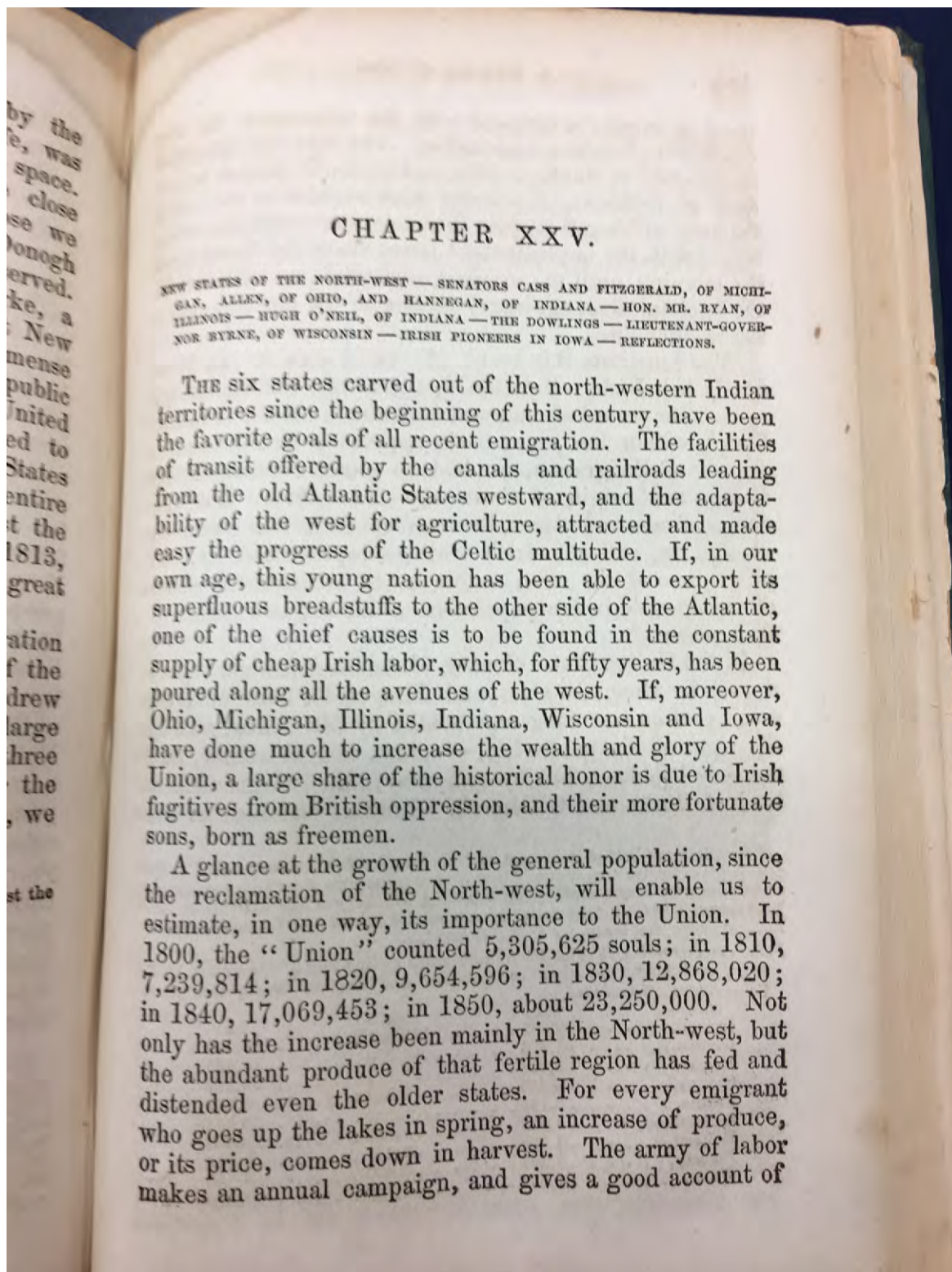
Ireland.

