

**IRELAND FOR THE IRISH: A
PRACTICAL, PEACEABLE,
AND JUST SOLUTION OF
THE IRISH LAND QUESTION**

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Ireland for the Irish: A Practical, Peaceable, and Just Solution of the Irish Land Question by
Henry O'Neill

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**A PRACTICAL, PEACEABLE, AND JUST SOLUTION
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DEDICATED TO LORD VISCOUNT STANLEY.

BY
HENRY O'NEILL, ARTIST.

"Nothing ought to be exclusive property that can be enjoyed in common."
PALEY'S *Moral Phil.*, b. iii.

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TO LORD VISCOUNT STANLEY.

"I might have told Ireland I pitied her lot,
Might have sooth'd her with hope—but you know I did not."
T. MOORE—S, and H. Poems.

MY LORD,

I take the liberty of dedicating this work to you, because of your high character as a Statesman, and the elevated position you hold in the Cabinet. I wish to call your attention to the proposals I advocate for the good of Ireland.

You need scarcely be told that your speech, delivered at Bristol on the 22nd of January last, is one of great importance. In Ireland the Land Question is of paramount consequence; and the opinions of a distinguished Member of the Government on this Irish enigma are received in this country with that anxious earnestness

naturally arising from a subject of such momentous interest.

In the report of the speech to which I have referred, you are stated to have expressed disapproval of certain suggestions for converting the present Irish tenants of small farms into independent proprietors. In this respect I fully concur with you; it is also stated that you said you cannot tell what ought to be done, and that you are willing to do what is right.

Under these circumstances you can understand why I dedicate this work to you, as it states the plan by which the Irish Land Question can be settled in a just and a peaceable way, and one which would be a thorough, and is the only proper remedy for Ireland's monster evil, landlordism.

The plan I propose is the result of much experience and reflection. Your lordship will see that I mention having travelled over nearly the whole of Ireland, and under circumstances which afforded me excellent opportunities for knowing the state of the country and the condition of its people.

My long and extensive experience, combined with careful observation, enables me to speak with confidence, when others, of less knowledge, are quite puzzled as to what should be done.

I wish much that you would visit Ireland, and judge for yourself; this is the proper way of investigation. You may rely on my statements, in case you cannot personally verify them; and any assertions I make I would substantiate with pleasure, if called on for that purpose.

My lord, it is on behalf of millions of British subjects that I address you; it is on behalf of my country, which has so long and so cruelly been ill-used by yours. I plead for justice for a moral, an intellectual, and an oppressed race. The Irish cannot remain as they are; their wrongs must have an end. Be it your glory that to the utmost of your power you have endeavoured to remove the main cause of the sufferings of this ill-used country.

The plan I propose is just, peaceful, and practical. Use your power to do an act of humanity and right to Ireland. Be assured, my lord, that if not

done legally and quickly, there is every danger that forcible measures may be resorted to. May heaven avert from us the horrors of a social convulsion! Whether successful or not, disastrous consequences are sure to result.

Remember the cost of Irish disaffection; think of the value of Irish loyalty. Society has been deranged; many men of respectable social positions imprisoned; some lives have been lost by the feeble outbreak of discontent with England's rule which took place lately; neither the jail nor the scaffold has diminished disloyalty,—far otherwise;—it can only be stayed by just legislation. If not so stayed—I repeat my solemn warning—the Irish will try the remedy so often recommended by the aristocratic Press of England for “the oppressed nationalities of Europe.” I hope such a fearful trial may never be required.

Do justice to Ireland; do what would satisfy the consciences of intelligent, moral men; abandon the rule of force; adopt that of Christian morality; do by us as you would be done by; spare our