



PREFACE.

IRELAND is a fruitful theme for the poet, the novelist, the orator, and the historian. Her wrongs and her grievances have been, like a thrice-told tale, so often repeated in song and story, that it may appear difficult, indeed, to add anything new to the sad catalogue of oppression on the part of England and of suffering on the part of Ireland.

The English policy of coercing Ireland into English views and English ideas is neither a wise nor a statesman-like one.

The love and devotion of a nation, like that of an individual, are secured more by friendly concessions, and a desire to promote mutual interests and prosperity, than by oppressive laws and coercive measures. The Irish are a generous and chivalrous people, whose friendship can be won by kindness and justice; but they are, on the other hand, a jealous and resolute people—jealous of their liberty, jeal-