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WILLY BURKE.

CHAPTER I.

THE DEPARTURE FROM IRELAND, AND DEATH AT SEA.

IT was a sorrowful day in a certain parish of the county Tipperary, when Andy Burke, one of the principal farmers of the district, set out with his numerous family for "the land of the Far West." In their day of prosperity, Andy Burke and his worthy helpmate had been public benefactors—the comforts by which they were surrounded were liberally shared with their poorer neighbors, and their house had ever afforded a shelter for the houseless wanderer. Like Goldsmith's curate, "the long remember'd beggar was *their* guest" year after year, and the warmest nook in the wide kitchen was ever reserved for the poor wayfarer. Their children had grown up amid the prayers and blessings of the poor, and now when the hand of misfortune weighed heavily on them all—when the good farmer found it