

" Mr. O'CALLAGHAN.—Not at all, sir; begging your pardon. Potatoes should always come up in their jackets. You must ate a hot potatoe out of the pot, in an Irish cabin, to know what a delicious thing it is. The cratur's won't always have a grain of salt to give you with it : but they'll be sure to sweeten it with a *ceade mille fáltha* ; and I believe, sir, there is no better sauce to a plain thing, than the hearty welcome of a cordial hospitality.

" Mr. SACK.—Not to have salt to one's porridge, is a proverbial expression for poverty ; and literally, not to have salt to one's potatoe, seems even below the scale of Irish privation.

" Mr. O'CAL.—Why then, sir, at this moment, within gunshot of this stupendous and splendid banquet, at which we are (thanks to the Lord) faring sumptuously, and where, as the poet says, ' all is more than hospitably good,' there are hundreds of poor creatures, who would think themselves well off, to have plenty of potatoes, without the salt ; and who would consider a *scudan rhu*, by way of a kitchen, a faist for a king.

" Mr. SACK. (*much affected*.)—Good God ! The disparity is frightful. But what is that dish you speak of ? Is it any thing that I can supply them with ?

" Mr. O'CAL.—Is it the *scudan rhu*, sir ? Oh, it's only a salt herring, sir, and a single one is often a great trate to a whole family ; and it is *shough'd* about like an anchovy, or other delicacy, after a fine dinner like this.

" Dr. POL.—After all that is said of the poverty of the Irish peasantry, I most sincerely believe, that on an average, they are better off, or at least as well, as the peasantry of the continent. I have heard many enlightened travellers say so.

" Mr. O'CAL.—I make no comparisons, Dr. Ploypus, for I have not travelled further than Paris ; [*turns to Mr. Sackville* ;] but when it is remembred, sir, that the Irish peasant pays to the land shark squireens at the rate of six pounds per acre, or more, for his half-acre of that land, which these middle men get from you, Mr. Sackville, for thirty shillings—a rent amounting to