

FROUDE "FLOORED."

THE "HISTORIAN" REVIEWED BY THE REV'D. DR. MORIARTY. THE RELATION OF ENGLAND TO IRELAND. SECOND LECTURE.

The Atrocities of England.

HOW THE IRISH WERE "BRAYED IN A MORTAR." (From the Philadelphia Catholic Standard.)

It would be equally shocking and tedious to recite all the well-attested acts of cruelty and perfidy perpetrated on the Irish people by the order or connivance of the English Government. There is in the College of Dublin a State paper of considerable importance. It is a memorial presented by Captain Thomas Lee, drawn up with great care and with very singular ability; written about the year 1594, and addressed to Queen Elizabeth, giving her a detailed account of the real state of Ireland. It was a confidential document, for the personal information of the Queen. I shall have occasion to extract many passages from it. In the meantime I will give from other authors two or three instances only of the horrible cruelty exercised towards the Irish by the English.

"My first quotation is from Leland's 'History of Ireland,' Book IV. He tells us, that when, in the year 1579, the garrison of Smarwick, in Kerry, surrendered upon mercy to Lord Deputy Gray, he ordered upwards of seven hundred of them to be put to the sword or hanged. 'That mercy for which they sued, was rigidly denied them; Wingfield was commissioned to disarm them; and when this service was performed, an English company was sent into the fort, and the garrison was butchered in cold blood; nor is it without pain that we find a service so horrid, so detestable, committed to Sir Walter Raleigh.'

It also appears that for this, and such other exploits, Sir Walter Raleigh had 40,000 acres of land bestowed upon him in the county Cork, which he afterwards sold to Richard, first Earl of Cork. The next instance is almost contemporaneous. It introduces another historic name. Shortly before the year 1579, 'Walter, Earl of Essex, on the conclusion of a peace, invited Brian O'Neil, of Claneboy, with a great number of his relations, to an entertainment, where they lived together in great harmony, making good cheer for three days and three nights; when, on a sudden, O'Neil was surprised with an arrest, together with his brother and his wife, by the Earl's orders. His friends were put to the sword before his face, nor were the women and children spared. He was himself, with his brother and wife, sent to Dublin, where they were cut in quarters. This increased the disaffection, and produced the detestation of all the Irish; for this Chieftain of Claneboy was the senior of his family, and as he had been universally esteemed, so he was now as universally regretted.'—MSS. Trinity College, Dublin.

The next instance I shall mention, occurred in the year 1578. It is thus introduced by Morrison the historian (folio edition, p. 31): 'After the nineteenth year of Queen Elizabeth, viz., anno 1577, the Lord of Connaught and O'Brook,' says Morrison, 'made a composition for their lands with Sir Nicholas Malby, governor of that province, wherein they were content to yield the Queen's large a rent and such services, both of laborers to work upon occasion of fortifying, and of horse and foot to serve upon occasion of war, that their minds seemed not yet to be alienated from their wonted awe and reverence to the Crown of England. Yet in the same year a horrible massacre was committed by the English at Mulloughmaston, on some hundreds of the most peaceable of the Irish gentry, invited thither on the public faith and under the protection of the Government.'

The manner of this massacre appears to have been thus:—The English published a proclamation inviting all the well-affected Irish to an interview on the Rathmore, at Mulloughmaston, engaging at the same time for their security, and that no evil was intended. In consequence of this engagement the well-affected came to Rathmore, aforesaid; and soon after they were assembled, they found themselves surrounded by three or four lines of English horse and foot completely accoutred, by whom they were ungenerously attacked and cut to pieces; and not a single man escaped.'

This seems to be one of the massacres particularly alluded to by Captain Lee in his memorial.—Speaking of the treachery and cruelty of the English Governors of Ireland, he says: 'They have drawn unto them, by protection, three or four hundreds of these country people, under colors, to do your Majesty's service, and brought them to a place of meeting, where your garrison soldiers were appointed to be, who have there most dishonorably put them all to the sword; and this hath been by the consent and practice of the Lord Deputy for the time being.'