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

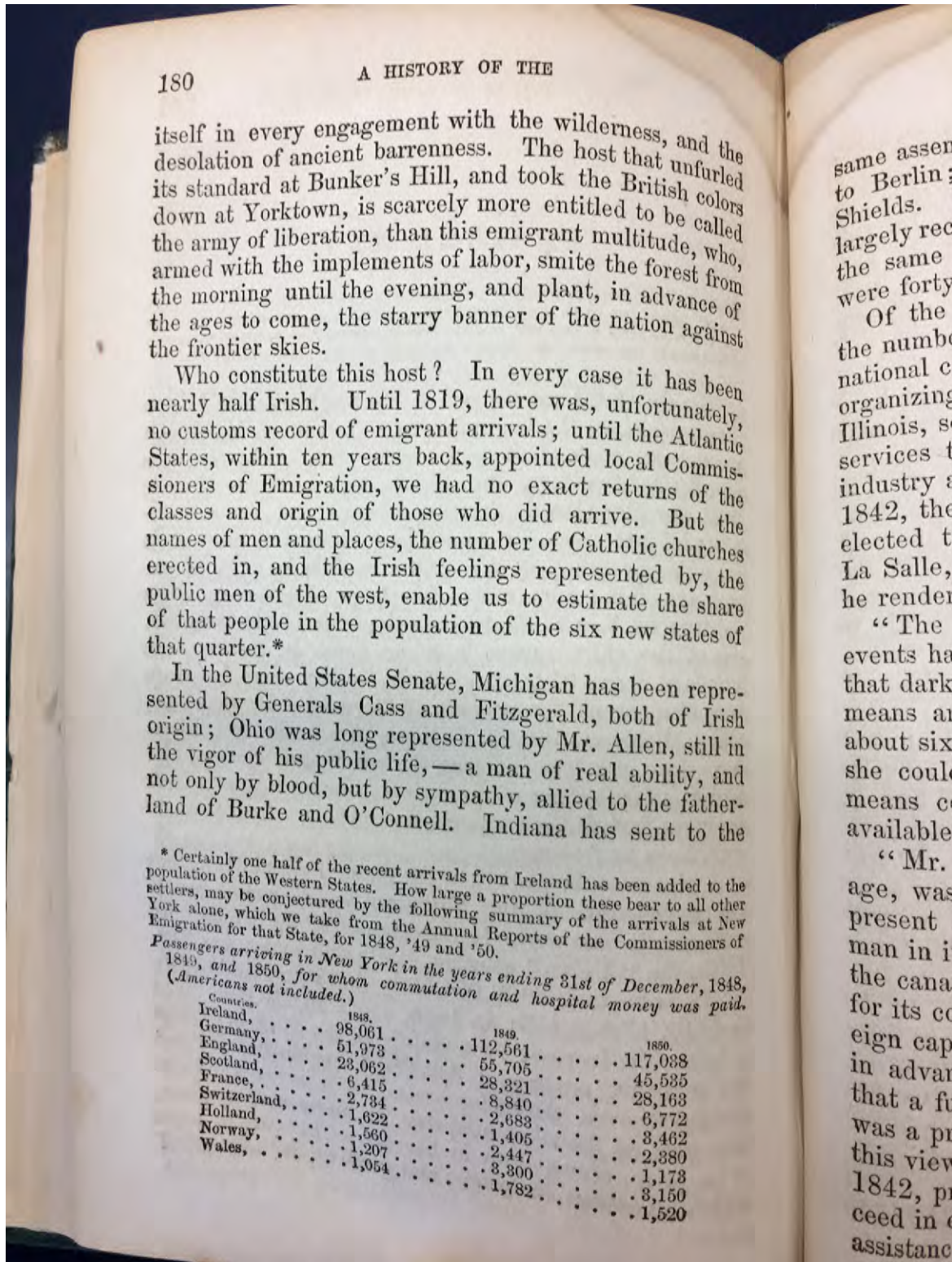
"Talking of immigration, it is idle to ask 'Where will it end?' Why it is only beginning. In the Liffey this moment there are three vessels advertised to sail this week—the Coronet, (Roche, Brothers) an admirable ship, capable of accommodating comfortably 300 passengers; the Samuel, (James Miley,) also about 300; and another shabby 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 from "A History of the Irish Settlers in North America from the Earliest Period to the Census of 1850," 1852 (pg.1)



Chapter XXV from "A History of the Irish Settlers in North America from the Earliest Period to the Census of 1850," 1852 (pg.2)



