

erations of our church? As to our numbers, they are variously estimated. I have myself calculated the Presbyterians of Ireland at 700,000; others have estimated them at a million. One of my fellow-deputies, not negligent of statistics, calculates the people of the Synod of Ulster at 800,000. The late government census, however, estimates the Presbyterians of the kingdom under 700,000; and somewhat, if I rightly recollect about 663,000. Of the worth of this census I shall furnish two recent specimens. Did time permit, I could multiply them by dozens. The presbyterians of an entire county were returned in the public census at fifty. My brother deputy, Mr. Carmichael, visited and preached in one of its mountainous districts; searched after and discovered the presbyterian population; found them far from a place of worship, yet longing to possess one; reported their destitution to the presbytery, who founded a congregation, and ordained an active young minister. And, within a few months from the time of his ordination, where the government census gave fifty presbyterians to the whole county, he discovered and returned an authentic and admitted roll of upwards of six hundred within a single parish! I well recollect when Mr. Carmichael gave our Synod an account of his labours in his own parish. He told us how the people increased when he had time "to excavate" them. I thought at the time I saw him with pickaxe and spade assailing the overwhelming lavas of Herculaneum or Pompeii, and extricating a presbyterian population from beneath the ruins: And so it was. In the government census the presbyterians of his parish were returned under 100; by the process of excavation he raised above 600. By such processes of discovery, by the necessary division of our larger parishes, some of which even yet contain above 1000 families—by the influx of population into our towns, the Synod of Ulster is encouraged—nay, compelled to increase and multiply. And it may, per-

haps, be gratifying to this Venerable Assembly to learn, that the kindness of the Government in granting endowments continues to keep pace with the necessities of our people. The government know that our Scottish forefathers were planted in the wildest and most barren portion of our land—where the malediction of O'Neill was pronounced upon the man that would cultivate a field or build a house. The government know it was the most rude and lawless of the provinces, where resistance retired as to her last fortress; and the government know that Scottish industry has drained its impassable bogs, and cultivated its barren wastes, has filled its ports with shipping, substituted towns and cities in its hovels and its *claghans*, and given peace and good order to a land of confusion and blood. The government know, while nearly twenty regiments are required for the three southern provinces, the northern province of Ulster is garrisoned by three. And in these "piping times of peace," these enjoy their "*otium cum dignitate*," while their brethren in the south may equal them "*in indignitate*," but enjoy a very moderate share of military or philosophical "*otium*." My friend, Mr. Brown, when conversing on the claims of the Presbyterians of Ulster, observed to a late Lord Lieutenant, that we formed a "*a cheap police*." His Excellency was struck by the peculiarity and justice of the phrase; and in giving our deputation an assurance of good-will to the presbyterian body (an assurance he amply verified,) he observed on their withdrawing, "You may depend on it, Mr. Brown, I'll remember the *cheap police*." On another occasion, through an oversight, our application for endowments was not presented till the annual Parliamentary estimates had been prepared; and according to ordinary Parliamentary rule, it could not be granted that year. When our application came to be made, there was consequently an accumulation of two years. The Chief Secretary observed to our Moderator, "I suppose you will require