

them nearer the level of the other subjects of the realm. Plundered and dispossessed of their estates by the wholesale confiscations of the previous reigns, it is matter of astonishment to us at this day that anything was left them to give. Undoubtedly the native chieftains were many of them landless men, stripped of their immense possessions by the crying injustice of English sovereigns and their willing agents, the Lords Deputies of Ireland. But the Catholics of the Pale were not so bankrupt in this world's goods—they being of English descent had been somewhat more leniently dealt with, and the fairest and richest portion of the island was still in their hands. They, then, were better able to advance money, and it is probable the greater portion of the subsidies came from them—who but they had it to give? However it was, no less a sum than *one hundred and twenty thousand pounds*—an enormous sum in that age—was sent over by the Catholics of Ireland as a peace-offering to the king. The money once received, Charles thought no more of the promised "graces," and the work of persecution and spoliation went on in Ireland with undiminished violence, under the truculent and remorseless Strafford, the devoted henchman of the faithless king. The Catholics, amazed and disappointed, petitioned and remonstrated—reminded the king of the gracious promises which had beguiled them into hope, and of the solemn contract into which he had entered with them, but Charles gave them no sort of satisfaction, and his minister in Ireland silenced their just complaints with insult and mockery, and proceeded, with that diabolical ingenuity which was characteristic of the man, to invent new schemes of robbery for the benefit of his unworthy master. The Commission of Defective Titles was appointed for the modest and laudable purpose of dispossessing the Chieftains of Connaught of their remaining lands and hereditaments—the pretence was to examine into the titles of all the estates of the Province, but the examination was only a legal farce. The juries were in every instance coerced by the tyrant Strafford into finding for the king. In fact, no alternative was left them. If they declared in favor of the owners of the property, their own goods were confiscated, and their persons dragged to Dublin to undergo the tortures of the hell-devised Star Chamber, so that no alternative was left