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.*

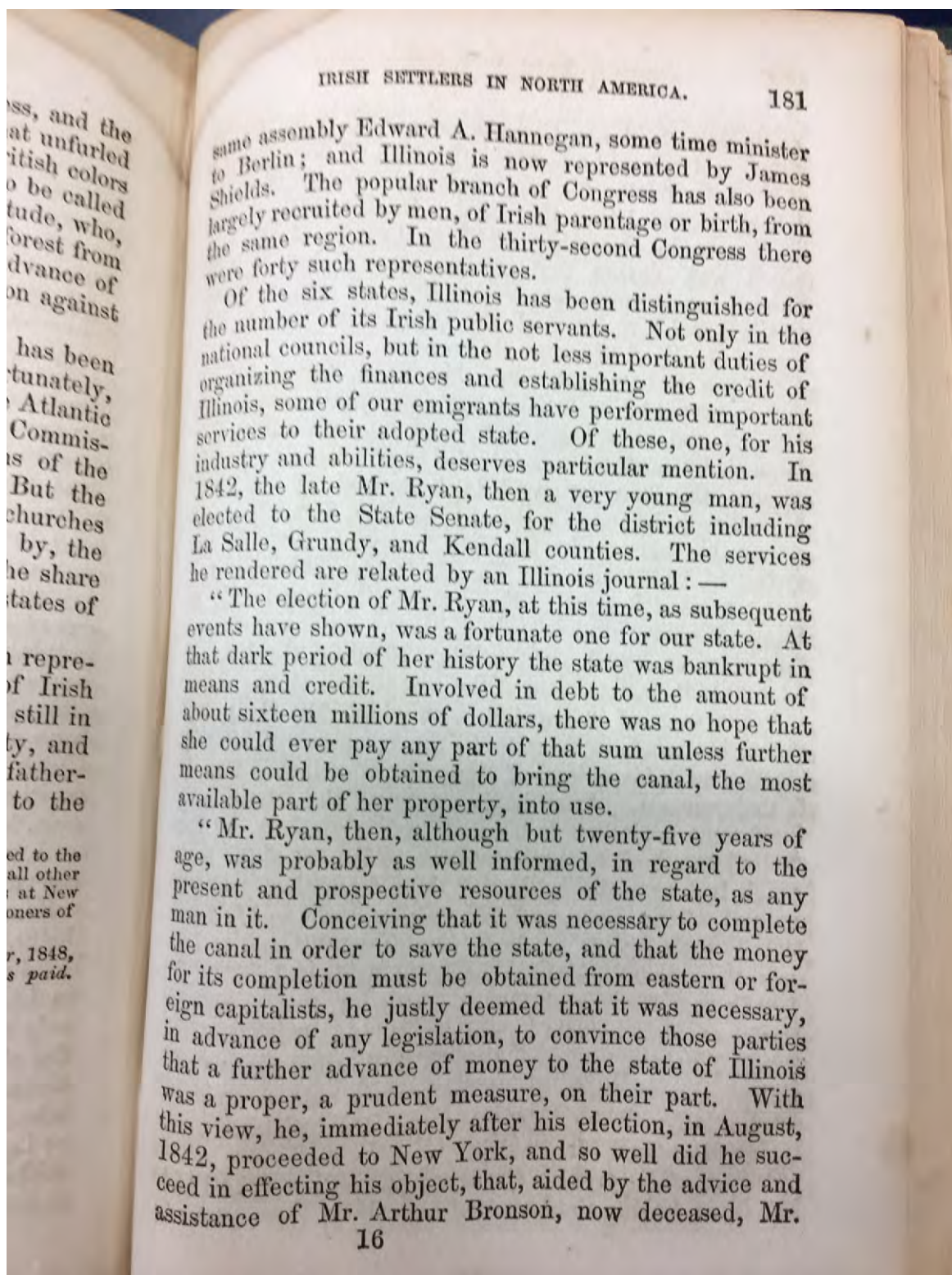
In the United States Senate, Michigan has been represented by Generals Cass and Fitzgerald, both of Irish origin; Ohio was long represented by Mr. Allen, still in the vigor of his public life,—a man of real ability, and not only by blood, but by sympathy, allied to the fatherland of Burke and O'Connell.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

* Certainly one half of the recent arrivals from Ireland has been added to the population of the Western States. How large a proportion these bear to all other settlers, may be conjectured by the following summary of the arrivals at New York alone, which we take from the Annual Reports of the Commissioners of Emigration for that State, for 1848, '49 and '50.

