

doctrine as an opinion, but put it in practice whenever opportunity afforded. So the strife went forward. But it was evident that unless Protestants were introduced into Ireland it could not be governed as a Protestant country, so, from time to time, as one portion of the country after another was desolated, or forfeited to the crown, it was planted with Protestants. Especially in Ulster had this planting gone forward. There Scotch colonists had, from time to time, settled not as governors or military leaders, but as farmers, weavers, merchants, mechanics, and labourers. "They went there to earn a living by labour on a land that up till that time produced only banditti. They built towns and villages; they established trades and manufactures; they enclosed fields; raised farm-houses and homesteads, where till then had been but robbers' castles, wattled huts, mud cabins, or holes in the earth like rabbit burrows." Then the natural wealth of Ireland began to reveal itself. Commerce sprung up. The wheel and the loom made music in every house. The fields waved with the yellow corn. Trade sprung up with England and France. The exquisite Irish wool was sought in the south of Europe. The only thing which gave a sombre hue to this bright picture was that these prosperous people were foreigners. The owners of the country were poor and improvident still. The natives, where they were mingled with the foreigners, caught the infection of industry, but where the Celts were without admixture and example, "Irish ideas" continued to prevail. If at an earlier period, before rancour and hatred of race and religion were produced, these industrious people had settled in Ireland, instead of the Norman Lord—"born ruler of men," who went to fight and domineer—what a different fate had been that of unfortunate Ireland. But then the land had to be taken from the natives that there might be room for these industrious people. Possibly. Yet we cannot help speculating on what would have been the happy condition of Ireland, had Scotland had the management of affairs instead of England. Nor can we refrain from thinking that a much happier history had been of that unfortunate island if Henry had just allowed the Irish to settle their own quarrels as the English had done during the Heptarchy, when probably there was just about as much disorder and rapine as was in Ireland when Strongbow landed on its shores.

But we must hurry on to the consideration of the rebellion of