'The Irish who have once offended,' says Lee, in his memorial to Elizabeth, 'live they never so honestly afterwards, if they grow into wealth, are sure to be cut off by one direct way or other.'

Of this he gives the melancholy instance: 'In one of her Majesty's civil shires, there lived an Irishman peaceably and quietly as a good subject, many years together, whereby he grew into great wealth; which his landlord thirsting after, and desirous to remove him from his land, entered into practice with the sheriff of the shire to despatch this simple man, and divide his goods between them. Whereupon they sent one of his own servants for him, and he coming with him, they presently took the man and hanged him; and, keeping the master prisoner, they went immediately to his dwelling and shared his substance, which was of great value, between them, turning his wife and many children to begging. After they had kept him (the master) fast for a season with the sheriff, they carried him to the Castle of Dublin, where he lay by the space of two or three terms; and he having no matter objected against him, whereupon to be tried by law, they by their credit and countenance, being both English gentlemen, and he who was the landlord the chiefest man in the shire, informed the Lord Deputy so hardly of him, as that, without indictment or trial, they executed him, to the great scandal of her Majesty's state, and the impeachment of her laws. Yet this, and the like exemplary justice,' adds he, 'is ministered to your Majesty's poor subjects there.'

Individual instances of this kind make oppression more familiar to the human mind, and leave a stronger impression on the recollection from their individuality. They also illustrate the working of the system. They, in fact, bring it home more pointedly and distinctly to the eye of reason and common sense. But we must not lose sight of the more general description of crimes perpetrated by England and with the sanction of the persons who, from time to time, acted as the Sovereign's deputies at the head of that government.

There has been lately published a document from which a few extracts will give a thorough insight into the real state of the 'Relation' during the reign of Henry the Eighth. The document I allude to, is to be found in the second volume of the State Papers, lately published under the authority of a Commission from the Crown, containing State Papers of the reign of Henry the Eighth, and ap-

have been bonds demanded of them for their appearance at the next session. They, knowing themselves guiltless, have most willingly entered into bonds, and appeared; and there (no matter being found to charge them) they have been arraigned only for being in company with some of your Majesty's servants, at the killing of notorious known traitors, and for that only have been condemned of treason, and lost their lives! And this dishonest practice hath been by the consent of your deputies. 'But it was not treachery alone, however hideous and sanguinary, which formed, as it were, the principal ingredients in the relation of the English to Ireland. Direct assassination—wholesale assassination—was another instrument of the brigands! In short, there were no crimes that man ever perpetrated against man, or that fiends of hell, in their satanic malignity, ever invented, which were not actually made a portion of the familiar mode by which the English outraged Ireland. Let me give, from the same memorial, one specimen more of wholesale villainy: 'When there have been notable traitors in arms against your Majesty, and sums of money offered for their heads, yet could by no means be compassed, they have in the end (of their own accord) made means for their pardon, offering to do great service, which they have accordingly performed, to the contentment of the State, and thereby received pardon, and have put in sureties for their good behaviour, and to be answerable at all times at assizes and sessions, when they should be called; yet, notwithstanding, there have been secret commissions given for the murdering of these men.'

It is scarcely credible these things should be done by a people calling themselves Christians. Yet they are facts—recorded of an English Protestant people; and by Protestant historians and Protestant officers, high in command and authority under the Protestant Crown of England; such documents being addressed in general to the Sovereign; and being, as the statement of facts, of the most unimpeachable authenticity.

Here is another specimen: 'When upon the death of a great lord of a county there hath been another nominated, chosen, and created, he hath been entertained with fair speeches, taken down into his county, and for the offences of other men, indictments have been framed against him, whereupon he hath been found guilty, and so lost his life; which hath bred such terror in other great lords of the like measure, as maketh them stand upon those terms which they now do.'

