

### *Preface.*

*Times*, in a fit of jubilation, cried out—"The Irish are gone, gone with a vengeance; the Lord be praised!" In the same spirit English statesmen prevented Turkey and other powers from sending relief to Ireland, as such generosity would look like a reflection on England. In fact, several steamers laden with grain had to return with their cargoes, and others were so hampered with red-tapeism that their cargoes rotted before they could be delivered. It is no wonder that starving Ireland became disaffected. It is no wonder, while, in the same spirit, the landlords were wiping out the unfortunate peasantry to make room for sheep and black cattle, that many of them were shot by the infuriated people. Such assassinations were followed by Special Commissions, and such men as Judge Keogh were instructed to do the work of the government, and to strike terror into the disaffected—which simply meant to hang all they could muster up evidence enough against. The brothers Cormack, who were executed in Nenagh, County Tipperary, were victims of this decimating policy. The first jury that tried them (on which jury, by the way, were near relatives of the writer) disagreed and were discharged; but Judge Keogh, fully resolved on doing the work of his masters, immediately empaneled a more obsequious one, and they