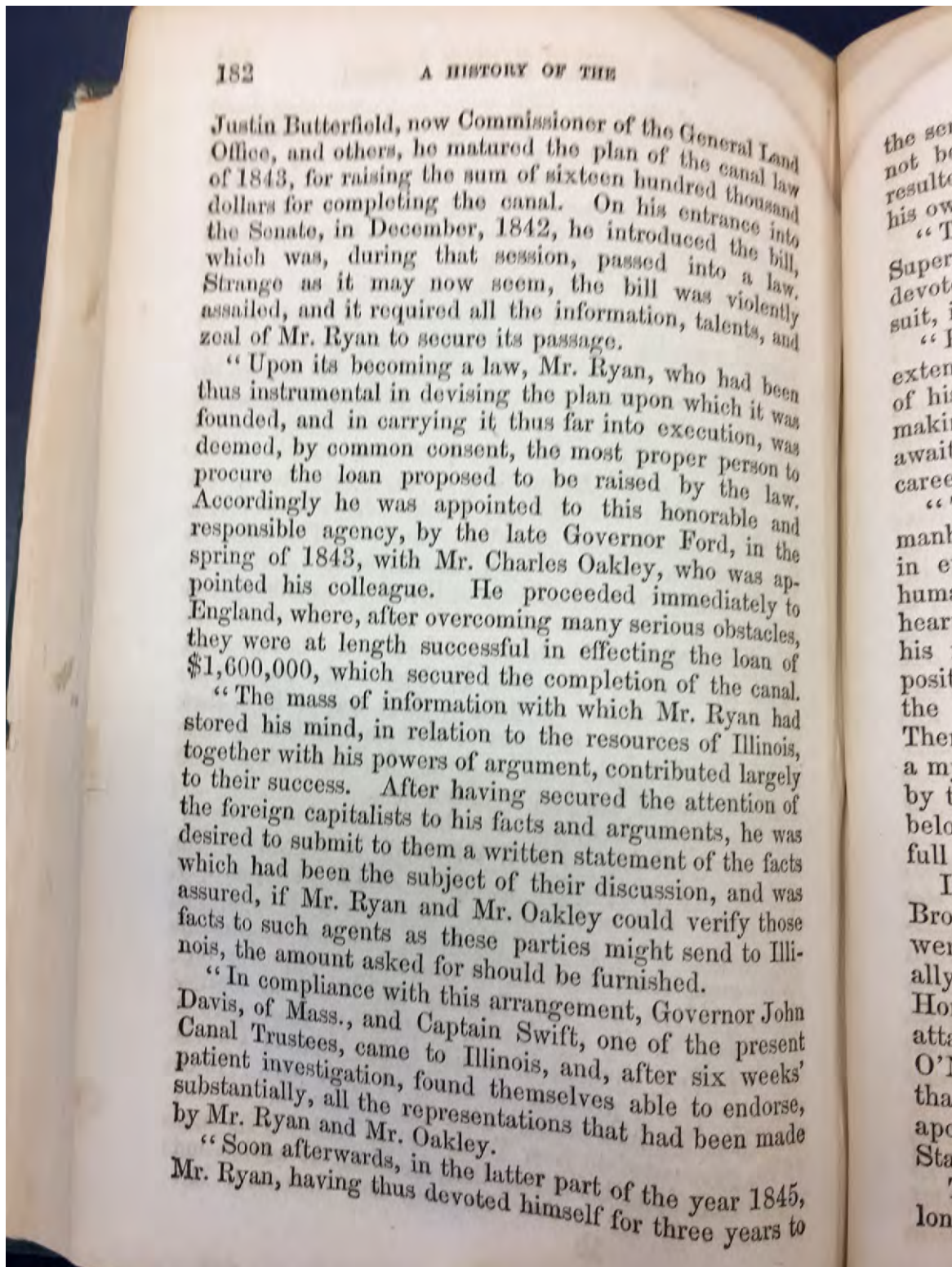
Passengers arriving in New York in the years ending 31st of December, 1848, 1849, and 1850, for whom commutation and hospital money was paid. (Americans not included.)

Countries.	1848.	1849.	1850.
Ireland,	98,061	112,561	117,038
Germany,	51,973	55,705	45,585
England,	23,062	28,321	28,163
Scotland,	6,415	8,840	6,772
France,	2,734	2,683	3,462
Switzerland,	1,622	1,405	2,380
Holland,	1,560	2,447	1,173
Norway,	1,207	3,300	3,150
Wales,	1,954	1,782	1,520