Another specimen: 'A great part of that tranquillity of O'Donnell's country came by Sir William Fitzwilliams, his placing of one Willis there to be sheriff; who had with him three hundred of the very rascals and scum of that kingdom, which did rob and spoil that people, ravish their daughters, and make havoc of all; which bred such a discontentment, as that the whole country was up in arms against them, so as if the Earl of Tyrone had not rescued and delivered him and them out of the country, they had all been put to the sword.' The savages of New Zealand never were, nor could have been, guilty of such barbarities, as were the monsters who administered the English usurpation in Ireland. Here is another description of the state of Ireland in the reign of Edward the Second: I give it to show that at all times the British policy in Ireland was the same. It was taken from the history of Ireland, written by a distinguished Protestant clergyman: 'The oppression exercised with impunity in every particular district; the depredations everywhere committed among the inferior orders of the people, not by open enemies alone, but by those who called themselves friends and protectors; and who justified their outrages on the plea of lawful authority; their avarice and cruelty; their plundering and massacres, were still more ruinous than the defeat of an army or the loss of a city! The wretched sufferers had neither the power to repel, nor the law to restrain or vindicate their injuries. In times of general commotion, laws the most wisely framed, and most equitably administered, are but of little moment. But now the very source of public justice was corrupted and poisoned.'—Leland, Book II, chap. 3.

'The true cause which for a long time fatally opposed the gradual coalition of the Irish and English race, under one form of government, was that the great English settlers found it mere for their immediate interest, that a free course should be left to their oppression; that many of those lands they coveted should be considered as aliens; that they should be furnished for their petty wars by arbitrary exactions; and in their rapines and massacres be freed from the terrors of a rigidly impartial and severe tribunal.'—Leland, Book II, chap. 1.

I give another passage from the same Protestant clergyman, because it describes the *modus operandi* in the oppression of the Irish, by giving power and authority to persons resident in Ireland, who affected to be the only friends of the English interest. Power was given, and the administration of affairs committed to persons whose only attachment to English connection was that it gave them the means of committing crimes with impunity. These persons fabricated outrages or exaggerated any crimes that might have been really committed. They were accordingly entrusted with authority, to put down disturbances and preserve the peace. That power they naturally and, indeed, necessarily abused. But I had better use the words of Leland himself: 'Riot, rapine, and massacre, and all the tremendous effects of anarchy, were the natural consequences. Every inconsiderable party who, under pretence of loyalty, received the King's commission to repel the adversary in some particular district, became pestilent enemies to the inhabitants. Their properties, their lives, the chastity of their families, were all exposed to barbarians; who sought only to hurt their brutal passions, and by their horrible excesses, saith the annalist, purchased the curse of God and man.'—Leland, Book II, chap. 3.

'That those disorders and crimes were encouraged, either in the words or by the examples of the English Viceroys, is a melancholy fact that appears in every page of Irish history. They could not, without arant hypocrisy, discourage in others that which they practised on a larger scale themselves: The following is the general account given of the Irish Viceroys by the same Protestant historian: 'At a distance from the supreme seat of power, and with the advantage of being able to make such representations of the state of Ireland as they pleased, the English Viceroys acted with the less reserve. They were generally tempted to undertake the conduct of a disordered state, for the sake of private emolument, and their object was pursued without delicacy or integrity; sometimes with inhuman violence.'—Leland, Book III, chap. 1.

It should be kept in mind that during the period of four hundred years and upwards, the usual mode of tormenting both English and Irish within the jurisdiction of the Anglican government, was by martial law, which was treated as if it really formed part of the common law of Ireland. That persons were executed by martial law in time of profound peace, is indisputable. 'That Lord Dillon affirmed that martial law had been practised and men hanged by it in times of peace.'—Nelson, II., 60.

