

them but to find the existing title *Defective*, and by their verdict to turn an ancient family out of its possessions, to swell the ranks of the landless and beggared men who formed the great bulk of the native gentry.

But the work of iniquity did not prosper with either Charles Stuart or his *factotum*, Strafford. The Irish nation was bound hand and foot, as they thought, and the remaining inheritance of its loyal and long-suffering sons transferred in cash to the coffers of the English king, but the all-seeing eye of a just God was on them and their deeds of darkness were registered above. Even when their power seemed at the highest, their doom was recorded, and the crash of their fall resounded through the civilized world. The same party whom the king, in his selfish blindness, permitted to harry and distress his faithful subjects in Ireland, in England and in Scotland, rose up in arms against him, and by a signal stroke of retributive justice Strafford first, and himself at a later period, suffered death at the hands of the ruthless fanatics who were armed with power to smite them. When the king's affairs became desperate, his enemies many and powerful, and his friends few, he was forced to recall Strafford from Ireland, hoping that his tried fidelity, indomitable courage, and known ability, might help to extricate him from the toils in which his own duplicity had ensnared him. Vain and short-sighted calculations! The measure of Strafford's iniquity was full, and the hands which had exercised such cruelties on the long-enduring Irish Catholics were soon manacled by the fierce Puritans and rendered powerless for evil or for good. His subsequent fate is well known to all readers of history, but before his haughty neck was laid on the block, the king his master replaced him in Ireland by two joint governors named Lords *Justices* (strange perversion of terms!). Of all the Popery-hating, plunder-loving rulers ever sent by the paternal government of England to soothe the woes and sufferings of Catholic Ireland, these two men, Sir William Parsons and Sir John Boriase, stand out in the light of history as amongst the most odious robbers and persecutors. Even the bold, blustering, barefaced villany of the royalist Strafford was better than the smooth, hypocritical, all-grasping, and no less ferocious dealings of these truculent agents of the Covenanting rebels, styled by