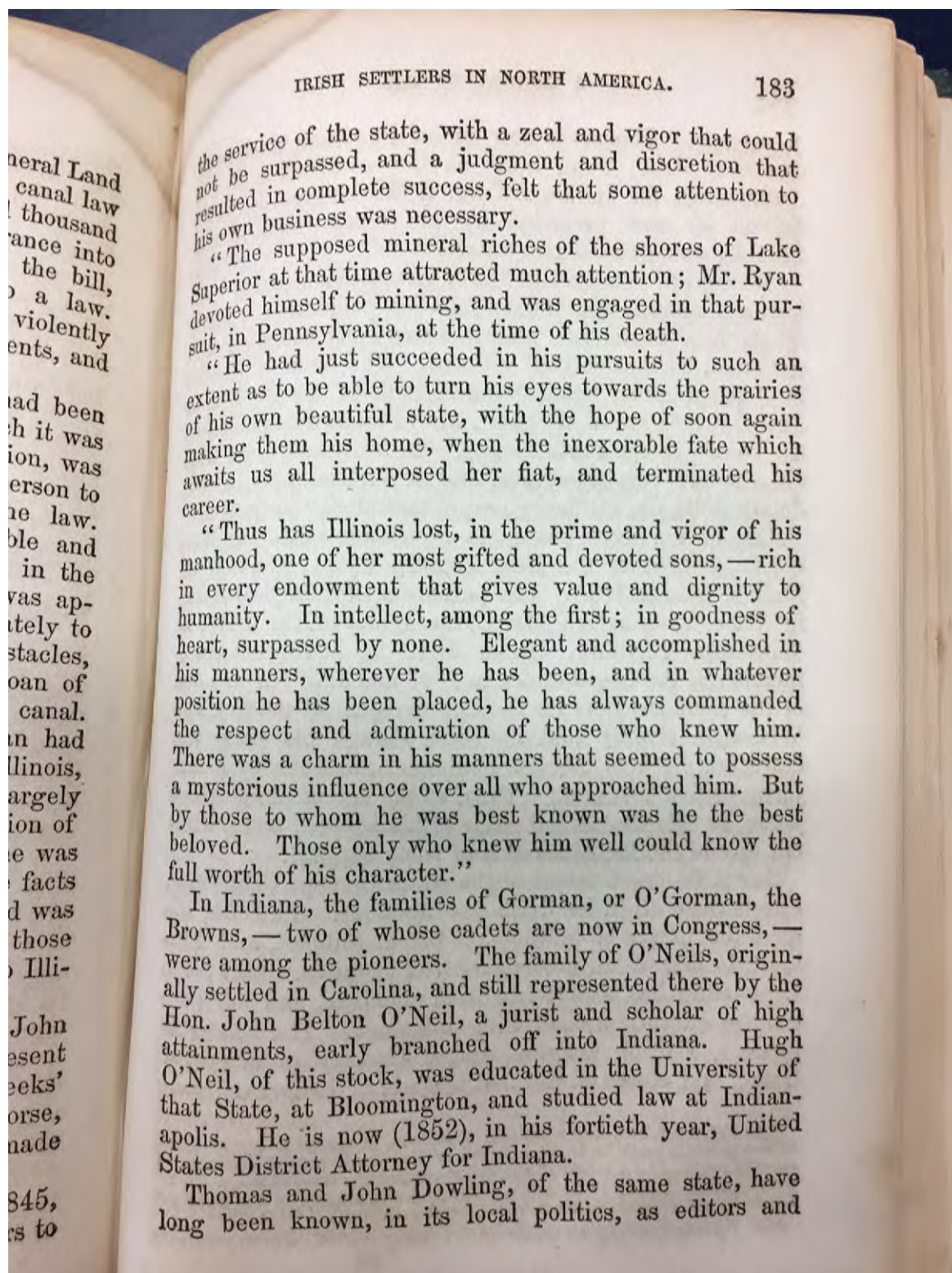
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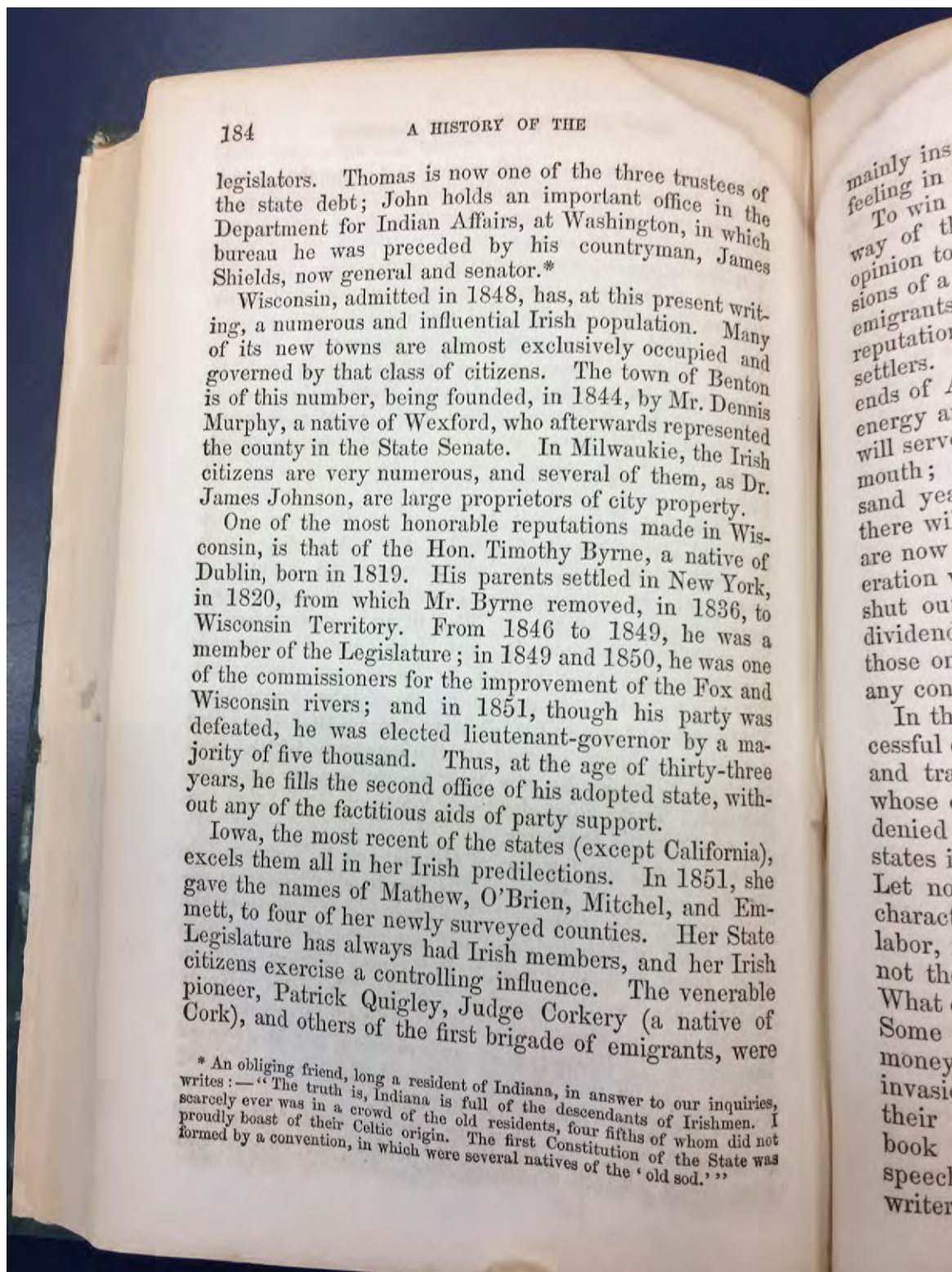
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