'Martial law is so frequent and ordinary in Ireland that it is not to be denied, and so little offensive there that the common law takes no exception at it.'—Rushworth, VIII., 198.

There has been lately published a document from which a few extracts will give a thorough insight into the real state of the 'Relation' during the reign of Henry the Eighth. The document I allude to, is to be found in the second volume of the State Papers, lately published under the authority of a Commission from the Crown, containing State Papers of the reign of Henry the Eighth, and ap-

pears to have been a representation made to that monarch of the state of Ireland, and a plan for its reformation. It shows that there were no fewer than eight counties which, though their land, yet did not recognize the authority of England; and five other counties, one half of each of which equally disclaimed the English authority, including in these counties even the county of Dublin itself. There were, besides, no fewer than sixty districts, called 'Regions,' which were altogether under the dominion and authority of Irish chieftains; and what will seem still more surprising to those who are unacquainted with the history of Ireland, there were no fewer than thirty other 'regions' or districts, under the sway and authority of chieftains of pure English descent; but who did not acknowledge or submit to the authority of the English government. Next, with regard to the English chieftains, there is this passage: 'Also, there is more than thirty great captains of the English noble folk, that followeth the same Irish order, and keepeth the same rule, and every one of them maketh war and peace for himself without any licence of the king, or of any other temporal person, save to him that is strongest, and of such that may subdue them by the sword.'

It has often been asked why the Irish, who deprived the English of so much of the island, and reduced them within such narrow limits, did not totally expel the usurper and establish a government of their own? The Irish had no point of union or centralization; they were totally divided among themselves—the enemies of one another. That same cause that, in a more mitigated form, now prevents Ireland from being a nation, did at that time preclude, in a more rude manner, the establishment of nationality. The Irish chieftains had the power, and seldom either wanted the inclination or the incitement to make war upon each other. Mutual injuries, reciprocal devastations, created and continued strife amongst them. The worst elements of continued dissension subsisted. When upon particular occasions, some universal or general oppression made them combine, their confederacy was but of short duration. When the English party was strong, it endeavored by force to put down such confederacy. But the forcible attempts were in general successfully resisted by the Irish, who gained the futile glory of many a victory over some of the most accomplished commanders of the English forces. But these defeats taught the English officers that cunning which is called political wisdom. They assailed the avarice or fomented the resentments of particular chieftains, and succeeded in detaching them from the general cause. These chieftains betrayed their companions in arms; joined their forces with those of the English; participated in the councils, and united with the force, which by degrees broke down the power of the other chieftains. But the traitors obtained no permanent profit; for no length of fidelity to the English commanders could secure the confidence or the kindness of these unprincipled robbers.

I shall now proceed with evidence of equal authority and authenticity, showing the mode in which English usurpation in the reign of Queen Elizabeth became predominant. What arms were unable to achieve was brought about by the most horrible and persevering cruelties. The Irish, who could not be subdued by force, were compelled to yield to famine. The harvests were cut down and burnt year after year; the cattle were taken away and slaughtered; provisions of every kind were destroyed; the country was devastated; the population perished for want of food; then came famine and pestilence, the irresistible arms used by England to obtain dominion.

It is horrible to think that this mode of subjugation was suggested in detail by the poet Spenser, a man who, though affected with the quaintness of his time, was endowed with the most poetic genius; but his imagination, which was so often inflamed by fictitious war, exhausted itself in devising real horrors for Ireland. He had his plan for the pacification of Ireland. It was no other than that of creating famine and ensuring pestilence! and he encouraged the repetition of these diabolical means by his own evidence of their efficacy. He recommended, indeed, that twenty days should be given to the Irish to come in and submit, after the expiration of which time they were to be shown no mercy. But let me quote his own words:—

'The end will (I assure mee) be very short, and much sooner than it can be in so great a trouble, as it seemeth, hoped for; altho' there should none of them fall by the sword nor be slain by the soldier; yet thus being kept from maintenance, and their cattle from running abroad, by this hard restraint they would quietly consume themselves, and devour one another.'—Spenser's Ireland, p. 165.

