

**REVOLTED
IRELAND,
1798 AND 1803**

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Revolted Ireland, 1798 and 1803 by Albert S. G. Canning

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ALBERT S. G. CANNING

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REVOLTED IRELAND.

1798 AND 1803.

BY THE

HON. ALBERT S. G. CANNING,

AUTHOR OF "MACAULAY, ESSAYIST AND HISTORIAN," "THOUGHTS
ON SHAKESPEARE'S HISTORICAL PLAYS," ETC. ETC.

"Who dares to speak of '98?
Who blushes at the name?"

Irish Ballad.

"They say it is the fatal destiny of that land, that no purposes whatsoever which are meant for her good will prosper or take good effect; which, whether it proceed from the very genius of the soil, or influence of the stars, or that Almighty God hath not yet appointed the time of her Reformation, or that He reserveth her in this unquiet state still for some secret scourge, which shall by her come unto England, it is hard to be known but yet much to be feared."—Edmund Spenser's *View of Ireland*. Written in the 16th century.

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1886

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L. P. S.

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P R E F A C E.

I BELIEVE that the remarkable period of 1798 might be instructively recalled to public attention at the present time. This work comprises extracts from writers differing widely from each other, with my remarks on the subject.

A. S. G. CANNING.

London, May 1st, 1886.

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REVOLTED IRELAND.

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CHAPTER I.

ALTHOUGH the latter part of this century has diffused more education through Ireland than ever before, there appears considerable ignorance of its history even among men familiar with its agricultural, commercial, and financial position.*

For most practical purposes of the present day Irish history appears of comparatively slight

* "That proportion of the national talent and scholarship which ought in every country to be devoted to elucidating the national history, has in Ireland not been so employed. Irish history has passed to a lamentable extent into the hands of religious polemics, of dishonest partisans, and of half-educated and uncritical enthusiasts."
—Lecky's *England in the 18th Century*, vol. ii. ch. vi.

importance till the reign of James II. At his accession he was what no other King of Ireland had ever been—an acknowledged Roman Catholic monarch, by the sincere, unanimous concurrence of English Episcopalians, Scottish Presbyterians, and Irish Roman Catholics, unopposed by either foreign Powers or rebellious subjects. To this fact Macaulay calls particular attention.* According to him, and to those authorities whom he trusts, the second King James might have effected the real union of Ireland with Great Britain as surely as his grandfather, the first James, had accomplished that of Scotland with England by his accession to the British throne.

These two kingdoms previously were always independent of, and often hostile to, each other ; but after his accession no *national* enmity ever armed one against the other, either in rebellion or civil war. In the tremendous revolution which deprived his son, Charles I., of his life, all national distinctions between England and Scotland had disappeared. The Royalists were represented in both countries chiefly by the

* *History of England*, vol. ii.

nobility and landed gentry, mostly composed of Episcopalians. The Republicans in both kingdoms consisted chiefly of Independents and Presbyterians, allied with a few Episcopalians, while British Roman Catholics took little part in the contest, but decidedly favoured the king.

In Ireland, the native chiefs, though fiercely resisting the British Republicans under Cromwell, probably desired the restoration of their own independence rather than that of the British monarchy.* Upon this point, however, there seems some doubt, though certainly most of the Irish Protestants and Presbyterians descended from British colonists were in favour of the monarchy. Their loyalty thus incurred the angry reproaches of the British Republicans, expressed in the bitter eloquence of Cromwell's political and poetical ally, John Milton. This sublime writer reproached the Irish Protestant

* "The picture, indeed, is a strangely confused one, the lines of division of Irish and English, of Catholic and Protestant, of Royalist and Republican, crossing and intermingling."—Lecky's *England in the 18th Century*, vol. ii. ch. vi.