

most universal wretchedness, was the total recompense to the good people of England. Sir William Petty, in his *Political Anatomy*, says, that in the year 1641, Ireland contained

1,466,000  
He adds, that in 1652, they had sunk to 850,000\*

Decrease 616,000

Thus, in eleven years, the Irish nation lost six hundred and sixteen thousand people. In 1641, they had been driven into rebellion, by the tyranny of that English parliament, who conducted Charles Stuart to the scaffold. On the incorruptible virtues of that upright band, much nonsense hath been said and sung. By a single vote, they confiscated two millions and five hundred thousand acres of ground in Ireland. The whole island was transformed into an immense slaughter-house. Ireland, governed by an English *republic*, might have looked towards Morocco, as a terrestrial paradise. Compared with the tremendous mass of misery produced by Strafford, Cromwell, Ireton, and the *glorious* duke of Ormond, the dungeons of the Bastile, or the proscriptions of a Roman triumvirate, shrink into forgetfulness.†

Neither the restoration of Charles the Second, nor the *glorious* revolution,‡ afforded much relief to Ireland. The people continued to groan under the most oppressive and absurd despotism, till, in defiance of all consequences, the immortal Swift, like another Ajax,

Broke the dark phalanx, and let in the light.

He taught his country to understand her importance. At last she resolved to assert it, and, as a necessary arrangement, she arose in arms. England saw the hazard of contending with a brave, an injured, and an indignant nation. The fabric of tyranny trembled on its base; and it is to be hoped that a short time will destroy every vestige of a supremacy, dishonourable and pernicious to both nations. As matters now stand, an Irishman, who loves his country,

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\* These particulars are borrowed from a quarto edition of Guthrie's *Cassius*, printed at Dublin. I have not yet seen a copy of the *Political Anatomy*.

† Consult a Review of the Civil Wars in Ireland, by Dr. Curry. An epitome of his valuable book, will form a future chapter of the *Political Progress*.

‡ I adopt the current phrase, but what *glory* could be annexed to the affair, it is not easy to see. An infatuated old tyrant was deserted by all the world, and fled from his dominions. His people chose a successor. This was natural enough, but it had no connection with *glory*. James ran away, which precluded all opportunities for heroism. The character of the leaders in the revolution will not justify a violent encomium on the purity of their motives. The selection of William was reprobated very soon after, by themselves, which excludes any pretence to much political foresight. Here then, is a *glorious* event, accomplished without an actual effort of courage, of integrity, or of wisdom. When the Swiss, the Scots, the Americans, the Corsicans, or the Dutch, wrestled against the superior forces of despotism, that was a scene of glory. But when no resistance happened, the dismissals of a king and a coachman, were equally remote from it.