These counsels of Spenser were carried into effect. The war with Desmond, who was in fact forced into resistance—that is, into a contest with the Queen—afforded the pretext and opportunity for exercising these cruelties. Take these specimens from Hollinshed, who thus describes the progress of the English army through the country: 'As they went they drove the whole country before them into the Ventrice, and by that means they preyed and took all the cattle in the country, to the number of eight thousand kine, besides horses, garrons, sheep and goats; and all such people as they met, they did without mercy put to the sword; by these means, the whole country having no cattle nor kine left they were driven to such extremities that for want of victuals they were either to die and perish for famine, or to die under the sword.'—Hollinshed, vi., 427.

'The soldiers, likewise, in the camp, were so hot upon the spur, and so eager upon the vile rebels, that they spared neither man, woman nor child, but all was committed to the sword.'—Hollinshed, vi., 430.

'A DAY'S SERVICE.' I give the next quotation to show how trivial it was considered to slaughter four hundred unarmed people in a single day. It was thought an insufficient day's service: 'The next day following being the twelfth of March, the Lord Justice and the Earl divided their army into two several companies, by two ensigns and three together, the Lord Justice taking the one side, and the other taking the side of Sloughloher, and so they searched the woods, burned the towns, and killed that daie about four hundred men, and returned the same night with all the cattell which they found that daie. And the said lords, being not satisfied with this daie's service, they did likewise the next daie divide themselves, spoiled and consumed the whole country until it was night.'—Hollinshed, vi., 430.

'Great were the services these garrisons performed; for Sir Richard Pearce and Captain George Flower, with their troops, left neither corn nor barn, nor house unburnt between Kinsale and Ross. Captain Roger Harvie, who had with him his brother, Captain Gaven Harvie, Captain Francis Singsby, Capt. William Stafford, and also the companies of the Lord Barry and the Treasurer, with the President's horse, did the like between Ross and Bantry.'—Pacata Hibernia, 645.

The result of all these proceedings is described by so many of the English historians, in terms of such complicated horror, that volumes might be filled with the particular instances of cruelty and barbarity. I give these quotations: 'Repeated complaints were made of the inhuman rigor practised by Grey' (the Deputy) 'and his officers. The Queen was assured that he tyrannized with such barbarity, that little was left in Ireland for her Majesty to reign over but ashes and carcasses.'—Leland, Book IV., Chap. 2.

'The southern province seemed to be totally depopulated, and, except within the cities, exhibited an hideous scene of famine and desolation.'—Leland, Book IV., Chap. 3.

It might be supposed that the progress of destruction would now have been arrested; that enough in the demoralized labor of massacre and spoliation had been done, and that the kingdom might have at last been permitted to enjoy some respite from the atrocities of human fiends. But this was forbidden by the active anti-Irish spirit, the national hatred and jealousy of Ireland, which spirit then, as well as now, exercised its evil and malignant influences on its evil destiny. We are informed that where the Irish had driven the enemy into their fortified towns, and freed themselves from English molestation, they had cultivated their lands and established an unusual regularity and plenty in their districts.'—Leland, Book IV., Chap. 5.

REASONS OF THE ENGLISH POLICY. But Irish peace, plenty and prosperity formed no part of English policy. It appears from this Leland that the oppression and plunder of Ireland, the butchery of its inhabitants, and the perpetuation of social discord, were regularly systematized, reasoned on, and, despite some opposition, adopted and established as a measure of state policy. Here are his words:—'Some of her' (Elizabeth's) 'counselors appear to have conceived an odious jealousy which reconciled them to the distractions and miseries of Ireland. 'Should we exert ourselves,' said they, 'in reducing this country to order and civility, it must soon acquire power, consequence and riches. The inhabitants will thus be alienated from England, they will cast themselves into the arms of some foreign power, or perhaps erect themselves into an independent and separate state. Let us rather connive at their disorders, for a weak and disordered people never can attempt to detach themselves from the Crown of England.' We find Sir Henry Sydney and Sir John Perrot, who perfectly understood the affairs of Ireland and the disposition of its inhabitants, both expressing the utmost indignation at this horrid policy, which yet had found its way into the English Parliament.'—Leland, Book IV., Chap. 3.