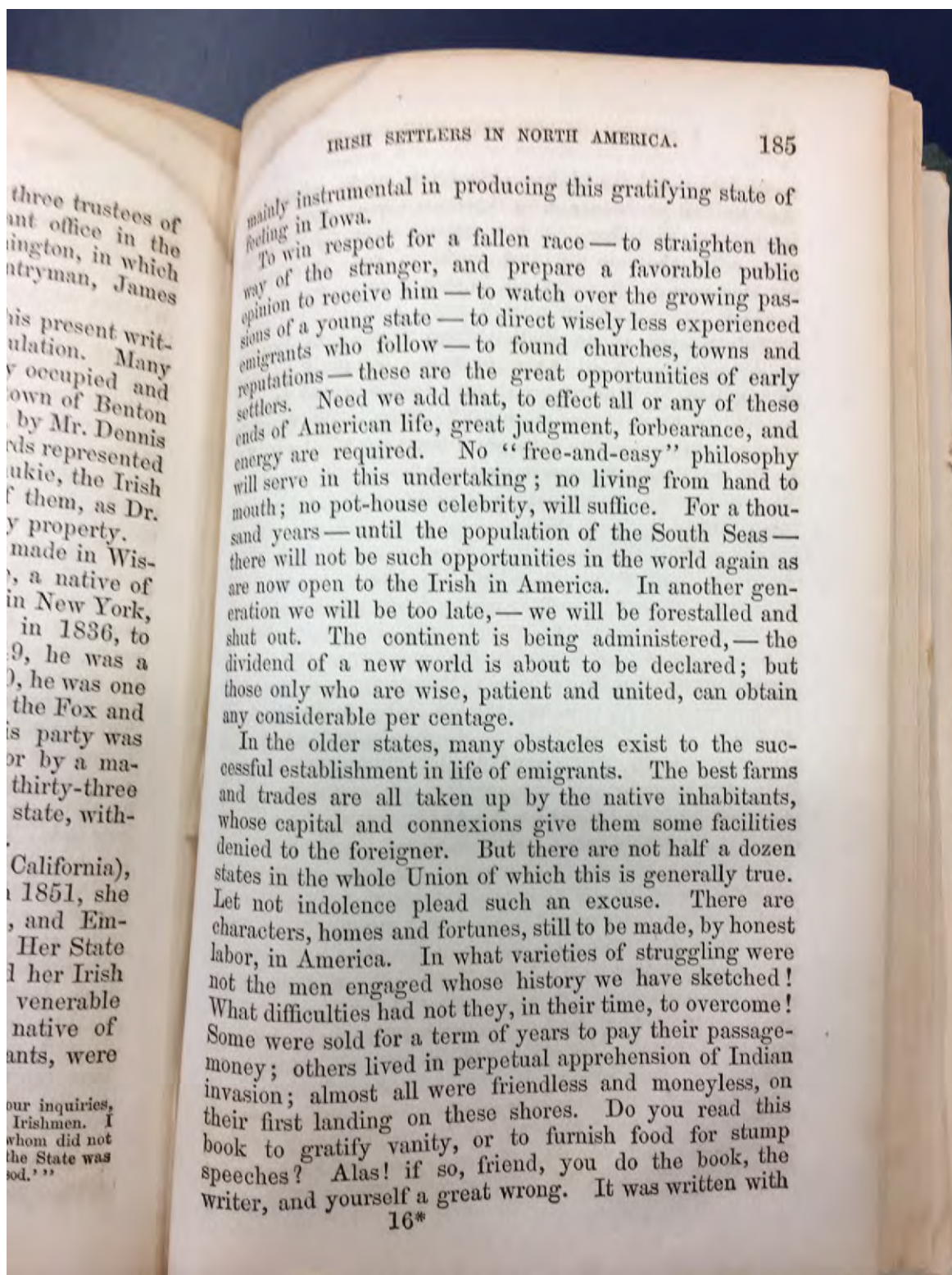
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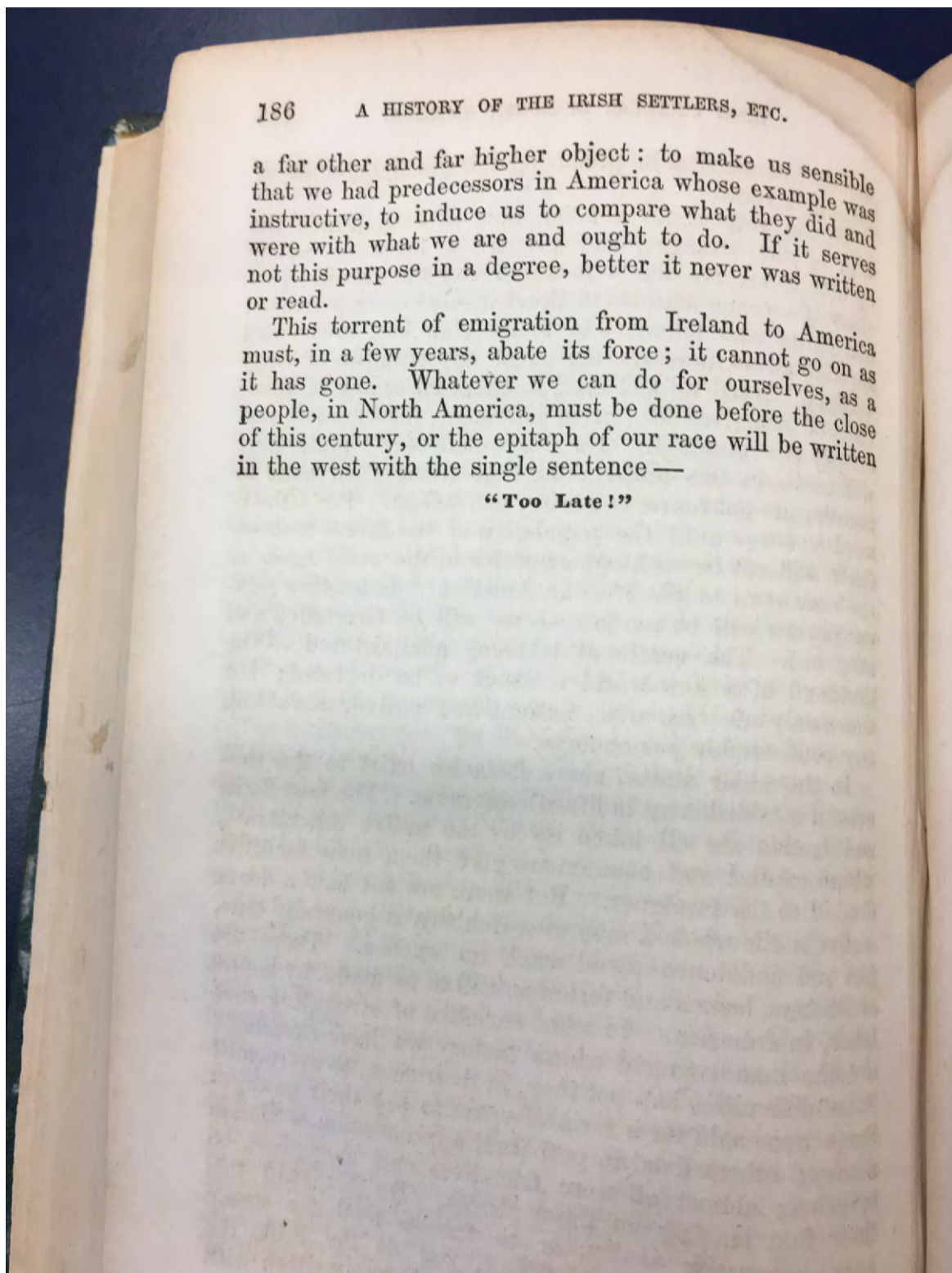
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Chapter XXV from "A History of the Irish Settlers in North America from the Earliest Period to the Census of 1850," 1852 (pg.7)



