

tails to general effects; to put the first foremost, and the secondary second; to emphasize the epochs; to throw the strongest light upon the cardinal characters; to assign rational, believable causes, to strange and uncommon results; in short, to bring out the *rationale* of Irish History, under a form not censurable to the rules of art. If I have succeeded even in sketching such an outline as this, I, too, shall have done something for Irish History.

And now, my Dear Friend, that the labors of the Printer are done, and those of the Publisher about to commence, the thought naturally arises, as to which of my friends I should most of all like to derive pleasure from these volumes. Among old allies and colleagues of my own sex I might find it difficult to fix a preference; but among Irish ladies, there is, in America, one whom all true Irishmen delight to honor. You have watched over this little work with a sisterly anxiety, for which I can never be sufficiently grateful; and your own various and admirable sketches of Irish character have been, during its composition, my chief resource and recreation. With the latest chapter, in point of time, of our History, the chapter of the Exodus, your name