This is but a specimen of the mode in which the war was carried on. I give a few more instances and I could multiply them by hundreds. 'They passed over the same into Conilo, where the Lord Justice and the Earl of Ormond divided their companies, and, as they marched, they burned and destroyed the country.'—Hollinshed, VI., 430.

'He divided his companies into four parts, and they entered into four several places of the wood at one instant; and by that means they secured the wood throughout, in killing as manna as they took, but the residue fled into the mountains.'—Hollinshed, vi., 452.

'There were some of the Irish taken prisoners that offered great ransoms; but presently upon their bringing to the campe, they were hanged.'—Pacata Hibernia, 421.

It will be seen that the troops were thus employed, not in attacking any armed or resisting enemy, for there was none; but in killing unarmed men, and destroying provisions. The Queen's army was in Munster; and here are some specimens of the way in which they were working out Spenser's plan:—'By reason of the continual persecuting of the rebels, who could have no breath nor rest to relieve themselves, but were always by one garrison or other hurt and pursued; and by reason the harvest was taken from them, their cattell in great numbers perished from them, and the whole country spoiled and dried; the poor people, who lived onlie upon their labours, and fed by their milch cows, were so distressed that they would follow after the goods which were taken from them, and offer themselves, their wives, and children, rather to be slain by the armie, than to suffer the famine wherewith they were now pinched.'—Hollinshed, vi., 443. Also, Leland, Book IV., Chap. 2.

Again, take the following from Sir George Carew:—'The President having received certaine information, that the Munster fugitives were harboured in those parts, having before burned all the houses and corn, and taken great preyes in Oway, Onubrian, and Kilquig, a strong and fast country, not farre from Limerick, diverted his forces into east Clannwilliam and Musqueriquirke, where Pierce Clacy had lately been succoured; and harrassing the country, killed all mankind that were found therein, for a terror to those as should give reliefe to runagate traitors. Thence we came into Atrlegh woods, where we did the like, not leaving behind us man or beast, corne or cattell, except such as haI been conveyed into castles.'—Pacata Hibernia, 189.

'They wasted and foraged the country, so as in a small time it was not able to give the rebels any reliefe; having spoiled and brought into their garrisons the most part of their corne, being newly reaped.'—Pacata Hibernia, 584.

'Hereupon Sir Charles, with the English, regiments, overran all Bence and Bantry, destroying all that they could meet for the reliefe of men so as that country was wholly wasted.'—Pacata Hibernia, 659.

But it was not in Munster only, that the horrors of this system were practised. I may observe that it was in the reign of Elizabeth that the general practice commenced of calling the Irish rebels instead of enemies, the reason of which is sufficiently obvious. For it was under the name of rebels that the people, who, for the greater part were living in peaceable submission to English authority, were deprived of the produce of their harvests, and consumed by famine. The following extracts will show how this system was acted upon in Leinster, and in part of Ulster. I quote from Leland:—

'The Leinster rebels, by driving the roylists into their fortified towns, and living long without molestation, had cultivated their lands, and established an unusual regularity and plenty in their districts. But now they were exposed to the most rueful havoc from the Queen's forces. The soldiers, encouraged by the example of their officers, everywhere cut down the standing corn with their swords, and devised every means to deprive the wretched inhabitants of all the necessaries of life! Famine was judged the speediest and most effectual means of reducing them; and therefore the Deputy was not secretly displeased with the devastations made even in the well-affected quarters by the improvident fury of the rebels.