Chapter XXV from "A History of the Irish Settlers in North America from the Earliest Period to the Census of 1850," 1852 (pg.8)

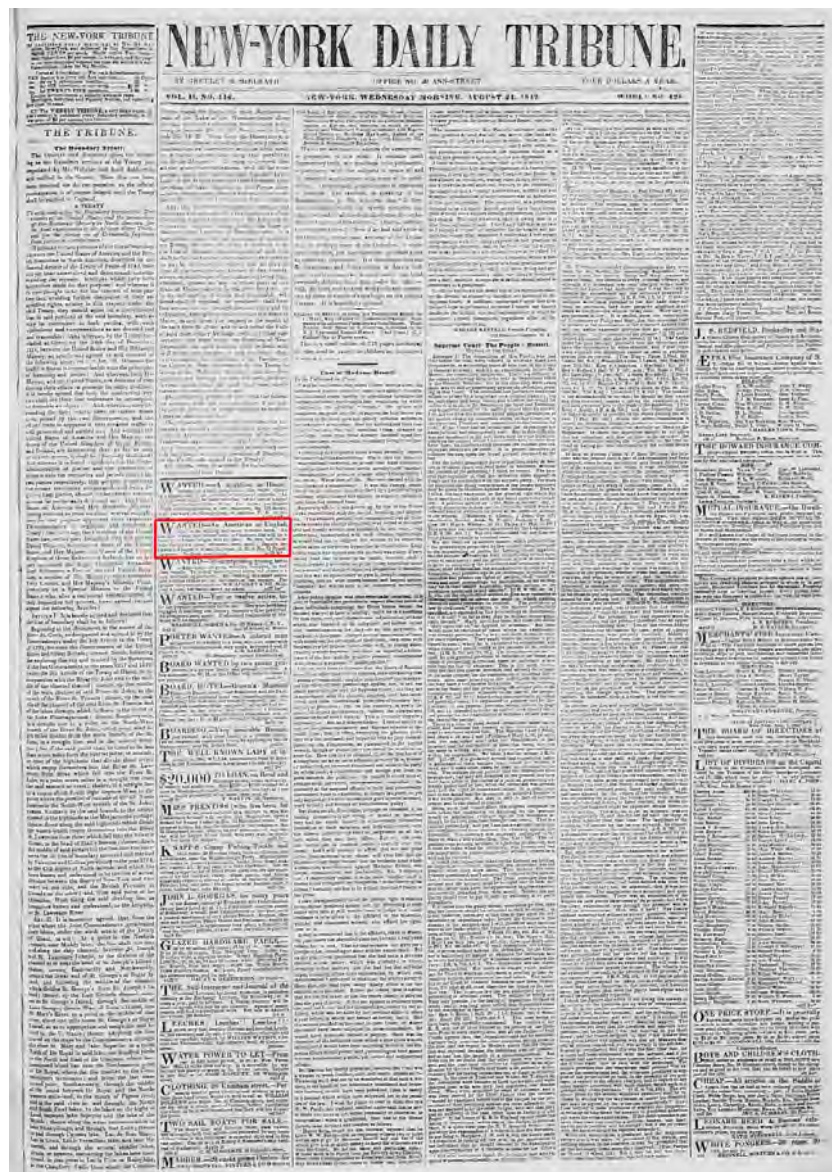


Courtesy of State Historical Society of Iowa, McGee, Thomas D'Arcy, "A History of the Irish Settlers in North America from the Earliest Period to the Census of 1850," 1852

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"Wanted - An American or English Girl" Newspaper Advertisement, August 24, 1842

WANTED—An American or English
Girl to do waiting and assist in house work. To one that is neat and understands her business this will be a home; moderate wages will be paid. No one but those who can give a good reference need apply. Inquire between the hours of 10 and 12 o'clock, A. M. at No. 72 Franklin street. No Irish need apply.
au23 2t*



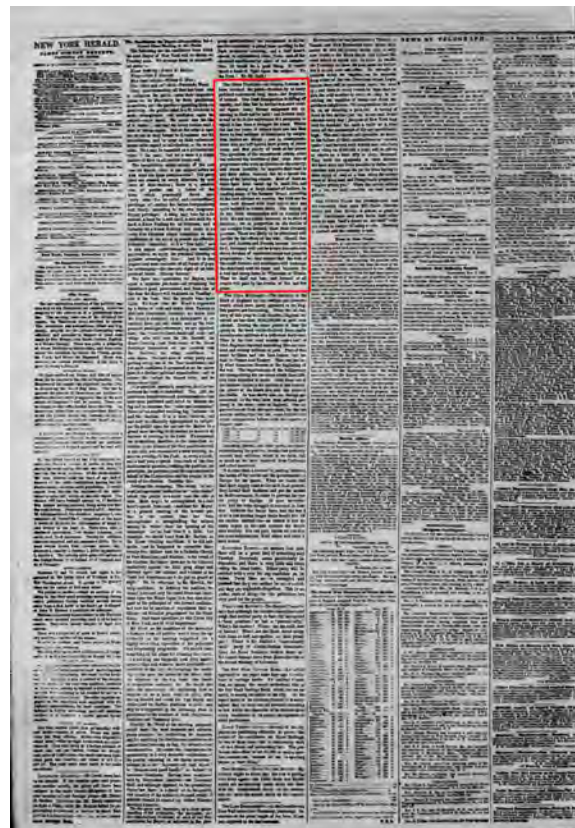
"Wanted - An American or English Girl," *New-York Daily Tribune*, pp. 1, 24 August 1842. Courtesy of Library of Congress

"Coachman Wanted" Newspaper Advertisement, May 14, 1852



"The Irish Problem," November 5, 1854

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 wide spread 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

