

their disposition, that, however moderated by a comparative change of circumstances and mode of life, displays itself on those occasions in which they have any real or assumed wrongs to redress, or the "nobler impulses of a warm-hearted friendship to gratify," all of which peculiarly distinguishes them as a separate and distinct class, with whom the American is generally unwilling to identify himself. Whatever their foibles, and it would be unreasonable to suppose them exempt in this respect from the common lot of all mankind, they operate to their own and individual disadvantage, rather than to the injury or detriment of their neighbour. The crimes with which they stand chargeable, are seldom of that abandoned or aggravated kind that betray any very great degree of wickedness or moral turpitude upon their part, and to their credit be it said, "are usually confined to those angry ebullitions and petty breaches of the peace that owe their origin to the peculiar susceptibility of their nature, and the easily excited passions" by which their conduct is so often regulated.

None of the better or higher classes of Irish society, so often distinguished amongst the refined and polished circles of European states, are to be met with in the Republic. It is altogether from the lower grades, and even from these, the culls that are made, afford no very pleasing specimen, that Americans usually form their opinions of the Irish character; from which they are led into very many unjust and extravagant conclusions, and which,