'The like melancholy expedient was practised in the northern provinces. The Governor of Carrickfergus, Sir Arthur Chichester, issued from his quarters, for his twenty miles round, reduced the country to a desert. Sir Samuel Bagnall, the Governor of Newry, proceeded with the same severity, and laid waste all the adjacent lands. All the English garrisons were daily employed in pillaging and wasting; while Tyrone, with his spirited party, shrunk gradually within narrower bounds. They were effectually prevented from sowing and cultivating their lands.'—Leland, Book IV., Chap. 5.

To give some variety to these horrors, I will quote an incident that occurred in the year 1574, 'A solemn peace and concord was made between the Earl of Essex and Phelim O'Neil. However at a feast wheroin the Earl entertained that chieftain, and at the end of their good cheer, O'Neil and his wife were seized, and their friends who attended were put to the sword before their faces. Felim, together with his wife and brother, were conveyed to Dublin, where they were cut up in quarters. This execution gave universal discontent and horror. In like manner, a few years after, the Irish chieftains of the King's and Queen's counties, were invited by the English to a treaty of accommodation. But when they arrived at the place of conference, they were instantly surrounded by troops and all butchered on the spot.'—Leland, Book IV., Chap. 2.

I now come back to the systematic plan of destroying property; especially the harvest. We find the following incidental notices, among the repetitions of more detailed destruction: 'A.D. 1690. 'On the 12th of August, Mountjoy with five hundred and sixty foot and sixty horse to Phillipstown, and in his way took 200 cows, 700 garrons, and 500 sheep, and so burning the country.'—Cox, 428.

'1690. 'Sir Arthur Savage, Governor of Cannagh, designed to meet the Lord Lieutenant, but could not accomplish it, though he preyed and spoiled the country as far as he came.'—Cox, 428.

'1690. 'Mountjoy staid in this country till the 23d of August, and destroyed £10,000 worth of corn and slew more or less of the rebels every day. One Lenagh, a notorious rebel was taken and hanged, and a prey of 1,000 cows, 500 garrons and many sheep, was taken by Sir Oliver Lambert in Daniel Spany's country, with the slaughter of a great many rebels.'—Cox, 428.

'1600. 'About the 18th of December, Sir Francis Barkley having notice that many rebels were relieved in Claneboy, marched thither and got a prey of 1,000 cows, 200 garrons, many sheep, and other booty, and had the killing of many traitors.'—Cox, 434.

'The next morning being the 4th of January, 1602, Sir Charles Wintot coming to seek the enemy in their camp, he entered into their quarters without resistance, where he found nothing but hurt and sick men, whose pains and lives by the soldiers were both determined.'—Pacata Hibernia, 659.

This policy was incessantly and vigorously acted upon. The disorders were perpetuated. There was no pause. The efficient manner in which the army performed the service of destruction, was boasted of by many of the English historians. Nor did the entire conquest and death of Desmond, and the total suppression of any resistance, satiate the English commanders or their soldiers. Let the following description of their conduct, by a contemporary historian, suffice for our present purpose:—'After Desmond's death, and the entire suppression of his rebellion, unheard of cruelties were committed on the provincials of Munster (his supposed former adherents) by the English commanders. Great companies of these provincials, men, women and children, were often forced into castles and other houses, which were then set on fire. And if any of them attempted to escape from the flames, they were shot or stabbed by the soldiers who guarded them. It was a diversion to these monsters of men to take up infants on the point of their spears, and whirl them about in their agony; apologizing for their cruelty by saying that, 'if they suffered them to live to grow up, they would become Popish rebels.' Many of their women were found hanging on trees, with their children at their breast, strangled with the mother's hair.'—Lombard, Comment de Hibern, page 635; Curry, Hist. Review, page 27, (note).

