

rica ; includes a majority of all our well-to-do settled agriculturists ; our men of business, and professional men ; includes all the influential and wealthy Irish Protestant population ; includes almost all, I observe, of those who have won on this side the Atlantic any distinction in literary or politico-literary pursuits. The voice of such a minority, not rashly raised, will not, I am satisfied, be lightly regarded ; and of this voice, I dare to assert, I shall be found in this letter the faithful interpreter.

The chief obstacle to the true understanding of the Irish position in America, Republican or British, which I found last year in Ireland, arose from an excessive attachment to preconceived opinions. Men who had never seen a sun rise and set on the Atlantic, much less on the world beyond, had framed for themselves a fancy picture of this continent, and were prepared to swear it was the only true likeness. Their notions were like those of that gifted daughter of the gifted house of Sheridan, who makes her emigrant declare that when he reaches America he will sit and sigh away his hours, with closed eyes, in our "grand old woods." If he did so in some of them, he would need to carry a charm, or he might find a garter snake about his legs and the mosquitoes about his ears before he was seated in the "grand old woods" many minutes. In the same way all our trans-Atlantic visitors are, at first sight, disappointed