

and file feel that while their stomachs are filled their affections are starved in that hard and fast new state of society, that all this weak and wicked yearning after the impossible has developed itself in both classes. It is on the one part folly ; on the other part crime ; but it is human nature after all ; at least it is a new Irish-American variety of human nature.

There is a fundamental distinction to be drawn, however, between those of our countrymen of whom *you* hear so much at home, namely, the town, and what I shall call the settled, well-ordered country, Irish. Unfortunately for their own peace, and yours and ours, the former bear the proportion of fully 75 per cent. to the whole. Causes, some natural and justifiable enough—such as ready employment for their labor on landing,—detained them at the great seaports, or drew them to the factory and railway centres. Never in the world's history, were a purely agricultural population so suddenly and unpreparedly converted into mere town laborers. They did not, indeed, exchange agriculture for artificial pursuits, for you cannot well call mere loading and unloading ships, or portorage, or digging drains, or domestic service, works of art. But the tens of thousands of this class who were peasants in Ireland in the Spring, and town laborers in America the same Summer, threw up to the surface, by the natural law of their numbers, a small fry of demagogues and overseers [or