All the Irish and persons of the English race who had resisted the Queen's authority having been destroyed by the sword of famine, the subjugation of the country became complete. There is in Hollinshed's Chronicle a quaintness of expression that gives an additional interest to the details he has preserved; but they have, from their own nature, a deeper interest still. If these details had been given of cruelties towards wretched and infidel barbarians in the remotest extremity of the globe they would in any human being excite great compassion and hearty commiseration. But let it be recollected that these are authentic and unimpeachable narratives of crimes which Christian Englishmen committed upon Christian Irishmen. The historians who have recorded these facts had every motive to palliate, and none to exaggerate, the English barbarity and cruelty. Yet the wildest imagination could scarcely suppose anything in fiction equal to the horrors of the reality. The following passage describes the closing scene of the conquest of the southern province of Ireland:—

MUNSTER'S DESOLATION. 'And as for the great companies of soldiers, galloglasses, kerne, and the common people, who followed this rebellion, the numbers of them are infinite whose blood the earth drank up, and whose carcasses the beasts of the field and the savening fowls of the air did consume and devour. After this followed an extreme famine; and such whom the sword did not destroy, the same did consume and eat out; very few or none remaining alive excepting such as were fled over into England; and yet the store in the towns was far spent and they in distress, albeit nothing like in comparison to them who lived at large; for they were not onlie driven to eat horses, dogs, and dead carions; but also did devour the carcasses of dead men.

The land itself, which before those wars was populous, well-inhabited, and rich in all the good blessings of God, being plenteous of corne, full of cattell, well stored with fish and sundrie other good commodities, is now become waste and barren, yielding no fruits, and pastures no cattel, the aire no bird; the seas (though full of fish) yet to them yielding nothing. Finally, every vale the curse of God was so great, and the land so barren both of man and beast, that whosoever did travel from the one end to the other of all Munster, even from Waterford to the head of Smeerweeke, which is about six score miles, he would not meet anie man, woman, or child, saving in towns and cities; nor yet see any beast, but the very wolves, the foxes, and other like ravning beasts, many of them late dead, being famished, and the residue gone elsewhere.'—Hollinshed, vi., 459.

But let me refer again to Spenser. His description relates even to an earlier period of the war.—He is speaking of the province of Munster:—'Notwithstanding that the same was a most rich and plentiful country, full of corne and cattel, yet, ere one yeare and a half, they were brought to such wretchedness as that any stony heart would rue the same. Out of every corner of the woods and glynns, they came creeping forth on their hands, for their legs could not bear them; they looked like anatomies of death; they spake like ghosts crying out of their graves; and, if they found a plot of water cresses or shamrocks, there they flocked as to a feast for the time; yet, not able to continue there withal; that in shorte space, there was none almost left, and a most populous and plentiful country suddainly left voyde of man and beast.'—State of Ireland, p. 165.

Such were the means by which the final subjugation of Ireland was produced. Such were the preparations made for the reception of James the First. I may close the proofs and illustrations of the 'Relation' in the words of Sir John Davies:—'Thus had the Queen's army under Lord Mountjoy broken and absolutely subdued all the lords and chieftains of the Irishry. Whereupon, the multitude being brayed, as it were, in a mortar, with sword, famine, and pestilence together, submitted themselves to the English Government, received the laws, magistrats, and most gladly embraced the Kings pardon and peace in all parts of the realm, with demonstrations of joy and thankfort.'

Yes, Sir John Davies, the Irish people were brayed as in a mortar, and the process of 'braying as in a mortar' has been continued from that day to this.—It has, in fact, been the leading principle in the government of Ireland. Never was any people on the face of the globe so cruelly treated as the Irish. This brought the second lecture to a conclusion, and the audience dispersed.

The two miserable women who were guilty with the murder at Belfast have been found charged of manslaughter, and sentenced to penal servitude for life.

The London Observer's statement that a general election would take place in England next Spring is contradicted through a semi-official organ.