

distributive justice, and shut the gates of mercy upon her.

“ However, the Act of Union did pass—Ireland became extinct—and, we might have thought, forgotten, had it not been for the notices taken of her in the imperial statutes of vengeance or taxation. Profligacy is in general a ready money dealer, and Ireland had in the first instance to pay down the wages stipulated by the minister of England to those honourable gentlemen who sold their country for money. Since that sale and delivery, her pecuniary burdens, the only items of national degradation that can be estimated by numbers, have been increased tenfold. Whatever ordinary comforts she possessed before have vanished in the same proportion; the artificial rise of prices, and the depreciation of all solid medium of payment, sinking under the baleful contagion of a paper currency, has put every thing beyond the reach of attainment, and the only expenditure in which we are able to be liberal is the augmentation of the princely revenues of clerks and viceroys; who, feeling their advancement late, and their tenure precarious, are forced, by the existing circumstances of the just and necessary warfare in which they are engaged, to adopt such expedients as may provide indemnity for the past, and security for the future; and after an interval of fourteen years, during which the makers of those promises have perhaps met in another world with those to whom they were so perfidiously given, our poor people, instead of being planted out in goodly rows in their own native soil, from which they might have drawn nutrition, and have given ornament and shelter in exchange, have been left to wither upon its surface